Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXVIII, No. 2

Wednesday, November 20, 2002
Kartika 29, 1924 (Saka)

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Eleventh Session**
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**

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## LOK SABHA

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**Wednesday, November 20, 2002/Kartika 29, 1924 (Saka)**

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

*(Interruptions)*

## WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM CANADA

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : I have to make an announcement. You please sit down. We have to welcome our guests who are present here.

*[English]*

Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my behalf and on behalf of the Hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Daniel Philip Hays, Speaker of the Senate of the Canadian Parliament and the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The delegation arrived in India on 17th November, 2002. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Governor-General, the Parliament and the friendly people of Canada.

---

*[Translation]*

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If all of you remain on your legs. I won't be able to hear. Only one among you should speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that I have talked to you in this regard. You must have read the statement made by the Hon. Governor. He wants Samajwadi Party to prove its majority, I would like to know whether Samajwadi Party would prove its majority at his bedroom in Rajbhawan Constitution is being violated openly. We demand that the legislative assembly be dissolved, if this is not done session of the Assembly should be held to prove the majority in the Assembly. Our Government was dismissed by the then Governor Shri Motilal Voraji. Every party from Manipur to Gujarat was given an opportunity to prove majority but we were not given any opportunity. We had asked for only 24 hours to prove our majority in 1995 but not even this much time was given and the Government was dismissed. This Government should be dismissed. The U.P. Government should prove its majority and the Governor should convene a session immediately. It is everyone's demand but to make a statement asking Samajwadi party to prove its majority is certainly an unconstitutional and undemocratic act. We would nowhere get protection except from you. Hence we want that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The discussion on this subject can take place in the House on Tuesday. Hence you can express your views on that day and other Hon. Members would also get an opportunity. This subject can not be discussed today.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Despite this the Union Government did not give any direction asking to stop this unconstitutional and undemocratic act. At least some regard should be given. The Governor should be immediately dismissed. The constitution is being violated.

MR. SPEAKER : I have told you that I am ready to hold a discussion on this subject. We have decided in the Business Advisory Committee that the discussion on this subject would be held on Tuesday. We have also decided that the Question Hour should proceed without interruption and you should co-operate in this regard. The discussion on this subject would be held on Tuesday.

*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : What is the rationale behind holding the Question Hour in such a situation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : You should allow us also. I have also given an adjournment notice. Please allow me also to speak.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Other notices could only come after the Question Hour.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Governor is not convening the Session of the Assembly to enable the ruling combination to prove its majority. He should ask the Chief Minister to prove her majority. Why is the Governor not asking the Chief Minister to prove her majority ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : I know that your question is a serious one and it is due to this reason that I have allowed a discussion on it in the House. You can raise your points at that time.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a Notice on Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : You don't waste the time in Question Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Samajwadi Party did not take any initiative for the dismissal of the Government. The legislators supporting the Government have themselves lost their faith in it and they are being jailed. . . .*(Interruptions)* The father of a Legislator has been attacked. . . .*(Interruptions)* The international level mafias of India. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members please resume your seats.

**11.06 hrs.**

*At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, I am co-operating. I have accepted to hold the discussion.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not stand in the well. I think this is not the way you can raise the issue.

*(Interruptions)*

**11.07 hrs.**

*At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : I can't give permission at this juncture. You can speak when the discussion would be held. Right now I have to conduct the Question Hour as per the wishes of all. Hon. Members. How can I permit you now.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please co-operate and go to your seats, please occupy your seats. I will not be able to take up the issue in this manner.

*[Translation]*

All of you will have to co-operate, else I will have to start the Question Hour. Many Members had submitted Questions.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am honouring your view point. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Ramdasji, you resume your seat please. You know I am on my legs, hence you resume your seat.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, please permit us to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not started the discussion yet, I am to start the Question Hour. Excuse me, I am going to begin the Question Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 21, Dr. M.P. Jaiswal.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will not take anything on record now on this issue. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Q.No. 21. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Sir, I should also be given the permission to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : As I have just stated nothing else will go on record except the submission made by the views of Shri Madan Prasad Jaiswal'.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not use such words.

*(Interruptions)**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

*[Translation]*

Please do not fight with each other.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he should be suspended.

MR. SPEAKER : You please go back to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Everybody should occupy his seat. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : All of you please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I request all of you to please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, please allow me to speak. *(Interruptions)* We are not perturbed by such pressure.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take you seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody must occupy his seat ?

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : May I request every body to occupy his seat ?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Question no. 21 please.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You all please take your seats. I would like to continue with the proceedings. Please take your seats. How proceedings can be conducted in this manner.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Appropriate action will be taken in this regard. Please take your seat.

*[English]*

This is my request to you.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Ramdasji, please take your seat. It is enough. This is not a good thing.

*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, action should be taken in this matter first otherwise we will not let you continue the proceedings of the House. Scuffle has taken place before you and we expect justice from you. . . .*(Interruptions)*

**11.16 hrs.**

*At this stage Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel and some other Hon. Members came and stood near the Table.*

MR. SPEAKER : I will take action according to rules in this regard.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will take action immediately after the Question Hour. Please take you seat.

**11.17 hrs.**

*At this stage Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.*

---

**11.18 hrs.**

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

### Telecome Racket

*21. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Telecom Racket busted" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated September 18, 2002;

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

(c) whether many persons have been found involved in making S.T.D./I.S.D. telephone calls through unscrupulous means resulting in revenue loss of crores of rupees;

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

(e) the number of persons arrested by the Government in this regard during the last year and this year till date alongwith those against whom action has been taken ?

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

**Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s World Callnet (Cleartel as brand name) was advertising and selling pre-paid STD/ISD cards to telephone customers in and around Delhi, in the garb of Virtual Calling Card (VCC) without licence. The STD/ISD calls made from MTNL/BSNL customers were being routed through the telephone lines obtained by Cleartel from M/s Bharti Telenet (Touchtel) at Gurgon. Thus the STD/ISD calls originated by MTNL/BSNL customers using these prepaid cards were being converted into the originating calls of Bharti Telenet (Touchtel) by such arrangements. Due to this MTNL/BSNL were being deprived of their legitimated revenue for the STD/ISD call.

(c) From 1st January, 2001, 75 cases involving private firms/persons have been detected for illegal routing of incoming international calls resulting in notional loss to service providers. Besides 32 other cases of misuse of STD/ISD involving at least 67 persons have also been reported. The loss suffered by BSNL/MTNL in 16 of these cases is estimated to around Rs. 1.52 crores and in the remaining cases, the loss could not be assessed.

(d) Government takes suitable action including raids with the help of CBI/Police for stopping illegal routing of traffic. In the case mentioned at (b) above the matter was reported to Police. One person was arrested and illegal operation was stopped. Important preventive measures taken by Government are :

(i) Dedicated CBI cells have been created in four metros exclusively for detecting and checking telecom related frauds.

(ii) A close coordination between service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.

(iii) Checks in telephone exchanges have been intensified.

(e) 51 persons were arrested in this regard since 1st January, 2001 and action has been initiated against them by CBI/Police.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Minister for admitting the fact that this kind of irregularities are being committed in connivance with the employees of Telecom Department. An advertisement by Cleartel was published in newspapers that ISD and STD Virtual Calling Cards are being sold. This information was published in newspapers without the knowledge of the Ministry. But no action was taken in this regard at that time, whereas appropriate action should have been taken at that time itself It means that some employees of the Ministry were also involved in this matter. This is not the only incident of this kind. Besides this, on 23rd November instrument worth Rs. I crore was seized in Hyderabad which was being used for international calls, ISD. Many persons was involved in that case. This was being operated by so many persons but it was not discussed at all. Thereafter, a German citizen was arrested in Delhi on the last 7th August. He was also involved in the same business. Earlier, such a racket was busted in Kolkata wherein two persons from Banglore and a Maxican citizen were involved. It caused loss of revenue worth crores of rupees to the Government, such incidents reveal that Government are not taking this matter seriously. The reply given by hon'ble Minister has disparities. On 30.7.2001, a question was raised in this House regarding the racket of Mumbai. There is disparity in reply given by the hon'ble Minister at that time and the reply given today. At that time the Government admitted :-

*[English]*

> "The notional loss suffered in seven of these cases is estimated to be around Rs. 20.68 crores and in the remaining cases such loss could not be assessed. Since the private persons are involved in these illegal activities, the help of the CBI/Police is taken for investigations and appropriate action in the matter."

But the present answer that has been given is that the loss is only to the tune of Rs. 1.52 crore. Between the two Ministers, why is there a difference in the answer ?

*[Translation]*

It means that officials of the Department are not giving correct information to the hon'ble Minister. They are misleading the hon'ble Minister. It is a serious matter. One Minister says that the Government suffered a loss of Rs. 20 crore and the other Minister says that the Government suffered a loss of Rs. 52 crore. There is wide disparity in both the replies. Either Shri Ramvilas Paswan gave a wrong statement here when he was Minister or hon'ble Minister is giving wrong reply, it is really unfortunate. Cleartel or Clearworld is committing this fraud with connivance of Bharati Touchtel. Bharati Touchtel is our licencee company. What action has been taken against it and how many persons have been arrested in this connection. Is the hon'ble Minister ready to handover this matter to CBI ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears from the news item, on the basis of which this question has been raised, that Delhi Police has detected any illegal network and thereafter Ministry of Communications has taken action on that. Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to tell the House that in this incident the Ministry of communications lodged complaint with Delhi Police and thus this incident was brought to the notice of people by Ministry of communications. The Ministry of communications had apprehensions that Cleartel was misusing the system in this way, then the Ministry lodged a complaint with the police and action was taken accordingly. It is a fact that when a person or institution is unreliable Ministry closely monitors their advertisements given in various newspapers regarding the slash in the rates. Whenever such incidents come to the notice then efforts are made to take action through police. So far as the issue of Airtel is concerned, Ministry has issued a show-cause-notice to Bharati that NLD calls were being routed through their traffic and how that was done as Cleartel Company has asked for PCO connections. When anyone asks for connection from BSNL, in my opinion one, two or three connections are sufficient for PCO. Whereas that person asked for 180 PCO connections from Bharati. Bharati should have through at that time that how can these 180 PCO connections be used. PCOs are not operated automatically rather a person is required to operate it. Bharati has not paid required attention towards their efforts to use these connections through an automatic machine. This fact came to notice of Ministry of communications that calls made by BSNL consumers were being routed through Bharati and thus BSNL was not getting money for these calls and suffering losses. In such situation a complaint was lodged with police and a show -

cause-notice was issued to Bharati. All these 180 PCO lines were cancelled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has raised the issue that there is variation in figures. The question asked earlier is not available with me but the figures given in reply to this question are related to the incident occurred after January 2001.

As has been mentioned that the then Minister of Communication Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had replied the question in July; 2001. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Not about July 2001, the Hon. Member has asked for the entire duration.

*[English]*

There are two parts to the question. Please answer that to the House. The first part (a) and (b) relate to this incident and the other parts (c) (e) relate to the entire occurrences.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I would particularly reply to your question let the Hon. Member finishes his question first. I am trying to resolve his query. As far as figures are concerned I don't recall any anomaly in them. I would certainly look into them, if I find any.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been proved that there is an involvement of Airtel or Bharati Touch Tell in it. This racket is not confined to Delhi alone but a German and a Mexican citizen have also been arrested in this regard and this phenomenon is not confined to metropolitan cities alone. Several such rackets involving crores of rupees have been busted. Several ISD and PCO's were opened and they owe crore of rupees to the Department of Telecommunications. These PCO's owners have vanished after closing down their PCO's and their whereabouts are not known. I am of the opinion that such incidents can not take place without the involvement of the Department of Telecommunication. Therefore, I would like to know as to whether Department of Telecom propose of hold C.B.I. inquiry in it especially against the Airtel, Bharati and Touchtel. The probe should be conducted through C.B.I. and the guilty persons be arrested. It is also unknown as to now much funds are involved in it i.e. what is the worth of V.C.C. (Virtual Calling Cards) in crores of rupees which were sold by those people and also how many calls had been made through those cards. These things should be available with Airtel. Hence, I would like the Hon. Minister to hold an C.B.I. inquiry into it to find the sum involved in it. I hope that the Hon. Minister would get both these aspects inquired through CBI. Right now I have with me the reply given by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to the questions and I can lay it on the Table of the House if the Hon. Minister so desires.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It had come.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : My question is also related to the same period in which one sum turned upto twenty crore and another went up to one crore and fifty two lakhs. It seems that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is so busy that this thing is escaping his special attention. Therefore, I would request the Hon. Minister to pay a little attention to it. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has a lot of responsibilities, as it is a large Department. Hon. Minister should also pay attention towards this aspect also. I would like to know as to whether he would ask for a full-scale inquiry into it ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as my responsibilities are concerned, I would convey to the Hon. Prime Minister the willingness of Dr. Jaiswalji to share my burden and if he agrees I would definitely seek his co-operation to reduce my burden. As far the probe by C.B.I. is concerned, I would like to apprise the House that C.B.I. cells have been set up permanently especially in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and in Chennai to deal with this problem. The entire expenditure on it is borne by the Ministry of Communication and when these type of complaints are received, there are handed over to C.B.I. However if it is pointed out that it is not linked with C.B.I., we try to monitor it permanently.

The other thing you have mentioned is regarding the efforts made to monitor through advertisements. Some times more calls are made from a particular line and if this message is received we try to monitor it. Not only this, we have also tried to set up new automatic software Fraud Management Control System in MTNL which help to monitor the calls in Mumbai and Delhi 24 hours and if even a slightest abnormality of any kind is noticed, efforts are made to trace it. It is also true and I did't want to say it, but it you see the record of previous five years sometimes the employees of BSNL have also been found to be involved in it. It would become very difficult to commit a

fraud if no employee works in nexus with the fraudulent elements. However action is taken against the employees who are found guilty. We have taken action during the past five years and it has been noticed on a rough estimate that 20 percent private persons and 80 percent employees of either Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. or MTNL are involved in these frauds as it is they who have more information. The action is taken when such cases are reported.

*[English]*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement laid on the Table and the reply given by the Hon. Minister are far beyond facts and correctness. He has mentioned that there have been a total of 32 cases, and 67 persons involved. And losses to the tune of Rs. 1.52 crore pertain to 16 cases. What has happened to the other 16 cases ?

As my colleague, who spoke before me, has brought out, the figures given are not correct. The losses involved run into hundreds and crores of rupees. It has appeared in the newspaper. As we know, this is a Government of scams whether if pertains to the Ministry of Disinvestment or the Ministry of Petroleum. Now it has happened in the case of Ministry of Communications.

I request the Hon. Minister to disclose the information not only from 1st January, 2001 but also what has happened during the last three or four years. He should bring out how much total loss has been there. The should not have given the figure of Rs. 1.52 crore. Since he has given it, what has been the method of methodology for calculating that figure ? I will say Rs. 152 crore. It cannot happen without the collusion of the officials. What action you have taken against the officials ? How many officials are involved ? How many have been arrested ? You give us the correct figures.

Secondly, what action you have taken against those officials ? Have you suspended them ? Have you initiated and disciplinary action against them ? You should give us a clear-cut answer.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the estimated loss is concerned, it has been mentioned in the question and the same estimated loss is concerned with this subject. I would not object even to provide information on the losses incurred due to some incident which has taken place there four years ago, even if a separate question is asked in this regard.

As far statistical information is concerned, I would like to tell that between 1997 to 2001 we have taken action against the officers of various level. Their number is in hundreds. I can also provide you the details.

*[English]*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : I have asked a pointed question. How have you calculated Rs. 1.5 crore ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is what he says. He will find it out, and send it in writing to you.

*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : And also how many officials were involved ? What action he has taken against those officials ? I am not satisfied with the answer.

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked a pointed question. He is going to give you a straight forward answer.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Government that the irregularity occurs in local calls and when the subscriber approaches the telephone authorities he is not provided the details of local call within a range of 200 k.m. I would like to know whether or not the Government have an arrangement to provide details about the local call upto 200 km to check the irregularities.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far the question of irregularity is concerned, normally it is not linked with the local calls. It is basically associated with the use of STD and ISD calls when it is made.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : There is no detail of the local calls.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Details of only STD and ISD calls is provided. There are no irregularity in local calls therefore, its details are not provided.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : I am talking about local call of 200 kilometres.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Whether it is 200 or 2000 kilometres, a local call is local call. It does not involve any irregularity, hence the question of distance does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER : You are absolutely right.

*[English]*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : I would like to ask the Hon. Minister the question on the surprising announcement following disinvestment plans of MTNL as to the merger of MTNL with the State behemoth BSNL. It seems rather surprising. Due to internal contradictions, this announcement was made of the merger of these two companies. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether he has taken into account prior to making this announcement, the fall out of this announcement on the valuation of the MTNL. The stock price has fallen by 35 per cent since that valuation. I would also like to ask him whether the morale of the work force has been thought of prior to making these announcements, as also whether the issues of synergy between MTNL and BSNL has been thought of.

Finally, I also want to know the legal complications, Hon. Speaker, Sir, with regard to ADR and GDR holders. When the international investors buy a stock, they buy it for a long term based on certain plans. These plans of merger were not announced in the prospectus.

In the light of the prevailing competition in the domestic telecom sector whether such a merger makes any sense at all when we are facing an environment where the companies need to be even more progressive, and even more result-oriented.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I am on Q.No. 21 and a similar question that the Hon. Member has asked is Q.No. 36. Unless you specifically club these two questions, I may not be able to answer that Otherwise, 15 Questions listed hereafter will lose the priority. If you force me, I will answer it. But this does not relate to Q.No. 21.

**Asian Games**

*22. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian players tested positive in dope test which resulted in losing their medals in the recently concluded Asian Games held in Busan as reported in the Hindu dated October 20, 2002;

(b) if so, the details and the facts thereof;

(c) whether the sports personnel participating in international events are tested for banned drugs before such events;

(d) if so, at what stage;

(e) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard so that such incidents do not recur in future ?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Sushree Sunita Rani, Athlete, tested positive for use of 'Nandrolone', a prohibited substance during Busan Asian Games-2002.

(c) and (d) All the sportspersons, cleared for Busan Asian Games by the Government, had been tested for dope before leaving for Busan. Sushree Sunita Rani had tested negative in the dope test.

(e) and (f) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) have instituted a One Man Inquiry Committee into the matter. Report of the Committee, set up by SAI, is awaited. Apart from this, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has also set up a high level committee under the Chairmanship of the former Secretary in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri S.S. Sharma. The Committee is to give its report in three months. Further corrective measures will be considered after receipt of the recommendations of this Committee so as to avoid recurrence of such incidents, in future.

**11.36 hrs.**

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

*[English]*

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Sir, from the recent newspaper reports and from the enquiry conducted by the Commission recently, I am given to understand that Ms. Sunita Rani was made a victim of dope test at Busan and her medals were taken back unceremoniously. In this connection, I want to know what is the action taken against the officials and the Coach. Why were they let off because under their guidance she had participated in these games ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I am on a Point of Order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no Point of Order during Question Hour.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Hon. Chairman, Sir, it is true that issue of dope test of one Athlete Sunita Rani had come to the fore and the Committee of Asian Games on dope tests had also recommended to withdraw the two medals i.e. gold and one bronze medal won by her. As far the question is concerned, the Athletic Federation held a probe into it by constituting an internal inquiry committee which found certain anomalies and variations in the dope test reports and it is on this account that she is going to present her side before the international Federation.

*[English]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, but the Hon Minister has given a wrong answer. He says the finding is awaited whereas the finding has come out in the Press. In part e and f it is stated that the finding is awaited. . . .*(Interruptions)* The single man enquiry has gone to the Press and has stated that he has given the finding and that she was not guilty of dope test.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Both there things are different. I am replying to the supplementary Question asked by the Hon. Member. What you are reading is the answer of the written question you had asked in which all the details comprising the sequence of events has been mentioned and all the details have also been laid on the Table of the House. However, now I am replying to the supplementary question he has asked.

*[English]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I am on a fundamental point. We have a written reply before us and in that it is stated that the report is awaited, whereas the report is public now. The report is not awaited. . . . *(Interruptions)* Kindly see this. . . .*(Interruptions)* The House is being misled. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You allow the Hon. Minister to reply.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow the Hon. Minister to reply.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You allow the Hon. Minister to reply. You cannot get a desired reply.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can you get a desired reply ?

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as asked by the Hon. Member as to how did his happen, I am giving information about the same. He has asked whether any action has been taken against the coach or not, I would like to say that the coach Ms. Renu Kohli has been suspended and an enquiry committee has been constituted at the Government level. A high level committee by the Ministry has also been constituted. This is mentioned here after the investigation of the enquiry committee constituted by the Athletic Federation as also its publication in the newspapers. The Amateur Athletic Federation has made an appeal in this connection only and the enquiry is still to be conducted. So far as the committee appointed at Government level is concerned, it is a four member high power committee appointed by the Ministry. It is looking after the entire case. Action would be taken on the basis of facts revealed in this regard.

*[English]*

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Sir, my colleague has put a correct query. The Minister may answer it correctly.

I would like to know whether it is a fact that the result of the probe made by the Sushil Salwan Commission appointed by the Sports Authority of India in this regard has concluded that Miss Sunita Rani is innocent. If it is so, then it is a fact the dope tests undertaken are not on scientific lines because before participating in this athlete, she has been given a clean chit. Why is this belated action on the part of the Sports Authority of India in supporting her ? Why have they not reacted earlier ?

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we shall have to keep two things in mind. Firstly, we conduct dope test in our country. Each player or team is required to undergo the dope test in the laboratory before participating in games. And when he/she gets a negative report in the dope test, only then they are allowed to participate in games abroad. Even Sunita Rani also underwent the dope test and she alongwith other players was allowed to go consequent upon her receiving negative report. Dope test is also conducted when a player wins any medal. All this happened since the report was positive. Her report in our laboratory was in negative and that is why she was allowed to go abroad. So far as question of having being proved innocent is concerned, her case is be pending before the International Athletic Federation also. Besides, we have also appointed an enquiry committee at the Ministry level and appropriate steps would be taken after conducting the enquiry, but the present situation is that we have withdrawn all medals, it is no longer a concealed fact.

*[English]*

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether the dope test, about which we are discussing now, is foolproof, dependable and acceptable. Secondly, is there any escape from the detection even by this test ? Thirdly, I want to know whether the use of prohibited substance of drug is on the increase or decrease. How do our players and our sportsmen compare with in-take of this prohibited substance of drug with other players of the other countries ? These are my these questions.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the facilities of dope test in our country are concerned, dope test of all players is conducted and after getting clearance through the negative report, they are permitted to participate in games. The entire matter was clear in the dope test conducted here. The report of dope test of sports persons of other Asian Countries conducted in the laboratory in Busan, Korea has been sent to the Athletic Federation. Some variation has been found in it and the enquiry committee has taken a stand on it. Well, I cannot say anything regarding your question on what the players of other countries practice, but I can definitely say that we are very much concerned for preventing our players from using such drugs.

*[English]*

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I asked a question, whether the use of prohibited substance of drug is on the increase or decrease. What is the trend ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How can he say ?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had the privilege to work very closely with a very eminent dope specialist of the world, Dr. Borman of Germany, during the two World Cups of 1998 of South Korea and Japan this time. I would like to know a few things from the Hon. Minister. The Dope Laboratory of Science gives the report at the last minute. With all my personal experience, I can tell you that just two hours before the departure of the football delegation, I got a phone call, not a written report, from SAI that your player Arun Malhotra is found positive. I got the phone call just two hours before the departure. I dropped him. The team went. It was a correct decision and the Laboratory had done a right thing. The doping mechanism of the whole world in terms of the standard of International Olympic Committee and also in terms of the Asian Olympic Committee might vary in some cases on the essentials.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put the question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am putting the question. This is a very technical issue. It is not a lighter thing. Taking some drugs is not good for the health of the athlete. It is killing an athlete. I just tell you that an overwhelming majority of the Indian athletes is not aware at all what are the things to be taken and what are the things not to be taken. Why ? It is because India has not professionalised this sporting administrative system,

especially, the medical system. With the result, each athlete has his own private doctor and he goes to his doctor.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put the question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is very important. I would like to share my knowledge with the Minister for getting the correct answer.

Sir, Arun Malhotra finally reported to us He was tested by a local doctor at Jammu. He gave a wrong medicine. I am not going to the controversy of any athlete. The dope testing is done by taking not only urine but also blood. After taking a drug, its medicinal effect lies from 45 days to 60 days. If, in case of Sunita Rani, the dope test was found negative on the day of departure from India, then did you enquire from the doctor what additional medicinal inputs were put on here during Asian Games ? Then the whole thing will be clear. Did you do that ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister will give the reply.

*Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am saying the same thing that this question arose only when the report of the dope test conducted in Busan was given because the report of all the players was very much negative in the test conducted in the country itself. Only one football player, as mentioned by the Hon. Member was found positive in his dope test. We extend our thanks to him that he himself stopped the player from going abroad. that player was dropped here only. You are of the view that facts would be revealed only when she comes back that whether she was deliberately given some drug or she herself consumed it.

*English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It was the team doctor only and nobody else. Did you talk to the team doctor ?

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : We will also ask the team doctors. If they had given any medicine to Sunita Rani four days back because Sunita Rani is continuously giving similar statement that she did not consume any other medicine except liv-52. This means that doctors did not administer any medicine to her in the past. Now we have to find out all these things in our enquiry that whether any such thing happened or she may say in her statement that the doctors gave her some medicine so that we may proceed with the case. But the statement before us or the Athletic Federation has not so far revealed that the doctors administered any medicine to Sunita Rani. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot put a question like that.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR : There is a variation between 'A' and 'B' samples. How can the Minister say that there is no variation ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot put a question like that.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : We can, therefore say nothing at the present stage whether the doctors gave here any medicine or not. So far as the sample of Shri Malhotra is concerned, all reports were given three days before the departure itself.

*[English]*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Hon. Chairman, Sir, this issue involves the prestige and morale of the country.

The Ministry claims to have set up a committee to inquire into the entire episode. The Ministry appointed a high-level committee to go into the entire aspect with regard to doping as well as the role of the Sports Authority of India. This is not the first occasion; the Sunita Rani issue is not the first one. There have been contentious issues of this nature. Many committees were appointed. Even the committee that the Hon. Minister claims to have set up consist of former Secretary Shri Sharma, the Director-General of the Sports Authority of India and a Director from the Ministry itself. Therefore, we feel that actually to cover up the entire issue the Ministry has chosen its own people.

My pointed question is this. This issue involves the drugs and medicines licensing authorities. Shri Sharma was already a controversial person with regard to a Soviet expert inquiry. Why was he chosen ? Why was the Director-General of the Sports Authority of India chosen ? This issue relates to drugs. So, why were the Medical Council people not involved in this issue ? Why was the Drug Control

Authority not involved ? We have a feeling that the whole issue is being covered up. Since the issue involves the prestige of the nation, we would like to have the reaction of the Government to this allegation. Would the Hon. Minister reconstitute the Committee so that we could have an impartial inquiry ?

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is nothing for the Government to conceal. The Government are adopting all stringent measures to check such activities. We have appointed a high level committee in the Chairmanship of a retired Secretary. Delhi High Court has also appointed a committee in his Chairmanship in the past to check usage of dope. Being a member of the committee he has given his recommendation in the Delhi High Court. And that is why are appointed a committee in his Chairmanship taking benefit of his experience. We have also made experts as its members. We have appointed Dr. Y.P. Gupta, Head of the Department of Pharmacology in AIIMS so that he could give his suggestions for preventing as also for adopting precautions against this unhealthy practice. The D.G. of sports Authority of India has been made a member since the laboratory is in SAI and all dope tests are conducted in SAI. We can collect all authentic information from there only. That is why we have included him. We do not want to conceal anything, or to safeguard anyone, this is the question of the country's prestige and we have to protect it so that such things do not happen in future. We are also making efforts to see what precautions can be taken in the future.

*[English]*

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is rather unfortunate that we are beating around the bush. It is an open secret that strength-enhancing drugs are administered at the time of training of athletes. It is the duty of the trainer and the sports medicine doctor to see that the traces of those medicines that are administered are eliminated before the tests are taken up or before the competition starts. Unfortunately, Sunita Rani has been made a victim of these types of cases. The AAFI has already exonerated her of the charges.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, though you, what steps are being taken against the trainer and the medical officer who had been to Busan during the training period and what steps do they take to see that traces of drugs are eliminated before the competition ?

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, players are not given any drug in coaching camps or training camps during training. Only the sick players are given medicine by the doctors attending there. Prohibited drugs are never recommended nor are they given such drugs. On the contrary, there is strict instructions for conducting random tests during training. Their rooms are also searched and the coaches have strict instructions to ensure that no prohibited drug enter camps or whenever they are out of camp coaches have to guard against the use of prohibited drugs. In addition, whenever they are called for training, they are provided full information regarding that and they are also provided documents and brochures. Thus the players who come to the training camp are provided full information through the aid of books and classroom teachings where they are told about the drugs and their effects and illeffects. Thus we make all efforts to stop use of drugs in the training camps itself.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether he has looked at the Press reports which have come out that certain athletes had tested positive during the camp and in spite of that it was covered up and they were allowed to go. These have been Press reports widely published.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether any enquiry has been made into this; whether this is a fact and, if so, who is responsible for monitoring the final clearance of the team without proper checking. It is because this is not the first time. It also happened at the Commonwealth Games. I am not blaming any athlete because ultimately it is the fair name of the country that is at stake. I want to know whether any responsibility has been fixed for the clearance of such teams despite such reports, which had been given to them.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as events before going to Busan is concerned, I would like to assure you that a thorough investigation was conducted. Only on positive case, that of a football player was found

and no other case was found positive. Clearance was given only after the receipt of negative reports with respect to all. Apart from clearance, we have also taken another precaution, that their air tickets. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : It was submitted after manipulation. I have inside information that there were positive reports. They were suppressed and you were sent only clear reports. It is in the press reports.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : This time, a positive report about someone had come before the departure for Busan and that was. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : How will it come to you. You were not here.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : This is something that should be investigated. Please send to us all the information that you possess. The inquiry committee will go into the matter and if any irregularity is found to have been committed by SAI or if clearance has been given after suppressing positive laboratory reports, action will definitely be taken. I had received only one positive case and I took prompt action to stop that person from leaving. Only those were allowed to leave who had negative reports. This is the fact.

**1.58 hrs.**

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing a very serious matter and I would like to present my view briefly. As far as the sports medicine concerned and as per information available with me, it will take us seven years to have a world class sports laboratory. It is a fact, though a lot has been said, that we can have an Olympic level laboratory in three stages, that is, after seven years. As long as we do not have that kind of laboratory, such incidents are bound to happen. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he would fulfil the responsibility which was not done by the previous Governments.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA : We have taken action in that direction in two stages. There are two stages before getting accreditation certificate and we have already applied for that. And by the end of November, we hope to get certification of nine thousand something. I hope to get the accreditation certificate soon.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

### Performance at Asian Games

*23. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India could not achieve the expected position in the recently concluded Asian Games in Busan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures Government propose to take for the better performance of India in 2006 Asian Games; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) The preparation for major multi-disciplinary events, including Asian Games 2006, is an on-going process. However, in the present sports management set up – at the international, as well as, the national level – promotion of sports, largely, falls in the domain of the Sports Federations.

Insofar as Government of India is concerned, in order to prepare the Indian teams for paticipation in major international events, such as, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympic Games, Long Term Development Plans (LTDP) are finalized in consultation with concerned National Sports Federations, former-international sports-persons and training method experts. Besides that, the probables are provided with required scientific and equipment support, coaching by Indian and foreign coaches in Coaching Camps and assistance to participate in international tournaments.

Under the Scheme of Assistance to Promising Sportspersons and Supporting Personnel, assistance is provided to promising sportspersons for training and participation in tournaments abroad, for purchase of equipment for scientific support and for training and participation in tournaments in the country. The assistance

given under this Scheme is aimed at winning medals in major multidisciplinary events.

**INDO-U.S. Ties**

*24. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and the U.S. have started a new regional dialogue on a wide range of issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose thereof;

(c) whether during a meeting on the side-lines of UN General Assembly, the US President reaffirmed his personal commitment to the Prime Minister to begin a long term strategic relationship with India and expressed concern over terrorists' strikes and killings in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the broad features of the strategic relationship and the steps taken and being taken for development of such relationship ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first India – U.S. Regional Dialogue was held during the visit of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca to Delhi on 24-25 September 2002. The Dialogue provides an institutional forum for regular consultations between India and the United States on developments in India's extended neighbourhood and represents another step in strengthening the strategic framework of India – U.S. relations.

(c) Yes, Sir. During their meeting in New York on 12 September 2002, the Prime Minister and the President reaffirmed their commitment to continue the process of qualitatively transforming India-U.S. relations and emphasised, in this context, the deepening of the bilateral dialogue and the strengthening of the new strategic framework of relations. President Bush also conveyed that the United States would continue to press President Musharraf to fulfil his commitments on ending cross-border terrorism in India.

(d) The two sides believe that closer partnership between India and the United States is important for pursuing their many common strategic interests in Asia and beyond. To this end, they have agreed to enhance political and strategic consultations; deepen cooperation in defence, security and in combating international terrorism; further develop economic relations; and, explore possibilities of expanding cooperation in space, diverse forms of energy, high-technology commerce and science. Since September, the two sides have accelerated their bilateral engagement and taken concrete steps towards strengthening the strategic framework of India-U.S. relations.

**Expenditure on Medicare**

*25. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote limited number of essential drugs in order to provide cost effective public health care for the masses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the per capita expenditure on medicare in the country is far below the standards prevailing in Asia Pacific region;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the per capita expenditure on medicare ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Health is a State subject under the Constitution and therefore the responsibility to provide essential drugs for public health care is being undertaken by the respective State Governments.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been running national disease control programmes for Malaria, Tuberculosis and Leprosy. Provision of free drugs is a part of these programmes.

Besides, under the Reproductive Child Health Programme, a limited number of essential drug items are being supplied in the form of drug kits of various health centres in the districts.

The Planning Commission has been providing additional Central Assistance to the States under PMGY.

One of the sectors eligible for funding these schemes is Health. During the current year, the Planning Commission has requested all States to make a provision of at least 15 per cent for health sector under PMGY. The guidelines for utilization of PMGY funds under primary health sector say that 50 per cent of the funds should be used for procurement of drugs.

(c) According to World Health Report 2002 published by the WHO, in the Asia Pacific Region, the per capita expenditure on health in India is US $23, which is above the countries like Afghnistan, Nepal, Bangla Desh, Pakistan and Indonesia, but below than China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Thailand. The development countries like Japan, Australia and New Zealand in this region are of course way ahead of us.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has been making efforts to increase its contribution to the public health expenditure. The overall plan outlay in the health sector in the 9th Five Year Plan has been 4.1 per cent of the total plan outlay as compared to 3.24 per cent during the 8th Five Year Plan. The National Health Policy, 2002 envisages increasing the Central and State Government contribution from the existing 15 per cent and 5.5 per cent to 25 per cent and 8 per cent respectively of the total spending in the health sector by 2010. The resources for public investment in health sector are also being augmented by securing assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for implementation of various disease control programme and RCH activities. Health infrastructure in 7 States (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh) are also being upgraded under the State Health System Development Project with World Bank assistance.

**Cellular Mobile Service in the Country**

*26. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :

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

(a) the details of the plan of BSNL to introduce cellular mobile service in the country with the State-wise break-up;

(b) the time frame fixed and the investment required for this purpose;

(c) whether any help has been sought from the private sector 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) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in the process of introduction of cellular mobile service in all the licensed service areas under its jurisdiction. The plan envisages the introduction of the services in two phases with a capacity of 15 lakh line during the initial phase to be expanded to 43 lakh lines in the expansion phase (Phase-II) covering about 1031 towns/cities across the country. The State-wise break-up is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The services rollout under the main project has already started from 19th October 2002 onwards in some of the licenced service areas in the jurisdiction of BSNL. The planned towns (other than those in Jammu and Kashmir, NE and Assam) are proposed to be covered in the current financial year. The investment for the project would be around Rs. 2500 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

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

**Statement**

*State-wise break-up Plans for coverage of BSNL Mobile Service*

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | Total Lines Capacity Planned |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 595600 |
| 2. | Andaman and Nicobar | 4000 |
| 3(a) | Bihar | 92550 |
| 3(b) | Jharkhand | 54200 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 459750 |
| 5. | Haryana | 111050 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 34000 |
| 7. | Karnataka | 307150 |
| 8. | Kerala | 326585 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 9(a) | Madhya Pradesh | 112900 |
| 9(b) | Chhattisgarh | 22950 |
| 10. | Maharashtra | 495300 |
| 11. | Orissa | 114150 |
| 12. | Punjab | 290000 |
| 13. | Rajasthan | 137650 |
| 14. | Tamil Nadu | 334900 |
| 15. | Uttar Pradesh | 385750 |
| 16. | Uttaranchal | 59350 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 108050 |
| 18. | Chennai | 131000 |
| 19. | Assam | 42550 |
| 20. | Jammu and Kashmir | 41200 |
| 21. | North East | 50800 |
| | Total | 4311435 |

**National Policy on ISM and H**

*27. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated a separate National Policy on Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy to emphasise indigenous medicine;

(b) if so, the assistance and incentive given by the Central Government to promote Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

(c) whether the Union Government had set up any Medicinal Plants Boards;

(d) if so, the purpose and the objective thereof; and

(e) the extent to which it has achieved its goal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) The Government has approved a separate National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy

The Government had formulated various scheme during 9th Plan under which financial assistance has been given to Government/Non-Government organizations/ Institutions for promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM and H). Several new schemes have been envisaged for implementation during 10th Plan.

The new policy envisages that the ISM industry would be given priority industry status and declared a green industry. The Policy, inter-alia, emphasizes fiscal incentives and tax concession to ISM industry within overall taxation policy to make them viable and competitive. Further strengthening of education, re-orienting research, awareness building and integration have been projected in the new policy.

The Government had already set up Medicinal Plants Board under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

The main purpose and the objective of the Board is the co-ordination with Ministries/Departments/Organizations/ State/UT Governments for development of medicinal plants in general and specifically in the following fields :

(i) Assessment of demand/supply position in relation to medicinal plants both within the country and abroad;

(ii) Advise concerned Ministries/Departments/ Organizations/State/UT Government on policy matter relating to schemes and programmes for development of medicinal plants;

(iii) Provide guidance in the formulation of proposals, schemes and programmes etc., to be taken up by agencies having access to land for cultivation and infrastructure for collection, storage and transportation of medicinal plants;

(iv) Identification, inventorisations and quantification of medicinal plants;

(v) Promotion of ex-situ/in-situ cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants;

(vi) Promotion of co-operative efforts among collectors and growers and assisting them to

store transport and market their produce effectively;

(vii) Setting up of database system for inventorisation, dissemination of information and facilitation, the prevention of Patents being obtained for medicinal use of plants which is in the public domain;

(viii) Matters relating to import/export of raw material, as well as value added products either as medicine, food supplements or as herbal cosmetics including adoption of better techniques for marketing of product to increase their reputation for quality and reliability in the country and abroad;

(ix) Undertaking and awarding Scientific, Technological research and cost-effectiveness studies;

(x) Development of protocols for cultivation and quality control; and

(xi) Encouraging the Protection of Patent Right and Intellectual Property Right.

Medicinal Plants Board was set up in November, 2000. Keeping the above objectives in view, the Board has assisted 144 projects to several Government institutions and NGOs for research and development and sensitization of the Board's activities. The Board proposes to extend assistance for contract farming of 32 identified Plants for development and cultivation. 25 State level Medicinal Plants Boards have been set up with objectives similar to those of Medicinal Plants Board.

**PM Address to UN General Assembly Meeting**

*28. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the main issues relating to peace and security in the South Asian region and the world peace raised by the Prime Minister in the UN General Assembly Meeting in September this year;

(b) whether he called upon the UN Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee to go beyond enforcing the Council Resolution 1373 on States known for sponsoring, sheltering, funding, arming and training terrorists;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the Counter Terrorism Committee thereto;

(d) whether he also called upon the UN General Assembly and the Security Council to enforce Resolution 1373 against Pakistan for training, funding and arming terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(e) if so, the reaction of both Assembly and Council thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Prime Minister addressed the 57th Session of the UN General Assembly on 13th September, 2002. Prime Minister's statement covered several issues related to peace and security in South Asia. Full text of Prime Minister's statement is in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (e) Prime Minister noted that the international community has taken some collective decisions to combat terrorism and to choke off its lifelines which is reflected in UN Security Council Resolution 1373. Its Counter Terrorism Committee should now move beyond information compilation and legal assistance to enforcing compliance by States known to be sponsoring, sheltering, funding, arming, and training terrorists. Prime Minister's statement, which now forms a part of the record of the UN, has been noted by the members of the Security Council and the Assembly.

**Statement**

*Address by*
*Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Prime Minister of India*
*At the 57th Session of the*
*United Nations General Assembly*
*New York*

**September 13, 2002**

**Mr. President,**

I congratulate you on your election as President of the 57th General Assembly. We wish you success and pledge our whole-hearted support.

I also extend my best wishes to Secretary General Kofi Annan in this first year of his second term in office.

**Mr. President,**

Two days ago, we commemorated the first anniversary of a terrible event, which focused the collective global consciousness on international terrorism. Terrorism did not start on September 11. It was on that day that it brazenly announced itself on the global stage, flaunting its immunity from distance and power.

As a country exposed to the depredations of terrorism for decades, India empathized with the pain of the American people, admired their resilience in coming to terms with the consequences, and supported the bold decision to counterattack terrorism at its very source.

The international community has taken some collective decisions in the global effort to combat terrorism and to choke off its lifelines. The U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373 contains the essence of these decisions. Its Counter-Terrorism Committee should now move beyond information compilation and legal assistance to enforcing compliance by States known to be sponsoring, sheltering, funding, arming and training terrorists.

11 attacks on the United States or the December 13 attack on our Parliament.

General Musharraf has himself admitted that rigging was responsible for his winning the referendum by a dubious margin of 90 per cent in April this year. As for the "true" democracy he intends to establish in Pakistan, he has rendered it important even before the elections are held next month.

Those who had to "adjust" voting and counting procedures to win a referendum – and achieved constitutional authority by the simple expedient of writing their own constitution – are ill-placed to lecture others on freedom and democracy.

**Mr. President,**

Yesterday we heard yet another patently false and self-serving claim that in India, Muslims and other minorities are the target of "Hindu extremists". With 150 million, India has the second largest Muslim population in the world, more than in Pakistan. We are proud of the multi-religious character of our society. Equal respect for all faiths, and non-discrimination on the basis of religion, is not just our Constitutional obligation. As the whole world knows, it is the signature tune of India's civilisation and culture.

**Mr. President,**

We have to recognize that the developmental divide between the North and the South is becoming wider and deeper by the day. The challenges that face us are stark and there is no alternative to all the countries of the world joining hands to face them together.

Over the last decade, 10 million people have been joining the ranks of the poor each year. A quarter of the world's population lives in extreme poverty.

A million lives are lost to malaria each year. Tuberculosis claims twice as many lives annually. One-fifth of humanity does not have access to safe drinking water.

We have to find US$ 24 billion annually for investment in poor countries if we are to achieve the World Food Summit goal of halving hunger by 2015.

It was this bleak picture that we addressed in our Millennium Declaration in 2000 with a time-bound road map for poverty eradication, with goals and targets to be achieved by 2015. The Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development was an encouraging beginning in the effort to enhance international financing for development.

Continuation of widespread poverty, at a time when unimaginable wealth is concentrated in a small social layer, is totally unacceptable. The 21st century has all the means to end this sad legacy of the past centuries. What is lacking is the political will among the developed countries to sincerely and speedily address the legitimate developmental needs of the developing countries, especially the least developed ones.

The poor of the world, as also the more enlightened sections of the rich around the world, would like the United Nations to spearhead efforts to end the systemic indifference towards poverty. The agenda of action that would achieve this objective is clear :

**One**, asymmetry in trading relations between developing and developed nations; the problem of declining prices for commodities from developing countries; and all unjustified barriers to their exports must be removed.

**Two**, extreme volatility in global energy markets has been causing havoc with the trade and fiscal balances of developing countries. This must end.

**Three,** unpredictability in global capital movements, which periodically devastate the economies of developing countries, must be controlled.

**Four,** malfeasant corporate practices, which drain off the natural resources and traditional knowledge base of developing countries without fair compensation, must be dealt with sternly.

Casting an even longer shadow over this grim developmental canvas is global climate change – from which the poor will suffer the most, though they contributed the least to it. The recent floods and forest fires in Europe are a forewarning that the countries of Asia and Africa are not the only victims of the fury of a degraded environment. The Earth's atmosphere and biosphere know no national boundaries. The choice before the global community is stark: Either we take urgent steps to protect the environment, or be prepared for far worse natural calamities.

Early this month, the Johannesburg Summit for Sustainable Development debated some of the linkages between poverty, trade, environment, national, international and corporate governance and global financial flows. We emerged from the Summit with some encouraging outcomes, but these fell well short of the demands of our time.

It has become a categorical imperative to understand, and address, man's developmental needs in their totality – and not in isolated parts. It is disconcerting that the highways of development are jammed by the noisy and unruly traffic of materialism and its brash cousin, consumerism. Human values have become mute bystanders in most political, economic and social activities.

The result of this imbalance between our material and non-material needs can never be happy for mankind. On the contrary, by placing compassion, care, fellow feeling, cooperation and other human values in the driver's seat, we are bound to get the right solutions to every problem on our planet.

Humanity is crying out for a harmonious integration of the economic, social, political, environmental and spiritual dimensions of development. This task calls for the closest possible cooperation among nations and communities, with a readiness to accept the best from every cultural and spiritual tradition around the globe. The United Nations needs to take up newer and bigger initiatives in this direction.

In this Assembly, less than a year ago – and in the US Congress the year before – I had extended India's offer to coordinate a Comprehensive Global Development Dialogue. I reiterate that offer today. If we are to achieve the development goals we have promised ourselves by 2015, we need such a dialogue urgently.

**Mr. President,**

As we come together once again at the United Nations, at a time of new and varied challenges, we should reflect on our collective commitment to the UN Charter, its purposes and principles. There is a growing perception – particularly among the weaker and poorer countries – that responses to issues of far-reaching impact often seem arbitrary on contradictory.

A common destiny is at stake. The world needs collective multilateralism. It needs the United Nations – the coming together and working together of all its nations in the development of a common and collective perspective.

Conflicts arise when there is no spirit of democracy within and among nations. A genuinely democratic framework enables us to respect alternative points of view, to value diversity, and the fashion solutions responsive to the aspirations of the people.

India's own experience as a hugely populated and diverse nation shows how complex problems can be addressed within a constitutional and democratic framework.

These values need to be assiduously nurtured in our societies, so that at least a future generation is rid of the scourge of poverty, intolerance, obscurantism and religious extremism.

Democratic societies are far less prone to ideologies based on violence or militarist yearnings, since they do not have their fingers permanently on the trigger of a gun. We have to be vigilant against threats to democracy worldwide arising from forces that are opposed to it, be they rooted in fundamentalist political dogmas or extremist religious ideologies.

**Mr. President,**

All of us are aware of the challenges. Most of us are agreed that a stable global order has to rest on the four strong pillars of peace, security, sustainable development and democracy. We have to ensure that each of these pillars is strong and resilient.

We are conscious of our collective responsibility. It is the leap from this theoretical understanding to its practical realization, which we have often failed to execute. We should not fail again. Our future generations will not forgive us if we do.

Thank you.

**Report of CIA on HIV-AIDS**

*29. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken cognizance of the present report of CIA, the US Intelligence Agency, regarding HIV-AIDS in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agency opines that India will be the worst affected country till 2010 from HIV-AIDS;

(d) whether any action plan has been drawn by the Government in this regard; 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) The recent report of the National Intelligence Council (NIC) states that the number of people with HIV/AIDS will grow significantly by the end of the decade. The increase will be driven by the spread of the disease in five populous countries: Nigeria, Ethiopia, Russia, India and China, where the number of infected people will grow from around 14 to 23 million currently to an estimated 50 to 75 million by 2010. This estimate overrides the projected 30-35 million HIV/AIDS infections by the end of the decade in Central and Southern Africa, the current focal point of the epidemic. The projection made for number of HIV/AIDS infected persons in these five countries by the end of 2010 are :

| | |
|---|---|
| China | 10-15 million |
| India | 20-25 million |
| Nigeria | 10-15 million |
| Ethiopia | 7-10 million |
| Russia | 5-8 million |

It is reported that the HIV/AIDS is spreading at different rates in the five countries, with the epidemic being most advanced in Nigeria and Ethiopia. The official adult prevalence rate is almost 6 percent in Nigeria, between 10 and 18 percent in Ethiopia, around 1 to 2 percent in Russia, around 1 percent in India and 0.15 to 0.25 percent in China. Heterosexual transmission of the HIV virus is the primary mode to spread in Nigeria, Ethiopia and India while Intravenous drug use drives the spread of the disease in Russia. Several factors are driving the epidemic in China – the large migrant population, Intravenous drug users and poor hygiene in plasma sales.

The Government of India is implementing Second Phase of the National AIDS Control Programme which has two key objectives :

(1) To reduce the spread of HIV infection in India; and (2) to strengthen India's capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS on a long term basis.

The programme has five distinct components with specific strategies under each of them :

(i) Reducing the HIV transmission amongst poor and marginalized sections of the community at the high risk of infection, by (a) targeted interventions amongst marginalized sections of the society at the highest risk of HIV infection and transmission such as sex workers, transport workers, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men, migrant workers, industrial workers vulnerable to HIV infection, street children, slum population; (b) control of sexually transmitted diseases through syndromic management at the peripheral public health institutions and through outreach services; and (c) condom promotion to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV;

(ii) Reducing the spread of HIV amongst general population, which is perceived to be at a lower risk; by (a) reducing blood based transmission

by modernizing the blood transfusion services in the country for greater availability and rational use of blood, by ensuring mandatory screening of HIV, Hepatitis 'B' and 'C' malaria and syphilis and by developing technical manpower; (b) Information, Education and Communication campaigns to raise awareness levels; and (c) promotion of voluntary counselling and testing for HIV;

(iii) Strengthen the institutions responsible for implementation of the programme, by – (a) increasing the quantity, quality and timeliness of surveillance systems for HIV, sexually transmitted infections, behaviour patterns and social determinants in all parts of the country so as to enable evidence based planning and response; (b) improving technical and managerial capacities of States AIDS Control Societies for the effective implementation of the programme; (c) training of medical and para-medical personnel in management of HIV/AIDS patients; and (d) supporting high level peer reviewed competitive and rational Research and Development;

(iv) Delivery of community based low cost care for people living with HIV/AIDS, by – (a) providing drugs for treatment of opportunistic infections including Tuberculosis; (b) antiretroviral post exposure prophylaxis to medical and para-medical workers in the event of an accidental exposure of HIV/AIDS while treating HIV/AIDS patients; (c) providing single does Nevirapine to HIV positive pregnant mothers and her baby attending antenatal clinics in 6 high prevalence States namely Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur and Nagaland; and (d) encouraging people living with HIV/AIDS to form their networks/self help groups in order to facilitate care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS;

(v) Ensuring multisectoral collaboration with public, private and voluntary sectors for a broad based response to the epidemic. At present, over 700 targeted intervention projects in the country are being run through Non-Government Organisations. Besides, NGOs are being involved in running community care centres and school AIDS education programme.

The various Ministries/Departments like Defence, Railways, Labour, Steel, Sports and Youth Affairs, Women and Child Development and Social Justice and Empowerment are implementing HIV/AIDS prevention and control programme in their respective sectors with the financial and technical support from National AIDS Control Organisation.

*[Translation]*

**Tackling Bio-Terrorism**

*30. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make the laboratories of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) capable of tackling the dangers of bio-terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering seeking help from foreign organisations for the said purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The Government of India has given higher priority to strengthen the country's capacity to combat the threat of bio-terrorism. It has developed plan to train the staff, and upgrade laboratories of various national level institutes including those of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR has developed a detailed plan of action for the purpose.

(b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, majority of its Institutes are disease specific. Therefore, keeping in mind the expertise available, they have been identified with specific organism. Because of the infectious nature of these organisms, they are needed to be handled in specifically designed bio-safety laboratories. A BSL-3 facility is being commissioned at Pune at a cost of Rs. 14 crores. ICMR is assessing the need to have more such facilities at other centres.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure that these laboratories are of international standards, the assistance of experts of

Centres of Disease Control, Atlanta, USA, has been taken in vetting the design prepared by Indian architects.

**National Highways in Tenth Five Year Plan**

*31. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Gujarat and other States where National Highways have been constructed during the period from January 1, 2001 till date alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) the number of National Highways proposed to be constructed during the current Five Year Plan, year-wise alongwith the amount proposed to be spent thereon;

(c) the details of two lane and four lane highways in the country at present;

(d) whether the Government propose to convert two lane into four lane National Highways; 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) During the 9th Five Year Plan, a total length of 23,814 kms has been declared as National Highways including 375 kms after 1.1.2001. In the State of Gujarat a length of 830 kms. was declared during this period. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. No declaration of new National Highways has been made during 10th Five Year Plan.

An expenditure of Rs. 41.64 crore (upto October, 2002) has been made on new National Highways declared after January 2001.

(b) All the proposals received from the State Governments have been returned in June 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few State Highways as National Highway during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

(c) The length of National Highways having two lane carriageway is 36,282 kms and that of having four lane carriageway is 2,534 kms.

(d) and (e) Conversion of National Highways from two to four lane is undertaken in a phased manner keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, presently, about 13,500 kms of existing National Highways are being converted to four lane under the National Highways Development Project and Port Connectivity Scheme. During 10th Five Year Plan, a provision of four laning of another 800 kms has been made.

**Statement**

*State-wise Length of National Highways*

| Sl. No. | States | Totel Length (Kms.) | Length declared during 9th Plan (Kms.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 4002 | 1114 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 392 | 62 |
| 3. | Assam | 2836 | 540 |
| 4. | Bihar | 3312 | 2040 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 24 | 0 |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 1810 | 970 |
| 7. | Delhi | 72 | 0 |
| 8. | Goa | 269 | 40 |
| 9. | Gujarat | 2461 | 830 |
| 10. | Haryana | 1357 | 659 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 1188 | 334 |
| 12. | Jammu and Kashmir | 823 | 175 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 1603 | 638 |
| 14. | Karnakata | 3570 | 1574 |
| 15. | Kerala | 1440 | 500 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 4664 | 2558 |
| 17. | Maharashtra | 3626 | 708 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18. | Manipur | 954 | 523 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 717 | 245 |
| 20. | Mizoram | 927 | 376 |
| 21. | Nagaland | 369 | 256 |
| 22. | Orissa | 3301 | 1652 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 53 | 30 |
| 24. | Punjab | 1557 | 665 |
| 25. | Rajasthan | 4597 | 1666 |
| 26. | Sikkim | 62 | 0 |
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 3758 | 1862 |
| 28. | Tripura | 400 | 200 |
| 29. | Uttar Pradesh | 4942 | 2209 |
| 30. | Uttaranchal | 1075 | 1075 |
| 31. | West Bengal | 1951 | 313 |
| | Total | 58112 | 23814 |

*[English]*

**PM's Overseas Tours**

*32. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether our Prime Minister visited USA and other countries recently;

(b) if so, the nature of talks and issues discussed by him with the Heads of each of those countries;

(c) the outcome of talks/discussions, country-wise; and

(d) the points of disagreement which surfaced during the talks, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) PM visited the following countries recently :

(i) The USA (10-15 September, 2002)

(ii) Cyprus (7-9 October, 2002)

(iii) Denmark (10-11 October, 2002)

(iv) The UK (12 October, 2002)

(v) Cambodia (4-6 November, 2002)

(vi) Laos (6-8 November, 2002)

(vii) Thailand (8 November, 2002)

Country-wise information in respect of parts (b) to (d) of the question is as follows :

**USA**

The Prime Minister visited New York from September 10-15, 2002 to attend the 57th Session of the UN General Assembly. During the visit, he met U.S. President George Bush on September 12 to discuss ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation towards fulfilment of their shared commitment, articulated in their November 2001 meeting in Washington D.C., to transform India-U.S. relations. They also discussed regional and international issues, including continuing cross-border terrorism from Pakistan and the evolving situation regarding Iraq.

The two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral relations in the context of their November 2001 meeting in Washington DC. They noted, in particular, the positive developments in the areas of counter terrorism and defence cooperation. They reaffirmed their commitment to continue the process of qualitatively transforming Indo-US relations to take full advantage of the changing international environment. They emphasized the deepening of the bilateral dialogue and the strengthening of the New Strategic Framework of relations. To that end, they agreed to explore possibilities of expanding cooperation in space, diverse forms of energy, high-technology commerce and science. President Bush also conveyed that the United States would continue to press President Musharraf to fulfil his commitments on cross-border terrorism against India.

Prime Minister expressed hope that efforts would be made to avoid war in Iraq. He conveyed that India has vital strategic interests in Gulf and a historical relationship with Iraq and that while we full understand the international community's desire to see the relevant UN resolution on Weapons of Mass Destruction complied with fully, we believe that the sanctions against Iraq should be lifted in tandem with full and effective compliance by Iraq.

**Cyprus**

Prime Minister paid an official visit of Cyprus from 7-9th October 2002.

During the talks issues of bilateral, regional and international importance were discussed.

Cyprus reiterated its support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the expanded Security Council of the United Nations. Five important Agreements in the fields of Information Technology, Science and Technology, Culture, Health and Telecommunications were signed in the presence of Prime Minister and President Glafcos Clerides.

There were no points of disagreement during the talks.

**Denmark**

PM led the Indian delegation at the Third India-EU Summit held at Denmark from 10th-11th October 2002 and also had bilateral discussions with Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen on 11th October 2002. The EU was represented by the PM of Denmark, Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen in his capacity as President of the European Council and President of the European Commission, Mr. Romano Prodi. Discussions at the Summit focused on review of bilateral relations with EU and regional and global issues of mutual interest. PM also gave a keynote address at the Special Plenary session of the Third India-EU Business Summit, which is an integral part of India-EU dialogue at the Summit level.

India and the EU adopted the Joint Press Statement along with an Agenda for Action. The Summit was highly successful. It recognized the importance of India and EU as global actors in a multi-polar world. The Joint Statement and Agenda for Action adopted at the Summit reiterated our shared commitment to expand and deepen India-EU cooperation in all areas on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and to further promote the development of our partnership.

The visit provided an opportunity to clarify our respective positions on matters of regional and global concern, and identify areas of bilateral cooperation in the future.

There were no points of disagreement on bilateral issues.

**U.K.**

Prime Minister visited the U.K. on 12 October 2002.

The meeting between PM and U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair was marked by warmth and cordiality. In addition to reviewing bilateral ties, both leaders had wide-ranging discussions on regional and global developments.

The U.K. Prime Minister congratulated PM on the successful elections in Jammu and Kashmir despite the violence. Bilateral issues were discussed in the context of the implementation of the New Delhi Declaration. Mr. Blair also reiterated support for India's permanent membership of the UNSC.

There were no points of disagreement on bilateral issues.

**Cambodia, Laos and Thailand**

Prime Minister visited Cambodia from 4-6 November 2002, essentially to take part in the First ASEAN-India Summit held in Phnom Penh on 5 November, 2002, but also had bilateral discussions with Prime Minister of Cambodia; Laos on a bilateral officials visit from 6-8 November, 2002; and Thailand on transit halt on 8th November, 2002.

During the visits, the Prime Minister discussed with the leadership of these countries ways to enhance and strengthen our cooperation with them on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

The discussions have contributed to better understanding of each other's perspectives and concerns, resulting in the signing of several important agreements, such as :-

**With Cambodia :**

- Trade Agreement;
- Credit Agreement for US $ 10 million to Cambodia;
- MoU between Archeological Survey of India and APSARA Authority for Preservation of Angkor Archeological Park; and
- A Non-Governmental agreement between IIT, Bombay and Institute of Technology of Cambodia. (ITC).

**Vith Laos :**

- Agreement on Defence Cooperation.
- Agreement on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substance and Related Matters.
- Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports; and
- Agreement for Credit Line for US $ 10 million to Laos.

There were no points of disagreement during PM's alks in these countries.

**Polio Eradication Programme**

*33. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been rawn to the newsitem captioned "Spilover of polio cases om U.P. has officials worried" appearing in the Hindustan imes dated October 8, 2002 ,

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

(c) whether the Union Govemmerit have asked for pport from the State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other strategy to be followed by the iovernment to check polio cases in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to a) The attention of the Government has been ıe news item captioned "Spillover of polio cases from U.P. as officials worried" in the Hindustan Times dated October , 2002. This news item refers to the outbreak of polio in I.P. and the increase in the number of polio cases in Delhi s a spillover from U.P.

It is a fact that there has been an outbreak situation ı U.P. due to which cases have been detected in Delhi nd certain districts of Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. It has also been found that some cases in these States originated from U.P.

The Government has taken due note of the polio situation in U.P. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has been addressed urging the State Government to take all possible measures to stem the polio cases in the State. Minister of Health and Family Welfare has also met her at Lucknow recently along with senior officers and held detailed discussions with her and the State's senior officers on the polio situation. She promised to leave no stone unturned to ensure best possible implementation of the polio eradication programme in the State. The State Government has taken a number of steps to improve the implementation of the programme and to ensure greater participation of the people.

The first Sub national immunization day was conducted on 29th September 2002 in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi and in some districts of Haryana.

The national goal is to eradication polio from the country and obtain international polio-free certification by 2005. The annual strategies for achieving this goal are formulated and implemented by the Govemment on the basis of advice of a group of national and international experts. Government is taking all possible measures to achieve this goal. Two National Immunization Day (NID) rounds are observed every year throughout the country for giving polio drops to the children below 5 years of age. In addition, Sub-National Immunization Day (SNID) rounds are also observed in States where cases are reported to be increasing. House-to-house vaccination of missed children is also done for two days after the booth days of NID and SNID rounds. Mop-up vaccination rounds are also conducted in the districts and adjoining areas where new cases are detected. Intensive and extensive IEC (information, education and communication) activities in the form of banners, posters, hoardings, newspaper advertisements, TV programmes, etc. are conducted both by the Central and State Governments to popularize the anti-polio vaccination in the country.

Following special measures have been taken with special reference to the States where large number of polio cases have been detected :-

(i) In order to improve the detection and vaccination of missed children, the house-to-house vaccination teams have been strengthened with

the addition of third member preferably a women from local community.

(ii) The community mobilisers have been engaged for improving the implementation of the programme in resistant areas.

(iii) House-to-house vaccination of missed children is being done for five days after the booth day as against two days in other parts of the country.

(iv) Additional IEC activities are being conducted.

(v) The implementation of the programme is being closely monitored at the apex political and bureaucratic levels both in the Government of India as also in the States.

(vi) Local influencers/social and religious leaders are being involved for advocacy and ensuring greater participation of the people in the programme.

(vii) One Surveillance Medical Officer has been posted in each district in order to help the States in ensuring better monitoring and supervision.

**Upgradation of Roads to National Highways**

*34. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

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

(a) whether States Governments particularly that of Gujarat had requested the Union Government for upgradation of State roads to National Highways;

(b) if so, the details with locations thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or 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) to (c) Yes, Sir. All the proposal received from the State Governments including that of Gujarat have been returned to them in June, 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may however, consider declaration of a very limited length of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

**US Report on International Religious Freedom**

*35. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the latest report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom has put certain nations in the category of "Countries of Particular Concern";

(b) if so, whether the Commission has mooted that India should also be put in the category of "Countries of Particular Concern" after Gujarat carnage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir. The power to designate any country as a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) lies with the US Secretary to State, and not with the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). The Secretary of State has not designated India as a CPC in the latest report on International Religious Freedom, issued by the State Department in October, 2002.

(b) and (c) The Commission recommended to the Secretary of State, in a letter dated 30th September 2002 that India may be identified as CPC. The letter also contains a dissenting note from two of the nine Commissioners, including its Chairperson, opposing this recommendation and disagreeing that "in the case of India as a whole, it could be said that 'systematic, ongoing egregious violations of religious freedom' had been 'engaged in or tolerated' by the Indian Government to an extent to warrant CPC status,"

(d) The US Commission on International Religious Freedom is a non-official body mandated by the US Congress. Government consider its report part of the

internal process of a foreign Government, and reject any interference in India's internal affairs. It is well known that the Constitution of India guarantees equal religious, social and political rights to all its citizens, including minorities.

**Merger of MTNL and BSNL**

*36. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to merge Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the foreign investors have been consulted in the matter;

(d) if so, the reaction of these investors; and

(e) the manner in which the proposed merger is likely to server the customers better and the benefits to be derived by the Government therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a), (b) and (e) An internal study has been undertaken (which is in its preliminary stages), on the options available to strengthen both BSNL and MTNL and to ensure that these companies are well placed to deal with the emerging competition from private sector as well as to maximize the value for tall stake holders.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Do not arise in view of above.

**New Treatment for Brain Stroke**

*37. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people who suffered brain stroke in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has developed a new programme to treat patients suffering from brain stroke;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful in treatment of such patients ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) At present, we have no surveillance system in India to monitor the number of cases of stroke or other neurological disorders at national or regional level.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences have started a programme called 'CODE-RED' in this regard. The treatment is with a thrombolytics drug recombitant tissue – Plasminogen activator (rt-PA) which is a naturally occurring enzyme derived from DNA technology. This is the first proven effective recommended treatment for acute ischaemic stroke if given within 3 hours of onset of stroke as it significanctly improves long-term outcome in functional disability and neurological scales. Tissue Plasminogen Acivator is currently not available in India. The usefulness of Recombinant Tissue Plasminogen Activator (RPTA) has been demonstrated only in randomized studies in special research settings. Moreover, it was concluded by Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians and American Academy of Emergency Medicine that further evidence was necessary to support widespread application of Stroke thrombolytics outside research setting. An ICMR funded Indian Study at Thiruvanthapuram had to be abordoned, as sufficient number of patients were not available within three hours period of stroke.

**Basic Immunisation Programme**

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

(a) whether nearly 45 per cent of children are yet to be immunised with all the six basic vaccines;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that all the children are immunised with all these basic vaccines in time;

(c) whether low publicity is being given to immunisation programme; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) As per UNICEF evaluation, the percentage of fully immunized children in the country against the six vaccine-

preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diptheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles and neo-natal tetanus in 2000-01 was 53.6%.

Under the Universal Immunization Programme, being implemented by the Government of India through the States, vaccination is available to the children throughout the country for control of six vaccine-preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diptheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles and neo-natal tetanus. The Government of India provides vaccine, syringes and needles, cold chain and injection safety equipments, funds for cold chain maintenance to the States for implementation of this programme, etc. The Government has also initiated activities to improve the coverage by extending support particularly to the weakly performing States through the Immunization Strengthening Project, the Reproductive and Child Health Outreach Services scheme and also training of States and District level officials for improving coverage and quality of Immunization Programme. The funds for IEC (information, education and communication) activities are also provided to the States under the Outreach Services Scheme.

**Radiation Emissions from Nuclear Plants**

*39. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian N-reactors emit more radiation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether even stations considered best emit three times more radiation in comparison to international norms;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether technology designed to upgrade safety at Nuclear Power Plants is too expensive for developing countries like India; and

(f) if so, the steps taken to make it economically viable ?

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. In India, the limits for the radioactivity releases from the nuclear power stations are stipulated by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). These limits are in the line with recommendations by International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The radioactivity releases from Indian nuclear power stations have been far less than the limits laid down by AERB.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir. All required safety provisions are incorporated right at the design stage and continued in construction, commissioning and operation of the Nuclear Power Plants. Safety status is continuously reviewed during operation for upgradation, where necessary, and is never compromised on cost considerations. Taking into account the required level of safety, nuclear power generation in India is economically viable and nuclear power plants are supplying electricity to State Electricity Boards on commercial basis.

(f) Does not arise.

**Peace Talks in Sri Lanka**

*40. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to offer their support to the Norwegian-facilitated peace talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Government of India supports the peace process underway in Sri Lanka. Press Statement is enclosed as Statement.

(b) The Sri Lankan Government and Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) signed a ceasefire agreement, mediated by Norway, on 22 February, 2002 for an indefinite and mutually-agreed ceasefire from the midnight of 23 February, 2002.

The first round of talks between SLG and LTTE was held at Sattahip Naval base, Thailand on September 16-18, 2002. The LTTE spokesperson told the press that it

favoured political settlement reached through peaceful means and the SLG spokesperson told the press that the SLG would offer amplest degree of devolution within the framework of Sri Lankan unity and territorial integrity. The talks concentrated on three subjects (i) framework for future talks; (ii) continuance of the ceasefire agreement; and (iii) North East development issues. It was agreed to set up two Joint Task Forces (JTF). One for humanitarian and reconstruction activities and security issues which could appeal for and receive international aid. A second Joint Committee was agreed to be set up to address security issues and the LTTE's interest in reducing the security perimeter and SLG's concerns in case of resumed fighting.

The second round of talks concluded on November 03 in Thailand. It was reported that LTTE had agreed to work with SLG to resolve political, military and development issues. Three Sub-Committees were formed as follows :

(a) The Sub-Committee for Political Affairs will work to develop on acceptable political model to end the conflict.

(b) The Sub-Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs in the North and the East. Will identify humanitarian and rehabilitation needs, prioritize implementation, decide allocation of the financial resources, determine implementing agencies.

(c) The Sub-Committee on De-Escalation and Normalisation to look into issues relating to the high security zones and act as a mechanism for a structured dialogue between the two parties.

The Third and Fourth round of Talks will be held between December 2-5, 2002 and January 6-9, 2003 at Oslo and Thailand respectively.

**Statement**

*GOI Press Statement*

GOI noted with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the first round of talks between parties to the Sri Lankan conflict, held on 16-18 September 2002 at Sattahip, Thailand. The adoption of a conciliatory approach to negotiations, which resulted in agreement for further meetings and the decision to deal jointly with important issues including internally displaced persons, humanitarian and reconstruction activities, demining, etc. is welcome. The Government of India has, in the past and continues to support efforts to take the peace process towards a settlement that meets the just aspirations of all elements of Sri Lankan society within a sovereign, united Sri Lanka.

**Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute**

231. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Assam to take over the Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute in Guwahati;

(b) if so, the decision of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a request was received from the M/o Home Affairs (North-East Division) to give comments on the proposal to take over the Dr. B. Barooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati by the Central Government. It was not found feasible for this Ministry to take over the Institute due to administrative reasons in the light of the instructions of the Ministry of Finance on cutting down non-plan expenditure. The Institute has been separately requested to send specific proposals for financial assistance as per the schemes under National Cancer Control Programme. The response of the Institute has not been received yet.

**OFC for Pune**

232. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for providing atleast 1200 Km. Optical fibre cable for Pune district; and

(b) if so, the action the Government have taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : (a) No, Sir. However, there is a proposal by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for providing 400 RKMs of optical fibre cable for Pune District.

(b) Already work has been completed in respect for 76.6 Kms. Necessary action has been initiated to complete

the balance works during this financial year, subject to grant of way-leave permission from State Agencies.

*[Translation]*

**Fungus Infection in AIIMS**

233. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding increasing incidents of fungus infection during operations in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) In AIIMS, the Department of Microbiology has been undertaking Infection Control Programme of all the Operation Theatres and ICUs of the AIIMS and C.N. Centre. None of the OTs and ICUs (particularly Cardio-thoracic and Neuro-surgery) have shown any fungal growth in the samples collected from these places for the last several months.

Postoperative fungus infection reported in a few patients if at all could have been due to endogenous infection particularly by Candida species.

**Supply of Medicines/Equipment**

234. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) whether inadequate supply of medicines and other medical equipment is being made to Maharashtra and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the demand of medicines and other medical equipment made by these States and the supply made to them during each of the last three years; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure the required supply of medicines and other medical equipments to these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Government of Maharashtra and West Bengal do not place their indents for supply of Medical Stores on Government Medical Store Depots, Mumbai and Kolkata, respectively which are Central agencies for procurement of drugs.

(b) and (c) Questions does not arise.

*[English]*

**Death Cum Retirement Gratuity**

235. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the retirees from Government service for the period July 1, 1993 to March 31, 1995 were discriminated in grant of Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity in whose case the merger of Dearness Allowance was merely 20 per cent as against 97 per cent granted to those who retired after April 1, 1995;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that CAT, Mumbai and the Mumbai High Court, have held that the orders ignoring retirees for the aforesaid period for grant of such relief were discriminatory;

(c) if so, why the orders for grant of 97 per cent DA for merger for the purpose of Gratuity for pensioners during the aforesaid period have not been issued so far by the Government in view of the above-mentioned judgements; and

(d) the time by which these orders are likely to be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The issue was agitated by some pensioners before the CAT, Mumbai. The Hon'ble CAT ruled that they did not find any nexus or rational consideration in fixing the cut off date of 1.4.95. The Government has filed a Writ Petition against the Judgement before the High Court of Judicature, Mumbai. The Writ Petition has been admitted and the matter is sub-judice.

**Post Offices in Chandigarh**

236. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices in U.T. Chandigarh and their location; category-wise;

(b) the area and population covered by each of these;

(c) whether need of opening more Post Offices in new colonies and some sectors has been left;

(d) the action to open new Post Offices in Chandigarh;

(e) the number of letter boxes installed in U.T. Chandigarh, sector, village and colony; and

(f) the number and timing of clearance from these letter boxes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) There are 51 post offices in U.T. Chandigarh. Their category-wise location is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The average area and population covered by post offices in U.T. Chandigarh is as under :–

| Area classification | Average area covered by each post office | Average population served by each post office |
|---|---|---|
| Post Office in Urban Area | 1.76 Square K.M. | 17973 |
| Post Office in Rural Area | 4.95 Square K.M. | 13160 |

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The opening of new post offices is subject to the fulfilment of norms based justification and availability of requisite resources.

(e) The sector, village and colony-wise details of letter boxes installed in U.T. Chandigarh are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(f) All the letter boxes installed in urban area are cleared twice in a day and once in a day in rural area on post office working days.

**Statement-I**

*Category-wise location of post offices in U.T. Chandigarh*

(i) New Sectt. 2. Vidhan Sadan 3. High Court PO in Sector-I. 4 Raj Bhawan PO in Sector-7, 5. Sector-8, 6 Sec. 9) Sector-10 (10) Sector-11 (12) Sector-12 and Engg. College in Sector-12 (13) Sector-14 (14) Sector-15 (16) Chandigarh GPO and (16) Bus stand Sector-17 (17) Government Press Sector-18 (18) Sector-18 (19) Sector-19 (20) Sector-20 (21) Sector-21 (22) Sector-22 (23) Sector-23 (24) Sector-26 Grain Mkt. (25) Sector-27 (26) Sector-29 (27) Sector-30 (28) Sector-31 (29) Sector-34 (30) Sector-35 (31) Sector-36 (32) Sector-40 (33) Sector-44 (34) Sector-46 (35) Sector-47 (36) Industrial area PO in Indl. Area Ph-I (37) New I.A. PO in industrial area PO in Phase-I O.C.F. (38) Ram Darbar IA PO in Ram Darbar Indl. Area (39) Maloya Colony PO (40) Dadu Majra Colony PO (41) Mani Majra (42) M.T. Manimajra (43) M.H.C. Manimajra (44) Aerodrume PO CHD. (45) Air force High Grounds PO.

(ii) EDSO : (1) Burail EDSO in Burail village.

(iii) EDBO : (1) Dhanas (2) Dariya (3) Behlana (4) Hallomajra (5) Baderi (6) Raipur Kalan.

**Statement-II**

*The Sector, Village and Colony-wise details of Letter Boxes installed in U.T. Chandigarh*

| Sl. No. | Name of Sector | No. of letter boxes installed | Name of Colony | No. of letter boxes installed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Sector-17 | 9 | Babu Dham Colony | 2 |
| 2. | Sector-19 | 34 | | |
| 3. | Sector-12 | 11 | | |
| 4. | Air Force High Ground | 2 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Sector-22 | 37 | | |
| 6. | Sector-23 | 11 | | |
| 7. | Aerodrome | 5 | | |
| 8. | Sector-11 | 8 | | |
| 9. | New Sectt. | 12 | | |
| 10. | | | Maloya Colony | 2 |
| 11. | Sector-18 | 10 | | |
| 12. | Sector-15 | 15 | | |
| 13. | Ind. Area-11 | 2 | Karsom Colony | 1 |
| | | | Ram Darbar Colony | 1 |
| 14. | Sector-47 | 20 | Sanjay Colony | 1 |
| 15. | Industrial Area | 17 | | |
| 16. | Sector-36 | 33 | | |
| 17. | Sector-14 | 09 | Dadu Majra Colony | 1 |
| 18. | Mani-Majra | 15 | | |
| 19. | Sector-9 | 14 | | |
| 20. | Sector-20 | 11 | | |
| 21. | Sector-30 | 22 | Indra Colony | 1 |
| | Total | 297 | | 9 |

*Name of villages which falls under U.T. Chandigarh*

| Sl. No. | Name of village | Number of letter boxes installed |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Raipur Khurd | 01 |
| 2. | Hallomajra | 02 |
| 3. | Behlana | 02 |
| 4. | Dariya | 02 |
| 5. | Makhan Majra | 01 |
| 6. | Mauli Jagran Complx | 05 |
| 7. | Raipur Kalan | 01 |
| 8. | Kajehri | 02 |
| 9. | Badehri | 02 |
| 10. | Palsora | 02 |
| 11. | Beterala | 01 |
| 12. | Dhanas | 02 |
| 13. | Khuda Lahora | 02 |
| 14. | Maloya | 01 |
| 15. | Burail | 02 |
| 16. | Kishan Pura | 01 |
| 17. | Khuda Ali Sher | 01 |
| 18. | Bhagupura | 01 |
| 19. | Dadu Majra | 01 |
| 20. | Khuda Jassu | 01 |
| 21. | Gurudwara Guru Sagar Sahib | 01 |
| 22. | Jhanim Wala | 01 |

**Corruption in Purchasing of Computer**

237. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of letters written by MPs on the corruption in Kendriya Bhandar are pending with CVC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

**Complaints received in Kendriya Bhandar**

238. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 782 dated March 3, 20002 and state :

(a) whether investigation into the complaints have been completed;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(e) the details of the complaints that were received by the Government and the Kendriya Bhandar in the last one year; and

(f) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Implementation Statement in fulfillment of the assurance given in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 782 dated 6.3.2002 has been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Lok Sabha Secretariat on 25.7.2002.

(e) and (f) Being a commercial organization, Kendriya Bhandar receives complaints on various subjects. There is adequate in house arrangement for dealing with such complaints. There is also a full time CVO in the Organization. Action is taken against the concerned employees/suppliers after carrying out investigations, wherever considered necessary.

**Per Capita Income in Gujarat**

239. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the per-capita income in Gujarat and how does it compare with the per-capita income at the national level; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to bring per-capita income of Gujarat at par with national level ?

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 per-capita income level in Gujarat is higher than the national level at constant (1993-94) as well as at current prices, as per information/data made available by the State Government for the State and by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) for all India, during the period 1993-94 to 2000-2001.

*[Translation]*

**Nehru Yuvak Kendra in Rajasthan**

240. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :
SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP :
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

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

(a) whether any complaint was received from the Jhalawad center Nehru Yuvak Kendra in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(c) the total number of such districts whose works are being supervised by the co-ordinator of other district centers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) No complaint has been received from the Jhalawad center of NYK in Rajasthan.

(c) 13 Nehru Yuva Kendras are being supervised by the Youth Coordinators holding additional charge in Rajasthan.

*[English]*

**Family Welfare Linked Health Insurance Programme**

241. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :

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

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Family Welfare linked health insurance plan for persons Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced;

(d) whether the Government also proposed to extend this scheme to other sections of the population including senior citizens; 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) The National Population Policy, 2000 has laid down that a Family Welfare Linked Health Insurance Plan be formulated as a motivational measure for wider adoption of the small family norm, aiming at couples below the poverty line. During the current year 2002-03 a sum of Rs. 60 crores has been allocated for the purpose. It is envisaged that the scheme will be taken up for couples who undergo sterilization and do not have more than two children.

The Institute of Health Systems, Hyderabad, has been requested to design a Family Welfare Linked Health Insurance Scheme. On receipt of the scheme, its implementations will be examined for adoption in the country.

**Side effect of Depo-Provera, Contraceptive**

242. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Womens' groups have called for a check on the use of Depo-Provera, an injectible contraceptive, which is leading to serious side effects among women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(d) if so, the out-come thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto ?

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

(b) The Women's organizations are apprehensive about the side effects of the injectible contraceptive like disruption of regular menstrual bleeding, cessation of the monthly cycle or irregular bleeding, general weakness, migraine, severe abdominal cramps. They have also claimed that the use of injectible contraceptive can lead to reduction in bone density increasing the risk of osteoporosis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not Applicable.

(e) The Government is not contemplating inclusion of injectible contraceptive in the National Family Welfare Programme.

*[Translation]*

**Length of National Highway in the Country**

243. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the targeted length of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh has not been achieved yet;

(b) the targets fixed for development schemes in Uttar Pradesh for the year 2001-2002 and the percentage of work which has been completed; and

(c) the reasons for sub-standard execution of work if any and action taken by the Government for speedy development of National Highway network in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No target for length of National Highway in Uttar Pradesh was fixed. Total length of National Highways in the State of Uttar Pradesh is 4942 km., at present.

(b) During the year 2001-2002, the target of completion of 50 works was achieved in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No instance of sub-standard work has been reported in Uttar Pradesh. Within the available resources, speedy development of National Highways is being under-

taken. Government has taken up four/six laning of about 13,500 kms., of National Highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and Part Connectivity Scheme being implemented by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Besides, allocations of Rs. 1722.66 crores for development and Rs. 732.85 crores for maintenance of National Highways, other than those under NHAI, have been provided during 2002-2003. In Uttar Pradesh amounts of Rs. 146.63 crore for development and Rs. 66.19 crore for maintenance have been allocated during the year 2002-2003. Besides, 4 laning of 1626 Kms. of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh are being implemented under NHDP.

*[English]*

**Commonwealth Fellowship**

244. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Physicians of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are nominated for the commonwealth fellowship;

(b) if so, the norms of nomination;

(c) whether these are being violated creating resentment amongst the faculty members;

(d) whether AIIMS reviewed the decisions taken in the light of the objections raised by the faculty members; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not following the guidelines laid down ?

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

**Kolhapur-Nagpur National Highway**

245. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Maharashtra Government to declare Kolhapur-Nagpur and other roads as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have agreed to include Ring Road of Nagpur city in the Golden Quadrilateral project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the funds sanctioned for the work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) All the proposals for declaration of National Highways received from the Government of Maharashtra have been returned in June, 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently, there is ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may however consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

(d) to (f) Government have agreed to include Nagpur bypass (eastern side) on NH 7 as part of North – South Corridor under National Highways Development Project being implemented by National Highways Authority of India. Actions for engaging consultants for detailed engineering and for sanction of land acquisition estimate are in progress.

**Declaration of National Inland Navigation Waterways**

246. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from Kerala Government to declare the waterways from Kovalam to Manjeshwar in Kerala as National Inland Navigation Waterways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Role of NGOs in Blindness Prevention**

247. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Governments to provide/release financial assistance/grant to Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) engaged in implementation of Blindness Prevention Programme in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Proposal received by Government of India duly recommended by the States are evaluated and those who qualify are funded under various schemes under National Programme for Control of Blindness. NGOs and Eye Banks in voluntary sector funded during the last three years are given at enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

**Statement-I**

*National Programme for Control of Blindness*

*Statement showing names of NGOs who received GIA as per State Wise*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl.No. | Name of NGO | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| **Andhra Pradesh** | | |
| 1. | Ashoka Eye Hospital, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | 7.000 |
| 2. | Rotary Service Complex Trust, Poddatur/ Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh | 2.147 |
| 3. | M. Ram Reddy Lions Eye Hospital, Mehbubnagar, Andhra Pradesh | 17.000 |
| 4. | Nidadavole Lions Charitable Trust, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh | 6.857 |
| 5. | Rajavalli Radhyram Lions Eye Hospital, Palkol, Andhra Pradesh | 17.750 |
| 6. | Rotary Netra (Vizag Mid Town Rotary Charitable Trust, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | 17.750 |
| 7. | Lions club of Suryapet Eye Hospital, Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh | 17.750 |
| 8. | Smt. Rajeshwari Ramakrishna Eye Hospital, Nidadavole, Andhra Pradesh | 11.000 |
| **Madhya Pradesh** | | |
| 1. | Bhopal Eye Hospital Trust, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh | 17.750 |
| 2. | Bethesda Hospital Society, Chhatrapur, Madhya Pradesh | 17.750 |
| 3. | Jabalpur Diocesan Social Service Society, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh | 17.750 |
| 4. | Cristian Hospital Mungeli Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh | – |
| 5. | Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital Trust, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh | 17.750 |
| 6. | Rathore Mission Hospital, District Sagar, Madhya Pradesh | 6.500 |
| **Maharashtra** | | |
| 1. | Akot Rotary Charitable Sanstha, Akola, Maharashtra | 7.330 |
| 2. | Lions Comprehensive Eye Care Foundation Miraj/Sangli, Maharashtra | 16.146 |
| 3. | Jnana Prabhodini Medical Trust, Pune, Maharashtra | 17.750 |
| 4. | Mahatama Gandhi Mission Hospital, New Mumbai, Maharashtra | 4.500 |
| 5. | Telegaon General Hospital and Convalescent Home, Pune, Maharashtra | 17.750 |
| 6. | Rotary Eye Care Trust, Sangamner, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra | 12.500 |
| 7. | Kasturba Health Society, Wardha, Maharashtra | 17.750 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| **rissa** | | |
| | Rotary Club of Cuttack Charitable Trust, Cuttack, Orissa | 17.750 |
| | ECOS Eye Hospital, Berhampur, Orissa | 11.120 |
| | Antodaya Chetna Mandal, Mayurbanj, Orissa, | 17.750 |
| | Nysadri, Dhenkenal, Orissa | 17.750 |
| | Services Centre for the Disabled, Titilagarh, Bolangir, Orissa | 17.700 |
| **ajasthan** | | |
| | Global Hospital and Research Centre, Mount Abu, Rajasthan | 18.425 |
| | Urmil Jyoti Sansthan, District Bikaner, Rajasthan | 10.000 |
| **mil Nadu** | | |
| | Srikanchi Kamkoti Medical Trust, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu | 17.750 |
| | K.G. Eye Hospital, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu | 14.500 |
| **Uttar Pradesh** | | |
| 1. | Chirstian Hospital, Kasganj, Etah, Uttar Pradesh | 5.125 |
| 2. | Moradabad Charitable Trust, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh | 17.750 |
| 3. | Khairabad Eye Hospital, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh | 17.750 |
| **Karnataka** | | |
| 1. | Karuna Trust, Chamrajnagar, Karnataka | 8.875 |
| 2. | Karuna Trust, B.R. Hills, District Chamrajnagar, Karnataka | 8.875 |
| **Manipur** | | |
| 1. | Muolvaiphei Rural Health Research Centre (Manipuri) | 12.500 |

**Statement-II**

*State-wise details of Vos/NGOs engaged in implementation of National Programme for Control of Blindness*

Rs. in Lakhs

| No. | Name of NGO | Grant Released | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | Eye Bank Association of Kerala | 0.50 | 1.06 | 0.00 | 1.56 |
| | Bangalore West Lions Eye Hospital and Cornea Grafting Cabtre | 0.50 | 0.50 | 3.61 | 4.61 |
| | Sankar Eye Society | 0.50 | 0.54 | 0.53 | 1.57 |
| | Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Medical Trust | 0.50 | 0.80 | 0.81 | 2.11 |
| | Aravind Eye Hospital and PG Institute of Ophth. | 0.00 | 0.55 | 4.03 | 4.58 |
| | Distt. 324-A1, Lions Eye Bank Trust | 0.00 | 0.50 | 1.79 | 2.29 |
| | Gandhi Eye Hospital Trust | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.78 |
| | LM Shah Rotary Eye Institute | 0.50 | 0.00 | 1.43 | 1.93 |
| | Sankar Eye Bank | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.16 | 0.16 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | Venu Eye Institute | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.81 | 1.31 |
| 11. | Swetcha Gora Eye Bank | 0.45 | 0.00 | 0.63 | 1.08 |
| 12. | Medical Care Centre trust | 0.31 | 0.00 | 0.98 | 1.29 |
| 13. | Priyadarshani Sewa Sanstha | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| 14. | Shakti Netra Bank | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| 15. | Bharat Vikash Parishad | 2.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.00 |
| 16. | Eye Bank Dhampur | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.50 |
| | Total | 6.76 | 3.95 | 16.06 | 26.77 |

**Damaged Bridges on National Highways in Bihar**

248. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges damaged on national highways during the last three years in Bihar;

(b) the number of bridges have been repaired so far and by when the remaining bridges are likely to be repaired; and

(c) the amount is likely to be spend on the repair of these bridges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDHURI) : (a) 44 Nos.

(b) Repairs and rehabilitation of 34 No. of bridges have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 32.59 crore. These are in progress and are likely to be completed within the next two years.

(c) About Rs. 52 crore.

**Negligence in Treatment**

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Illaz mein laparwahi, rogi ke haath mein kire pare" appearing in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated November 4, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been inquired into by the Government; and

(c) the finding of the inquiry and action taken by Government against the doctors and nurses who have shown negligence ?

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

*[English]*

**Revision of List of Medicines**

250. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revised list of medicines has been prepared by his Ministry before the expiry of five years;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been referred to CBI for investigation;

(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) A combined formulary of drugs for CGHS/MSO has been prepared and circulated on 14.2.2002.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Declaration of New National Highways in Orissa**

251. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the proposal sent by Orissa Government to declare new National Highways;

(b) whether Government have received proposal from Government of Orissa for declaring Phulnakhara (at NH No. 5) – Niali-Madhab-Charichhak-Gopkonark-Puri (at NH No. 203) Road i.e. SH No. 60 as a new National Highway;

(c) if so, when and the steps taken so far to connect Konark-the International Heritage Centre with a good road communication; and

(d) the names of the new National Highways declared during 2001-2002 and which are to be declared during 2002-2003 in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) All the proposals received from the State Government of Orissa for declaration of new National Highways including the instant proposal were returned to them in June, 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may however, consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, iner-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

(d) The following National Highways were declared during 2001-2002 :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | 11A Extn. | Dausa-Lalsot-Kuthun |
| (ii) | 58 Extn. | Ghaziabad-Delhi |
| (iii) | 72A | Chhutmalpur-Dehradun |
| (iv) | 79A | Kishangarh-Nasirabad |
| (v) | 108 | Dharasu-Gangotri Dham |
| (vi) | 109 | Rudraprayag-Gaurikund-Kedarnath Dham |

There is no proposal to declare any new National Highway during 2002-2003.

**Review of Working of Kendriya Bhandar**

252. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of the Kendriya Bhandar in the country in the light of the business during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to open additional outlets of Kendriya Bhandar in the country in the Tenth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Review of working of the Kendriya Bhandar is a continuous process which forms the basis for formulation of future plan as well as taking corrective action.

(c) and (d) Kendriya Bhandar has not submitted any long term plan regarding opening of additional outlets during the Tenth Plan. Outlets of Kendriya Bhandar are opened whenever suitable accommodations are made available by Government or other agencies at a location having good sale potential.

**Complaints received in Kendriya Bhandar**

253. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answers given to USQs 2502 and 2427 dated December, 5, 2001 and state :

(a) the details of the outcome of the survey report;

(b) the number of complaints received in Kendriya Bhandar during the last three years, till date, and the number out of them were investigated by the CVOs, Kendriya Bhandar during the period;

(c) the details of those complaints and the action taken against the employees by the chief vigilance officer as a result thereof;

(d) whether despite there being a Purchase Committee in Kendriya Bhandar, the prices of many items have been found higher in Kendriya Bhandar than the manufacturers and the open market;

(e) if so, whether any action has been taken against the purchase committee members;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) 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 (g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group meet**

254. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he visited UK recently to participate in the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Meet;

(b) if so, the agenda of the meet;

(c) the outcome of the meet;

(d) whether India put forth the issue of role of Pakistan in encouraging terrorism from across the border before the meet; and

(e) if so, the extent to which India succeeded in mobilising opinion of the participating countries against Pak ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes. EAM attended the meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) in London from 31 October to 1 November, 2002. The agenda of the meeting inter-alia was to review Pakistan's suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth, and to ascertain whether Pakistan's suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth could be revoked in conformity with Commonwealth's principles of democracy.

(c) to (e) The outcome of the meeting was entirely satisfactory from our viewpoint. After detailed discussions, where India also strongly articulated its concerns, CMAG unanimously agreed that given the continued promulgation of new laws which followed extra-constitutional measures, the criticism of both Commonwealth and the EU Observer Group regarding the electoral process and the failure to establish elected legislatures with full constitutional and legislative authority, the status quo of Pakistan's suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth should continue. Terrorism was not on the agenda of the meeting.

**MPLADS in Gujarat**

255. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MPLAD Scheme funds for the Gujarat State M.Ps. is being utilized properly by the State MPs.; and

(b) if so, the money allotted and utilised in respect of each Gujarat Member of Parliament during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation does not have any information about MPs not utilising the MPLAD fund properly in Gujarat.

(b) The position of release of MPLADS funds by the Central Government to the nodal districts and the utilisation in respect of MPs (L.S.) from Gujarat during last three years is given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Releases and utilisation of MPLADS funds in respect of Lok Sabha MPs from Gujarat*

(Rs. Lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Constituency | 2000-2001 | | 2001-2002 | | 2002-2003 (31.10.2002 upto) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Release | Utilisation | Release | Utilisation | Release | Utilisation |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| . | Ahmedabad<br>Harin Pathak | 150 | 234.4 | 250 | 279.6 | 200 | 23.2 |
| . | Amreli<br>Dileep Sanghani | 200 | 227.5 | 200 | 148.1 | 100 | 124.4 |
| . | Anand<br>Patel Dipakbhai Chimanbhai (Sathi) | 300 | 306.8 | 150 | 190.7 | 200 | 317.4 |
| . | Banaskantha<br>Chaudhari Haribhai Parathibhai | 100 | 242.5 | 400 | 209.7 | 0 | 65.3 |
| . | Baroda<br>Jayaben Thakkar | 200 | 122.6 | 200 | 170 | 200 | 203.3 |
| . | Bhavnagar<br>Raju Rana | 250 | 158.7 | 300 | 156.2 | 100 | 215.8 |
| . | Broach<br>Mansukhbhai Vasava | 200 | 229.8 | 350 | 307.4 | 100 | 216.1 |
| . | Bulsar (ST)<br>Manibhai Ramjibhai Chaudhari | 250 | 296.8 | 200 | 195.9 | 200 | 175.5 |
| . | Chhota Udaipur (ST)<br>Ramsinh Rathawa | 200 | 132.8 | 200 | 276.8 | 200 | 127.2 |
| 0. | Dhandhuka (SC)<br>Varma Ratilal Kalidas | 150 | 219.4 | 300 | 180.1 | 200 | 137.4 |
| 1. | Dodad (ST)<br>Katara Babubhai Khimabhai | 300 | 465.9 | 100 | 86.5 | 300 | 378 |
| 2. | Gandhinagar<br>Lalkrishna Advani (L.K. Advani) | 200 | 254 | 100 | 161.9 | 200 | 108.1 |
| 3. | Godhra<br>Solanki Bhupen-Drasinh Prabhatsinh | 250 | 450.6 | 100 | 94.3 | 200 | 150.7 |
| 4. | Jamnagar<br>Chandresh Patel | 250 | 240.6 | 200 | 193.3 | 200 | 98.9 |
| 5. | Junagarh<br>Chikhaliay Bhavnaben Devrajbhai | 250 | 217.6 | 300 | 220.7 | 200 | 62.9 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | Kaira<br>Dinsha patel | 200 | 97.1 | 200 | 382.6 | 200 | 243.2 |
| 17. | Kapadvanj<br>Vaghela Shankarsinh Laxmansinh | 250 | 182.5 | 200 | 436.6 | 200 | 154.7 |
| 18. | Kutch<br>Gadhvi Pushpadan Sambhudan | 200 | 78.3 | 200 | 158.8 | 100 | 99.8 |
| 19. | Mandvi (ST)<br>Patel Mansinhbhai Kalyanji | 100 | 0 | 200 | 346 | 300 | 137.5 |
| 20. | Mehsana<br>Vacant | 200 | 193.7 | 100 | 109.7 | 0 | 132.4 |
| 21. | Patan (SC)<br>Rashtrapal Pravinchandra Somabh | 200 | 132 | 400 | 308.9 | 100 | 161.1 |
| 22. | Porbandar<br>Javiya Gordhan-Bhai Jadavbhai | 250 | 153.7 | 250 | 286.6 | 200 | 36.3 |
| 23. | Rajkot<br>Kathiriya Vallabhbhai Ramjibha | 300 | 99.4 | 150 | 172.6 | 200 | 386.8 |
| 24. | Sabarkantha<br>Madhusudan Devram Mistry | 200 | 122.2 | 200 | 375.7 | 200 | 128.9 |
| 25. | Surat<br>Kashiram Rana | 250 | 278.8 | 250 | 343 | 100 | 60.6 |
| 26. | Surendranagar<br>Makwana Savshibhai Kanjibhai | 200 | 206.7 | 250 | 221.1 | 0 | 0 |
| | Totals | 5600 | 5344.4 | 5750 | 6012.8 | 4200 | 3943.5 |

Remarks : Where the utilisation is more than the release, it is due to spill over of balance from previous years.

**Post Offices In West Bengal**

256. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in West Bengal where Post Offices/Sub-post Offices/Telephone Exchanges have been opened during the last three years, district-wise; and

(b) the names of places in West Bengal where new Post Offices/Sub Post Offices/Telephone Exchanges are likely to be opened during the year 2002-2003, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN : (a) The names of places in West Bengal where new post offices/ sub post offices have been opened during the last three years are given in Statement-I enclosed.

Information relating to Telephone exchanges in being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The names of places in West Bengal where new post offices/sub post offices are likely to be opened during the year 2002-2003 are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

Information relating to Telephone Exchanges is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement-I**

*Names and places where Post Offices opened during 1999-2000*

**Departmental Sub Post Office**

| S.No. | Name of District | Name of Post Office |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 24 Parganas (South) | 1. Purulia |
| | | 2. V.I.P. Nagar |
| | | 3. Kalikapur |
| 2. | 24 Parganas (North) | 1. Prafulla Kanan |
| | | 2. Nilachal |
| | | 3. Krishnapur |
| 3. | Kokata | 1. Bidhannagar SAI Complex |
| 4. | Murshidabad | 1. Safdarnagar |
| 5. | Burdwan | 1. Kashem Nagar |

**Extra Departmental Branch Post Office**

| S.No. | Name of District | Name of Post Office |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | 24 Parganas (North) | 1. Sikharpur |
| | | 2. Bankura Dabar |
| | | 3. South Charalkhali |
| | | 4. Mahisbathan |
| 2. | 24 Parganas (South) | 1. Kalsa |
| | | 2. Jamira |
| | | 3. Beshra |
| 3. | Birbhum | 1. Kanspai |
| | | 2. Gadadharpur |
| | | 3. Ruppur |
| | | 4. Chilimpur |
| | | 5. Barapahari |
| 4. | Murshidabad | 1. Burjumta |
| | | 2. Joynagar |
| | | 3. Kaipur |
| 5. | Nadia | 1. Natunfulia |
| 6. | Burdwan | 1. Bamunara |
| 7. | Purulia | 1. Chatter Mahal |
| | | 2. Charida |
| | | 3. Taldabra |
| 8. | Bankura | 1 Gokulnagar |
| 9. | Hoogly | 1. Inchura Bazar |
| 10. | Midnapore | 1. Pratapur |
| | | 2. Aymabarderia |
| | | 3. Prasadchawk |
| | | 4. Dakshinsandalpur |
| | | 5. Uttarmacoagram |
| | | 6. Aguybill |
| 11. | Malda | 1. Paro |
| | | 2. Nurganj |
| 12. | Dinajpur South | 1. Uttarpara |
| | | 2. Saiyedpurinayapara |
| 13. | Cooch Behar | 1. Lalbazar II |
| | | 2. Matirkuli |
| 14. | Darjeeling | 1. Rungmuak |
| | | 2. Singhbuli |
| 15. | Jalpaiguri | 1. Champaguri |
| | | 2. Milanpalli |

*Names and places where Post Offices opened during 2000-2001 Departmental Sub Post Office*

| S.No. | Name of District | Name of Post Office |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | 24 Parganas (South) | 1. Harinavi |
| | | 2. Vivekananda Pally |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 2. | Kokata | 1. Bidhannagar IB Market |
| | | 2. East Kol Town |
| | | 3. Ship Kendriyavihar |
| 4. | Murshidabad | 1. Dahapara |
| 5. | Hoogly | 1. Mankunda |
| 6. | Howrah | 1. Radhadasi |
| 7. | Dinajpur (Uttar) | 1. Laraidogji |

Extra Departmental Branch Post Office (EDBO)

No EDBO opened

*Names and places where Post Offices opened during 2001-2002 Departmental Sub Post Office*

**Department Sub Post Office**

| S.No. | Name of District | Name of Post Office |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 24 Parganas (South) | 1. Sarkarpool |
| 2. | 24 Parganas (North) | 1. Abdalpur |
| | | 2. Dogachia |
| 3. | Murshidabad | 1. Talilpur |
| 4. | Howrah | 1. Bharat Co-operative Housing Society |

**Extra Departmental Branch Post Office**

| S.No. | Name of District | Name of Post Office |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Murshidabad | 1. Delepur |
| | | 2. Bhadua |
| | | 3. Bhandra |
| | | 4. Shyampur Natunpar |
| | | 5. Bharadanga Sherpur |
| | | 6. Bishanupur Durlabpur |
| | | 7. Ramchandrapur |
| | | 8. Gajdharpara |
| 2. | Nadia | 1. Jalalkhali |
| | | 2. Bahirchara |
| 3. | 24 Parganas (North) | 1. Satbhaiya |
| | | 2. Daksjin Panchpota |
| 4. | 24 Parganas (South) | 1. Ramnagar Shibpur |
| 5. | Bankura | 1. Salbedia |
| | | 2. Kharidengri |
| | | 3. Jalhar |
| | | 4. Machdoba |
| | | 5. Radhakantpur |
| 6. | Howrah | 1. Kushberia |
| 7. | Midnapore East | 1. Medhakhla |
| | | 2. Routrabari |
| 8. | Midnapore West | 1. Charakpahari |
| | | 2. Andheri Bondrisole |
| | | 3. Mahulbani |
| 9. | Burdwan | 1. Shankarpur |
| | | 2. Ichapur |
| 10. | Hoogly | 1. Dahiakanda |
| 11. | Birbhum | 1. Daltikuri |
| | | 2. Rangalipur |
| 12. | Purulia | 1. Kalajore |
| | | 2. Ranga |
| | | 3. Garsika |
| | | 4. Simultard |
| | | 5. Fuljhore |
| 13. | Dinajpur South | 1. Kuaran |
| | | 2. Mahadebpur |
| | | 3. Daira |
| 14. | Malda | 1. Ismailpur |
| | | 2. Jagjibanpur |
| | | 3. Amarsinghi |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | | 4. Patul |
| | | 5. Kushmai |
| | | 6. Purbabahadurpur |
| 15. | Darjeeling | 1. Deorali |
| 16. | Cooch Behar | 1. Dwankat Joyduar |
| | | 2. Kijali Basti |
| 17. | Jalpaiguri | 1. North Upon Chowki – Kuchlibari |
| | | 2. Paharpur |
| | | 3. Chanda Companv |

**Statement-II**

*Names and places where Post Offices are likely to be opened during 2002-2003*

**Departmental Sub Post Office**

| No. | Name of District | Name of Place |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kolkata | 1. Stern Metropoliton Bye Pass |
| 2. | Murshidabad | 1. Basantpur |
| 3. | Dinajpur | 1. Chopra |
| 4. | Purulia | 1. Ranga |

**Extra Departmental Branch Post Office**

| Sl. No. | Name of District | Name of Place |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | 24 Parganas North | 1. Adampur |
| | | 2. Naksna |
| | | 3. CMD Nagar |
| 2. | 24 Parganas South | 1. Uchopota |
| | | 2. Companir Thek Bazar (Under Mothurapur) |
| 3. | Nadia | 1. Dhawapara |
| | | 2. Raghunandanpur |
| 4. | Birbhum | 1. Uttar Kherbuni |
| 5. | Murshidabad | 1. Sreepurdanga |
| | | 2. Kadkhali |
| | | 3. Choapara |
| | | 4. Ghoramara |
| | | 5. Banipur |
| 6. | Burdwan | 1. Sonetaria |
| | | 2. Akalapur |
| | | 3. Belghora |
| | | 4. Chota Hattala |
| | | 5. Dhankora |
| 7. | Midnapore East | 1. Joykrishnapur |
| | | 2. Rukhminipur |
| 8. | Howrah | 1. Moubesia Kalitala |
| 9. | Hoogly | 1. Jinpur |
| 10. | Midnapore West | 1. Humatia |
| | | 2. Krishnanagar |
| | | 3. Balla |
| 11. | Purulia | 1. Bundwan |
| 12. | Bankura | 1. Kalaiberia |
| | | 2. Puora |
| | | 3. Pakuria (Under Kamarpukur GP area) |
| 13. | Jalpaiguri | 1 Kajalihat |
| 14. | Malda | 1 Gopalpur |
| 15. | Dinajpur South | 1. Nija Uttrapara |
| | | 2. Narayanpur Bus Stand Area |
| | | 3. Baripukur (Baltala Bus Stand Area) |
| | | 4. Muktarampur |
| | | 5. Nil Uttarpur Baruipore |
| 16. | Darjeeling | 1. Lower Bong Basi |
| | | 2. Foudijote |
| | | 3. Tarijok |

**Upgradation of Small Exchanges**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to replace smaller exchanges with C-DOT exchanges in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any time-frame has been set up to accomplish this task;

(c) whether the Government have made any cost/benefit analysis of this replacement; and

(d) if so, the details of any financial analysis made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) All the small capacity exchanges have already been replaced by C-DOT exchanges in Andhra Pradesh.

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

**Tenth Five Year Plan**

258. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the broad feature thereof in brief;

(c) the total amount targeted to be spent during the time span of this plan; and

(d) the names of those five sectors wherein maximum amount has been decided to be spent during the plan period sector-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Approval of a Five Year Plan is accorded by the National Development Council (NDC). The draft Tenth Plan has recently been cleared by Full Planning Commission and the Cabinet, and is to be placed for the consideration and approval of the NDC. The NDC is scheduled to meet on 21st December, 2002 for the purpose.

*[Translation]*

**Utilisation of Funds**

259. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether funds were allocated to each State Government for meeting annual expenditure on Education, Health Services, Creation of Employment avenues, Construction of rural roads and development of agriculture during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount allocated/demanded by each State Government particularly Madhya Pradesh for incurring expenditure on each of the above sectors separately;

(c) the details of the amount utilised/remained unspent out of the amount of funds allocated to them State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Sectoral plan allocations to States are based on proposals of the States concerned that are drawn up according to their priorities. These proposals are finalised in consultation with the States and indicated in the Plan accordingly. Details showing State-wise major sector-wise plan outlays for all States (including Madhya Pradesh) as well as utilisation/expenditure for the Ninth Plan are attached as Statement-I and Statement-II.

*Ninth Plan (1997-02) – Agreed Outlay-Major Headwise/State-wise*

(Rs. crore)

| Sl. No. | Sector | Andhra Pradesh | Arunachal Pradesh | Assam | Bihar | Goa | Gujarat | Haryana | Himachal Pradesh |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| I. | Agriculture and Allied Activities | 505.39 | 341.70 | 1094.86 | 740.64 | 69.87 | 2009.70 | 562.43 | 842.80 |
| II. | Rural Development | 1922.49 | 114.76 | 807.71 | 4160.00 | 21.96 | 1160.50 | 312.63 | 252.98 |
| III. | Special Area Programme | 946.22 | 20.00 | 40.12 | 272.00 | 9.51 | 0.00 | 85.80 | 0.00 |
| IV. | Irrigation and Flood Control | 6006.80 | 279.95 | 710.42 | 2700.00 | 278.10 | 8381.55 | 1673.19 | 258.85 |
| V. | Energy | 5752.37 | 460.41 | 852.72 | 2300.00 | 130.20 | 4041.00 | 2652.55 | 1039.30 |
| VI. | Industry and Minerals | 962.13 | 46.10 | 380.04 | 400.00 | 34.55 | 1205.00 | 144.68 | 150.00 |
| VII. | Transport | 2416.47 | 929.51 | 996.99 | 1500.00 | 207.40 | 726.00 | 1110.28 | 613.50 |
| VIII. | Communications | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 | 0.00 | 1.20 |
| IX. | Science and Technology | 17.43 | 1.55 | 18.00 | 150.00 | 4.62 | 57.25 | 12.04 | 7.09 |
| X. | General Economic Services | 64.46 | 116.50 | 252.37 | 397.36 | 25.38 | 726.25 | 68.65 | 322.83 |
| XI. | **Social Services** | 6460.07 | 1177.61 | 3658.03 | 3660.00 | 692.47 | 9648.85 | 2645.22 | 2106.44 |
| | Education | 844.20 | 488.84 | 2293.44 | 949.00 | 167.41 | 1785.60 | 914.23 | 817.21 |
| | Medical and Public Health | 630.52 | 335.02 | 384.10 | 832.00 | 81.22 | 832.25 | 351.34 | 317.65 |
| | Water Supply and Sanitation | 1327.42 | 139.92 | 435.18 | 717.38 | 323.25 | 3000.00 | 341.09 | 494.80 |
| | Housing | 1321.00 | 132.56 | 49.81 | 13.00 | 32.90 | 1082.00 | 160.52 | 270.70 |
| | Urban Development | 538.87 | 16.33 | 162.31 | 374.00 | 32.70 | 798.00 | 102.97 | 77.04 |
| | Others Social Services | 1798.06 | 64.94 | 333.19 | 774.62 | 54.99 | 2151.00 | 775.07 | 129.04 |
| XII. | General Services | 96.17 | 81.80 | 172.67 | 400.00 | 25.94 | 18.90 | 42.53 | 105.01 |
| | Grand Total | 25150.00 | 3569.89 | 8983.93 | 16680.00 | 1500.00 | 28000.00 | 9310.00 | 5700.00 |

*Ninth Plan (1997-02) – Agreed Outlay-Major Headwise/State-wise*

(Rs. crore)

| Sl. No. | Sector | Jammu and Kashmir | Karnataka | Kerala | Madhya Pradesh | Maharashtra | Manipur | Meghalaya | Mizoram | Nagaland |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| I. | Agriculture and Allied Activities | 1137.13 | 1464.00 | 1039.50 | 1129.50 | 1828.20 | 183.17 | 391.70 | 153.25 | 260.00 |
| II. | Rural Development | 292.28 | 1178.61 | 392.90 | 2005.59 | 3173.40 | 61.20 | 139.50 | 235.40 | 291.45 |
| III. | Special Area Programme | 561.74 | 555.00 | 47.00 | 0.00 | 191.90 | 0.00 | 12.00 | 0.14 | 27.00 |
| IV. | Irrigation and Flood Control | 425.12 | 6170.00 | 1028.00 | 2722.02 | 10928.80 | 320.60 | 98.00 | 18.11 | 57.00 |
| V. | Energy | 2271.74 | 3740.36 | 2671.00 | 3479.46 | 5596.90 | 335.34 | 318.00 | 224.21 | 117.00 |
| VI. | Industry and Minerals | 335.82 | 1026.00 | 1125.86 | 1112.97 | 902.60 | 126.51 | 102.00 | 68.92 | 121.00 |
| VII. | Transport | 787.46 | 1740.00 | 569.00 | 562.92 | 3402.50 | 399.68 | 481.00 | 272.27 | 305.40 |
| VIII. | Communications | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| IX. | Science and Technology | 32.27 | 40.00 | 75.00 | 210.20 | 13.20 | 9.00 | 7.30 | 3.23 | 5.00 |
| X. | General Economic Services | 256.11 | 105.00 | 185.00 | 317.53 | 1001.10 | 133.67 | 50.92 | 84.67 | 224.00 |
| XI. | **Social Services** | 2551.20 | 7206.03 | 2863.74 | 8506.69 | 8733.70 | 570.19 | 846.20 | 529.03 | 514.79 |
| | Education | 950.64 | 1713.00 | 583.38 | 1932.30 | 2226.54 | 223.90 | 335.00 | 151.44 | 151.01 |
| | Medical and Public Health | 1100.29 | 1100.00 | 309.40 | 567.87 | 918.23 | 36.00 | 140.00 | 112.01 | 106.31 |
| | Water Supply and Sanitation | 127.30 | 1350.00 | 1032.00 | 724.97 | 2935.78 | 150.00 | 235.00 | 144.76 | 67.00 |
| | Housing | 19.00 | 938.03 | 100.48 | 1330.83 | 213.55 | 46.29 | 30.00 | 38.33 | 103.47 |
| | Urban Development | 130.98 | 750.00 | 120.38 | 2866.07 | 840.03 | 29.60 | 70.00 | 57.02 | 35.00 |
| | Others Social Services | 222.98 | 1355.00 | 718.10 | 1084.65 | 1599.57 | 84.40 | 36.20 | 25.47 | 52.00 |
| XII. | General Services | 849.13 | 175.00 | 6103.00 | 28.12 | 927.70 | 287.33 | 54.00 | 29.28 | 83.79 |
| | Grand Total | 9500.00 | 23400.00 | 16100.00 | 20075.00 | 36700.00 | 2426.69 | 2500.62 | 1618.51 | 2006.43 |

(Rs. crore)

| Sl. No. | Sector | Orissa | Punjab | Rajasthan | Sikkim | Tamil Nadu | Tripura | Uttar Pradesh | West Bengal | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| I. | Agriculture and Allied Activities | 562.88 | 644.76 | 1531.56 | 205.40 | 2802.23 | 195.68 | 3070.38 | 712.13 | 23478.86 |
| II. | Rural Development | 945.52 | 805.39 | 1926.10 | 54.50 | 2301.25 | 357.46 | 4742.80 | 1107.76 | 28764.14 |
| III. | Special Area Programme | 0.00 | 13.47 | 114.54 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 140.19 | 575.00 | 216.82 | 3828.45 |
| IV. | Irrigation and Flood Control | 3388.58 | 1285.24 | 2525.86 | 41.00 | 1447.65 | 194.01 | 3290.12 | 1403.57 | 55632.54 |
| V. | Energy | 4627.64 | 2956.62 | 5318.25 | 343.00 | 6019.95 | 174.54 | 7544.15 | 5636.88 | 68603.59 |
| VI. | Industry and Minerals | 123.49 | 281.30 | 1753.38 | 70.00 | 1402.91 | 79.34 | 526.65 | 1326.30 | 13807.55 |
| VII. | Transport | 1278.73 | 594.69 | 2190.82 | 160.00 | 2705.78 | 367.37 | 10006.72 | 1064.31 | 35388.80 |
| VIII. | Communications | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.95 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 27.15 |
| IX. | Science and Technology | 75.76 | 43.28 | 31.28 | 11.00 | 70.10 | 3.22 | 2074.60 | 58.96 | 3031.38 |
| X. | General Economic Services | 551.30 | 911.65 | 300.24 | 53.75 | 70.13 | 12.17 | 2103.58 | 205.69 | 8540.31 |
| XI. | **Social Services** | 3364.83 | 3796.02 | 6125.85 | 616.35 | 7958.07 | 1028.39 | 12277.97 | 4798.27 | 102336.01 |
| | Education | 1151.62 | 613.49 | 2352.60 | 243.00 | 1118.54 | 331.05 | 1974.03 | 802.77 | 25114.24 |
| | Medical and Public Health | 416.06 | 511.59 | 770.60 | 80.00 | 780.52 | 85.59 | 1185.00 | 978.64 | 12962.21 |
| | Water Supply and Sanitation | 568.65 | 980.10 | 1433.84 | 71.50 | 2200.00 | 196.00 | 6499.06 | 435.45 | 25930.45 |
| | Housing | 90.15 | 203.34 | 292.96 | 70.00 | 500.00 | 213.16 | 396.35 | 226.88 | 7875.31 |
| | Urban Development | 137.53 | 388.11 | 751.80 | 110.00 | 1500.00 | 32.68 | 721.13 | 1808.08 | 12450.63 |
| | Others Social Services | 1000.82 | 1099.39 | 524.05 | 41.85 | 1859.01 | 169.91 | 1502.40 | 546.45 | 18003.17 |
| XII. | General Services | 81.27 | 167.58 | 707.95 | 45.00 | 221.93 | 24.07 | 128.03 | 369.31 | 11225.51 |
| | Grand Total | 15000.00 | 11500.00 | 22525.83 | 1600.00 | 25000.00 | 2577.39 | 46340.00 | 16900.00 | 354664.29 |

**Statement-II**

*Ninth Plan (1997-02) – Actual Expenditure-Major Headwise/State-wise*

(Rs. crore)

| Sl. No. | Sector | Andhra Pradesh | Arunachal Pradesh | Assam | Bihar | Goa | Gujarat | Haryana | Himachal Pradesh |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| I. | Agriculture and Allied Activities | 917.97 | 227.50 | 736.26 | 254.65 | 64.02 | 2029.45 | 478.35 | 933.63 |
| II. | Rural Development | 1341.89 | 100.68 | 519.19 | 3789.90 | 22.18 | 1192.88 | 348.44 | 321.44 |
| III. | Special Area Programme | 1093.58 | 47.79 | 51.64 | 330.98 | 14.81 | 0.00 | 69.62 | 31.31 |
| IV. | Irrigation and Flood Control | 5438.13 | 145.45 | 707.64 | 2609.11 | 296.20 | 6518.90 | 1542.50 | 333.22 |
| V. | Energy | 7999.80 | 410.98 | 471.70 | 437.99 | 137.86 | 3611.31 | 1548.16 | 1160.61 |
| VI. | Industry and Minerals | 483.29 | 32.40 | 257.28 | 128.12 | 37.84 | 1153.58 | 449.19 | 122.50 |
| VII. | Transport | 4436.24 | 640.07 | 739.07 | 1370.59 | 160.73 | 1906.42 | 545.12 | 1090.61 |
| VIII. | Communications | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 8.45 | 0.00 | 0.96 |
| IX. | Science and Technology | 13.56 | 4.47 | 4.05 | 6.55 | 2.91 | 122.60 | 7.68 | 7.71 |
| X. | General Economic Services | 735.06 | 105.70 | 218.03 | 177.84 | 26.24 | 594.81 | 66.65 | 477.55 |
| XI. | **Social Services** | 5608.18 | 807.15 | 3365.58 | 1810.14 | 623.31 | 8632.68 | 2867.50 | 3310.57 |
| | Education | 894.25 | 391.95 | 2221.92 | 740.32 | 142.53 | 1092.39 | 848.46 | 1523.31 |
| | Medical and Public Health | 1111.98 | 95.54 | 429.51 | 380.11 | 93.00 | 1394.08 | 224.52 | 505.18 |
| | Water Supply and Sanitation | 1008.49 | 144.56 | 372.69 | 231.08 | 249.07 | 2167.95 | 333.80 | 585.48 |
| | Housing | 758.26 | 95.16 | 14.03 | 152.98 | 30.36 | 898.38 | 125.42 | 350.64 |
| | Urban Development | 379.60 | 31.01 | 42.11 | 134.85 | 32.28 | 600.17 | 95.75 | 149.65 |
| | Others Social Services | 1455.60 | 48.93 | 285.32 | 170.80 | 76.07 | 2479.71 | 1239.55 | 196.31 |
| XII. | General Services | 211.67 | 70.44 | 102.38 | 178.11 | 90.78 | 29.87 | 112.20 | 131.89 |
| | Grand Total | 28279.37 | 2592.63 | 7172.82 | 11093.98 | 1476.88 | 25800.95 | 8035.41 | 7922.00 |

This includes Actual Expenditure for 1996-97 to 2000-01 and Revised Outlay for 2001-02

(Rs. crore)

| Sl. No. | Sector | Jammu and Kashmir | Karnataka | Kerala | Madhya Pradesh | Maharashtra | Manipur | Meghalaya | Mizoram | Nagaland |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| I. | Agriculture and Allied Activities | 953.67 | 1414.36 | 2054.10 | 1620.70 | 1564.46 | 135.57 | 179.38 | 144.98 | 113.77 |
| II. | Rural Development | 248.88 | 1287.46 | 328.00 | 1801.01 | 4192.28 | 70.94 | 135.03 | 181.18 | 197.03 |
| III. | Special Area Programme | 458.42 | 359.92 | 49.86 | 0.00 | 250.22 | 8.16 | 33.67 | 30.51 | 38.63 |
| IV. | Irrigation and Flood Control | 434.12 | 9309.25 | 1086.16 | 3033.13 | 14874.88 | 252.82 | 57.75 | 26.91 | 29.38 |
| V. | Energy | 1438.01 | 4422.20 | 2800.45 | 3047.01 | 7996.15 | 192.05 | 155.72 | 193.44 | 100.32 |
| VI. | Industry and Minerals | 253.03 | 1052.63 | 968.57 | 233.68 | 506.42 | 96.07 | 86.77 | 57.45 | 75.13 |
| VII. | Transport | 900.47 | 2307.28 | 1032.88 | 600.88 | 5840.99 | 235.81 | 426.78 | 238.71 | 185.82 |
| VIII. | Communications | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| IX. | Science and Technology | 21.52 | 20.50 | 81.45 | 192.02 | 15.91 | 6.72 | 7.22 | 4.14 | 1.39 |
| X. | General Economic Services | 474.61 | 731.10 | 291.46 | 381.11 | 1403.79 | 74.88 | 50.93 | 124.91 | 184.99 |
| XI. | **Social Services** | 2436.81 | 9932.01 | 2492.50 | 6230.13 | 9053.33 | 609.94 | 655.51 | 709.48 | 487.17 |
| | Education | 892.05 | 2094.28 | 640.81 | 2756.63 | 1765.80 | 250.24 | 259.96 | 185.18 | 109.44 |
| | Medical and Public Health | 501.41 | 1131.00 | 283.71 | 597.11 | 1072.69 | 43.98 | 137.78 | 111.16 | 94.40 |
| | Water Supply and Sanitation | 588.17 | 2470.89 | 670.90 | 755.69 | 3563.83 | 189.43 | 133.78 | 130.04 | 106.35 |
| | Housing | 20.13 | 1512.67 | 186.29 | 767.35 | 317.39 | 27.45 | 38.53 | 164.09 | 105.70 |
| | Urban Development | 241.62 | 906.47 | 111.53 | 387.23 | 879.15 | 25.47 | 50.49 | 77.12 | 33.94 |
| | Others Social Services | 193.43 | 1816.70 | 599.26 | 966.12 | 1454.47 | 73.37 | 34.97 | 41.89 | 37.34 |
| XII. | General Services | 230.63 | 288.87 | 3197.40 | 285.41 | 1265.69 | 104.08 | 38.39 | 47.07 | 100.01 |
| | Grand Total | 7850.17 | 31125.58 | 14382.83 | 17425.08 | 46964.12 | 1787.04 | 1827.15 | 1758.78 | 1513.64 |

This includes Actual Expenditure for 1996-97 to 2000-01 and Revised Outlay for 2001-02.

*Ninth Plan (1997-02) – Actual Expenditure-Major Headwise/State-wise*

(Rs. crore)

| Sl. No. | Sector | Orissa | Punjab | Rajasthan | Sikkim | Tamil Nadu | Tripura | Uttar Pradesh | West Bengal | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| I. | Agriculture and Allied Activities | 602.61 | 529.18 | 1076.63 | 106.31 | 1813.42 | 196.10 | 2803.58 | 722.48 | 21673.13 |
| II. | Rural Development | 1037.66 | 374.92 | 1681.50 | 43.03 | 2882.74 | 267.29 | 4365.50 | 1517.45 | 28248.50 |
| III. | Special Area Programme | 0.00 | 112.72 | 149.41 | 11.78 | 0.00 | 135.01 | 829.61 | 710.63 | 4818.28 |
| IV. | Irrigation and Flood Control | 2915.65 | 1245.30 | 2271.23 | 30.50 | 1649.23 | 162.36 | 3670.99 | 1872.34 | 60513.15 |
| V. | Energy | 1645.68 | 4245.02 | 5321.02 | 170.59 | 4823.64 | 110.50 | 4890.70 | 6362.07 | 63692.98 |
| VI. | Industry and Minerals | 160.55 | 75.35 | 657.26 | 32.57 | 896.95 | 74.25 | 418.69 | 1362.66 | 9672.23 |
| VII. | Transport | 836.49 | 538.47 | 1963.04 | 142.84 | 2842.10 | 241.46 | 4658.25 | 2866.08 | 36747.20 |
| VIII. | Communications | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 9.75 |
| IX. | Science and Technology | 89.60 | 3.05 | 10.11 | 4.64 | 20.82 | 2.15 | 281.21 | 93.39 | 962.37 |
| X. | General Economic Services | 253.22 | 189.26 | 123.79 | 22.05 | 51.80 | 10.83 | 230.01 | 592.99 | 7593.61 |
| XI. | **Social Services** | 4297.87 | 2935.22 | 6409.81 | 520.29 | 9716.14 | 1058.13 | 7219.94 | 4966.35 | 96755.74 |
| | Education | 2253.98 | 1101.55 | 1811.34 | 213.61 | 1037.40 | 361.92 | 2262.30 | 771.57 | 26623.19 |
| | Medical and Public Health | 386.97 | 486.43 | 573.11 | 60.95 | 576.29 | 77.17 | 625.91 | 849.13 | 11843.12 |
| | Water Supply and Sanitation | 427.73 | 259.40 | 1416.26 | 81.03 | 3114.25 | 129.60 | 1838.05 | 592.33 | 21560.85 |
| | Housing | 270.31 | 126.89 | 521.90 | 103.34 | 1116.70 | 287.37 | 176.51 | 171.78 | 8339.63 |
| | Urban Development | 116.70 | 201.72 | 1594.33 | 20.39 | 2228.52 | 18.94 | 620.87 | 1741.58 | 10721.49 |
| | Others Social Services | 842.18 | 759.23 | 492.87 | 40.97 | 1642.98 | 183.13 | 1696.30 | 839.96 | 17667.46 |
| XII. | General Services | 125.49 | 417.52 | 172.59 | 41.68 | 219.87 | 33.05 | 112.21 | 485.36 | 8092.66 |
| | Grand Total | 11964.82 | 10666.01 | 19836.39 | 1126.28 | 24916.71 | 2291.47 | 29417.69 | 21551.80 | 338779.60 |

This includes Actual Expenditure for 1996-97 to 2000-01 and Revised Outlay for 2001-02.

**National Highways in the Country**

260. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the length of the national highways in the country upto October, 2002, State-wise;

(b) the number and length of the national highways, State-wise sanctioned from 1998-99 to 2002-03;

(c) the States which were provided funds for the maintenance of the national highways during the period 1998-99 to 2002-03 and the amount of funds provided for the purpose; and

(d) the amount of funds utilised out of the funds sanctioned, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) The details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) The details are given in Statement-III enclosed.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise length of National Highways*

| Sl.No. | Name of State | Total Length (in km.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 4002 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 392 |
| 3. | Assam | 2836 |
| 4. | Bihar | 3312 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 24 |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 1810 |
| 7. | Delhi | 72 |
| 8. | Goa | 269 |
| 9. | Gujarat | 2461 |
| 10. | Haryana | 1357 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 1188 |
| 12. | Jammu and Kashmir | 823 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 1603 |
| 14. | Karnataka | 3570 |
| 15. | Kerala | 1440 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 4664 |
| 17. | Maharashtra | 3626 |
| 18. | Manipur | 954 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 717 |
| 20. | Mizoram | 927 |
| 21. | Nagaland | 369 |
| 22. | Orissa | 3301 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 53 |
| 24. | Punjab | 1557 |
| 25. | Rajasthan | 4597 |
| 26. | Sikkim | 62 |
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 3758 |
| 28. | Tipura | 400 |
| 29. | Uttaranchal | 1075 |
| 30. | Uttar Pradesh | 4942 |
| 31. | West Bengal | 1951 |

**Statement-II**

*Details of National Highways declared in the Country from 1998-1999 to 2002-03*

| Sl.No. | Name of the State | National Highway No. | Total Length (in Kms.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Ext. of NH-9, 202, 205, 214 and 219 | 1052 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 153 | 40 |
| 3. | Assam | Extn. of NH 54, 151, 152, 153 and 154 | 474 |
| 4. | Bihar | 30A, 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 and 107 | 1730 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 12A, 78, 200, 202, 216 and 217 | 970 |
| 6. | Gujarat | Extn. of 6, 8A, 8D and 8E | 459 |
| 7. | Haryana | 21A, 64, 71, 71A, 72 and 73 | 419 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 21A, 70, 72 and 88 | 334 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | IC and Extn. of IB | 175 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | Extn. of 75, 78, 80, 98, 99 and 100 | 638 |
| 11. | Karnataka | Extn. of 13, 206, 207, 209, 212 and 218 | 1204 |
| 12. | Kerala | 208, 212, 213 and 220 | 500 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 12A, 59A, 75, Extn. of 75, 76, 78, 79, 86, Extn. of 86 and 92 | 2124 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 204 and 211 | 526 |
| 15. | Manipur | 150 | 523 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | Extn. of 40 and Extn. 62 | 120 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 44A, 150 and 154 | 376 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 150 | 36 |
| 19. | Orissa | 200, 201, 203, 215 and 217 | 1595 |
| 20. | Pondicherry | Extn. of 45A | 20 |
| 21. | Punjab | Extn. of 64, 70, 71 and 95 | 440 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | Extn. of 11A, Extn. of 65, 76, 79, 79A, 89 and 90 | 1496 |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | Extn. of 45A, 45B, Extn. of 67, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219 and 220 | 1277 |
| 24. | Tripura | 44A | 65 |
| 25. | Utteranchal | 72, 72A, 73, 74, 87, 94, 108 and 109 | 702 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 2A, 24A, 25A, 56A, 56B, Extn. of 58, 72A, 73, 74, 75, 75 Ext. of 75, 76 86, 87, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96 and 97 | 2055 |
| 27. | West Bengal | Ext. of 60, 80 and 81 | 245 |

**Statement-III**

*Statement indicating Allocation/Expenditure for Maintainance during the Period 1998-1999 to 2002-03 (upto October 2002)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Name of States/ UTs | 1998-99 | | 1999-2000 | | 2000-01 | | 2001-02 | | 2002-03 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Allocation | Expenditure | Allocation | Expenditure | Allocation | Expenditure | Allocation | Expenditure | Allocation | Expenditure (as of Oct. 2002) |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4568.4 | 4069.97 | 6897.26 | 5067.65 | 5413.75 | 5097.61 | 4220.04 | 4015.84 | 3837 | 909.5 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 |
| Assam | 2815.51 | 2282.33 | 5420.02 | 3068.35 | 4778.92 | 3756.6 | 4149.18 | 3990.09 | 2343 | 693.97 |
| Bihar | 3336.97 | 3336.97 | 11907.64 | 9059.08 | 6448.55 | 5593.02 | 4516.12 | 3787.39 | 3900 | 983.15 |
| Chandigarh | 48.04 | 45.40 | 141.5 | 118.3 | 44.54 | 27.75 | 46 | 9.53 | 74 | 14.55 |
| Chhatisgarh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 1180 | 935.24 | 2419.99 | 2419-99 | 2450 | 514.95 |
| Delhi | 210.00 | 209.82 | 139.84 | 133-27 | 82 | 82 | 102 | 0 | 40 | 0 |
| Goa | 617.08 | 617.08 | 1426.69 | 1048.64 | 605.53 | 561.65 | 400 | 369.26 | 472 | 91.15 |
| Gujarat | 3296.94 | 3296.94 | 3820.17 | 3660.72 | 2457.79 | 2182.91 | 2582.17 | 2169.94 | 2257 | 256.33 |
| Haryana | 1239.42 | 1040.32 | 2011.7 | 1544.73 | 1953.49 | 1466.94 | 1942.61 | 1740.37 | 1372 | 279.12 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2256.01 | 2256.01 | 2726.24 | 2428.41 | 3351.03 | 3350.99 | 1992.42 | 1884.84 | 1450 | 359.65 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 129.65 | 4.51 | 302.36 | 23.99 | 284.42 | 83.41 | 85.92 | 31.33 | 119 | 10.58 |
| Jharkhand | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 960.84 | 774.81 | 1999.56 | 1744.57 | 1681 | 329.03 |
| Karnataka | 3111.75 | 3065.34 | 8445.04 | 6815.98 | 4683.83 | 4583.99 | 3943.45 | 4040.36 | 3797 | 774.8 |
| Kerala | 2090.63 | 2090.63 | 5309 | 4769.37 | 3340.03 | 3330.64 | 2335.64 | 3571.8 | 2303 | 1316.5 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 3945.04 | 3787.80 | 6573.14 | 5302.7 | 8634.19 | 8506.55 | 6082.43 | 5358.06 | 5802 | 908.68 |
| Maharashtra | 4957.67 | 4957.67 | 8648.63 | 8528.7 | 4295 | 4295 | 5291 | 6040.99 | 4775 | 917.27 |
| Manipur | 365.59 | 365.59 | 876.08 | 584.6 | 824.49 | 687.62 | 936.05 | 754.66 | 551 | 42.46 |
| Meghalaya | 625.80 | 620.50 | 1305.89 | 814.84 | 1016.71 | 875.16 | 1134.65 | 1036.96 | 776 | 0 |
| Mizoram | 0.00 | 0.00 | 780 | 538.41 | 981.43 | 753.42 | 499.53 | 348.05 | 491 | 46.32 |
| Nagaland | 382.90 | 382.90 | 924.63 | 1021.63 | 361.25 | 361.25 | 203.05 | 345.66 | 273 | 28.86 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22. | Orissa | 2761.15 | 2760.77 | 5638.24 | 4713.2 | 4776.99 | 4149.81 | 4888.17 | 4658.9 | 4242 | 976.56 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 64.18 | 18.06 | 269 | 152.27 | 182.1 | 123.2 | 85.29 | 81.34 | 82 | 13.67 |
| 24. | Punjab | 1538.81 | 1440.83 | 1635.8 | 468.77 | 2085.62 | 1537.32 | 2525.97 | 1711.67 | 1948 | 163.83 |
| 25. | Rajasthan | 3718.19 | 3642.29 | 7820 | 6336.93 | 4104.1 | 3878.03 | 4468.55 | 4293.74 | 4477 | 1103.82 |
| 26. | Tamilnadu | 3740.00 | 3597.85 | 13479.66 | 5383.46 | 5380.57 | 5046.82 | 4544.78 | 3524.12 | 4180 | 489.47 |
| 27. | Tripura | 0.00 | 0-00 | 24 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28. | Uttar Pradesh | 6128.44 | 6071.10 | 10179.49 | 10118.81 | 6076.5 | 5593.57 | 6619.14 | 5345.81 | 5826 | 635.08 |
| 29. | Uttranchal | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 459.3 | 409.19 | 1068.36 | 815.03 | 738 | 196.39 |
| 30. | West Bengal | 2757.83 | 2757.83 | 6260 | 4756.96 | 5374.8 | 2295.26 | 4202.77 | 4291.63 | 2109 | 487.73 |

**Information of Works Under MPLAD Scheme**

261. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new technique is being adopted to inform the common public about the developmental works carried out with the funds allocated under the MPLADS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) Lok Sabha constituency wise, Rajya Sabha M.P. was information on funds released, cost of works sanctioned and expenditure incurred under MPLADS is available on the Web Site *www.mplads.nic.in* for information of the common public.

A software is being developed for an I.T. based monitoring system through creation of web sites of MPLADS works in the districts which would be accessible to everyone.

**Maintenance of Hospitals**

262. 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 to the news-item appearing in the *Dainik Jagran*, New Delhi dated October 11, 2002 under the caption "Safdarjung Asptal Mein Bhi Paye Gaye Dengu Machchar";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The Central Cross Checking Organisation of the Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme detected mosquito breeding in Safdarjung Hospital on 31.10.2002. Out of 38 containers checked, aedes mosquito breeding was found in 3 containers. The surveillance report was sent to the Chief Medical Officer (Malaria), NDMC for taking appropriate action. The Programme Officer, Anti-Malaria Operations, NDMC has confirmed that remedial action in this regard has been taken.

*[English]*

**Monitoring Sale of Spurious Drugs**

263. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to monitor the sale of spurious drugs in the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith composition of the members of the committee and its terms and references;

(c) whether the Government have decided to amend the law regarding spurious drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Union Ministry of Health appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Director General of Health Services to suggest remedial measures to combat menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs/fake medicines.

(b) The composition of the Members of the Committee consisted of State Drugs Regulatory Authorities, Central Drugs Standard Control, Pharma Industry, Indian Drugs Manufacture Association, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, All India Chemists and Druggists Association, eminent representative of public etc. The Committee was asked to suggest remedial measures to combat menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs/fake medicines.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, Section 27 of the said Act prescribes penalty for manufacture, sale etc. of drugs. Any drug deemed to be adulterated under Section 17A or spurious under section 17B or which when used by any person or in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of any disease or disorder is likely to cause his death or is likely to cause such harm on his body as would amount to grievous hurt within the meaning of Section 320 of IPC solely on account of such drug being adulterated as spurious or not of standard quality, as the case may be, shall be punishable with the imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 5 year but which may extend to a term of life and with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10,000. Thus adequate punitive penal provision exist in the said Act to tackle manufacture and sale of spurious drug.

*[Translation]*

**World Bank Assistance for Population Control**

264. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided financial assistance for RCH Project for stabilization of population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of success achieved as a result thereof in the country;

(d) whether Government have requested the World Bank to provide more financial assistance for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the response of the World Bank in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. World Bank funded RCH Programme was launched in 1997 for strengthening the Primary Health Care System the details of fund provided for the programme by World Bank are as under :

| Year | Funds provided (In Million US $) |
|---|---|
| 1998-1999 | 3.45 |
| 1999-2000 | 39.47 |
| 2000-2001 | 22.80 |
| 2001-2002 | 68.26 |
| 2002-2003 | 22.41 |

(c) The Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR) have improved during the period 1996-2000 as indicated below :

| Year/Indicator | CBR | IMR | TFR |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1996 | 27.5 | 72 | 3.4 |
| 1997 | 27.2 | 71 | 3.3 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1998 | 26.5 | 72 | 3.2 |
| 1999 | 26.1 | 70 | 3.2 |
| 2000 | 25.8 | 68 | N/A |

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government has requested the World Bank to provide assistance for the successor phase of the RCH Programme during 2003-08 period. The response of the Bank is awaited.

*[English]*

**Pending Projects**

265. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects from different States, particularly from the State of Punjab and Karnataka pending with the Government for sanction;

(b) the reasons for delay;

(c) by when these projects are likely to be accorded sanction;

(d) the estimated cost of each of these projects, project-wise;

(e) whether any requests have been received by the Union Government from State Government for according easily sanction to these projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) to (f) The Question seeks detailed information about the projects from different States particularly those from Karnataka and Punjab pending for approval of the Central Government. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation does not deal with the approval of projects from the State Governments but monitors Central Sector projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above approved by the Government of India. Since, this is a matter which concerns several Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and the State Government, a request has been made to all Ministries/ Departments concerned and the State Governments to supply requisite information.

The information is being collected.

*[Translation]*

**Population Control Measures**

266. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to check the rising population in the country;

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

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the implementation of the policy during the last three years; and

(d) the percentage of the increase/decrease registered in the population during the period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has adopted the National Population Policy, 2000 laying down a holistic approach to achieve a stable population by 2045. The policy enumerates certain socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010 through implementation of various activities such as universal immunization, improving ante-natal, natal and post-natal care for pregnant women, upgradation of skills of health providers, inter-sectoral convergence across related sector etc.

(c) The details of expenditure incurred by the Government on the implementation of various schemes under National Family Welfare Programme during the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Since the Census is done after every ten years. The results of Census 2011 will only indicate the impact of implementation of National Population Policy, 2000 on the growth of population. However as per the Sample Registration Surveys (SRS), there has been a decrease

he crude birth rate from 29.5 per 1000 population during 91 to 25.8 per 1000 population in 2000 and a reduction of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) from 3.8 during 1991 to 3.2 in 1999.

**Statement**

*Scheme wise break up of Expenditure for Family Welfare Programme from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002*

(Rs. in crores)

| No. | Name of Scheme | Expenditure during | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
| | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | Rural Family Welfare Centres | 350.84 | 354.70 | 429.00 |
| | Sub-Centres | 524.30 | 565.30 | 632.42 |
| | Maintenance of Urban F.W. Centres | 28.42 | 27.75 | 34.45 |
| | Urban Revamping Scheme (Health Posts) | 29.35 | 31.85 | 35.75 |
| | Direction and Administration | 115.76 | 114.04 | 115.86 |
| | Maternal and Child Health | 658.33 | 828.08 | 951.05 |
| | (A) Reproductive and Child Health Project | 657.66 | 785.87 | 943.34 |
| | (B) Immunisation Strengthening Project | | 42.21 | 7.71 |
| | (C) Procurement of Cold Chain Equipment | 0.67 | | |
| | Sterilisation and IUD Insertion | 101.18 | 118.56 | 123.34 |
| | Basic Training Schools | 59.42 | 58.95 | 80.38 |
| | Post Partum Centres | 119.60 | 119.55 | 148.59 |
| | Research | 19.16 | 26.21 | 31.58 |
| | Information, Education and Communication | 29.37 | 28.35 | 31.23 |
| | Village Health Guide Scheme | 9.93 | 4.97 | 4.74 |
| | Transport | 42.97 | 77.13 | 69.47 |
| | Contraceptive | 196.79 | 187.36 | 216.71 |
| | (A) Free Distribution | 107.75 | 99.09 | 119.83 |
| | (B) Social Marketing of Contraceptives | 89.04 | 87.50 | 94.20 |
| | (C) Logistic improvement | | | 1.19 |
| | (D) No-Scalpel Vasectomy | | 0.77 | 1.49 |
| | Area Projects/India Population Projects (IPP) | 100.01 | 200.04 | 186.98 |
| | USAID Assisted U.P. Project | 69.88 | 44.56 | 29.13 |
| | Travel of Experts/Conferences/Meetings etc. | 0.07 | 0.15 | 0.45 |
| | International Contribution | 1.27 | 1.11 | 1.01 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | Sterilisation Beds | 1.43 | 1.45 | 1.36 |
| 20. | F.W. Counsellor Scheme | | | |
| 21. | Arrears | 641.68 | 300.00 | 380.00 |
| 22. | Hindustan Latex Limited | | | |
| 23. | School Health Scheme and Others | | | |
| 24. | Measures under National Population Policy | | | 110.44 |
| | Grand Total | 3099.76 | 3090.11 | 3613.94 |

Expenditure/Expenditure – 1997-98 to 2001-02. xis

*[English]*

**Control of HIV/AIDS**

267. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :

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

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey recently regarding the AIDS/HIV growing incidence in the country;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the fast growing incidences of AIDS/HIV positivity particularly are on increase in the slum areas of the cities;

(d) whether the World Health Organisation is extending its cooperation in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the concrete efforts of Government have taken to ensure safe motherhood and effective management of high risk pregnancies to cover the entire slum population particularly in the cities (slum areas) as well as in the remote rural areas of adivasis areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India conducts national sentinel surveillance each year during the period August to October covering both high risk segments of the population like sexually transmitted diseases clinics attendees, injecting drug users and men who have sex with men, as well as low risk population like women attending ante-natal clinics. The State-wsie details of HIV prevalence rates is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) No Sir, HIV/AIDS affects all segments of the population.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The World Health Organisation provides technical support in the form of deploying consultants.

(f) The Reproductive Child Health Programme of Department of Family Welfare, Government of India incorporates the components covered under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood programme and also includes and additional component relating to reproductive tract infection and Sexually Transmitted infection.

For improving the Maternal and Child Health it has been decided to strengthen outreach services by providing inputs to increase coverage and improve quality of immunization, child health interventions and maternal health services by addressing gaps in service delivery and improving outreach and creating demand through IEC and social mobilization both in urban and rural areas within the districts. In the current financial year the scheme has been initiated in 50 districts in the State of Assam (3 districts), Bihar (8 districts), Gujarat (3 districts), Madhya Pradesh (11 districts) and Orissa (5 districts).

**Statement**

*HIV Prevalence levels States wise : 1998-2001*

| S. No. | Name of State/UT | Number of sites | | HIV Prevalence 1998(%) | HIV Prevalence 1999(%) | HIV Prevalence 2000(%) | HIV Prevalence 2001(%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | STD | 4 | 24.90 | 29.50 | 30.00 | 26.60 |
| | | ANC | 9 | 2.250 | 2.60 | 2.00 | 1.50 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | STD | 2 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.00 |
| | | ANC | 1 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3. | Assam | STD | 2 | 2.10 | 2.40 | 0.61 | 1.49 |
| | | ANC | 3 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | STD | 5 | 1.35 | 0.60 | 0.50 | 1.20 |
| | | ANC | 7 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.13 |
| 5. | Chattisgarh | STD | 3 | – | – | – | 1.40 |
| | | ANC | 5 | – | – | – | 0.33 |
| 6. | Delhi | STD | 4 | 1.60 | 0.80 | 3.26 | 4.65 |
| | | ANC | 4 | 0.25 | 0.30 | 0.25 | 0.13 |
| | | IDU | 1 | | | 5.00 | – |
| 7. | Goa | STD | 2 | 19.40 | 13.50 | 12.02 | 15.00 |
| | | ANC | 2 | 1.20 | 0.80 | 1.17 | 0.50 |
| | | CSW | 1 | | | 53.20 | 50.79 |
| 8. | Gujarat | STD | 8 | 2.50 | 6.70 | 4.65 | 4.14 |
| | | ANC | 7 | 0.00 | 0.40 | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| 9. | Haryana | STD | 4 | 2.60 | 5.30 | 2.75 | 1.08 |
| | | ANC | 3 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.41 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | STD | 5 | 2.00 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.26 |
| | | ANC | 7 | 0.36 | 0.30 | 0.89 | 0.13 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | STD | 2 | 1.83 | 1.20 | 0.40 | 0.80 |
| | | ANC | 3 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.25 |
| 12. | Jhakhand | STD | 3 | – | – | – | 0.25 |
| | | ANC | 6 | – | – | – | 0.08 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Karnataka | STD | 7 | 16.70 | 15.50 | 12.80 | 16.40 |
| | | ANC | 10 | 1.75 | 1.00 | 1.68 | 1.13 |
| | | IDU | 1 | – | 1.30 | 4.23 | 2.00 |
| 14. | Kerala | STD | 3 | 2.60 | 3.20 | 5.20 | 6.42 |
| | | ANC | 3 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.08 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | STD | 6 | 3.50 | 0.20 | 1.60 | 2.69 |
| | | ANC | 10 | 0.00 | 0.30 | 0.12 | 0.25 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | STD | 9 | 16.00 | 20.00 | 18.40 | 9.20 |
| | | ANC | 14 | 2.00 | 2.10 | 1.12 | 1.38 |
| 17. | Mumbai | STD | 3 | | | 33.33 | 21.06 |
| | | ANC | 5 | | | 2.00 | 2.25 |
| | | IDU | 1 | | | 23.68 | 41.37 |
| | | MSM | 1 | | | 23.94 | 23.60 |
| | | CSW | 1 | | | 58.67 | 52.26 |
| 18. | Manipur | IDU | 3 | 70.70 | 48.80 | 64.34 | 56.26 |
| | | STD | 2 | 4.15 | 12.00 | 11.60 | 10.50 |
| | | ANC | 8 | 0.75 | 2.30 | 0.75 | 1.75 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | IDU | 1 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.41 | 1.39 |
| | | STD | 2 | 0.13 | 0.30 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | ANC | 2 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 20. | Mizoram | IDU | 1 | 1.00 | 1.50 | 9.61 | 2.00 |
| | | STD | 2 | 1.49 | 0.76 | 2.00 | 2.20 |
| | | ANC | 3 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.37 | 0.33 |
| 21. | Nagaland | IDU | 2 | 13.20 | 7.60 | 7.03 | 5.50 |
| | | STD | 1 | 11.10 | 4.40 | 6.90 | 7.40 |
| | | ANC | 4 | 0.70 | 1.30 | 1.35 | 1.25 |
| 22. | Orissa | STD | 7 | 2.86 | 1.20 | 2.60 | 0.80 |
| | | ANC | 4 | 0.00 | 0.10 | 0.27 | 0.25 |
| 23. | Punjab | STD | 3 | 0.00 | 2.00 | 0.80 | 1.61 |
| | | ANC | 4 | 0.00 | 0.40 | 0.00 | 0.40 |
| 24. | Rajasthan | STD | 6 | 5.20 | 3.20 | 2.84 | 4.00 |
| | | ANC | 6 | 0.00 | 0.30 | 0.25 | 0.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. | Sikkim | STD | 1 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | ANC | 2 | 0.13 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | STD | 5 | 16.30 | 10.40 | 16.80 | 12.60 |
| | | ANC | 10 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.13 |
| | | IDU | 1 | | | 26.70 | 24.56 |
| | | MSM | 1 | | | 4.00 | 2.40 |
| 27. | Tripura | STD | 1 | 0.00 | 0.80 | 1.34 | 3.20 |
| | | ANC | 1 | – | – | – | 0.25 |
| | | IDU | 1 | – | – | – | – |
| 28. | Uttar Pradesh | STD | 10 | 1.60 | 0.60 | 1.80 | 0.90 |
| | | ANC | 11 | 0.24 | 0.00 | 0.12 | 0.00 |
| 29. | Uttranchal | STD | 4 | | | – | 0.40 |
| | | ANC | 2 | | | – | 0.00 |
| 30. | West Bengal | STD | 6 | 0.40 | 1.40 | 1.96 | 0.60 |
| | | ANC | 8 | 0.62 | 0.10 | 0.50 | 0.13 |
| | | IDU | 1 | | | – | – |
| 31. | A and N Islands | STD | 1 | 1.20 | 0.40 | 1.20 | 1.20 |
| | | ANC | 3 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.16 |
| 32. | Chandigarh | STD | 2 | 2.95 | 1.80 | 3.35 | 3.78 |
| | | ANC | 1 | 0.47 | 0.80 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 33. | D and N Haveli | STD | – | 0.00 | 0.00 | – | – |
| | | NAC | 1 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 |
| 34. | Daman and Diu | STD | – | 0.00 | 0.00 | – | – |
| | | ANC | 2 | 0.13 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.25 |
| 35. | Lakshadweep | STD | 1 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | – |
| | | ANC | 2 | 0.60 | 0.00 | 0.00 | – |
| 36 | Pondicherry | STD | 3 | 7.20 | 5.80 | 4.10 | 2.0 |
| | | ANC | 1 | 0.50 | 0.90 | 0.25 | 0.25 |

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

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

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

**Extradition of Music Director**

268. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have taken various steps for the extradition of Nadeem, music director from London for his alleged involvement in the Gulshan Kumar murder case; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with the progress made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Government of India made a request to Government of UK in November, 1997 for extradition of Nadeem Akhtar Saifi, the main accused involved in Gulshan Kumar murder case. The concerned Divisional Court in London disallowed the extradition request in December 2000. India's application for permission to appeal this decision was turned down by the House of Lords in March 2001 and Mr. Nadeem Akhtar Saifi was released.

**Declaration of National Waterways**

269. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kakinada-Marakkanam canal system with the Godavari and Krishna waterways is to be developed and declared a National Waterway;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of this project;

(c) whether the Government have accorded its sanction; and

(d) if so, by when the work on this is likely to commence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 585 Crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Coronary Artery Diseases**

270. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that coronary artery diseases are assuming epidemic proportions in India;

(b) if so, whether the drug-coated angioplasty stents are the most effective tool to permanently remove artery blockages;

(c) if so, whether the prohibitive prices of drug-coated angioplasty stents are a hindrance for their use in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to bring down the price of drug-coated stents;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (g) It is a fact that Coronary artery diseases are on the rise in India and also occurring in younger (less than 40 years of age) persons.

The drug-coated Angioplasty Stents are the most effective tool to permanently remove artery blockages. Unlike the uncoated stents used commonly during angioplasty, the drug-coated stents which have recently come up lead to much lesser incidence of recurrence of re-blockage after angioplasty. The cost of a single drug coated is approximately Rs. 1,37,000/- (Rupees on lakh thirty seven thousand only) as compared to about Rs. 30,000/- – 50,000/- of conventional stents. The cost depends upon the number of stents to be used in a given case.

Drug coated angioplasty stents have just become available in the market and are experimental as long term results are not available.

**Tripartite Talks between India, Russia and China**

271. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :
SHRI SUNDERLAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether tripartite talks between India, Russia and China were held in New York on the sidelines of U.N. General Assembly meeting;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether such talks are likely to be held in future also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) An informal luncheon meeting between the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China took place on September 14, 2002 in New York.

The meeting did not have any agenda. The three Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the topical issues on the agenda of the 57th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. It was agreed to continue contacts in this format.

*[Translation]*

**Policy for Purchase of Medicines in CGHS**

272. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have suffered loss of crores of rupees for not adopting the procedure of whole sale purchase of medicines for C.G.H.S.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate a concrete policy for the purchase of medicines; 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 bulk purchase of medicines for CGHS are made through the Medical Stores Organisation (MSO) of the Dte. GHS. In cases where the MSO is not able to supply medicines or the Government specialist perscribes medicines outside the Government formulary, the CGHS procures the same based on the individual prescription of the beneficiaries from the authorised local chemists appointed by the CGHS. In the case of urgently needed drugs, authority slips are issued to the beneficiaries for immediate procurement through the authorised local chemist.

The MSO has a well-defined set procedure for purchasing medical stores which it follows for all the purchases made. these purchases are done at the most economical rate and therefore, the question of loss from purchases made by MSO does not arise.

*[English]*

**Telephone Exchange in Kerala**

273. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges installed in Kerala during the last two years, district-wise; and

(b) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be installed during the year 2002-2003, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) 179 new telephone exchanges have been installed during the last two years i.e. 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in Kerala. District-wise details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) 50 telephone exchanges are proposed to be installed in Kerala during the years 2002-2003 subject to the availability of suitable accomodation, power supply etc. The District-wise details are given in Statement-II enclosed. Out of these 29 have been commissioned.

**Statement-I**

*District-wise number of telephone exchanges Installed in Kerala State during last two years*

| Name of the District | No. of exchanges installed during 2000-2001 | No. of exchanges installed during 2001-2002 |
|---|---|---|
| Alleppy | 2 | 9 |
| Calicut | 10 | 1 |
| Malappuram | 3 | 10 |
| Wynad | 1 | 2 |
| Cannanore | 7 | 11 |
| Kasaragod | 0 | 2 |
| Ernakulam | 8 | 19 |
| Idukki | 4 | 5 |
| Kottayam | 4 | 16 |
| Palghat | 2 | 5 |
| Pathanamthitta | 12 | 8 |
| Quilon | 2 | 6 |
| Trichur | 4 | 9 |
| Trivandrum | 10 | 7 |
| Total | 69 | 110 |

Grand Total for Last two Years – 179

**Statement-II**

*District-wise number of telephone exchange Installed/Proposed to be installed in Kerala State during last two years*

| Name of the District | No. of exchanges installed so far in 2002-2003 | No. of exchanges proposed to be Intsalled during the remaining period of 2002-2003 | Total No. of exchanges |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Alleppy | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Calicut | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Cannanore | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Kasaragod | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Kottayam | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Malappuram | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Palghat | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Pathanamthitta | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Quilon | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Trivandrum | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Ernakulam | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 29 | 21 | 50 |

**Safety of Nimesulide Usage**

274. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI Y.V. RAO :

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 'Nimesulide, the popular fever drug is considered to be unsafe" appearing in *Times of India,* dated October 10, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Govenrment in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The subject news item primarily relates to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) Nimesulide which is reported to be used in about 50 countries including India and is indicated for acute pain/inflammation and fever. In India Nimesulide (100mg) tablet was approved in 1995 and in 1996 Nimesulide suspension was approved for children. Nimesulide is a prescription drug in India.

No serious hepatotoxicity in adults or children have been reported to the regulatory agencies in the country. Also, neither the Indian Academy of Paediatricians or any Paediatrician has so far reported any serious side effect in children treated with Nimesulide formulation..

(c) to (e) As a part of ongoing review exercise, a review is being undertaken by expert committee (Sub-Committee of DTAB) to examine safety aspects of Nimesulide. As regards the use of Nimesulide in children, the expert committee was of the view that immediate opinion of at least 20 well known paediatricians across the country may be obtained alongwith the information available from Adverse Drug Reaction centers.

**Pensionary benefits to the Employees of Griha Kalyan Kendras**

275. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Griha Kalyan Kendras (GKK) being run by the Union Government across the country alongwith number of employees working in each GKKs, category-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide pensionary benefits to these employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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) Grih Kalyan Kendra, a registered Society, is running its various welfare activities in 38 Samaj Sadans and 36 other premises in Delhi and in nine other cities. 242 workers are presently engaged in GKK whose category-wise details are as follows :–

Security Officer 1, Centre Incharge-2, Gym Instructor-2, Cashier-3, Store Incharge-2, Officer Assistant-3, PA/ Typist-2, Nursery Teacher-38, Craft Teacher-28, Creche Attendanat-27, Ayah-64, Chowkidar-45, Driver-2, Peon-1, Mali-1, Sweeper-21.

There are 3 other posts, one each of Secretary, Office Superintendent and Accounts Officer. The Post of Secretary is presently filled on contract basis while the other two posts are filled on deputation basis.

(b) to (d) All the employees except Secretary, Office Superintendent and Accounts Officer are paid fixed honorarium only. They are, therefore, not eligible for pension.

**Amount spent on NHDP during Ninth Plan**

276. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the National Highways Development Projects during Ninth Plan;

(b) the State-wise details of these NH Development Projects;

(c) the target date set for the completion of these projects; and

(d) the progress thereon, Project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) The amount spent during Ninth Plan on National Highway Development Project (excluding expenditure on maintenance of highways) is Rs. 5570.23 crores.

(b) State-wise details are at Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The progress of the project and date of completion are as under :

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (i) | **Golden Quadrilateral (GQ)** | | |
| | **Total Length** | : | **5846 km** |
| | Completed | : | 1159 km |
| | Under Implementation | : | 4551 km |
| | To be awarded | : | 136 km |
| | Target date of substantial completion | : | December, 2003 |
| | Date of completion | : | December, 2004 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **(ii) North-South and East-West Corridors** | |
| **Total length (Approx)** | **7300 km** |
| Completed | 817 km |
| Under Implementation | 671 km |
| To be awarded | 5812 km |
| Target date of completion | December, 2007 |

**Statement**

*State-wise details of National Highway Development Project (NHDP)*

Length in Km.

| Sl. No. | Name of States | National Highway Development Project (NHDP) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Golden Quadri-lateral | North-South Corridor | East-West Corridor | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1,016 | 753 | – | 753 |
| 2. | Assam | – | – | 753 | 753 |
| 3. | Bihar | 260 | – | 517 | 517 |
| 4. | Delhi | 25 | 34 | – | 34 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 485 | – | 654 | 654 |
| 6. | Haryana | 152 | 180 | – | 180 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | – | 14 | – | 14 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | – | 405 | – | 405 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 192 | – | – | – |
| 10. | Karnataka | 663 | 125 | – | 125 |
| 11. | Kerala | – | 160 | – | 160 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | – | 524 | 142 | 666 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 489 | 232 | – | 232 |
| 14. | Orissa | 444 | – | – | – |
| 15. | Punjab | – | 296 | – | 296 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 722 | 32 | 480 | 512 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 341 | 851 | – | 851 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 753 | 268 | 548 | 816 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 398 | – | 366 | 366 |
| | Total | 5,846 | 3,874 | 3,460 | 7,334 |

Say : 7300

*[Translation]*

**Memo submitted by IAS Officers**

277. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Action group of IAS officers of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh has submitted any memorandum to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Poverty Level**

278. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether poverty level in the country came down to 26 per cent during the decade ending in the year 2000;

(b) if so, the poverty level in the three decades ending in 1990, 1980 and 1970 respectively; and

(c) the long term measures being taken to bring down the poverty level in future ?

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, the poverty level in the country has come down to 26 per cent in the year 1999-2000.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and State level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The poverty estimates available for the years 1973-74, 1977-78, 1983, 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are given below :

| Year | Percentage of people Living below the Poverty Line |
|---|---|
| 1973-74 | 54.88 |
| 1977-78 | 51.32 |
| 1983 | 44.48 |
| 1987-88 | 38.86 |
| 1993-94 | 35.97 |
| 1999-2000 | 26.10 |

(c) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are : (i) accelearation of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, educaiton, 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.

**Improving the quality of Medical Education**

279. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to strengthen the quality of Medical Education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of India have proposed to seek World Bank assistance for strengthening the physical infrastructure of the Government Medical Colleges in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Medical Council of India with the approval of the Union Government has laid down broad principles to be observed by the institutions/Universities in the Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 1997 and the Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000. These Regulations prescribe, inter-alia the objectives of the course, minimum eligibility requirement for joining the course, selection criteria, period of training/internship, procedures relating to the conduct of examination, award of marks and the qualifications of the examiners.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the proposals received from the State Governments for assistance from the World Bank for strengthening the physical infrastructure of medical colleges are required to be examined in consultation with the Planning Commission and forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs for posing to the World Bank. The Government have received such proposals from the Government of Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat, Delhi and Chandigarh.

*[Translation]*

**Toll Tax on 4-Lane Roads**

280. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to collect toll tax on 4 lane roads in the country;

(b) the names and details of the States which are already collecting toll tax on 4 lane roads;

(c) whether the Goverment are considering to go into a contract with some private company to collect toll tax on 4 lane roads; 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) Yes Sir, Government has decided to levy user fee on 4-lane sections of National Highways.

(b) Presently, user fee on 4-lane National Highway sections is being collected in 13 States as per details given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) In case of public funded project, fee collection is permitted departmentally or through private contractors on the basis of competitive bidding. In case of Built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) projects, operator is allowed to collect and retain the fee for a specified period.

**Statement**

| S.No. | NH | Details | Length in Km. | States covered by the reach |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Panipat-Ambala | 110.00 | Haryana |
| 2 | 1 | Ambala-Khanna | 66.00 | Haryana and Punjab |
| 3 | 1 | Khanna-Jallandhar | 100.00 | Punjab |
| 4 | 2 | Badarpur-Kosi | 90.00 | Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh |
| 5 | 2 | Kosi-Agra | 90.1 | Uttar Pradesh |
| 6 | 2 | Barwa-Adda-Panagarh | 113.65 | Jharkhand and West Begnal |
| 7 | 3 | Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass | 24 | Maharashtra |
| 8 | 3 | Indore-Dewas Bypass | 17.29 | Madhya Pradesh |
| 9 | 5 | Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Jagatpur | 27.80 | Orissa |
| 10 | 5 | Eluru Bypass | 17.369 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 11 | 5 | Vijaywada-Visakhapatnam | 40.712 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 12 | 8 | Gurgaon-Kotputli | 125.87 | Haryana and Rajasthan |
| 13 | 8 | Kotputli-Amer | 85.5 | Rajasthan |
| 14 | 8 | Bharuch-Surat | 65.00 | Gujarat |
| 15 | 8 | Vadodara-Bharuch | 83.00 | Gujarat |
| 16 | 24 | Ghaziabad-Hapur Section and Hapur Bypass | 32.245 | Uttar Pradesh |
| | | Total | 1088.536 | |

*[English]*

**Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Conference**

281. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had played an active role in the recently held Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Conference to thwart an attempt to revoke Pakistan's suspension after the formation of the new government in Islamabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India pleaded for continuation of suspension till full restoration of democracy in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the response of the participating countries thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) met in London from 31st – 1st November, 2002 to decide whether the recent

developments in Pakistan merited reversal of earlier CMAG decision to supsend Pakistan from the Councils of the Commonwealth. Participants took into account the report of the Commonwealth and EU Observer Groups on this issue as well as the constitutional and other changes introduced in Pakistan before the elections which had moved Pakistan towards institutionalised military rule. EAM also strongly articulated India's concerns on this issue. The Group decided by consensus to maintain the status-quo on Pakistan's suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth pending greater clarity and the assessment of the role and function of democratic institutions.

*[Translation]*

**Allotment of PCO Booths to Unemployed Youth**

282. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the Government allot PCOs to the unemployed youths on priority basis, in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the violations of the guidelines laid down in this regard; and

(d) if so, the number of persons who have been fount guilty in this regard and the details of the punishments awarded to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, according to the present policy, PCOs are allotted liberally to all applicants including unemployed youths, who are of 18 years and above without any restriction of educational qualifications subject to technical feasibility and completion of commercial formalities. No priroity is given to the unemployed youth in allotment of PCOs.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in veiw of (a) and (b) above.

*[English]*

**Allotment of PCOs**

283. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

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

(a) whether any norms have been laid down for allotment of STD/ISD PCOs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints about allotment of PCOs in the recent past; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the present policy, PCOs are allocated liberally to all applicants who are of 18 years and above without any restriction of educational qualifications subject to technical feasibility and completion of commercial formalities.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received in this regard. PCOs allotted to handicapped persons on fraudulent documents are disconnected.

**Success of Population Control measures in Andhra Pradesh**

284. DR. (MRS.) RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

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

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh was adjudged as the most performing State for its population control measures during the last one decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the All India decadal population growth rate in 1991 and 2001;

(d) whether the State Government has demanded assistance from the Union Government to strengthen immunization programme and overall health facilities in the State; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh is one of the better performing State in achieving the population control targets in the country. The percentage decadal growth rates of population has come down from 24.20 during 1981-1991 to 13.86 during 1991-2001. Details showing Crude Birth Rate, Infant Mortality Rate and Total Fertility Rate for last one decade are given in the Statemenet enclosed.

(c) The All India percentage decadal growth rate of population in 1991-2001 is 21.34.

(d) and (e) In addition to supporting sub-centres, under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, States aer being assisted for strengthening the Primary Health Care System. The assistance provided to the State in terms of Kind and Cash is Rs. 45.7 crores during 2001-02.

Under the Immunisation Strengthening Project assisted by World Bank, an amount of Rs. 39.56 lakhs has been released to the State during 2001-02.

**Statement**

*Andhra Pradesh*

| Years/Indicators | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CBR | 26.0 | 24.1 | 24.1 | 23.8 | 24.2 | 22.8 | 22.5 | 22.4 | 21.7 | 21.3 |
| IMR | 73 | 71 | 64 | 65.0 | 67 | 65 | 63 | 66 | 66 | 65 |
| TFR | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | NA |

Source : Sample Registration System.

*[Translation]*

**Demand for Services of Physiotherapists**

285. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

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

(a) whether the demand for services of physio-therapists in the country is increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any assessment regarding the number of physiotherapists needed in Government hospitals in the country and appointed physiotherapists in its hospitals;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of posts lying vacant in Central Government hospitals in Delhi with names of these hospitals;

(d) whether any council has been established to regulate the profession of physiotherapy; and

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to establish any such council so that problems related to the profession could be solved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Government is conscious of the fact that as a result of increasing population, the demand for services of Medical Professionals at large is increasing and so is the demand of Physiotherapists who are Para-Medical Professionals assisting the Medical Professionals in the management of patients. The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation exists in all the three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi viz., Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital. However, no specific survey has so far been carried out to assess the requirement of physiotherapists in the country.

(c) The number of posts of Physiotherapists lying vacant in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi is given below :

| | Name of the Hospital | No. of posts lying vacant |
|---|---|---|
| (a) | Safdarjung Hospital | 3 |
| (b) | Dr. R.M.L. Hospital | 1 |
| (c) | Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital | 3 |
| | Total | 7 |

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

**Health Services in Private Hospitals**

286. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to bring a Central Legislation to ensure the quality of services available in rapidly increasing private clinics, nursing homes and other related establishments as well as to prescribe minimum standards for their employees alongwith basic infrastructure facilities therein;

(b) if so, whether the Government also contemplate to constitute Accredition Council of the elected persons and professionals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government have also proposed to set-up Accredition Council at the State level ?

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

(b) and (c) In the proposed legislation, there is a provision for establishment of a 'Central Council for laying down norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation and maintenance of records. The council will comprise members from Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India, Indian Nursing Council, representatives of clinical establishments, Director General of Health Services etc.

(d) In the proposed legislation, there is also a provision for establishment of State Assessment and Accreditation Council at States level.

*[English]*

**Amendment in Motor Vehicles Act**

287. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to amend the Motor Vehicles Act to ensure strict punishment, including cancellation of driving licence in accident cases;

(b) whether the number of road accidents has increased many fold during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the Government's response in this regard ?

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

(b) and (c) The number of accidents per one thousand vehicles has been indicating a declining trend as can be seen in the Table given below :-

| Year | Population of vehicles of all categories in thousand | No. of accidents | Accident per thousand vehicles |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 33723 | 371204 | 11.00 |
| 1997 | 37231 | 373671 | 10.04 |
| 1998 | 40939 | 385018 | 9.40 |
| 1999 | 45000 | 386456 | 8.59 |
| 2000 | 48393 (Provisional) | 391449 | 8.09 (Provisional) |

A Statement showing State-wise road accidents in India on all roads is enclosed.

Government of India has been taking several measures pertaining to engineering and education to improve the safety on the roads. Coordination with State Governments is also being maintained to enforce various provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in this regard.

**Statement**

*Statement showing State-wise Road Accidents in India on all Roads*

| All India/States/UTs. | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 21526 | 17109 | 27599 | 28529 | 25398 | 30031 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 230 | 239 | 206 | 214 | 252 | 264 |
| Assam | 1840 | 1906 | 2021 | 2269 | 2492 | 2516 |
| Bihar | 8870 | 7253 | 7362 | 4545 | 4397 | N.A. |
| Chhatisgarh | | Figures included in Madhya Pradesh | | | 6913 | N.A. |
| Goa | 2804 | 2561 | 2633 | 2535 | 2961 | 2818 |
| Gujarat | 30975 | 34336 | 35640 | 37428 | 36029 | 32523 |
| Haryana | 6934 | 7189 | 7983 | 8248 | 8206 | 8393 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1889 | 1865 | 2342 | 2211 | 2039 | 2150 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 3615 | 3281 | 4238 | 4454 | 4598 | N.A. |
| Jharkhand | | Figures included in Bihar | | | 3763 | 4028 |
| Karnataka | 30899 | 32884 | 30763 | 30559 | 32397 | N.A. |
| Kerala | 35731 | 34661 | 32837 | 33977 | 37072 | 38361 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 30861 | 31726 | 30766 | 30559 | 23805 | N.A. |
| Maharashtra | 77572 | 75267 | 74429 | 72231 | 71550 | N.A. |
| Manipur | 399 | 397 | 411 | 495 | 506 | 409 |
| Meghalaya | 360 | 382 | 407 | 286 | 392 | 427 |
| Mizoram | 76 | 65 | 80 | 59 | 72 | 83 |
| Nagaland | 132 | 87 | 99 | 104 | 79 | 102 |
| Orissa | 6393 | 6379 | 6808 | 6577 | 6611 | 6406 |
| Punjab | 2998 | 3301 | 3442 | 3620 | 3876 | 4171 |
| Rajasthan | 18879 | 19946 | 20798 | 21132 | 19932 | 19999 |
| Sikkim | 168 | 130 | 97 | 113 | 94 | N.A. |
| Tamil Nadu | 42197 | 44203 | 46723 | 48086 | 48923 | 51978 |
| Tripura | 562 | 742 | 425 | 544 | 524 | 544 |
| Uttaranchal | | Figures included Uttar Pradesh | | | 877 | 1061 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 16475 | 16648 | 17631 | 18116 | 16644 | N.A. |
| West Bengal | 16101 | 18646 | 17454 | 17889 | 18979 | 6399 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A and N Islands | 94 | 89 | 120 | 138 | 158 | 181 |
| Chandigarh | 382 | 397 | 348 | 454 | 455 | 492 |
| D and N Haveli | 69 | 74 | 83 | 74 | 84 | 88 |
| Daman and Diu | 24 | 30 | 64 | 69 | 66 | 53 |
| Delhi | 11315 | 10949 | 10217 | 9909 | 10245 | 9344 |
| Lakshadweep | Nil | Nil | 2 | Nil | 6 | N.A. |
| Pondicherry | 833 | 929 | 990 | 1032 | 1054 | 1286 |
| Total | 371204 | 373671 | 385018 | 386456 | 391449 | 224107(P) |

N.A. = Not Available P = Provisional

**Shortage of Medicines in Dispensaries and Hospials**

288. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

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

(a) whether Government are aware of shortage of essential medicines in CGHS dispensaries and Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make available essential medicines in these dispensaries/ hospitals; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on purchase of medicine by CGHS during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The bulk purchase of medicines for CGHS are made through the Medical Stores Organisation (MSO) of the Dte. GHS. In cases where the MSO is not able to supply medicines or the Government specialist prescribes medicines outside the Government formulary, the CGHS procures the same based on the individual prescription of the beneficiaries from the authorised local chemists appointed by the CGHS. In the case of urgently needed drugs, authority slips are issued to the beneficiaries for immediate procurement through the authorised local chemist.

At present, the availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries is not adequate, but inconvenience to the beneficiaries on this account is minimised by purchasing medicines from the authorised local chemists appointed by the CGHS. Steps are in hand to procure essential and frequently used medicines at the earliest.

The information relating to Govtemment hospitals in Delhi is being obtained and would be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(d) The information is given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Budget allocation and expenditure during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 in CGHS Delhi under Sub-Head (Material and Supply) (Non-Plan)*

| Financial Year | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Total Budget Allocation | 527250000.00<br>Expenditure on different system of medicines | 6714070000.00<br>Expenditure on different system of medicines | 916781000.00<br>Expenditure on different system of medicines |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Allopathic (On local Purchase) | 432048359.00 | 518964093.00 | 742163982.00 |
| MSO | 51260516.00 | 76059353.00 | 77088369.00 |
| ISM and H | 24799510.00 | 34787919.00 | 46675386.00 |
| Life saving and otheres | 19141615.00 | 41595635.00 | 50853263.00 |
| Total Expenditure | 527250000.00 | 671407000.00 | 916781000.00 |

**Telephone Fault**

289. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that on several occasions defects in the Telephone cable are causing great hardship to subscribers in many States particularly in Delhi and Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation ?

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

(b) Steps taken by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for Delhi and by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for Andhra Pradesh, to tackle the situation are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Steps taken by MTNL for Delhi*

1. Fault Control centres have been set up at the Headquarters as well as at Area levels to effectively monitor the clearance of cable faults.
2. More cable jointing staff is deployed for speedy rectification of cable faults particularly during monsoon.
3. All paper core cables are proposed to be replaced by Optical Fibre Cable/PIJF cable in a time bound manner.
4. More switching nodes like Remote Subscriber Unit (RSU), Digital Loop Carrier (DLC) are being opened so as to reduce the length of underground cables in customer's Loop.
5. New Technology Equipment in Customer Access Network viz. Wireless Local Loop (WLL) and CORDECT are being introduced.
6. A co-ordination committee comprising of senior officers from all civic bodies viz. MCD, NDMC, DVB, MTNL and Private Telecom Operators, has been constituted by the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Delhi on the initiative of MTNL, to evolve suitable mechanism for avoiding damages to existing network of underground cables.

**Steps taken by BSNL for Andhra Pradesh**

1. Co-ordination meetings are being held with the concerned Department/parties.
2. The cable are being shifted wherever possible due to widening of roads.
3. "Dial before dig" is displayed in major routes.
4. Control Rooms are opened in all the District Headquarters and also in Circle Headquarters during monsoons for monitoring the cable breakdowns effectively.

**Release of Indian Fishermen**

290. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian fishermen have been arrested, jailed and killed in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years till date;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the release of the jailed/arrested fishermen; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the safety and protection of fishermen engaged in fishing in deep seas ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The arrest and subsequent detention of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities is on charges of poaching in Sri Lankan territorial waters or drifting into Sri Lankan territorial waters.

The number of Indian fishermen arrested and those killed during the last three years is given below :

| | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 (Jan.-Nov.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arrested | 25 | 118 | 99 |
| Killed | 5 | 7 | 0 |

Government maintains regular contact with Sri Lanka through diplomatic channels of securing the early release and repatriation of Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody. The matter is taken up at appropriate levels in both New Delhi and Colombo and is pursued till the fishermen are released and repatriated.

(d) Government have suggested to the Sri Lankan Government that our fishermen may be licensed to fish in their north-eastern waters.

Both sides agree that these cases should be dealt with in a spirit of compassion and understanding, in accordance with established legal procedures and in a humane manner.

*[Translation]*

**New Strategy for Polio Eradication**

291. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have finalized the new strategy for polio eradication as suggested by experts for the year 2002-03;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases brought to the notice of the Government where the polio eradication drive was completed successfully during the last three years, state-wise;

(d) the provisions made by the Government in new strategy for polio eradication; and

(e) the details of the States wherein the Government propose to implement them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) The polio eradication programme is implemented by the Government of India through the States/UTs. The polio eradication strategy for 2002-03, as recommended by experts and being implemented by the Government, is as under :-

(i) House-to-house mop-up vaccination to be undertaken following the detection of any wild poliovirus anywhere in the country.

(ii) Two Sub-National Immunization Day (SNID) rounds in the States of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana (conducted on September 29 and November 17, 2002).

(iii) Two National Immunization Day (NID) rounds to be conducted by all States/UTs on January 5 and February 9, 2003.

(iv) SNID and NID rounds to be conducted using the combined fixed post and house-to-house vaccination for two days after the booth day. In high-risk States, house-to-house vaccination to be conducted for five days.

The number of polio cases in all States/UTs during 2000, 2001 and 2002 are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Polio Cases for 2000 to 2002*

(upto 9th Nov. 2002)

| S. No. | Name of the State/ UT | 00 | 01 | 02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | A and N Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Assam | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 5. | Bihar | 50 | 27 | 58 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | – | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. | Delhi | 3 | 3 | 14 |
| 11. | Goa | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 2 | 1 | 18 |
| 13. | Haryana | 4 | 5 | 10 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | – | 2 | 10 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. | Kerala | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| 22. | Manipur | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Orissa | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28. | Punjab | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32. | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33. | Uttranachal | – | 3 | 11 |
| 34. | Uttar Pradesh | 179 | 216 | 727 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 8 | 1 | 33 |
| | Total | 265 | 268 | 896 |

**Reduction in CSS**

292. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI PRABODH PANDA :
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has decided to reduce the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS);

(b) if so, the details of the schemes proposed to be abolished/merged with other such schemes;

(c) whether approval from the State Governments has been obtained; and

(d) the final status of the CSS to be implemented during the Tenth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The Planning Commission has undertaken a review of the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and has subjected them to Zero-Based Budgeting. It is proposed to retain only those schemes in the Tenth Plan that are demonstrably essential. The CSS schemes to be implemented in the Tenth Plan are part of the Tenth Plan Document which will be placed for approval before the National Development Council, which includes Chief Ministers/Administrators of all the States/UT's.

*[English]*

**Extradition Treaties**

293. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem regarding extradition laws need improvement as reported in the *Statesman* dated September 30, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Government have been considering signing many more treaties of 'Extradition by Mutual Consent' with other nations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the countries with which India has not signed the extradition treaty ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) India has Extradition Treaties with eighteen (18) countries. Since Independence Extradition Treaties have been finalized with sixteen (16) countries, viz. Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Nepal, Russian Federation, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, U.A.E., U.K., U.S.A., Uzbekistan and Ukraine. In the cases of Netherlands and Switzerland, though the Extradition Treaties with these countries were signed before independence, these Treaties were reactivated after Independence through notification under the Extradition Act, 1962. The Extradition Treaties signed with Germany, Mongolia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Ukraine have not yet come into force. They will come into force after exchange of the instruments of ratification.

India also has reciprocal extradition arrangements with nine (9) countries, viz. Australia, Fiji, Germany, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania and Thailand.

India has initialled extradition treaties at official level with eight (8) countries, viz. Bulgaria, France, Malaysia, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Kazakhstan and Kuwait.

India has proposed negotiations for the finalization of extradition treaties with twenty seven (27) countries, viz. Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Greece, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kyrghyzstan, Lithuania, Nepal (New Treaty), New Zealand, Nigeria, Qatar, Romania, South Africa, Sudan, Singapore, Thailand, Uganda and Yemen. Extradition treaties with these countries are at various stages of negotiation/ finalization.

(d) Till date, India has not signed or proposed to sign Extradition Treaties with countries other than those countries mentioned above.

**Promotion of Sale of Products**

294. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a condition in the registration and tender document of the Kendriya Bhandar (KB) making it obligatory on the suppliers to market their products into the Government offices to promote the sales; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Goverment to immediately withdraw these provisions ?

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 tender document for registration has a provision regarding marketing of approved products on behalf of Kendriya Bhandar.

(b) Presently there is no such proposal.

**Opening of Consulates in Hyderabad**

295. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates propose to set up their consulates in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the permission for the same has been granted;

(c) if so, by when these consulates are likely to become functional; and

(d) the other places where these countries have already their consulates in the country.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) United States has Consulate General in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai while Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates have their Consulate Generals in Mumbai only.

**Facilities in Government Hospitals**

296. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inspection Report of Government hospitals in various parts of the country has revealed that various medical and research facilities in these hospials exist only on paper;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that over-crowding in these hospitals is a serious impediment in the smooth working of the hospitals; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that adequate medical and research facilities are provided in these hospitals ?

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

**Submarine Cable link between Visakhapatnam and Kaula Laumpur**

297. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to lay submarine cable link from Visakhapatnam to Kuala Lumpur has been finalized;

(b) if so, the benefits likely to accrue from this project; and

(c) by when the cable link is likely to be made functional ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a submarine cable landing station at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh was submitted in April 2001 by M/s Astro Network India Private Limited proposing Vishakhapatnam and Penang (Malaysia) as terminal stations. The Company so far has not shown any interest in going ahead with the proposal as they are yet to respond to certain clarifications requested on the proposal.

**Palestine Issue**

298. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the office of the Palestine leader, Yassar Arafat, was put under siege by the Israeli troops during September, 2002;

(b) if so, whether India issued any statement condemning the Israeli action; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The following statement was issued by the Government of India on 23rd September, 2002 titled "India Expresses Concern At Developments In West Asia" :

> "India has noted with dismay that after six weeks of relative full in violence the security situation has deteriorated sharply with two suicide bomb attacks, and incursions by Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) against President Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah.
>
> "We hope that all concerned parties would act decisively and in good faith to certain this renewed spiral of violence, which comes at a time when there are new initiatives by the international community, particularly the "Quartet", to re-start the negotiations towards peace and the establishment of an independent Palestine State."

**World Bank and ADB Capital for Roads**

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

(a) whether the income from road cess is sufficient to guarantee long term private capital flows such as national highway bonds and funds from World Bank and Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the year-wise income of the Government since 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Income from the portion of cess, being provided to National Highways, would be sufficient to meet the liabilities of repayment of National Highway Bonds. In respect of loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Surat-Manor Tollway, taken directly by National Highways Authority of India, the same will be repaid from toll revenue. However, the loans from World Bank and ADB are directly taken by the Goverment and will be repaid by them.

(c) Under Central Road Fund Act, 2000, income from cess on petrol and diesel is utilized for development of Rural Roads, State roads and National Highways, and for safety on railway/road crossings in the proportions stated in the Act. The amont of cess available for National Highways upto 2002-2003 is Rs. 7800 crores.

**Four Lane between Bangalore and Mysore**

300. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought Central assistance to construct a four lane highway between Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the Central assistance sanctioned and likely to be released to Karnataka for that project; and

(d) the 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.

**Breast Cancer**

301. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Breast Cancer on the rise in city" appearing in the *Times of India* dated October 24, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the same ?

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

(b) The breast cancer and cervical cancer are the common cancers in women in India. According to the data collected by the National Cancer Registry Programme (1981-2001) of the ICMR, Breast Cancer is the highest among all sites of cancers in females in Delhi with 21.3%. However, in Mumbai and Chennai it is higher with 24.7% and 26.9% respectively. The data from Population Based Cancer Registry at Delhi, functioning under the National Cancer Registry programme does not indicate any significant increase in the incidence of Breast Cancer from 1998-1997.

(c) Cancer can be cured if detected early. Under the National Cancer Control Programme this Ministry is implementing various schemes aimed at creating awareness among the people and for facilitating early detection, treatment and research activities. The details of these schemes may be seen in the Statement enclosed. This Ministry has recognized 19 Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs to render treatment and carry out Research Activities.

**Statement**

*National Cancer Control Programme*

**Development of Oncology Wing**

This scheme is available only for Government Medical Colleges to fill up the geographical gaps in the detection and treatment of cancer in the countrty. Fiancial assistance

up to Rs. 2.00 crores is provided to an Institute under the scheme for purchase of listed equipments. This is a one-time grant.

**Setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit**

Financial assistance up to Rs. 1.50 crore is provided to State Government for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit in Government institutions. This is a one-time grant.

An amount of Rs. 1.00 crore is also provided for Cobalt Therapy Unit to the Non-Governmental Organisations on the specific recommendations of the State Government. This is a one-time grant.

The Mammography equipment has also been included under the scheme for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit. A Central assistance up to Rs. 30.00 lakhs is provided to those Institutions/Organisations who have the facilities for treatment of cancer patients and has well-equipped Radiotherapy Department. This is also a one-time grant.

**District Cancer Control Programme**

A scheme for district project (duration-five years) for health education, detection and pain relief measures under National Cancer Control Programme was initiated during the year 1990-91. In this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 15.00 lakhs is provided to the State Government/UT administration for each district selected under the scheme with a provision of Rs. 10.00 lakhs per annum for each district for the remaining four years of the project period. After five years, the project is to be taken over by the State Government.

**Voluntary Organisation Scheme**

The scheme upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs is provided to the Voluntary Organisations for undertaking health education and early detection activities in cancer on the specific recommendations of the State Government.

**Regional Cancer Centres**

This Ministry has recognised 19 Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs. The Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata and Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH), AIIMS, New Delhi have got a different funding pattern. Remaining RCCs are paid an amount of 75.00 lakhs annually. These RCCs extend treatment facilities and conduct research in the field of Cancer.

*[Translation]*

**Current Infant Mortality Rate**

302. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the present child mortality rate in the country, especially in tribal areas of the country;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the child mortality rate in the country especially in the tribal areas, during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The Child mortality rate in the country is 20.4 as per the latest available SRS (Sample Registration System) 1999 data. The child mortality rate for the Scheduled Tribe Population in the country as per NFHS-II (National Family Health Survey) 1998-99 date is 46.3

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The child mortality rate has been decreasing in the country. The child mortality rate as per SRS has decreased from 23.1 in 1997 to 20.4 in 1999. The child mortality for the Scheduled Tribe Population has also decreased from 49.1 in 1992-93 as per NFHS-I to 46.3 in 1998-99 it as per the NHFS-II.

(d) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, interventions for decreasing child mortality and morbidity are being implemented through out the country. The interventions for children include Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases; control of deaths due to Diarrhoea; contorl of Actute Respirlatory Infections; Prophylaxis against Vitamin A Deficiency; and Iron deficincy Aneamia, Essential Newborn Care; Promotion of exlusive Breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices.

*[English]*

**Irregularities in New Drug Applications**

303. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the DCGI office has started collecting fee for the New Drug Applications and the import registration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigations have been conducted for the irregularities; and

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

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

(b) The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 were amended vide Gazette Notification GSR 604 (E) dated 24.8.2001 and GSR 900 (E) dated 12.12.2001. Under GSR 604 (E) it has been made mandatory for the registration of the drugs imported into the country to ensure that only quality drugs are imported into the country. Fees for processing of the applications for registration have also been specified. Under GSR 900 (E) dated 12.12.2001 the provision for grant of approvals for new drugs by the DCG (I) has been streamlined and specific fees prescribed for processing of the applications. The fees are required to be deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India under the Head of Account "0201-Medical and Public Health, 04-Public Health – 104 Fees and Fines". The amount so far deposited under this head, for the above purpose is about Rs. 9 crores.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

**Introduction of Administrative Reforms by SAI**

304. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4650 dated April 23, 2002 regarding introduction of Administrative Reforms by Sports Authority of India and state :

(a) whether the information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

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

(b) The following administrative reforms have been introduced by SAI.

(i) In order to improve the standards in training, revised selection criteria for selection of trainees for admission to SAI training centres have been introduced in February, 1999.

(ii) Under the National Coaching Scheme, revised guidelines were issued to coaches for imparting sports training for the Regional Coaching Centres and District Coaching Centres in the States/UTs scheme. Monitoring system for effective utilization of services of the Coaches has been introduced.

A six-week advance course for coaches has been inroduced and during the current year, 600 coaches will undergo the said course.

(iii) To bring in excellence, the scope of the existing Scheme of Centre of Excellence was enlarged and introduced in all the Regional Centres and the number of Disciplines has been increased from one (Hockey) to 16. The number of Girl trainees has also been increaed.

(iv) In order to improve efficency in the organisation, Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of Ministry of Finance, Government of India undertook a study of the organizational structure and staff strength of SAI and submitted its detailed report on which further action is being taken.

(v) For preparation of the national teams of major international tournaments like Commonwealth Games, Asian Games/Olympic Games, long term development plans are prepared by SAI in coordination with the concerned National Sports Federations. Thereafter, Discipline-wise Monitoring Commitee meetings are held under the Chairmanship of DG, SAI for reviewing the progress and remedial action is taken accordingly.

(vi) Matter is being pursued with the Indian Olympic Association and the International Olympic Committee for seeking accreditation of the existing Dope Control Lab at J.N. stadium, New Delhi. Mandatory requirement of obtaining ISO – 17025 certification of the Lab is in progress.

No special assistance has been provided to SAI during the said period for enhancing facilities for the modern qualitative training to young trainees. However, budgetary provisions for implementing the sports promotional schemes have been incresed from time to time. The budgetary estimates for the schemes during the last three years are as under :

| | |
|---|---|
| 2000-2001 | Rs. 18.50 crores |
| 2001-2002 | Rs. 20.20 crores |
| 2002-2003 | Rs. 21.83 crores |

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

**Emission by KAP**

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kakrapara Atomic Power Plant (KAP) in Surat (Gujarat) is emitting radiation three times as much as of international norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and extent to which it is threatening the life of workers in KAP;

(c) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has warned the KAP; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the KAP so far 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) Emissions from Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant (KAPP) are well below the International norms.

(b) The radiation exposures received by workers in KAPP are well within the regulatory limits and there is no threat to the life of workers.

(c) and (d) Atomic Energy Regulatory Board has not issued any warning to KAPP as no regulatory limit has been exceeded.

*[Translation]*

**Underground Cables in Uttar Pradesh**

306. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of underground cable laid in various villages at Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Azamgarh, Faizabd and Saharanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh from January 1 to October 31, 2002;

(b) the number of villages where connections were provided;

(c) the amount of expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether it is a fact that telephone connections in these districts have not been provided.

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government against the officials and contractors found wanting in execution of works; and

(f) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared ?

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

*[English]*

**Transfer of C.S.S.**

307. SHRI PRABODH PANDA :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to transfer some Centrally sponsored schemes to the States for implementation during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, the name of the schemes including their outlay; 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) In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held in Feb., 1999, a committee of the NDC was set up on the Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with members from both the States and the Central Ministries. The term of the committee is upto 31st December, 2002. However, the Schemes of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Annapurna have been transferred to the States w.e.f. financial year 2002-03. Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs. 680 crore has been provided to the States/UTs for the purpose for the year 2002-03. As most of the States have schemes of similar nature it is expected that the transfer of these schemes would provide additional funds to States/UTs with the requisite flexibility in the choice and the implementation of the schemes.

*[Translation]*

**Family Welfare Programme**

308. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated to each State of Health and Family Welfare Programmes during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the funds proposed to be allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan for this purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether funds allocated for Health and Family Welfare Programme in Tenth Five Year Plan are inadequate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) A Statement-I showing the details of funds allocated to each State during Ninth Five Year Plan is enclosed.

(b) The State-wise allocation for the Tenth Five Year Plan are made on an annual basis. However, allocation for major centrally sponsored programmes for Tenth Five Year Plan is at Statement-II enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Central Government has been making every effort to augment the resources for the health sector by mobilizing external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting various national health programmes for the control of major diseases. The allocation for Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) is Rs. 9253 crores as compared to Rs. 5118 crores during Ninth Five Year Plan in respect of the health sector. The Tenth Plan (2002-07) allocation for National Family Welfare Programme is Rs. 27125 crores as against Rs. 15120.00 crores during Ninth Five Year Plan.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise Allocation/Releases under Centrally Sponsored Programmes in the Deptt. of Health during the Ninth Plan (1997-2002)*

(Rs. in lakh)

| States/Uts | Malaria* | Blindness** | Laprosy | TB | AIDS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Andaman and Nicobar | 777.06 | 37.32 | 38.93 | 36.83 | 263.03 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2355.47 | 2695.04 | 2137.36 | 3467.51 | 5244.17 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 1663.27 | 96.69 | 454.13 | 248.43 | 539.88 |
| Assam | 14406.86 | 520.09 | 1132.43 | 1140.60 | 1550.80 |
| Bihar | 2319.21 | 723.44 | 4687.62 | 4835.79 | 1220.50 |
| Chattisgarh | 570.71 | 582.00 | 378.34 | 36.22 | 129.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chandigarh | 205.27 | 48.04 | 29.29 | 108.59 | 448.78 |
| D and N Haveli | 207.99 | 25.75 | 24.42 | 11.62 | 76.00 |
| Daman and Diu | 101.31 | 34.35 | 65.90 | 11.19 | 174.22 |
| Delhi | 382.66 | 130.98 | 157.09 | 777.47 | 991.00 |
| Goa | 57.70 | 146.30 | 34.29 | 57.64 | 354.73 |
| Gujarat | 2663.95 | 1211.54 | 1207.93 | 4184.73 | 3146.08 |
| Haryana | 1215.98 | 608.74 | 176.63 | 837.89 | 1017.50 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 313.00 | 370.25 | 298.01 | 660.37 | 1229.00 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 303.98 | 359.21 | 504.77 | 351.64 | 471.50 |
| Jharkhand | 561.28 | 215.30 | 356.23 | 54.65 | 156.00 |
| Karnataka | 2284.15 | 1380.39 | 1507.42 | 3085.70 | 2603.47 |
| Kerala | 450.19 | 806.30 | 900.15 | 3016.48 | 1880.63 |
| Lakshadweep | 40.65 | 38.81 | 24.89 | 13.70 | 79.08 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 3666.76 | 3634.00 | 3559.96 | 3210.35 | 2139.81 |
| Maharashtra | 2634.40 | 3004.40 | 2197.77 | 5451.02 | 5837.65 |
| Manipur | 2042.60 | 122.93 | 462.91 | 223.62 | 1870.83 |
| Meghalaya | 1526.34 | 192.91 | 238.79 | 93.58 | 437.57 |
| Mizoram | 1610.25 | 139.99 | 309.84 | 51.42 | 793.70 |
| Nagaland | 1264.02 | 172.18 | 484.70 | 150.72 | 1648.00 |
| Orissa | 1981.75 | 2894.53 | 3015.39 | 1982.32 | 1348.50 |
| Pondicherry | 64.58 | 50.37 | 29.45 | 147.97 | 140.50 |
| Punjab | 1363.19 | 483.66 | 344.61 | 1005.67 | 1125.39 |
| Rajasthan | 5794.60 | 2784.28 | 941.95 | 3424.87 | 1264.50 |
| Sikkim | 33.41 | 81.67 | 262.34 | 59.10 | 311.02 |
| Tamil Nadu | 1362.54 | 5139.39 | 1824.56 | 4101.59 | 6473.84 |
| Tripura | 2253.74 | 547.55 | 225.00 | 145.75 | 408.67 |
| Uttaranchal | 23.64 | 335.00 | 129.01 | 15.42 | 98.00 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 3460.39 | 4501.35 | 5849.68 | 6862.89 | 4186.65 |
| West Bengal | 2036.20 | 787.95 | 3293.30 | 6077.89 | 2577.65 |
| Total | 61999.10 | 34902.70 | 37285.09 | 55939.26 | 52238.13 |

*(Excluding Kala-Azar and EAC Component)

**(Inciudes GIA to DBCs and States Releases)

*State-wise Funds released under Family Welfare Programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of State/ UT | Infrastructure (Cash + Kind) | Other Programmes Releases) | Total Releases |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andra Pradesh | 86887.01 | 17444.85 | 104331.86 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1757.31 | 1144.29 | 2901.60 |
| 3. | Assam | 36843.03 | 13088.46 | 49931.49 |
| 4. | Bihar | 91666.16 | 8747.54 | 100413.70 |
| 5. | Goa | 1513.15 | 230.32 | 1743.47 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 63150.93 | 12264.54 | 75415.47 |
| 7. | Haryana | 21825.04 | 5648.86 | 27473.90 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 12119.20 | 2107.69 | 14226.89 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 11571.30 | 3191.24 | 14762.54 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 68017.18 | 20106.96 | 88124.14 |
| 11. | Kerala | 46551.45 | 5084.88 | 51636.33 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 68183.27 | 12296.28 | 80479.55 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 85782.73 | 9471.73 | 95254.46 |
| 14. | Manipur | 5106.55 | 1977.76 | 7084.31 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 3584.78 | 710.52 | 4295.30 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 2448.44 | 2702.19 | 5150.63 |
| 17. | Nagaland | 2451.21 | 781.02 | 3232.23 |
| 18. | Orissa | 37771.87 | 8974.67 | 46746.54 |
| 19. | Punjab | 20460.56 | 3224.54 | 23685.10 |
| 20. | Rajasthan | 73028.71 | 16916.29 | 89945.00 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 2662.88 | 411.24 | 3074.12 |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 85047.69 | 12806.59 | 97854.28 |
| 23. | Tripura | 7121.63 | 1414.50 | 8536.13 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 177917.52 | 24367.94 | 202285.46 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 68188.27 | 17629.71 | 85817.98 |
| 26. | Chhattisgarh | 5093.50 | 1277.53 | 6371.03 |
| 27. | Jharkhand | 6970.85 | 657-43 | 7628.28 |
| 28. | Uttranchal | 3778.19 | 698-97 | 4477.16 |
| | Total (States) | 1097500.41 | 205378.54 | 1302878.95 |
| | **UTs with Legislature** | | | |
| 1. | Pondicherry | 1513-90 | 289-85 | 1803-75 |
| 2. | Delhi | 9356-89 | 6999-56 | 16356-45 |
| | **UTs without Legislature** | | | |
| 1. | A and N Island | 670.65 | 225.08 | 895.73 |
| 2. | D and N Haveli | 271.83 | 137.57 | 409.40 |
| 3. | Chandigarh | 809.83 | 291.83 | 1101.66 |
| 4. | Lakshdweep | 145.64 | 152.93 | 298.57 |
| 5. | Damand and Diu | 282.31 | 159.21 | 441.52 |
| | Total (UTs) | 13051.05 | 8256.03 | 21307.08 |
| | Grand Total | 1110551.46 | 213634.57 | 1324186.03 |

**Statement-II**

(Rs. in Crore)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Programme | Outlay 10th Plan 2002-07 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (Malaria, Kala-Azar, Japanese Encephalitis, Filaria and Dengue) | 1370.00 |
| 2. | National Leprosy Eradication Programme | 255.00 |
| 3. | National Tuberculosis Control Programme | 680.00 |
| 4. | National AIDS Control Programme and National STD Control Programme | 1270.00 |
| 5. | National Blindness Control Programme | 445.00 |
| 6. | National Family Welfare Programme | 27125.00 |

*[English]*

**Performance of BSNL**

309. SHRI AJOY CHAKARABORTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial performance of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. deteriorated after its corporatisation and an estimated financial burden of over Rs. 7000 crore is likely to fall on it in the years 2002-2003;

(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 (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) While the financial performance of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in terms of total revenue growth has not deteriorated, but there is an estimated additional financial burden due to corporatisation of Rs. 6460 crores in 2002-2003 which may have an impact on development/expansion plans of BSNL.

(b) The additional financial burden on BSNL due to corporatisation on account of corporate tax, dividend on equity, additional staff costs, excise duty, license fee, spectrum charges, postal charges etc. works out to Rs. 6460 crores during 2002-03 as per details given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) At the stage of formation of BSNL, the Government had decided that a package of measures shall be provided to ensure that the viability of BSNL is not impaired becuase of impementation of socially desirable but uneconomic activity such as, rural telephony, undertaken at the behest of the Government. Accordingly, it had been decided that BSNL be exempted from payment of dividend on preference equity up to 31.3.04 and quity share capital up to March 31st, 2002. BSNL will also be given from 50% and 25% Waiver on dividend due on equity for the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. There will be moratorium on repayment of principal and interest up to 31.3.2004 in respect of Goverment loan of Rs. 7500 crore. BSNL is entitled to Concessional Central Sales tax of 4% on all its procurements. BSNL will be liable to pay Licence Fee and Spepctrum fee in full. However, these amounts be set off against reimbursement up to 31.3.2003.

After taking these concessions into account, it is estimated that the additional financial burden on BSNL due to corporatisation during 2002-2003 shall be Rs. 3860 crores. For the entire 10th Plan period, the financial burden shall be about Rs. 40,000 crores. In view of the adverse impact of such a huge financial burden on the viability of BSNL and considering its impact on the ability of BSNL to operate the legacy network or achieve the approved targets of 10th Plan, the matter is being reconsidered and Government is considering extension of these concessions till the end of 10th plan so as to reduce the financial burden on BSNL due to corporatisation.

**Statement**

*Estimated additional financial burden due to Corporatisation during 2002-2003*

| Sl. No. | Item | Amount in Crores |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Corporate Tax | 550 |
| 2. | Dividend on Equity | 500 |
| 3. | Additional Staff Cost | 1600 |
| 4. | Excise Duty | 50 |
| 5. | Licence Fee and Spectrum Charges | 2600 |
| 6. | Postal Charges | 80 |
| 7. | Leave Salary and Pension Contribution | 625 |
| 8. | Space Segment Charges | 305 |
| 9. | Additional rates and Taxes | 150 |
| | Total | 6460 |

(As per IEBR RE 2002-2003)

**Foreign Minister Overseas Tours**

310. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI AMBAREESHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the countries visited by him from August, 2002, to November, 2002;

(b) the purpose of these visits;

(c) the outcome of these visits;

(d) whether any bilateral treaties have been signed during these visits; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) I visited the following countries during the period mentioned :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Brunei Darussalam | (30.07.2002 – 01.08.2002) |
| (ii) | Bhutan | (04.08.2002 – 06.08.2002) |
| (iii) | Afghanistan | (10.08.2002 – 12.08.2002) |
| (iv) | Nepal | (20.08.2002 – 24.08.2002) |
| (v) | Bangladesh | (24.08.2002 – 25.08.2002) |
| (vi) | South Africa | (01.09.2002 – 04.09.2002) |
| (vii) | U.S.A. | (08.09.2002 – 10.09.2002) |
| (viii) | Canada | (19.09.2002 – 20.09.2002) |
| (ix) | Malaysia | (25.09.2002 – 27.09.2002) |
| (x) | Germany | (07.10.2002 – 08.10.2002) |
| (xi) | Denmark | (08.10.2002 – 11.10.2002) |
| (xii) | U.K. | (12.10.2002 and 30.10.2002 – 01.11.2002) |
| (xiii) | Cambodia | (04.11.2002 – 06.11.2002) |
| (xiv) | Laos | (06.11.2002 – 08.11.2002) |
| (xv) | Thailand | (08.11.2002) |
| (xvi) | Republic of Korea | (10.11.2002 – 12.11.2002) |

(b) to (c) The information is as follows :

**Brunei Darussalam**

(b) I visited the country for the annual Ministerial meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conferences (PMC). The PMC consists of two sets of meetings: ASEAN Ministers' meeting with ASEAN's ten Dialogue Partners collectively and a set of meetings individually with the Dialogue Partners. India is one of the 10 Dialogue Partners of ASEAN.

(c) Participation at the ARF Ministerial Meeting enabled India to project its views on the important issues of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Participation in the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conferences was part of the on-going high-level dialogue with ASEAN and has contributed to strengthening India-ASEAN relations in different spheres.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**Bhutan**

(b) It was an official visit for bilateral consultations. During the visit, issues of mutual interests and concern were discussed.

(c) The visit has helped in further strenthening India – Bhutan relations and renewed contacts with leadership of Bhutan.

(d) No.

(e) Not applicable.

**Afghanistan**

(b) and (c) The purpose of my visit was to expand and consolidate India-Afghanistan relations, in particular to maintain the existing momentum of intensive political interaction between the two countries. My visit was also aimed at reviewing the State of various India-Afghan bilateral cooperation projects, as well sa to understand the nature and extent of Afghan reconstruction requirements. One of the objectives was also to handover the first of the three A300B4 aircraft from Air India to Ariana Afghan Airlines.

During the visit, I met cross section of Afghan leadership; including Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan; Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Foreign Minister; Marshal Fahim, Vice President and Defence Minister and Dr. Yonus Qanooni, Education Minister. I also called on the former King of Afghanistan. I visited Provinces of Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif and Heart, where I met the provincial leadership of these areas.

During the visit, I announced an assistance package of US$4 million each for the reconstruction of Habibia School and Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health.

(d) No.

(e) Not applicable.

**Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand**

(b) I visited Malaysia in connection with the 3rd meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Commission. I visited Cambodia and Lao PDR and Thailand as member of PM's delegation to take part in the First ASEAN-India Summit held in Phnom Penh on 5th November, 2002; a bilateral visit to Vientiane [Lao PDR] from 6-8 November, 2002 and transit halt at Bangkok on 8th November, 2002.

(c) During the visits to Malaysia, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand, there were discussions with leadership of these countries which would help in furher expending India's relations with ASEAN, and the four countries mentioned above.

(d) and (e) The following Agreements were signed in Cambodia and Laos :

**Cambodia :**

- Trade Agreement;
- Credit Agreement for US $ 10 million;
- MoU between Archeological Survey of India and APSARA Authority for Preservation of Ankor Archeological Park; and
- A non-governmental agreement between IIT, Bombay and Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC).

**Laos :**

- Agreement on Defence Cooperation.
- Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Matters.
- Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports; and
- Agreement for Credit Line for US $ 10 million.

**Germany**

(b) and (c) During the bilateral visit, I met with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**Denmark**

(b) I accompanied the Prime Minister for the Third India-EU Annual Summit and the Bilateral Summit at PM's level as a part of the official delegation. I also led the Indian side at the bi-annual India EU Troika Ministerial meeting on 10th October held on the margins of the Summit. Earlier on 8-9 October, I participated at the 3rd India EU Business Summit organised jointly by CII, FICCI and Danish Chamber of Commerce.

(c) The 3rd India EU Summit level interactions provided an opportunity to renew our strategic partnership with EU. The bi-annual India-EU Ministerial Troika meeting provided a useful opprotunity to sensitise the EU on our principal political and strategic concerns. At the 3rd India EU Business Summit, I delivered the keynote Inaugural address. The bilateral part of the visit provided an impetus to our bilateral and politicial economic ties.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**Nepal**

(b) and (c) I attended the 23rd Session of SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting at Kathmandu from August 20-23. The bilateral visit from August 23-24 renewed the traditionally closed and friendly relations between India and Nepal and was part of the regular exchange of high level visits between the two countries.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**Bangladesh**

(b) During this Goodwill visit. I called on Bangladesh Prime Minister, Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar, Leader of Opposition Sheikh Hasina and Finance Minister Mr. Saifur Rahman in addition to holding detailed talks with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister.

(c) This visit forms part of the close political interaction that India promotes with its neighbours including Bangladesh through high level interactions. During the visit, I announced the grant of unilateral tariff concessions on select items of export interest to Bangladesh on 16 product groups consisting of 40 tariff lines.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**South Africa**

(b) and (c) I led the Indian delegation attending the World Summit for Sustainable Development held at Johannesburg. A Plan of Implementation and a Political Declaration was adopted by all the countries present at the Summit.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**U.S.A.**

(b) To continue the process of strengthening India-U.S. relations and to prepare for Prime Minister's meeting with U.S. President on 12th September 2002 in New York.

(c) The two sides agreed to accelerated the ongoing process of transforming India-U.S. relations. They agreed, in particular, to strengthen the strategic framework of their relationship, further intensify defence cooperation, enhance consultations on international developments in the regional and global contexts and, explore ways to make progress in civilian space, nuclear energy and high-technology cooperation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**Canada**

(b) To strengthen bilateral relations in all areas.

(c) The two sides agreed to intensify political, economic and cultural cooperation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**U.K.**

(b) and (c) I accompanied the Prime Minister to the U.K. for a meeting with U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair on 12 October, 2002. The Indian side reviewed bilateral ties in the context of the implementation of the New Delhi Declaration. Agreed on need to promote economic linkages. Discussions also covered regional and international developments of mutual concern.

I also visited the U.K. from October 30 to November 1, 2002 for a bilateral visit and for Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Meeting. I held bilateral meetings with U.K. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, and attended the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group Meeting. Bilateral meeting discussed ways of carrying forward the areas agreed upon by the two Prime Ministers. Commonwealth Meeting decided to continue Pakistan's suspension from Councils of the Commonwealth.

(c) The Indian side reviewed bilateral ties in the context of the implementation of the New Delhi Declaration. Agreed on need to promote economic linkages. Discussions also covered regional and international developments of mutual concern.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**Republic of Korea**

(b) and (c) I attended the Conference of Community of Democracies held at Seoul.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

**Post Offices in Rajasthan**

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

(a) the number of Post Offices sanctioned and opened during the last three years in the State of Rajasthan, district-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats which do not have Branch Post Offices, district-wise; and

(c) the steps are being taken by Government to provided postal facilities in all Gram Panchayats in the Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The district-wise number of post offices sanctioned and opened during the last three years in the State of Rajasthan is given in Statement enclosed.

(b) The district-wise number of Gram Panchayats which do not have Branch Post Offices, is nil.

(c) The postal facility of daily and delivery and collection of mails and sale of postal stationery and stamps is available to all the Gram Panchayat villages in the country including those in the State of Rajasthan.

**Statement**

*District-wise number of Post Offices Sanctioned and Opened in Rajasthan during the last three years*

| District | Year 1999-2000 | | Years 2000-2001 | | Years 2001-2002 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | S.O | B.O | S.O | B.O | S.O | B.O |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Sirohi | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | 2 |
| Jaipur | – | 1 | 1 | – | 1 | 1 |
| Dausa | – | 2 | – | 1 | – | – |
| Alwar | – | 1 | – | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sawaimadhopur | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | – |
| Dholpur | – | 1 | – | – | – | – |
| Jhununjhunu | – | 2 | – | 1 | – | |
| Jodhpur | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | 2 |
| Sri Ganganagar | – | 1 | – | 2 | – | 1 |
| Sikar | – | 4 | – | 1 | – | – |
| Pali | – | 1 | – | – | – | 1 |
| Barmer | – | 2 | – | – | – | – |
| Udaipur | – | 2 | – | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Chittorgarh | – | 3 | – | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Tonk | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | – |
| Banswara | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| Bharatpur | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| Bhilwara | – | – | – | 2 | – | 2 |
| Dungarpur | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| Churu | – | – | – | – | 2 | – |
| Bikaner | – | – | – | 1 | – | – |
| Jalore | – | – | – | – | – | 2 |
| Hanumangarh | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Total | 1 | 24 | 2 | 20 | 4 | 20 |

*[Translation]*

**Amendment to Homoeopathy Central Council Act**

312. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to include Homoeopathic Diploma as minimum standard of education as recognized qualification for the purpose of practice;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken for higher educaiton in Homoeopathy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Diploma course has already been discontinued. Persons holding Diploma before 1983 were equated with Degree holders for certain service benefits. Graded Degree Course was also introduced to help Diploma holder to obtain Degree. In other systems like Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha, Diploma Course has also been abolished.

Post Graduate teaching has been permitted in seven subjects.

*[English]*

**Telephone Connections under Discretionary Quota**

313. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Union Government from North-Eastern States including Sikkim during 2001-2002 and 2003 till date for providing telephone connections under the discretionary quota, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connection provided so far and the number of applications pending at present;

(c) the reasons for delay in providing telephone connections; and

(d) by when the remaining applicants are likely to be provided with telephone connections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Sir, discretionary quota is allotted on calendar year basis. The telecom district-wise number of applications received for providing telephone connections under discretionary quota during 2001 and 2002 upto 31.10.2002 is given in Statement enclosed. For the year 2003, quota can be released on or after 1.1.2003.

(b) 2331 telephone connections have been provided and 349 applications are pending at present and remaining have been cancelled.

(c) The applications are pending due to areas being technically non-feasible.

(d) Progressively by 31.3.2003.

**Statement**

*Number of applications received for providing telephone connections under discretionary quota*

| Sl. No. | Name of the State | Name of the Telecom Distict | No. of applications received 2001 | 2002 (till (31.10.02) | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Sikkim | Sikkim | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 2. | Assam | Kamrup | 303 | 69 | 372 |
| | | Dibrugarh | 34 | 20 | 54 |
| | | Silchar | 44 | 17 | 61 |
| | | Jorhat | 180 | 86 | 266 |
| | | Bongaigaon | 261 | 169 | 430 |
| | | Tezpur | 56 | 42 | 98 |
| | | Nagaon | 130 | 126 | 256 |
| 3. | Meghalaya | Meghalaya | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| 4. | Mizoram | Mizoram | 199 | 62 | 261 |
| 5. | Tripura | Tripura | 204 | 151 | 355 |
| 6. | Manipur | Manipur | 296 | 237 | 533 |
| 7. | Nagaland | Nagaland | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 8. | Arunachal Pradesh | Arunachal Pradesh | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| | | Total | | | 2697 |

*[Translation]*

**Infant Mortality Rate/Immunization Programme**

314. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the main causes for increasing infant mortality rate in the country;

(b) whether immunization programme is not implemented compulsorily for all the children in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have initiated any concrete steps afresh for improvement in the problem of malnutrition;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The major causes for Infant Mortality are Acute Respiratory Infection, Diarrhea, Measles and Tetanus. As a result of some interventions under the Family Welfare Programme,

the Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 104 during 1984 to 68 in 2000, a decline of 35%.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Under Universal Immunization Programme, implemented by the States/UTs with the assistance provided by the Government of India, vaccination is available to all infants in the country against 6 vaccine preventable diseases namely Tetanus, Diptheria, Pertussis, Tuberculosis, Poliomyelitis and Measles.

(d) to (f) Some steps taken to improve nutritional status of children are :- promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, the appropriate complementary feeding practices, the Integrated Child Development Scheme under which nutrition to young children and pregnant and lactating mothers is provided. Provision of Vitamin-A and Iron Folic Acid tablets as prophylactic against micro nutrient deficiency.

*[English]*

**High Speed Optical Fibre Telecommunication Infrastructure**

315. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka have requested for setting up of high speed optical fibre telecommunications infrastructure in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the rout Kilometers of high speed optical fibre telecommunication infrastructure laid in Karnakata during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the expenditure incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No request has so for been received from Government of Karnataka for setting of high speed optical fibre telecommunication infrastructure.

(b) and (c) Do not arise view (a) above.

(d) The Route Kilometer (RKM) completed and expenditure incurred by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to establish optical fibre telecommunication infrastructure during Ninth Five Year Plan in Karanataka is give below :

| RKM | Expenditure |
|---|---|
| 25,480 RKms | Rs. 469.00 crores. |

**Container Transshipment Terminal at Kochi**

316. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Container Trans-shipment Terminal at Vallarpadam in Kochi (International Terminal) expected to be a regional hub with a substantial movement of container from various parts of India, especially through Konkan Railways;

(b) if so, the expected movement of containers in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken steps for road connectivity to Vallarpadam in this regard from NH-47, NH-17 and NH-69;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) by when this project is likely to be implemented; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Container Transhipment Terminal at Vallarpadam in Cochin is being developed as a Regional Hub with substantial movement of containers from various parts of India especially through Indian Railways and Konkan Railways.

(b) The expected movements of containers at various stages of development is as follows :-

| Stage | Minimum | Maximum |
|---|---|---|
| Stage 1st (2008) | 5,08,000 TEUs | 7,43,000 TEUs |
| Stage 2nd (2013) | 10,00,000 TEUs | 10,00,000 TEUs |
| Stage 3rd (2018) | 10,00,000 TEUs | 10,00,000 TEUs |

(c) National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has

already prepared a feasibility report for road connectivity to Vallarpadam from NH 47 and NH 17. This would also ensure connection to NH-49 through NH 17/NH 47.

(d) The total length of the connectivity is about 15.3 km. and it would have four lanes. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 230 crores.

(e) and (f) The Highway connectivity project is to be implemented in such a manner that it will be commissioned before the commissioning of the Vallarpadam Project.

**Aid to NGOs**

317. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry allocates grant-in-aid to NGOs for promoting road safety awareness programmes in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Meghalaya has forwarded a proposal recommending allocation of fund to the tune of Rs. 5,20,000/- to Voluntary Health Association of Meghalaya, Shillong for administering road safety programmes in the State of Meghalaya, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any representation have been received in this regard, if so the details thereof; and

(e) the action 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) 79 NGOs have been selected by the Ministry for grants-in-aid amounting to approximately Rs. 1 crore during the current financial year.

(c) Yes, Sir. This Ministry had received a proposal from M/s Voluntary Health Association, Shillong, Meghalaya for grants-in-aid for Road Safety Programmes on 28.2.2002.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The proposal of the said NGO was not considered as it was incomplete and also not in accordance with the guidelines of the scheme.

**Upgradation of National Highways in Kerala**

318. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need for upgrading the following part of National Highways in Kerala as four laning, Haripad-Kayam Kulam, Chenthala-Alapuzha and Alapuzha-Haripad; and

(b) 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 proposal for 4 laning of the stretches Haripad – Kayam Kulam, Chenthala – Alapuzha and Alapuzha – Haripad of NH-47 has been received from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Streamlining of Passport Issuing Procedure**

319. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring about improvements in the passport issuing procedure so that the criminals do not succeed in getting passports and also to deal with the problem of fake passports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Government has launched a scheme of machine writing of passports which have the photograph and the signature of the applicant scanned and printed on the passport thus making forgery extremely difficult. New security features have also been added to the passport booklets to detect forgeries. Further, fresh (first time) passport are not being issued without clear police verification reports. Instructions have been issued to the passport offices for careful scrutiny of the documents at the submission stage itself. A project to scan all the passport files in the country has been launched. This would allow files to be readily available when cases of fake passports are detected.

**Upgradation of Medical Institutions In Bihar**

320. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to upgrade Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Patna Medical College in Bihar to the status of AIIMS of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the Government will take over the above two institutes and upgrade their status; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to improve the condition of other Medical colleges/hospitals in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Government have received proposals from the State Government of Bihar for financial assistance to upgrade facilities at the State Government medical colleges and hopitals. Sanctioning of the same depends on technical evaluation of the proposals by the Directorate General of Health Services and availability of resources.

**Population Growth Rate**

321. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

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

(a) the growth rate of population at present in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the incentives being given by the Government to encouarge "Small Family" programme; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control the growth rate of population in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The natural growth rate of population, which is the difference between Crude Birth Rate and Crude Death Rate as per Sample Registration System for the year 2000 is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) As per National Population Policy 2000, various promotional and motivational measures for adoption of small family norms have been included and are enclosed as Statement-II.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control the growth rate of population is as follows :

- An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health that include Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception has been in operation.
- Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stablization, with Community involvement in administering family planning services.
- National Population Policy 2000 has one of 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.
- An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister for focused attention on improving the converge and outreach of services in demographically weaker eight States.
- No Scalpal Vasecutomy (NSV) is encouraged to have an increased male participation in the programme.

**Statement-I**

*Natural Growth rate@*

| Sl.No. | States/Union Territories | 2000* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1.31 |
| 2. | Assam | 1.73 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 3. | Bihar | 2.31 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 1.77 |
| 5. | Haryana | 1.94 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 1.42 |
| 7. | Kerala | 1.15 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 2.10 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 1.34 |
| 10. | Orissa | 1.38 |
| 11. | Punjab | 1.42 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 2.28 |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 1.13 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 2.25 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 1.36 |
| 16. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1.63 |
| 17. | Chhattisgarh | 1.71 |
| 18. | Delhi | 1.52 |
| 19. | Goa | 0.69 |
| 20. | Himachal Pradesh | 1.49 |
| 21. | Jammu and Kashmir | 13.4 |
| 22. | Jharkhand | 1.75 |
| 23. | Manipur | 1.27 |
| 24. | Meghalaya | 1.93 |
| 25. | Mizoram | 1.17 |
| 26. | Nagaland | 0.00 |
| 27. | Sikkim | 1.61 |
| 28. | Tripura | 1.11 |
| 29. | Uttaranchal | 1.33 |
| 30. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 1.40 |
| 31. | Chandigarh | 1.36 |
| 32. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 2.71 |
| 33. | Daman and Diu | 1.71 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 2.01 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 1.13 |
| | All India | 1.73 |

●Birth Rate-Death Rate

Source : Sample Registration System

**Statement-II**

*The National Population Policy, 2000 envisages some promotional/motivational measures for adoption of small family norm. The incentives being given by the Government to encourage Samll Family Programme are given below :*

(1) Panchayats and Zila Parishads will be rewarded and honoured for exemplary performance in universalising the small family norm, ahieving reductions in infant mortality and birth rates and promoting literacy with completion of primary schooling.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) A Family Welfare-linked Health Insurance Plan will be established. Couples below the poverty line, who undrego 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.

(5) 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 norms, and adopt a terminal method after birth of the second child, will be rewarded.

*[English]*

**Sports Quota in AI and IA**

322. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sports quota jobs provided in Air India and Indian Airlines 1996 onwards year-wise;

(b) the number of posts filled from sports quota on promotion during the above period; and

(c) the percentage of women recruited/promoted in the sports quota ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Number of Accidents on National Highways in Gujarat**

323. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents on National Highways during the last three years State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured in these accidents, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct dividers on National Highways to minimise these accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other steps being taken to check such accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Details are given in Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Dividers are being provided on all National Highways having 4 lane carriageways or more. Steps taken for safety on National Highways include widening and strengthening, improvement of riding surface, reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges, construction of bypasses, geometric improvement, provision of parking laybyes, junction improvement, provision of retro-reflective road signs, thermoplastic road markings etc., depending upon availability of funds.

**Statement**

| S. No. | Name of State/ U.T. | Total Number of Accidents | | | Number of Persons Killed | | | Number of Persons Injured | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 8518 | 7203 | 8626 | 3273 | 2539 | 2815 | 10181 | 8590 | 10312 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 53 | 70 | 93 | 13 | 11 | 23 | 72 | 115 | N.A. |
| 3. | Assam | 1754 | 1889 | 1927 | 848 | 808 | 824 | 2938 | 3329 | 3016 |
| 4. | Bihar | 1899 | 2127 | N.A. | 842 | 727 | N.A. | 1510 | 1299 | N.A. |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | – | 2096 | N.A. | – | 363 | N.A. | – | 1792 | N.A. |
| 6. | Goa | 887 | 1091 | 1149 | 96 | 110 | 112 | 504 | 717 | 925 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 7758 | 1813 | 6738 | 1241 | 1973 | 1275 | 7275 | 15249 | N.A. |
| 8. | Haryana | 2779 | 2765 | 3033 | 1137 | 1150 | 1178 | 3047 | 3153 | 2893 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 829 | 709 | 1001 | 209 | 159 | 277 | 1121 | 1157 | N.A. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 2112 | 2328 | N.A. | 360 | 320 | N.A. | 2066 | 2904 | N.A. |
| 11. | Jharkhand | – | 1419 | 1392 | – | 493 | 677 | – | 1263 | 1350 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 9162 | 9605 | N.A. | 2015 | 2185 | N.A. | 10821 | 11431 | N.A. |
| 13. | Kerala | 7596 | 8512 | 10095 | 876 | 945 | 1114 | 8782 | 11801 | N.A. |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 6783 | 5611 | N.A. | 1480 | 1266 | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 15343 | 16150 | N.A. | 3181 | 3445 | N.A. | 12624 | 12266 | N.A. |
| 16. | Manipur | 214 | 217 | 208 | 73 | 56 | 45 | 375 | 363 | 416 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 159 | 186 | 235 | 78 | 66 | 63 | 219 | 129 | 254 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 36 | 31 | 52 | 16 | 33 | 43 | 49 | 31 | N.A. |
| 19. | Nagaland | 57 | 35 | 54 | 13 | 33 | 23 | 50 | 70 | 105 |
| 20. | Orissa | 2651 | 2784 | 2657 | 869 | 951 | 840 | 3701 | 3474 | N.A. |
| 21. | Punjab | 1223 | 1268 | 1256 | 887 | 823 | 861 | 1096 | 1020 | N.A. |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 6778 | 6718 | 7465 | 2313 | 2312 | 2455 | 7996 | 8341 | 9621 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 33 | 29 | N.A. | 10 | 8 | N.A. | 68 | 96 | N.A. |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 16329 | 18615 | 19881 | 3639 | 4362 | 4407 | 14706 | 20146 | N.A. |
| 25. | Tripura | 242 | 184 | 202 | 86 | 41 | 74 | 399 | 297 | N.A. |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | – | 236 | 469 | – | 142 | 321 | – | 203 | N.A. |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 6442 | 6198 | N.A. | 3700 | 3418 | N.A. | 4809 | 4362 | N.A. |
| 28. | West Bengal | 2615 | 2443 | 2791 | 1069 | 1026 | 1389 | 2645 | 3142 | N.A. |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 56 | 62 | 45 | 21 | 22 | N.A. | 48 | 59 | N.A. |
| 31. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 32. | Damand and Diu | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 33. | Delhi | 1153 | 1277 | 1123 | 296 | 330 | 268 | 650 | 1013 | N.A. |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 378 | 537 | 595 | | 99 | 2 | 375 | 552 | N.A. |
| | Total | 103839 | 110508 | 71087 (P) | 28713 | 30216 | 19086 (P) | 98427 (P) | 118364 (P) | 28892 (P) |

N.A. – Not Available, P – Provisional

**Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding**

324. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for Internatinal Understanding has been held up by the Government;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the resons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding is a continuing award given for oustanding contribution to the promotion of International understanding goodwill and friendship among the peoples of the world. The selection for the award is made by an independent jury appointed by the Government of India comprising the Hon'ble Vice-President of India and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India.

No award has been conferred since 1995. The matter is being reviewed administratively with a view to making this prestigious award regular.

**Kidney Problem in Children**

325. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that kidney problems in children is on the rise in the country

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness amongst the populace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government have not come across any reports indicating such a trend.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Opening of Ayurvedic Colleges**

326. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Ayurvedic Colleges in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government received any proposal from the State Governments for the opening of Ayurvedic Colleges during the year 2002-2003;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) List enclosed as Statement.

(b) to (d) As per procedure, approval of Central Council for Indian Medicine is sought for starting a course in Ayurveda.

**Statement**

*State-wise list of Ayurvedic College*

| S.No. | State | College |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 04 |
| 2. | Assam | 01 |
| 3. | Bihar | 11 |
| 4. | Chhatisgarh | 01 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 01 |
| 6. | Delhi | 01 |
| 7. | Goa | 01 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 10 |
| 9. | Haryana | 06 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 01 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 01 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 12. | Jharkhand | 01 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 46 |
| 14. | Kerala | 10 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 14 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 59 |
| 17. | Orissa | 06 |
| 18. | Punjab | 11 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 04 |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 06 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 12 |
| 22. | Uttaranchal | 03 |
| 23. | West Bengal | 03 |
| | Total | 213 |

*[English]*

**Computers to Educational Institutions**

327. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a provision to provide computers to educational institutions has been made in the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of agencies authorised in each State for installing these computers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMNTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the guidelines, computers can be installed under the Scheme only in Government and Government aided educational institutions. The guidelines allow purchase of initial software, computer furniture and training of 2 existing teachers along with purchase of computer hardware.

(d) The implementing agency for works including the installation of computers, under the MPLAD Scheme is to be decided by the District Head concerned.

**National Highway-52**

328. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a project-proposal for diversion of National Highway-52 in around Lakhimpur Town in Assam;

(b) if so, the details and cost thereof;

(c) whether the same has been approved and expenditure thereof sanctioned, if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in taking up and execution of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) A proposal for construction of an alternate road, after abandoning the road stretch from Km. 398 to Km. 400 on National Highway 52, has been made by Assam Government. However, in view of demerits of the proposals on account of increase in length of National Highway 52 by approximately 24 Km and problem of large acuqisition of land, the same is not considered feasible.

**Status of Sethusamudram Canal Project**

329. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in respect of Sethusamudram Canal project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether revised estimate of the project has been made; and

(c) if so, by when the Government is likely to allocate funds for this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARSAR) : (a) to (c) National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

(NEERI), Nagpur has been entrusted the task of conducting techno-economic viability and detailed environment assessment studies to be completed by May, 2003. Estimate of the project cannot be prepared at this stage.

**Youth Development Centres in Chandigarh**

330. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Youth Development Centres presently working in U.T. Chandigarh, location-wise; and

(b) activities undertaken by them during the last three years and the amount spent thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) No YDC has been established in the U.T. of Chandigarh so far.

**Bringing back Personal belongings of Freedom Fighters**

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

(a) whether the Government have held any talks with Pakistan for bringing back personal belongings of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdeo and Rajguru from there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Pakistan thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government had requested Government of Pakistan to return the personal effects of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdeo and Rajguru. Government of Pakistan, however, informed that concerned authorities had indicated their inability to locate the articles as the jail in which Shaheed Bhagat Singh and others were hanged in 1931 was demolished and all records of temporary nature were destroyed.

**Motor Vehicle Act**

332. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there have been several speed breakers on the National Highways;

(b) if so, whether it is not violation of Motor Vehicle Act;

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

(d) the action taken propose to be taken to remove all those speed breakers on the National Highways ?

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

(b) As per the policy of this Ministry, no speed breakers are allowed on National Highways. However, rumble strips may be provided at places where control of speed is unavoidable.

(c) and (d) State Governments have been requested to remove all the speed breakers from National Highways and replace them by rumble strips with proper signages and markings, where necessary.

*[Translation]*

**Postal Services in Gujarat**

333. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) the number of complaints regarding sub-standard postal services received during the last two years;

(b) the nature of complaints;

(c) whether any negligence on the part of the officers and employees have also come to the fore while inquiring into such complaints; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against these negligence of employees and officers and the outcome of the action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Number of complaints about sub-standard postal services received in Gujarat during the past two years are as under :-

| Year | No. of complaints |
|---|---|
| 2001-2001 | 542 |
| 2001-2002 | 445 |

(b) The complaints were mainly about delay in delivery of mails and payment of money orders, loss of articles, deduction of Income Tax at source, refusal of acceptance of telephone bills, shortage of revenue stamps and KVPs, irregular return and taxing of articles and misbehaviour of staff.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In 27 complaints cases action against the erring officials was taken as per CCS(CCA) Rules 1965 and CCS (conduct) Rules 1964 depending on the gravity of offence with various kinds of punishment like issue of warning, censure, withholding of increment, suspension of officials, reduction in time scale of pay and reduction to lower grade.

**Development of Roads in Jharkhand/Bihar**

334. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposal sent by the Jharkhand/ Bihar Government from March 1, 2001 to October, 2002 for construction of new National Highways, conversion of State Highways into National Highways, construction of By-Pass four laning of National Highways and construction of bridges on National Highways; and

(b) the action taken so far 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) Details regarding development works on new National Highways, construction of By-pass, four laning and bridges on National Highways in the States of Jharkhand and Bihar are enclosed as Statement-I and II.

As regards conversion of State Highways into National Highways, all proposals for declaration of State Highways as National Highways received from the State Governments have been returned in June 2002 for review based on revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently, there is ban on declaration of new National Highways, due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of Tenth Five year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

**Statement-I**

*Details regarding development works on new National Highways, construction of By-pass, four laning and bridges on Naitonal Highways in the States of Jharkhand and Bihar*

**(A) Jharkhand**

| Sl. No. | Description | Proposals received | | Proposals Sanctioned | | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Development works on new National Highways | 15 | 28.21 | 07 | 14.85 | Remaining proposals will be considered depending on availability of additional funds and inter-se priority. |
| 2. | Construction of By-Pass | Nil | – | Nil | – | Survey and investigation and project preparation of Ranchi by-pass is in progress by the State Government |
| 3. | Four laning | Nil | – | Nil | – | Project preparation of four laning of NH-33 from Barhi to Ranchi is in progress. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | A proposal was received from State Government regarding preparation of DPR for four laning of Barhi to Bahragora Section of NH-33, Ramgarh to Chas section of NH-23 and Chas to Dhanbad section of NH-32 for taking up these works on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The State Government has been advised to carry out Feasibility Study to examine the viability of the projects on BOT basis, in the first instance. |
| 4. | Construction of briges | 05 | 11.88 | 03 | 7.86 | Remaining proposals will be considered depending on availability of additional funds and inter-se priority. |

**Statement-II**

**(B) Bihar**

| Sl. No. | Description | Proposals received | | Proposals Sanctioned | | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | No. | Amount (Rs. in crore) | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Development works on new National Highways | 97 | 240.31 | 34 | 76.54 | Remaining proposals will be considered depending on availability of additional funds and inter-se priority. |
| 2. | Construction of By-Pass | Nil | – | Nil | – | |
| 3. | Four laning | Nil | – | Nil | – | Project preparations for four laning of following sections are in progress :<br>(i) Patna-Muzaffarpur section of NH 77/19<br>(ii) Patna-Bakhtiarpur section of NH 30 |
| 4. | Construction of bridges | 23 | 111.88 | 15 | 30.24 | Remaining proposals will be considered depending on availability of additional funds and inter-se priority. |

**Promotion of Sports**

335. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

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

(a) whether there is shortage of sports sites and stadium to promote sports at district level in the country;

(b) whether some State Governments have sent proposals and sought financial assistance from his Ministry for construction/development of sports sites and stadiums, State-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his Ministry provides grants to the Non-Government Organisations in the country for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether his Ministry propose to formulate a 'National Scheme' in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) 'Sports' is a State subject. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Govement to create various Sports facilities including Stadiums to promote sports at all level. However, in order to supplementary the efforts of the State Government in this direction, Central assistance is provided to State Governments/Municipal Corporations etc. on matching share basis for creation of various sports facilities under the scheme of Grants for Greation of Sports Infrastructure, subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the States.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure", 841 proposals have been received from the State Governments etc. from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 (15-11-2002), out of which 341 proposals have been approved with Central assistance of Rs. 9955.153 lakhs. The remaining proposals were found deficient and the concerned State Governments were informed suitably. State-wise details of proposals received and approved have been indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. NGOs who are active in the field of sports are provided grants in accordance with the approved pattern of assistance under the above mentioned scheme, subject to the receipt of viable proposals in the prescribed manner through the State Government.

(f) No, Sir.

**Statement**

| Sl. No. | States | No. of proposals received | No. of proposals approved | Central assistance (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 25 | 19 | 887.21 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 22 | 10 | 944.40 |
| 3. | Assam | 23 | 4 | 105.63 |
| 4. | Bihar | 4 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5. | Chattisgarh | 10 | 6 | 286.60 |
| 6. | Goa | 5 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 3 | 1 | 60.00 |
| 8. | Haryana | 41 | 8 | 260.22 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 35 | 25 | 581.789 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 84 | 31 | 489.69 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 1 | 1 | 35.45 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 43 | 12 | 526.03 |
| 13. | Kerala | 26 | 9 | 153.99 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradsesh | 60 | 35 | 618.064 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 66 | 22 | 873.40 |
| 16. | Manipur | 31 | 9 | 191.285 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 11 | 2 | 158.13 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 51 | 15 | 363.02 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 74 | 12 | 365.19 |
| 20. | Orissa | 30 | 8 | 33.34 |
| 21. | Punjab | 30 | 21 | 1280.49 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 17 | 4 | 64.515 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 42 | 40 | 684.37 |
| 25. | Tripura | 11 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 36 | 9 | 187.88 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal Pradesh | 7 | 7 | 643.96 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 53 | 31 | 160.50 |
| | Total | 841 | 341 | 9955.153 |

*[English]*

**Release of Commemorative of Postage Stamps**

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

(a) the criteria being followed for releasing the commemorative postage stamps in honour of distinguished Indian personalities;

(b) the details of the proposals pending/under consideration for release of commemorative postage stamps;

(c) the time by which decision is likely to be taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government have released commemorative postage stamps in the memory of any industrialist/sports person in the past; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Proposals for commemorative postage stamps, including those on distinguished Indian personalities, are examined in the light of specific guidelines for the purpose. These guidelines, inter alia, stipulate that personalities on whom commemorative stamps may be issued should be of national or international importance and the occasion to be commemorated, should be of birth centenary or to mark the 10th/25th/50th/100th death anniversary. Not more than one stamp is generally issued on the same personality and the guidelines also stipulate that stamps may not be issued in honour of individuals whose main achievements are confined to the field of religion. Further, the guidelines require that no stamp on living personality be issued, and normally, out of the total commemorative stamps issued in a year, stamps on personalities are not to exceed 25%.

(b) The list is enclosed as Statement-I.

(c) Proposals received for issue of special/commemorative stamps are examined by the Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) on the basis of guidelines on the subject to ensure philatelic value of stamps. Final decision regarding the proposals will have to await the views of the Committee.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The list is at Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Details of the Proposals on Personalities Pending/Under Consideration for Release of Commemorative Postage Stamps*

1 Jyoti Prasad Agarwala

2. Ashok Kumar

3. Prafulla Chandra Chaki

4. Shenoi Goembab

5. Dula Bhaya Kag

6. Balmukund Gupt

7. Doddappa Appa

8. P.N. Panicker

9. Chattampi Swamikal

10. Manikkoth Ramunni Nair Sanjayam

11. Padumlal Punnalal Bakshi

12. Dr. A.N. Bhalerao

13. Barada Ukil

14. Pt. Damodar Mishra

15. Laxmikanta Mahapatra

16. Raghunath Mohanty and Dibakar Parida

17. Sardar Baldev Singh

18. Sahir Ludhianvi

19. Neerja Bhanot

20. Bade Ghulam Ali Khan

21. M.R. Morarka

22. Maharaja Sawant Singh

23. Mukut Behari Bhargava

24. K. Kamaraj

25. Sant Kavi Dadu Dayal

26. Gujar Mal Modi

27. Preonath Sen

28. Pankaj Mullick

29. Mahanambrata Brahmachari
30. Aditya Vikram Birla
31. Mutnuri Krishna Rao
32. G.G. alias 'Dhumketu'
33. Krantisinha Nana Patil
34. Laxminarayan Sudhanshu
35. Ilachandra Joshi
36. Bahinabai Choudhary
37. Gopal Singh Nepali
38. Tilka Manjhi
39. Shyam Barthwar
40. Dr. Talimaren Aao
41. Govindrao Pansare
42. Sriranga
43. Adya Rangacharya
44. Tallapaka Annamacharya
45. Prof. Atula Chandra Hazarika
46. Dadaji Kond Dev
47. Raghunath Murmu
48. Purshottam Meghji Kabali
49. Rao Kumpaji Rathore

**Statement-II**

(a) *List of Stamps on Industrialists*

| Name | Date of Release |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Jamsetji Tata | 01.03.1958 |
| 2. Laxmanrao Kirloskar | 07.01.1965 |
| 3. Ardaseer Cursetji Wadia | 20.06.1969 |
| 4. Dr. M. Visvervaraya | 15.09.1960 |
| 5. Jamna Lal Bajaj | 04.11.1970 |
| 6. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai | 05.09.1972 |
| 7. Narottam Morarjee | 02.04.1977 |
| 8. G.D. Birla | 11.06.1984 |
| 9. J.R.D. Tata | 29.11.1994 |
| 10. A.D. Shroff | 09.10.1999 |
| 11. Chhaganlal K. Parekh | 09.10.1999 |

(b) *List of Stamps on Sports persons*

| Name | Date of Release |
|---|---|
| 1. K.S. Ranjit Sinhji | 27.09.1973 |
| 2. Dhyan Chand | 03.12.1980 |
| 3. Col. C.K. Nayudu | 13.03.1996 |
| 4. Vinoo Mankad | 13.03.1996 |
| 5. Vijay Merchant | 13.03.1996 |
| 6. Prof. D.B. Deodhar | 13.03.1996 |
| 7. Gostha Paul | 20.08.1998 |
| 8. Arati Gupta (Saha) | 29.09.1999 |

**Assistance of World Bank to Kerala**

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

(a) whether the Kerala Government has recently submitted a proposal for World Bank assistance for the development of State/district level hospitals in the State; 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) The State Government of Kerala has submitted a project proposal on Kerala Secondary Health System Development project with an estimated outlay of Rs. 810.47 crores for assistance from World Bank. This project is under examination.

**Bringing back Ashes of Shyamji Krishna Varma**

338. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take up with

Switzerland the issue of bringing back ashes of Shyamji Krishna Varma to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government, through the Consulate General of India in Geneva, has taken up the matter with the concerned authorities of the Canton of Geneva. The fact, whether or not the late Shyamji Krishna Varma has any living blood relations, is being ascertained before a formal proposal for the return of the ashes is forwarded to the authorities of the Canton of Geneva.

**World Bank Aid for PHC in Karnataka**

339. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought Rs. 700 crore from the World Bank for Primary Health Centres in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have forwarded this proposal to the World Bank; 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 State Government of Kernataka has submitted a project proposal on 'Karnataka Integrated Health, Nutrition and Family Welfare Services Development Project' with an estimate of Rs. 790 crores for assistance from World Bank. This project is under examination.

**Villages without Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) the number of villages which are still to be provided with post office facilities in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise; and

(b) by when all these villages in the State are likely to be provided the post office facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) All the villages in the country including those in Andhra Pradesn have been provided with the post office facility of daily delivery and collection of mails and sale of postal stationary and stamps.

**Pending Passport Applications in Gujarat**

341. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Regional Passport Offices in Gujarat location-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending in these offices for issuance of Passports;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more passport offices to meet the requirement of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Regional Passport Office at Ahmedabad is presently the only Passport Office in the State of Gujarat.

(b) The number of applications pending at the Regional Passport Office, Ahmedabad as on 08.11.2002 is 37,699. An application is considered pending when the application is complete in all respects and a clear police verification report has been received.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to open a Passport Office at Surat. Staff for deployment at Passport Office, Surat, have also been earmarked. An accommodation, where the new Passport Office will be located, has now been identified with the help of State Government of Gujarat and the modalities for its leasing are being worked out.

**Fault Repair Service in Rural Areas of Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) the details of steps proposed to ensure early fault repair service for rural areas in Andhra Pradesh

(b) whether the officials of BSNL routinely inspect telecom facilities in distant areas; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken to improve service in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) The following steps are being taken to ensure early fault repair serice :-

(i) Computerized fault repair service centers are available at short distance charging centers (SDCCs).

(ii) During crisis events and monsoon, control rooms are being manned to monitor and rectify the faults immediately.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Following steps are taken to improve service in these areas :-

(i) Routine inspections are being carried out by Officers of various levels. During the inspection, if any defects are found in the system, they are being rectified immediately.

(ii) For improving the services in these areas, augmention of transmission media, replacement of life expired and faulty infrastructure are carried out.

**National Institute for Communicable Diseases**

343. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) fulfilled its role of being an active institution with the ability fo forewarn the Government of impending diseases and other health related problems;

(b) whether the NICD is unable to respond immediately to the crisis situations around the country;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the NICD a more active body;

(d) whether the Government propose to bifurcate the National Institute for Communicable Diseases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) is the nodal agency for National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases, launched in 1997-98 with the objective of generating early warning signals of outbreaks due to epidemic prone diseases and providing rapid response thereto through capacity building, laboratory strengthening etc. NICD has responded immediately by investigating a total of 75 outbreaks of conducting health status assesssments during 1997-2001 all over the country relating to different diseases on the request of various State Governments.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Visit of Malaysian Prime Minister**

344. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Malaysia visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr. Mahathir Mohamad visited India from October 16-18, 2002 for the ASEAN-India Business Summit.

(b) During his call on the President and in his meeting with the Prime Minister, issues concerning bilateral cooperation in various fields such as trade, infrastructure projects, defence, information technology, petrochemicals etc. were discussed. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest including ASEAN, Non Aligned Movement, United Nations and World Trade Organisation.

(c) The discussions have helped in fostering greater understanding about each other's perspectives and concerns.

*[Translation]*

**Violations of LAC by China**

345. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether violations of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by the Chinese Army have come to notice recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The resolution of the boundary question between India and China is outstanding. The two sides also have differences in perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas. Both sides carry out patrolling activity in the India-China border areas. Transgressions of the LAC are taken up through diplomatic channels and at Border Personnel Meetings/Flag Meetings.

India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peacful consultations. An Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas was signed in 1993 and a second agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas was signed in 1996. These two Agreements provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas

Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary and apropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.

*[English]*

**Incidence of TB among Hospital Staff**

346. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of employees have been suffering from TB in LRS Institute of Tuberculosis and allied diseases in Delhi as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated August 09, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the position in regard to other TB hospitals in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no authentic data/information in India to suggest that there is rise of TB among hospital staff. The estimated incidence of TB in the country is 0.22% per annum. So far as LRS Institute of TB and Allied Diseases, Delhi, referred in 'The Hindustan Times' dated August 09, 2002 is concerned, only 30 employees out of 600 had suffered from TB at some time or other during past more than 15 years. Only on out of four patients, mentioned in the Newspaper report, has actually died of TB.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are well defined guidelines for prevention of hospital acquired infection for implementation by the hospitals. So far LRS Institute of TB and Allied Diseases, Delhi referred in 'The Hindustan Times' dated August 09, 2002 is concerned, the steps taken by the authorities are placed at Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

The following Steps have been taken at LRS Institute of TB & Allied Diseases, Delhi to prevent spread of infection among hospital staff :

1. The health workers handling infectious agents at all levels are provided with gloves, masks and for processing the samples they are provided high quality class-I biological safety cabinets which have in built violet light and with HEPA filters.
2. In the washing room in the Microbiological department all infected material is made non-infectious by auto claving prior to washing.
3. All the staff has been given training (including Class III & IV staff) in handling infectious and non-infectious material including bio medical waste.
4. Weekly inspection by the waste management team in carried out in the Institute to ensure that policy in this regard is followed.
5. All necessary arrangements in the Public places have been made (OPD/Hospital compound) for proper disposal of waste by general public/patients/relatives and health education announcements are made in the OPD daily. Health education talks/skits are done on regular basis for awareness for staff/patients and their relatives.
6. The Institute has fully approved waste management system by Delhi Pollution Control Board.
7. All the sputum collection containers are boiled as per standard norms before discarding sputum on routine basis.
8. The hospital infectious waste disposal is specifically looked into by the Senior Administrative staff during their daily inspection rounds.

**Implementation of NTCP**

347. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI AKHILESH YADAV :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

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

(a) whether the performance of States in implementing the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTCP) in much below the stipulated targets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the grants released to District Tuberculosis Control Societies and assistance provided to NGOs during the last three years were fully utilized;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the total aid/assistance received from the World Bank/Foreign Agencies during the said period was fully utilized; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) To control problem of tuberculosis, National TB Control Programme (NTCP) has been in operation since 1962. Since the Programme did not make any significant epidemiological impact in its almost three decades of implementation, it was reviewed by an Expert Committee in 1992 and some of the reasons found for low success of the programme are as under :

* Inadequate budget and insufficient managerial capacity
* Shortage of drugs
* Emphasis on x-ray diagnosis resulting in inaccurate diagnosis
* Poor quality sputum microscopy
* Multiplicity of treatment regimens

On the recommendations of the above committee. Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) was lunached in 1997 with an objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. The RNTCP is being implementing in phased manner and thus NTCP is being phased out. The present coverage under RNTCP is about 502 million population and it is envisaged to cover 700 million by 2004 and the entire country by 2005. Under the Programme all diagnostic and treatment facilities including supply of anti TB drugs for full course of treatment are provided free of cost to the TB patients. The project districts have reported treatment success rate of more than 80%, which means that 8 out of every 10 TB patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are successfully treated as against less than 4 in the previous programme. State-wise performance under RNTCP as per quarterly performance report ending June 2002 is given in Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Funds to the State/Districts TB Societies were released for undertaking various activities for implementation of RNTCP. As RNTCP was a new strategy of TB Control and large number of preparatory activities were required to adopt this strategy, in the initial period, there had been low utilization of funds. However, utilisation has gradually increased. Funds are released on a non lapsable basis and attempts are being made to ensure that minimum balances are at Districts subject to there being enough funds available for all activities. As regard NGO's it is stated that involvement of NGO's under RNTCP and relese of funds to them has been decentralized to the district level. About 510 NGOs are now participating in RNTCP and funds utilization has increased. Wherever necessary, funds have been reallocated for other requirements.

(e) and (f) The World Bank Project for implementation of RNTCP was launched in 1997 to cover a population of 271 million in 102 districts and to strengthen 203 districts having population of 447 million to prepare them to adopt RNTCP at a later stage at a cost of Rs. 604 crores for a period of 5 years. Till date about 502 million population in 248 districts have been covered under the revised strategy. However, due to low cost of anti TB drugs and binocular microscopes than envisaged in the Project and in-built provision for contingencies to the extent of 25% of the cost of the Project which was not required to be utilized, till date total expenditure has been Rs. 220 crores. In view of the encouraging results of the Project and to utilize the savings, it has been decided to extend the Project till March 2004 to cover a population of 700 million. The assistance of DANIDA and DFID is being utilized in the implemention of RNTCP in State of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh respectively. Out of 30 districts of Orissa 14 are already under service delivery and the remaining are being prepared for adoption of revised strategy. In case of Andhra Pradesh out of 23 districts 9 are under service delivery and preparations are underway for introduction of service delivery in remaining districts. These projects are till 2002-03.

**Statement**

*Quarterly Performance report ending June 2002*

*Performance of RNTCP Case Detection (2002, Second Quarter), Smear Conversion (2002, First Quarter), and Treatment Outcomes (2001, Second Quarter)*

| State | Population (in lakh) | Total No. of districts | No. of districts Implementing RNTCP | Percentage out-patients examined | Percentage s+ve patients living in the district placed on DOTS | Total patients treated | Annualized total case detection rate | New smear +ve patients treated | Annualized smear +ve case detection rate | Percentage of estimated new smear +ve cases detected* | Ratio of smear -ve to smear +ve patients | 3 month conversion rate of new smear +ve patients | Cure rate of new smear +ve paitents* | Success rate of new smear +ve patients* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 255 | 23 | 8 | 2.4% | 95% | 8762 | 137 | 3878 | 61 | 72% | 0.8 | 85% | 72% | 76% |
| Assam | 12 | 23 | 1 | 3.0% | 95% | 514 | 175 | 237 | 81 | 95% | 0.5 | 88% | 82% | 86% |
| Bihar | 112 | 37 | 3 | 6.3% | 98% | 2598 | 93 | 1085 | 39 | 46% | 0.8 | 93% | 91% | 92% |
| Chandigarh | 9 | 1 | 1 | 3.2% | 83% | 427 | 190 | 144 | 64 | 75% | 0.8 | 73% | | |
| Delhi | 138 | 20 | 20 | 2.1% | 91% | 9545 | 277 | 3258 | 94 | 111% | 0.6 | 86% | 84% | 85% |
| Gujarat | 480 | 31 | 24 | 2.0% | 89% | 15093 | 126 | 6514 | 54 | 64% | 0.5 | 89% | 80% | 81% |
| Haryana | 51 | 19 | 3 | 4.1% | 96% | 2253 | 176 | 892 | 70 | 82% | 0.7 | 86% | 82% | 83% |
| Himachal Pradesh | 61 | 12 | 12 | 2.4% | 93% | 3664 | 241 | 1389 | 91 | 79% | 0-6 | 93% | 89% | 90% |
| Jharkhand | 49 | 18 | 2 | 3.9% | 99% | 1562 | 128 | 700 | 57 | 68% | 0.8 | 94% | 90% | 90% |
| Karnataka | 218 | 28 | 11 | 2.7% | 97% | 6900 | 127 | 2950 | 54 | 64% | 0.8 | 89% | 82% | 83% |
| Kerala | 318 | 14 | 14 | 1.4% | 97% | 5998 | 75 | 2682 | 34 | 67% | 0.5 | 90% | 87% | 88% |
| Madhya Pradesh | 65 | 45 | 5 | 2.0% | 87% | 1748 | 132 | 628 | 47 | 56% | 1-0 | 83% | 86% | 87% |
| Maharashtra | 731 | 48 | 32 | 2.4% | 93% | 21630 | 121 | 7903 | 44 | 51% | 0.9 | 88% | 81% | 82% |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manipur | 24 | 8 | 8 | 4.4% | 100% | 1655 | 277 | 459 | 77 | 77% | 1.5 | 88% | 85% | 85% |
| Orissa | 139 | 30 | 14 | 1.7% | 83% | 4640 | 141 | 2457 | 73 | 86% | 0.5 | 88% | 84% | 86% |
| Punjab | 18 | 17 | 1 | 2.2% | 95% | 366 | 80 | 186 | 40 | 48% | 0.3 | 91% | 78% | 81% |
| Rajasthan | 565 | 32 | 32 | 2.7% | 91% | 25175 | 178 | 10261 | 73 | 86% | 0.7 | 91% | 85% | 86% |
| Sikkim | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2.1% | 75% | 263 | 195 | 155 | 115 | 135% | 0.6 | 85% | | |
| Tamil Nadu | 621 | 29 | 29 | 1.5% | 94% | 20509 | 132 | 8087 | 52 | 61% | 0.9 | 89% | 81% | 83% |
| Uttar Pradesh | 206 | 70 | 9 | 4.2% | 95% | 8620 | 167 | 3722 | 72 | 85% | 0.7 | 91% | 90% | 90% |
| West Begnal | 722 | 18 | 15 | 1.9% | 93% | 17711 | 118 | 7624 | 51 | 59% | 0.7 | 87% | 81% | 83% |
| Grand Total | 4799 | 527 | 248 | 2.1% | 92% | 159633 | 137 | 65211 | 56 | 66% | 0.7 | 89% | 83% | 84% |

* Case detection rate totals based on districts implementing for more than one quarter. Estimated total new smear-positive cases adjusted for available data on Annual Risk of Infection (ARI) for Kerala (estimated new smear positive cases=50/lakh), Himachal Pradesh (estimated new smear positive cases=115/lakh) and Manipur (estimated new smear +ve cases 100 per lakh). For all other States, estimated total new smear-positive cases=85/lakh.

* Cure rate and success rate are not expected for States that began implementing RNTCP after second quarter of 2001.

**Passports to Underworld Don**

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

(a) the places in India from where Abu Salem, the underworld don, and his accomplice got passports;

(b) whether these passports were issued under fictitious names;

(c) if so, whether enquiries have been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against those found guilty in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Abu Salem has been issued passports from Lucknow, Bhopal and Hyderabad. Monica Bedi has been issued passports from Bhopal, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

(b) Yes, Sir. Except for the passport issued to Monica Bedi from Regional Passport Office, Mumbai on June 24, 1999 in her real name, all other passports have been obtained by them under fictitious names.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) All the passports mentioned above have been revoked by the concerned passport offices. A case filed by Special Task Force (CBI) in connection with the issue of passports to Abu Salem from Regional Passport Office, Lucknow is pending trial in the court. Investigations by the police of the respective States are also going on regarding the issue of passports to Abu Salem and Monica Bedi from Hyderabad and Bhopal.

**Medical/Dental Colleges**

349. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

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

(a) the number of medical/dental colleges in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the norms fixed by the Government for giving approval to open the medical/dental colleges;

(c) the number of proposals of the State Governments pending with the Union Government for opening of medical/dental colleges, State-wise;

(d) the time by when these proposals are likely to be approved;

(e) whether the Government are providing any incentives to the private institutions for opening medical/dental colleges; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The detailed procedure has been prescribed in Ragulations notified by the Medical Council of India (Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999) and the Dental Council of India (Establishment of new Dental College, opening of higher courses of study and increase in admission capacity in dental college Regulations, 1993).

(c) The details are as under :-

| S. No. | Name of the State | Number of Proposal pending | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Medical College | Dental College |
| 1. | Government of Maharashtra | 2 | – |
| 2. | Government of Tripura | 1 | – |
| 3. | Government of Chattisgarh | – | 1 |
| 4. | Government of West Bengal | 2 | – |

(d) The clearance of these proposal depends on the fulfillment of the qualifying criteria, availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations thereon of the concerned Professional Councils.

(e) No, Sir.

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

**Statement**

| S. No. | Name of the State/UT | No. of Medical Colleges | No. of Dental Colleges |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 21 | 13 |
| 2. | Assam | 3 | 1 |
| 3. | Bihar | 8 | 7 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 2 | 1 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 1 | – |
| 6. | Delhi | 5 | 1 |
| 7. | Goa | 1 | 1 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 10 | 4 |
| 9. | Haryana | 2 | 6 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 2 | 4 |
| 11. | Jammu and Kashmir | 4 | 1 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 3 | – |
| 13. | Karnataka | 30 | 41 |
| 14. | Kerala | 11 | 5 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 6 | 3 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 35 | 21 |
| 17. | Manipur | 1 | – |
| 18. | Orissa | 3 | 2 |
| 19. | Punjab | 6 | 11 |
| 20. | Pondicherry | 5 | 1 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 7 | 4 |
| 22. | Sikkim | 1 | – |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 17 | 14 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 12 | 18 |
| 25. | Uttaranchal | 1 | |
| 26. | West bengal | 7 | 2 |
| | Total | 204 | 161 |

**Action Plan for Development**

350. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted a group of Ministers to draw up a plan to make India a "fully developed" nation in the fullest sense of the term within he shortest time frame; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in that direction by the Government and the time frame within which the Government has to prepare the blueprint of such a plan of action ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Uniformity in Pensions**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring uniformity in pensions throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) A proposal to introduce a pension scheme for the unorganized sector is under examination in the Government.

*[English]*

**Review of Performance of Sports Persons**

352. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

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

(a) whether Government are periodically reviewing the performance of our sportsmen and sports women after every international meet/event;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps already taken and proposed to be taken to upgrade Indian sports and games ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFARIS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) After every international meet/event, the report of the coach/manager is called for from the concerned National Sports Federation (NSF) and the performance of each participant is critically examined and corrective measures are taken. Apart from this, while considering any proposal from a NSF for participation in an international sports event, the past and current performance of selected sportspersons in national/ international events is also critically reviewed.

(c) Upgradtion of sports and games in our country is, primarily, the responsibility of the concerned NSFs which are registered societies and autonomous in their functioning. However, the Government supplements their efforts by providing assistance for foreign exposure, holding of national championships at sub-junior, junior and senior level, organisation of international tournaments in India, procurment of equipments, coaching/training under Indian and foreign coaches and by providing requisite technical and scientific back-up under the scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations.

**Involvement of Corporates in Population Control**

353. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of corporate houses have shown keen interest to join hands to stabilize population growth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the areas where these corporate houses have shown interest in stabilizing population growth; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The corporate houses are extending support in the population stablisation efforts in the country by providing financial assistance to research institutions such as the Population Foundation of India, manufacturing and marketing of contraceptives, advocacy through NGOs and information and communication campaigns through multi media channels and undertaking community-based initiatives for the promoting small family norm.

**Number of Sports Centres in Gujarat**

354. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Sports Centres in the State of Gujarat for school children;

(b) the amount of grant given by the Central Government to these centres during the last three years till date, year-wise;

(c) the result-oriented improvements noticed on account of allocation grants by the Central Government; and

(d) when the last State level Sports meet was held in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Eradication of Plague**

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

(a) whether the Government are considreing re-examining of the plague prone areas in the country so as to prevent further outbreak of plague, especially after the outbreak of plague in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the plague-prone areas, State-wise;

(c) whether any joint efforts with World Health Organisation are being made by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The plague endemic areas have alredy been identified by National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) and its unit located at Bangalore co-ordinates the surveillance for plague in these endemic area of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Training of field staff from the States in the methodology to plague surveillance is undertaken from time to time. The surveillance activities are reviewed periodically in the Inter-State plague co-ordination meetings attended by the representatives from endemic States. For making prompt reliable diagnosis of this disease, a State of art laboratory, meeting all safety and diagnostic criteria of WHO is in existence at National Institute of Communicable Dieseases headquarter.

(c) and (d) WHO provides technical assistance as and when requested. An expert group consultation on plague surveillance and outbreak response was held in July this year at Bangalore which was organized by WHO and participated by India, Myanmar and Indonesia. The focus was on developing plan of action for plague surveillance and control and appropriate media strategies in relation to plague.

**Introduction of Abortion Pills (M.T. Pills)**

356. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce the Abortion Pill (M.T. Pill) in the National Family Welfare Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the guidelines formulated for streamlining the distribution of the pill in order to ensure it safe and informal use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

**New Indo-Nepal Formula on Deportation**

357. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Nepal have worked out a New Formula on Deportation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Malnutrition**

358. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) the percentage of children in the age group of 5, 10 and 15 years who are affected by malnutrition in the country;

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

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the diseases children may get affected due to malnutrition; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) As per India Nutrition Profile, 1998, covering 187 districts of 18 States/Union Territories, the percentage of children affected by malnutrition in different age groups covering 5, 10 and 15 years is given at Statement enclosed. Malnutrition occurs due to combination of several factors such as poverty leading to low purchasing power, inadequate food, poor socio-economic status of women; female illiteracy, low access of population to health services, education, safe drinking water, environmental sanitation etc.

(d) The severe form the under-nutrition may lead to marasamus, kwashiorkor in small childern, anaemia, multiple Vitamin Deficiency Disorders, Iodine Deficiency Disorders etc. and it can increase morbidity in disease situations such as respiratory diseases, diarrhoea etc.

(e) The Government has taken the following steps to improve the health and nutritional status of people in the country :-

- Increased Agricultural Production.
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.
- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distribution System.
- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding.
- Supplementary feeding programmes such as :
  - (i) Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS).
  - (ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP).
  - (iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP).
  - (iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme.
  - (v) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojana (PMGY).
  - (vi) Mid-day Meal Programme.
- Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorders such as :
  - (i) National Iodine Deficinecy Disorders Control Programme.
  - (ii) Programme to prevent Blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency and nutritional anaemia due to Iron deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme.
  - (iii) Pilot Project for control of Micro-nutrient Malnutrition.

**Statement**

*Status of Children with different forms of Under Nutrition in States/UT's*

| S. No. | States/UT's | Age-Group (yrs) | Mild Under-Nutrition (%) | Moderate Under-Nutrition (%) | Severe Under-Nutirtion (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Haryana | 3-5 | 44.7 | 29.2 | 3.7 |
| | | 6-9 | 41.5 | 38.1 | 6.6 |
| | | 14-17 | 40.8 | 40.8 | 11.8 |
| 2. | Himachal | 3-5 | 52.8 | 34.2 | 2.7 |
| | Pradesh | 6-9 | 33.2 | 52.0 | 9.9 |
| | | 14-17 | 32.5 | 47.3 | 16.8 |
| 3. | Punjab | 3-5 | 46.1 | 29.6 | 3.1 |
| | | 6-9 | 42.8 | 36.0 | 4.5 |
| | | 14-17 | 36.1 | 41.5 | 10.0 |
| 4. | Rajasthan | 3-5 | 38.4 | 39.2 | 9.5 |
| | | 10 | 29.9 | 40.0 | 15.7 |
| | | 15 | 36.7 | 36.0 | 13.5 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 3-5 | 56.0 | 26.0 | 4.0 |
| 6. | Delhi | 3-5 | 48.6 | 25.1 | 7.9 |
| 7. | Bihar | 3-5 | 28.7 | 32.2 | 22.6 |
| | | 10 | 25.4 | 37.3 | 21.0 |
| | | 15 | 36.3 | 34.6 | 18.6 |
| 8. | Sikkim | 3-5 | 43.6 | 33.5 | 6.08 |
| | | 5-12 | 36.2 | 34.9 | 6.9 |
| | | 13-18 | 30.9 | 25.0 | 8.5 |
| 9. | Arunachal | 3-5 | 37.8 | 58.2 | 2.3 |
| | Pradesh | 5-12 | 24.7 | 57.6 | 9.0 |
| | | 12-18 | 13.2 | 45.3 | 15.0 |
| 10. | Assam | 3-5 | 46.5 | 21.7 | 3.0 |
| | | 6-9 | 58.1 | 23.0 | 3.1 |
| | | 14-17 | 40.3 | 48.7 | 7.1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | Manipur | 3-5 | 40.7 | 27.1 | 3.4 |
| | | 5-12 | 41.9 | 19.4 | 3.1 |
| | | 12-18 | 39.8 | 14.2 | 1.6 |
| 12. | Meghalaya | 3-5 | 45.9 | 9.8 | 0.6 |
| | | 5-12 | 39.3 | 7.9 | 1.2 |
| | | 12-18 | 43.8 | 21.8 | 1.3 |
| 13. | Mizoram | 3-5 | 45.9 | 17.4 | 1.9 |
| | | 5-12 | 40.0 | 27.13 | 3.2 |
| | | 12-18 | 30.0 | 26.7 | 7.1 |
| 14. | Nagaland | 3-5 | 28.0 | 19.3 | 3.3 |
| | | 5-12 | 37.4 | 12.3 | 0.9 |
| | | 12-18 | 35.4 | 19.6 | 1.8 |
| 15. | Tripura | 3-5 | 40.1 | 37.5 | 7.1 |
| | | 5-12 | 37.6 | 28.2 | 4.4 |
| | | 12-18 | 37.9 | 28.9 | 5.2 |
| 16. | Dadra Nagar and Haveli | 3-5 | 46.9 | 31.0 | 8.3 |
| | | 5-12 | 35.9 | 36.2 | 13.7 |
| | | 12-18 | 34.3 | 31.9 | 14.4 |
| 17. | Daman and Diu | 3-5 | 51.0 | 26.6 | 7.3 |
| | | 5-12 | 35.9 | 36.2 | 13.7 |
| | | 12-18 | 34.3 | 31.9 | 14.4 |
| 18. | Goa | 3-5 | 39.5 | 20.9 | 6.5 |
| | | 5-12 | 33.8 | 29.6 | 8.5 |
| | | 12-18 | 31.5 | 23.5 | 6.1 |

*[English]*

**Transfer Policy in CGHS**

359. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of criteria fixed in regard to the transfer of Group A, B, C and D officers and staff in CGHS;

(b) whether the above criteria is being followed in transfer of office bearers of Associations in CGHS;

(c) if not, the reasons for this discriminatory treatment; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) As per existing transfer policy, Group 'A' officers in the CGHS are normally transferred on completion of three years of their tenure of posting and CMO In-charge are transferred on completion of four years in a particular dispensary. Group 'B' officers in CGHS are transferred on the basis of individual request/official exigencies. By and large, Group 'C' and 'D' staff including office bearers of associations in CGHS are transferred on completion of 4 to 5 years of their tenure of posting except in exigencies of service. The office bearers of the All India CGHS Employees Association are also governed under the aforesaid transfer policy.

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

*[Translation]*

**Shortage of Doctors**

360. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI SUBODH ROY :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned NA CHIKITSAK NA CHIKITSKIYA SANSADHAN appearing in the *'Rashtriya Sahara'* of November 2, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether there is a shortage of 32 doctors and 62 para-medical staff in Safdarjung Hospital, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, AIIMS and Lala Ram Swaroop T.B. Institute; and

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

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

(b) to (d) the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Gold Medal in Kabbadi**

361. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India bagged gold medal in Kabbadi in Busan, 14th Asian Games; and

(b) if so, the measures to be taken by the Government to make Kabbadi a popular and employment oriented game ?

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

(b) Kabbadi is an indigenous game which is very popular in the rural areas of the country. In Kabbadi, India has won Gold Medals in 4 successive Asian Games in a row. However, the promotion of a game is, primiarily, the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federation (NSF), in this case the Amateur Kabbadi Federation of India (AKFI). The Government is providing all admissible assistance to AKFI and Kabbadi has been kept in the 'Priority category for this purpose.

As regards the scope of employment generation, there is already a provision for the appointment of meritourious sportspersons to Group 'C' and 'D' posts in relaxtion of the procedure, in the Ministries/Departments of the Government. For this, there is 5% quota for meritorious sportspersons of all disciplines including Kabbadi.

Apart from this, Public and Private sector units also provide suitable jobs to meritorious sportspersons as per their recruitment policy.

*[English]*

**Central Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Drought Relief**

362. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Central Govemment to provide Central assistance worth Rs. 810 crores and 15 lakhs metric tonnes of rice as drought relief:

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

(c) the steps taken by the Governmnet 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; the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for Central assistance worth Rs. 810 crore and 15 lakh MT of rice as drought relief, which has been increased of Rs. 1210.90 crores and 25 lakh MT of rice in their memoradum submitted to Government.

(b) and (c) The entire Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting Rs. 163.77 crore including advance release of 2nd instalment of Rs. 81.885 crore has been provided to take immediate drought relief measures. 3 lakh MT of rice as a special component of Sampuma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has been allocated to the State for initiating food for work programme in drought hit areas. A Central Team has also visited the drought hit areas of the State and submitted its report to the Government. A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister is considering the amount of assistance to be provided from Natural Calamity Contigency Fund (NCCF) to the State.

**Opening of New Post Offices in Punjab**

363. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new post offices in Bathinda and Mausa districts of Punjab during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of the places whether these new post offices would be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal

to open new post office at village Bir Talab in Bathinda district during the current financial year. The opening of new post office is subject to the fulfillment of norms based justification and availability of requisite resources. There is no proposal to open new post offices in Mansa district during the year 2002-2003.

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

**World Ayurvedic Congress**

364. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Four Day World Ayurvedic Congress was held in the capital recently;

(b) if so, the details of the topics discussed;

(c) the main decision taken in the congress; and

(d) the response of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) World Ayurved Congress was held at Kochi, Kerala from 1st to 4th November, 2002.

(b) The main theme of the Congress was "Ayurveda and the World Health" to showcase strengths of Ayurveda to the world. The topics discussed included globalisation of Ayurveda, conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants, standardisation of herbal drugs, highlights of Ayurveda etc.

(c) The organisers have informed that the following resolutions were passed in the congress :- (i) setting up of body at the national level to oversee the policy implementation and treatment method of Ayurveda; (ii) setting up of World Council for Ayurveda with headquarter in India : (iii) setting up of advanced training facility and research establishment on Ayurveda in different parts of the country; (iv) production of medicinal plants and extraction of herbal concentrates; and (v) independent Ministry for Ayurveda with separate budgetary allocation.

(d) The Department has not received the deliberations of the Congress.

**PHCs/Child Health**

365. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether a recent report of the National Commission on Population has revealed shortage of sub-centres, PHCs and Child Care Health Centres in the country;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to set up more Health Care Centres keeping in view the population size; 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) It is a fact that there is a shortage of health facilities in several States against the laid down norms for the establishment of Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres. While the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides financial assistance to States towards the salary of ANM, honorarium of voluntary worker, rent of the building, medicines, furniture, equipments and contingent expenditure at fixed rates for establishing Sub Centres, funds for the establishment of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres are to be met by the States from out of the over all funds provided to them by the Planning Commisison under the States Sector health Outlay. From the current year onwards, the Government of India is providing financial assistance to all the 1,37,311 Sub Centres in the country, established at the rate of one Sub Centres for every 5000 population in planes and 3000 in hilly and tribal areas. However, in areas where there is a shortfall, Government of India provides financial assistance to States to meet the shortfall on receipt of firm proposals from States. A statement showing the number of Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres required as per 1991 population and presently functioning in all States/UTs indicating shortfall or surplus, is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Shortfall in Health in Infrastructure as per 1991 Population*

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Sub Centres | | | PHCs | | | CHCs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | R | P | S | R | P | S | R | P | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 10242 | 10568 | * | 1707 | 1386 | 321 | 427 | 219 | 208 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 220 | 273 | * | 37 | 65 | * | 9 | 20 | * |
| 3. | Assam | 4356 | 5109 | * | 726 | 610 | 116 | 181 | 100 | 81 |
| 4. | Bihar # | 15825 | 14799 | 1206 | 2637 | 2209 | 428 | 659 | 148 | 511 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | Goa | 138 | 172 | * | 23 | 19 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 6168 | 7274 | * | 1028 | 1001 | 27 | 257 | 242 | 15 |
| 8. | Haryana | 2482 | 2299 | 183 | 414 | 401 | 13 | 103 | 64 | 39 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 973 | 2069 | * | 162 | 302 | * | 40 | 65 | * |
| 10. | Jamm and Kashmir | 1176 | 1700 | * | 196 | 337 | * | 49 | 53 | * |
| 11. | Jharkhand | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. | Karnataka | 6431 | 8143 | * | 1072 | 1676 | * | 268 | 249 | 19 |
| 13. | Kerala | 4325 | 5094 | * | 721 | 944 | * | 180 | 105 | 75 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh # | 12122 | 11947 | 175 | 2020 | 1690 | 330 | 505 | 342 | 163 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 10533 | 9725 | 808 | 1756 | 1768 | * | 439 | 351 | 88 |
| 16. | Manipur | 344 | 420 | * | 57 | 69 | * | 14 | 16 | * |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 464 | 413 | 51 | 77 | 85 | * | 19 | 13 | 6 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 122 | 346 | * | 20 | 58 | * | 5 | 9 | * |
| 19. | Nagaland | 325 | 302 | 23 | 54 | 46 | 8 | 14 | 9 | 5 |
| 20. | Orissa | 6374 | 5927 | 447 | 1062 | 1352 | * | 265 | 157 | 108 |
| 21. | Punjab | 2858 | 2852 | 6 | 476 | 484 | * | 119 | 105 | 14 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 7484 | 9926 | * | 1247 | 1674 | * | 312 | 263 | 49 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 85 | 147 | * | 14 | 24 | * | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 7424 | 8682 | * | 1237 | 1436 | * | 309 | 72 | 237 |
| 25. | Tripura | 579 | 539 | 40 | 96 | 58 | 38 | 24 | 11 | 13 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | | | | | | | | | |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh# | 22337 | 20153 | 2184 | 3723 | 3808 | * | 931 | 310 | 621 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28. | West Bengal | 10356 | 8126 | 2230 | 1726 | 1262 | 464 | 431 | 99 | 332 |
| 29. | A and N Islands | 45 | 100 | * | 7 | 18 | * | 2 | 4 | * |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 13 | 13 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 31. | D and N Haveli | 40 | 36 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | 12 | 21 | * | 2 | 3 | * | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 33. | Delhi | 190 | 42 | 148 | 32 | 8 | 24 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 7 | 14 | * | 1 | 4 | * | 0 | 3 | * |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 58 | 80 | * | 10 | 39 | * | 3 | 4 | * |
| | All India | 134108 | 137311 | 7325 | 22349 | 22842 | 1776 | 5587 | 3043 | 2596 |

Figures are provisional. * : Surplus Infrastructure.

# : Figures prior to re-organisation of States.

R : Required S : Shortall. P : In Position

**Kanishka Trial**

366. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kanishka trial for mid air bomb blasting of Vancouver-New Delhi, Air India flight 182 on June 23, 1985, will begin in British Columbia in March, 2003;

(b) if so, whether three Canadians of Indian origin are the prime suspects; and

(c) if so, the diplomatic channels being used by the Government to ensure the conviction of the culprits ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The case is now sub-judice and, therefore, completely within the purview of the Canadian judicial system. The High Commission of India is in touch with the concerned Canadian agencies, in order to ensure that all relevant information required by these agencies from the Government of India is provided expeditiously.

**Expansion of Telecommunication Network in Rajasthan**

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for providing WLL system to facilities expansion of Telecom networks in Thar desert of Western Rajasthan, especially in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur district; and

(b) if so, details thereof and by when WLL system would be provided ?

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

(b) Rajathan Telecom Circle has planned to provide 4000 lines, 3000 lines and 9500 lines of WLL equipment in Barmer, Jisalmer and Jodhpur district respectively during 2002-03. The WLL Systems in these districts are likely to be provided by March 2003 subject to availability of equipment.

In addition, other areas of districts are being planned during 2003-04.

**Youth Hostels**

368. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Youth Hostels constructed during the last five years, under the Youth Hostels Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether a work of Youth Hostel construction projects have been badly delayed in certain States;

(c) if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken for speedy construction of Youth Hostel buildings for which funds had been sanctioned and released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) 14 Youth Hostels have been completed so far during the last five years under the Youth Hostels Scheme. The State-wise details are given as under :-

| Name of the State | Youth Hostels completed |
|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 2 |
| Assam | 1 |
| Goa | 1 |
| Haryana | 1 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 1 |
| Karnataka | 1 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1 |
| Punjab | 1 |
| West Bengal | 3 |
| Uttaranchal | 2 |

(b) to (d) The Scheme of Youth Hostel has been conceived as a joint venture of the Central and State Government. While the Central Government bears the cost of construction of the building, the State Government provide developed plots of land, meausring 1.5 to 2.00 acres, free of cost, equipped with water, electricity and approach roads. In a number of cases, funds could not be released by the Central Governmnet because of non-receipt of progress report on construction etc. In a few cases, the construction of Youth Hostels could not be started as the development work like construction of boundary wall, provision of water and electricity could not be ensured by the State Government. Keeping the above in view, the Ministry has been pursuing twith State Governments at various levels from time to time including D.O. letters from the Minister of State (YA and S) and Minister (YA and S).

**Development Package for Orissa**

369. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared a special development package for Orissa under the Development and Reform Facility;

(b) if so, the amount of DRF fund being allocated to Orissa since the package is announced;

(c) the amount of DRF allocated to other States; and

(d) the norms prescribed for the allotment of DRF fund to those States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) For the Special Plan cleared for the eight KBK Districts of Orissa under the Development and Reform Facility, initiated in the current year, a sum of Rs. 100 crore has been allocated. So far, the first instalment of Rs. 50 crore has been released.

(c) and (d) In addition to the Special Plan for the KBK Districts, the Development and Reform Facility has two other components, namely, the Backward Districts Initiative; and the Special Plan for Bihar. The Backward Districts Initiative is being implemented on a pilot basis in the current year for which 25 districts have been identified with an allocation of Rs. 15 crore per districts. The projects for the Special Plan for Bihar have been cleared in principle. Releases for these two components will depend on factors such as pace of project formulation, progress of schemes, etc.

**SAARC Summit**

370. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the next Summit of SAARC is to be held in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether date and agenda for the Summit has been finalised;

(c) if, so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India proposes to attend the Summit;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) While the Agenda has not been drawn up, Pakistan has proposed for the Summit to be held in Islamabad from 11th to 13th January, 2003.

(d) to (f) The dates are under the consideration of the Government of India.

**Indo-Myanmar Meeting**

371. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eighth Indo-Myanmar Meeting was held in July, 2002, in Delhi;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether in the present security scenario Myanmar holds as strategic position for India; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to retain Myanmar as a strategic friendly country ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Issues discussed at the 8th National Level Meeting included security related issues, drug trafficking, free movement along the India-Myanmar border, joint inspections of boundary pillars, border trade and banking arrangements, maintenance of Tamu-Kalemyo highway, River Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport System, Tamanthi Hydro Electric Project, construction of tourist centre at Rih Lake, access to prisoners in each other's countries, with the overall objective of promoting bilateral relations.

(c) Yes, Sir. Myanmar is an important and friendly neighbour.

(d) Government of India has been actively interacting with the Government of Myanmar through a policy of broad based engagement capitalising on our strengths in industry, education, cooperation in establishing infrastructure projects etc. aimed at increasing the convergence in our interests.

*[Translation]*

**Inflow of Banned Drugs**

372. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

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

(a) whether the Goverment are aware that the fatal medicines are being sold by the multi-national companies in India which are banned in other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have approved cent percent foreign investment in the drug sector and removed the condition of obtaining licence for selling up of units for production of drugs in the country by foreign companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no reports about fatal medicines being sold by the multinational companies in India which are banned in other countries. However, certain drugs and formulations banned in some countries at time continue to be marketed in other countries because the decision to do so is normally based on risk assessment process which is influenced by a number of factors such as the disease

pattern in a country, the varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug and the availability of safer substitute as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of a particular disease. There is also the overall awareness that administration of any drug in not absolutely free from side effects or adverse reactions in a statistically insignificant minority of the population.

The risk assessment of an approved drug begins with information about its review, restriction, discontinuation or ban in any country. The evaluation of the data is done in consultation with leading experts in the given specialization. Based on their advice, the matter is placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body which comprises of representatives from the medical profession, the State Drug enforcement authorities, experts institutions agencies that advise Government on technical issues related to the implementations of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940, like whether or not to ban/phase out an existing drug.

Out of 46 drugs previously reported by the WHO as banned in some countries, 26 drugs were never marketed in this country, of the remaining 20 drugs, 13 drugs have been discontinued based on expert evaluation and recommendation of the DTAB. While 7 drugs have been allowed to be continued to be marketed subject to cautionary statement and contra-indications being given on the label and in some cases on the package insert.

(c) to (e) The Pharmaceutical Policy – 2002 provides that foreign investment upto 100% will be permitted, subject to stipulations laid down from time to time in the Industrial Policy, through the automatic route in the case of all bulk drugs cleared by Drug Controller General (India), all their intermediates and formulations except in the case of bulk drugs produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology, bulk drugs requiring in-vivo use of nucleic acids as the active principles and specific cell/issue targeted formulations.

*[English]*

**Representation submitted by Pensioners' Association**

373. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government Employees Pension Association from Gujarat has submitted a Memorandum to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

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

(b) and (c) The Central Government Employees Pension Association, Gujarat had submitted a memorandum raising certain demands for the benefits of the pensioners. Most of these demands emanate from the recommendations of V Central Pay Commission like additional pension for additional service, restoration of commuted pension after 12 years, grant of Interim Relief to employed family pensioners and a number of other facilities like free travel, free telephones etc. These demands have been examined and it has not been possible to accept all the demands made in view of the administrative and financial implications involved.

The position with reference to various demands raised has been intimated to the Association for their information.

**Merger of DA/DR**

374. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission had recommended an automatic merger of Dearness Relief with pension in the case of Pensioners simultaneously whenever Dearness Allowance is merged with pay in the case of serving employees;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been implemented by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The recommendation has not been accepted.

(d) and (e) In the case of serving employees also the DA has not been merged with pay.

*[Translation]*

**Enhancement of Quota of Haj Pilgrims**

375. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has agreed to enhance the quota of Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken the issue of providing better facilities to the Haj Pilgrims with the Government of Saudi Arabia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The Indian Haj delegation went to Saudi Arabia and signed the Haj Agreement on 25th September, 2002 with Saudi Haj Minister. Under the agreement the quota of Haj Pilgrims from India remains the same as last year. Out of this number, 72,000 pilgrims, would go to Saudi Arabia under the aegis of the Haj Committee, Mumbai.

(c) and (d) Yes. During Haj 2003, Saudi Arabian Airlines have agreed to increase the number of pilgrims returning to Indian from Madina. They will also operate from Hyderabad in addition to Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad.

**Role of Private Institutions in Population Control**

376. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to engage the private organizations to check increasing population of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Goverment are providing financial assistance to such organizations for this purpose;

(d) if so, financial assistance provided to such organizations in Rajasthan and Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(e) the percentage of success achieved in population control as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) With a view to secure wider participation of civil society and non-governmental organisations under the Family Welfare Programme, financial assistance is provided to non-profit and community based organisations (NGOs) to undertake various activities for promoting population stabilization. Under this scheme, assistance is provided to 104 Mother NGOs upto a maximum of Rs. 5.0 lakhs per district per year for support to nearly 1,000 field-based NGOs (FNGOs) upto a maximum of Rs. 2 lakhs per FNGO per year. During the current year, Rs. 22.0 crores has been earmarked for providing such assistance to MNGOs. Further for providing access to re-productive and child health services in under-served areas, Rs. 800/- and Rs. 1,000/- per visit is provided to private Gynecologists and Anesthetists, respectively for treating patients in public health facilities.

(d) A statement indicating financial assistance provided to NGOs in Rajasthan and Maharashtra during the last three years is enlcosed.

(e) While it is not possible to attribute any achievement under population control to NGOs in specific terms. However, overall efforts put in by Government in

partnership with NGOs and other constituents of civil society, have resulted in a reduction in the crude birth rate from 29.5 per thousand population in 1991 to 25.8 per thousand of population in 2000.

**Statement**

*Financial Assistance given to NGOs in Maharashtra and Rajasthan during last 3 years (99-02)*

| Sl.No. | Name of NGO | State | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Sevadham Trust, Pune | Maharashtra | 2500000 | 20000000 | |
| 2. | SOSVA (STAPI), Pune | Maharashtra | 2500000 | 2500000 | 1900000 |
| 3. | Parvara Medivcal Trust, Ahmednagar | Maharashtra | 1500000 | 1406474 | 1624000 |
| 4. | Godawari Foundation, Jalgaon | Maharashtra | | | 1000000 |
| 5. | Yuvak Pratisthan | Maharashtra | | 20000000 | |
| 6. | SOSVA, Pune | Maharashtra | | 133292222 | 3000000 |
| 7. | Bhoruka Charitable Trust, Jajpur | Rajasthan | 1500000 | | 1700000 |
| 8. | URMUL, Rural Health Research, Bikaner | Rajasthan | | 2000000 | 1000000 |
| 9. | Swa-sehyog Sanstha, Caksu | Rajasthan | 405379 | | 325474 |
| 10. | Indian Institue of Rural Development and Research | Rajasthan | 320198 | 320198 | 148471 |
| 11. | Lupin Human Welfare and Research Foundation | Rajasthan | | 787500 | |
| 12. | Concerned Citizen | Rajasthan | | 745640 | |

*[English]*

**Economic Package for Bihar**

377. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared or propose an Economic Package for the development and growth of Bihar after its bifurcation;

(b) if so, by when it is likely be announced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The High Level Committee on Development and Reforms Facility (Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana) in its meeting held on 28th August 2002 approved the Special Plans for Bihar which included improvement in availability of electricity in Bihar by strengthening the Sub-transmission system, improving rural connectivity, harnessing of ground water resources, watershed development, horticulture, dairy development, etc.

*[Translation]*

**Shortfall in Profit of SCI**

378. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been shortfall in the net profit of Shipping Corporation of India during 2001-2002 as compared to 2000-01;

(b) if so, whether the Government have reviewed the reasons in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the special steps taken by the Government to improve profiftability of the corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Shipping Corporation of India's (SCI) met profit has fallen for the year 2001-2002 as compared to the year 2000-01. The net profit after tax for the two years under consideration are given hereunder :

Financial Year 2000-01 Rs. 38,256 lakhs

Financial Year 2001-02 Rs. 24,156 lakhs

(b) to (d) Shipping is a cyclical business and the main reason for decline in profitability of SCI during financial year 2001-2002 compared to financial year 2000- 2001 was a fall in the freight rates in the international market. SCI runs its business on commercial basis and takes commercial decisions, which are best suited as per the market situation.

*[English]*

**Study by IIPA of CGHS Services**

379. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Public Administration has conducted a study sponsored by the Government which have revealed several lacunae in the Health Services offered under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the results of the study have been analysed by the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to monitor the services in the CGHS Dispensaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Government had got an evaluation study of the CGHS done through Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. The broad conclusions of the study are as under :-

(1) CGHS Coverage

(i) CGHS is a preferred scheme by the beneficiaries because of their faith in it and also alternative facilities are expensive.

(ii) CGHS facilities to Ex-Vice President, Ex-Governors, Members and Ex-Members of Parliament should not be part of CGHS budget. Serving/Retd. Employees of autonomous bodies should be extended CGHS facilities.

(2) Introduction of Health Card with a photograph for every CGHS beneficiary.

(3) CGHS should make its own purchases without depending upon Medical Stores Organisaiton, Dte. GHS for procuring the right quality of the medicines at the right time and suggested the following :-

(i) Rational and comprehensive formulary

(ii) 100% procurement and supply by the CGHS Medical Store Depots.

(iii) Specialist prescriptions be restricted largely to formulary drugs.

(iv) Although the authorised local chemists appointed by the CGHS are giving discounts on the Maximum Retail Price, it will still be economical for the CGHS to purchase drugs at Government approved rates.

(4) Developing of Computerized Integrated Information System for CGHS in order to simplify administrative procedures.

(5) Human Resource Development.

Development of an integrated Continued Medical Education (CME) and training programmes for Doctors and different categories of Staff in the CGHS.

(c) and (d) Improvement of the various services provided in CGHS dispensaries is an ongoing process and the various suggestions given in the above report of IIPA are being examined.

**Non-use of Life Saving Machines in AIIMS**

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

(a) whether Government's attention is drawn to the news-item in *Dainik Jagran* of November 1, 2002 to the effect that life saving machines worth 80 lakh rupees are lying without use in the AIIMS;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired by the Government;

(c) if so, the finding of investigations; and

(d) the action taken in this regard ?

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.

*[Translation]*

**Organs Transplantation**

381. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether Government have made any study to know how far the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 has met its objective in preventing the illegal sale of human organ instead of donating it in accordance with conditions laid down in the Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any network scheme is being made to facilitate organ transplantation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Formation of network scheme to facilitate Organ Transplantation is not under the purview of the Transplantation Human Organs Act. An Organ Retrieval and Banking Organisation (ORBO) has been set up as a nodal coordinating centre at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi which will, inter-alia, also perform the function of educating and creating awareness for the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.

*[English]*

**Local Purchase of Stationery**

382. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government Offices are to make local purchases of stationery and other items only from the Government of India Stationery depots and make local purchases of only those items which are not supplied by the stationery depots;

(b) whether DOP and AR OM dated July 14, 1981 was issued to make local purchases of only those items and not to purchase all items from Kendriya Bhandar which was included arbitrarily without prior approval of the Department of Expenditure;

(c) whether furniture, computers, photocopiers, fridges, ACs etc. do not fall in other items and are to be purchased by inviting open public tenders;

(d) if so, the steps taken to make the Government Offices follow the above;

(e) whether the DOP and AR OM dated July 14, 1981 has been reviewed; and

(f) if not, the reasons for the inordinate delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Intstruction were issued on 14.7.81, in consultation with Ministry of Finance for Central Government departments/bodies controlled or financed by the Central Government, to make local purchases of stationery and other items from Kendriya Bhandar. These orders apply to stationery, sanitary, electrical and other articles including photocopier, computer etc. as are generally indented for by Government Departments.

(e) and (f) The provisions of OM dated 14.7.81 are under review. Review involves inter Ministerial consultations.

**Kakrapara Atomic Power Plant**

383. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "N-reactor flouting safety norms : AERB" as reported in the Times of India on October 14, 2002;

(b) whether Kakrapara Atomic Plant in Surat has been flouting safety norms;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to upgrade the safety norms at power plants and to ensure their proper functioning ?

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) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The current safety norms stipulated by AERB are in the line with international norms. In regard to safety, in addition to meeting the stipulations, the endeavour is always for continuous improvement. The design of the nuclear power plants, adopting defence-in-depth, redundancy, diversity, physical separation and fail safe features, compliance with the quality assurance programme during deisgn construction, and operation monitoring/ review of safety aspects of the plant and training of plant personnel are some of the steps in this regard.

**Hospital at Chanchal in West Bengal**

384. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the demands from the people and the public representatives for a 250 bedded hospital with specialized treatment in heat, kidney and paediatrics at Chanchal, in Malda District, West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal in this regard had been received from Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).

Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, the Hon'ble Member of Parliament had been advised to approach the State Government of West Bengal to get the proposal included under State Health Systems Projects since West Bengal is amongst the seven States who have been provided with World Bank Assistance under the State Health Systems Project for upgradation of secondary health care systems.

**Visit of Special Japanese Envoy**

385. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had expressed its disappointment to the special Japanese envoy, Mr. Yoshiro Mori when he visited India recently that Japan had not put enough pressure on Pakistan to put a permanent end to terrorism;

(b) if so, the reaction of Japan thereto;

(c) other subjects discussed with him; and

(d) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) Former Japanese Prime Minister Yashiro Mori visited India on 20-22 October 2002 to inaugurate the 'Japan Week' organized by the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. He was also designated as Special Envoy of Prime Minister Koizumi.

Mr. Mori welcomed India's decision to re-deploy its forces as well as the successful holding of the elections in Jammu and Kashmir in the face of terrorist activity. He

conveyed to Deputy Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister Japan's grief at India's suffering from terrorism. Japan highly values the restraint shown by India in the wake of the December 13 attack on Parliament. Japan has been urging Pakistan to stop infiltration and stop terrorist camps. Mr. Mori also expressed the hope that tensions between Pakistan and India would reduce further and dialogue resumed. Deputy Prime Minister conveyed to Mr. Mori that the attack on the Indian Parliament in Decermber, 2001 was the most distressing event for India. India has taken note of the fact that because of international pressure Pakistan said that it would not resort to terrorism to pursue their objectives in Jammu and Kashmir. India welcomed these statements but always held that it would like these implemented on the ground. Unfortunately on the ground there is not much evidence of these statements being translated into action. While discussing the issue of cross-border terrorism, External Affairs Minister conveyed to Mr. Mori our disappointment at the international community's inability to make Pakistan abide by its commitments to the international community to put an end to cross-border terrorism and to dismantle the structures that supports terrorist activity. He also conveyed India's determination to fight the scourge of cross-border terrorism and protect the lives of the innocent citizens of India.

**Foreign Visits of AIIMS Doctors**

386. SHRI SURESH KURUP :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that doctors from AIIMS have visited foreign countries on various grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been made into the matter as to the purpose of their visit and how much payment had been made for their visit and stay abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether certain doctors have not returned for duty after the completion of their tenure of assignments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The faculty members of the Institute are permitted to visit foreign countries for various purposes, such as for participation in Scientific Conference, Symposia, Workshops, training, fellowships and for accepting of various assignments as Consultants.

(c) to (g) Faculty members of the Institute are permitted to avail of various long term assignments both in India and abroad on Extra Ordinary Leave Without Pay subject to execution of a bond for a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs binding themselves to serve the Institute for a period of 3 years upon their return from assignment, failing which the bond money of Rs. 3 lakhs is required to be remitted to the Institute.

7 faculty members have not joined on completion of their assisgnment abroad and had requested for extension of their assignment beyond their eligibility. However, disciplinary action under the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 have been initiated against 5 faculty members. The remaining 2 faulty members have been asked to report for their duties immediately. Details of such faculty members are enclosed as Statement.

**Statement**

*List of Faculty Members who have not joined their duty after completion of their assignment abroad*

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01. | Dr. Rajiv Jain<br>Assoc. Prof. of Radio Diagnosis. | 16.08.1999 | 15.02.2001 | One year and six months | His request for further extension for two years beyond 15.02.2001 has been submitted to the President. AIIMS on 19.03.2001 and is still awaited. However, he has been asked to report for duties at the Institute but did not responded. Disciplinary Action has been initiated and charge sheet has been issued. Not holding any Institute accommodation. |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 02. | Dr. A.K. Padhy<br>Prof. and Head of<br>Nuclear Medicine | 17.03.1997<br>21.03.1999 | 09.03.1999<br>20.02.2002 | Four years | Earlier availed for two years from 17.03.1997. Total period of assignment availed till date is 4 years and 11 months. Sought extension for 1 years and 1 months beyond 20.02.2002 and the same has not been agreed to. Asked him to report for duties at the Institute and not responded the same. Disciplinary action has been initiated. A Charge Sheet has been issued and Inquiry Officer has been appointed. Eviction proceedings of residential accomodation of D-II/16 has bene initiated. |
| 03. | Dr. P. Mandal<br>Addl. Prof. of<br>Anaesthesiology | 26.09.1998 | 26.09.2001 | Two years and eight months approx. | Already availed more than three years. His request for one year beyond 26.09.2001 which has not been agreed to and asked to report for duties. Not reported for duties and disciplinary action has been initiated. Charge sheet has been issued. An Inquiry Officer has also been appointed. Eviction proceedings of Residential accommodation of E-81 has been initiated. |
| 04. | Dr. Sukhpal Sawhney<br>Addl. Prof. of Radio<br>Diagnosis | 15.05.1998 | 15.05.2002 | Three years and four months | She has not permitted for four years and 10 months. Her term of assignment has been terminated w.e.f. 15.05.02 as per orders of the President, AIIMS and asked her to report for duties vide this office memo. dated 15.5.2002 and 12.8.2002. Not reported so far. Disciplinary action has been initiated. Charge sheet has been issued. Eviction proceedings of residential accommodation of D-II/41 has been initiated. |
| 05. | Dr. Renu Gupta<br>Assoc. Prof. of Radio<br>Diagnosis | 28.08.1996 | 30.11.2001 | Three years and about 10 months | Already availed four year and six months. Tendered her resignation w.e.f. 30.11.2001. Asked to join first before resignation is accepted. She was asked to report for duties vide this office memo. dated 18.12.2001, 11.2.2002, 23.3.2002, 14.5.2002 and 12.8.2002. Not reported so far. Disciplinary Action has been initiated. Charge sheet has been issued and an Inquiry Officer has also been appointed. Not possessing any Institute accommodation. |
| 06. | Dr. Balram Bhargava<br>Assoc. Prof. of<br>Cardiology | 18.05.2001 | 17.05.2002 | Two years | Permitted for one year and still eligible for one more year beyond 30th April, 02 and the same was not agreed. He again made a request for re-consideration of the same and the same is under consideration. |
| 07. | Dr. Raju Sharma<br>Assoc. Prof. of Radio<br>Diagnosis | 06.01.2001 | 05.09.2002 | One year and eight months | His request for grant of extension for 3 months from 2.05.2002 has not been agreed to, hence he has been asked to report for duty immediately. His reply/ joining is still awaited. |

**Illegal Telephone Exchanges**

387. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORAMTION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of telephone exchanges have been set up illegally in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such illegal telephone exchanges which are under operation in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to stop their operation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) During the last one year (November 2001 to October 2002) 33 cases of illegal incoming international call setups bypassing VSNL and ILD operators' networks have been detected and raided with the help of CBI/Police and the operations were stopped immediately. No illegal international call setup is in notice at present.

(c) Government is constantly reviewing and taking corrective measures to stop such misuse. Important steps taken are :

(i) Creation of dedicated CBI cells in metros for checking telecom related frauds.

(ii) Checkings at telecom exchange levels have intensified.

(iii) A close coordination between service providers and investigating agencies is maintained.

**Export of SSI**

388. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of the Small Scale Industries in total exports is around 35 per cent;

(b) if so, the estimated employment generation done by this sector; and

(c) the steps are proposed to be taken to give the boost to Small Scale Sector ?

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) It is estimated that the Small Scale Sector provided employment to 19.22 million persons in the year 2001-02.

(c) The comprehensive policy package to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness announced by the Government on 30th August, 2000 inter-alia includes easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25.00 lakh, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

**4-Drug Fixed Dose Combination**

389. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow the 4-Drug Fixed Dose Combination for T.B. patients;

(b) if so, by when the notifications are likely to be issued;

(c) whether all New Manufacturers seeking permission for the above Drugs will have to do the Bio-equivalence;

(d) if so, the names of the authorised testing labs;

(e) whether it is also true hat these B.E. Reports have to be submitted to DCGI for getting approval; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) the matter of Fixed Dose Combination of four Anti-T.B. drugs was examined by drug Technical Advisory Board and DTAB agreed in principle for allowing FDC of four Anti-T.B. drugs, and to suitably modify existing entry No. 229 in the list of prohibited drugs. Issue of Notification is under process.

(c) to (f) The requirement of bioequivalence study for new manufacturers of Fixed Dose Combination of four Anti-

T.B. drugs is under examination. Bioequivalence studies are mainly required for oral dosage forms of new drugs. Based on the expertise and infrastrcutrue available, the B/E reports are considered from number of centers like, Bombay College of Pharmacy, Mumbai, KMK College of Pharmacy, Mumabi, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Lab, Mumbai, Bio-Kinetic Centre, Mumbai, Drug Monitoring Research Institute Mumbai, JSS College of Pharmacy, Ooty, NIPER, Chandigarh, PERD Center, Ahmedabd, Nizam's Institute, Hyderabad Vimta Lab, Hyderabad, Sipra Lab, Hyderabad, Ranbaxy Research Lab, Gurgaon, Zydus Cadila, Ahmedabad, SPARC, Vadodora, Gujarat, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal, Karnataka, Torrent Research Center, Ahmedabad and Lambda Therapeutics Ahmedabad.

**Herbal Medicine Hubs**

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to establish Herbal Medicine Hubs in the country in order to tap the vast resources of the country in the field of herbal medicines;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps being taken/have been taken by the Union Government to boost the production of Herbal Medicines in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal for establishment of Herbal Medicine Hubs.

(c) and (d) (1) Government has set up a National Medicinal Plants Board for overall growth and development of raw drugs.

(2) A scheme has been implemented for setting up of medicinal plants/herbal gardens and development of Agro-techniques for cutivation of medicinal plants.

(3) A scheme for strengthening of State Pharmacies has been implemented during the 9th Plan to boost the production of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani herbal medicines in the country.

**Income Earned by Shipping Industry**

391. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the total income earned by the Government from the Shipping Industry during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the share of the public sector shipping industry is much more than that of the private shipping companies;

(c) if so, their total share in the income earned during the last threee years;

(d) whether there is a downward trend in the income earning of Public Sector Shipping companies;

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

(f) the steps being taken by the Central Government to check this downward trend ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) The Government do not earn income directly from shipping companies except as dividend from Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) for its 80.12% stake. The dividend paid by SCI to Government during the last three years is Rs. 45.20 crores in 1999-2000, Rs. 70.60 crores in 2000-01 and Rs. 79.17 crores in 2001-02 respectively. However, the total income earned by shipping companies (members of INSA consisting of 14 companies) for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is Rs. 4695.82 crores, 5591.47 crores and 5807.53 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The income earned by the Shipping Corporation of India, the only central public sector undertaking during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is Rs. 2607.98 crores, 3132.23 crores and 2906.21 crores respectively.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. There is a downward trend in income earned by the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. during the year 2001-2002 as compared to 2000-2001 due to all round depression in freight rates globally. However, the

Government has initiated several measures to encourage investment in the shipping industry.

- Import of all types of ships have been included in the OGL;
- Ships (including second hand ships) can be imported freely now without license as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Shipping on 15th June, 2001 and 5th March, 2002;
- 100 percent FDI is allowed in Shipping sector;
- The proposed Custom duty of 5% on import of Ships in the Finance bill for 2001-2002, has been done away with.
- Enhancement of Depreciation rate from 20% to 25% for Ships.
- Section 33AC of IT Act has been made more attractive for Indian Shipping companies. The limit upto which reserves could be built up by the shipping companies for new acquisition will now include general reserves and share premium reserves also. Earlier it was limited to twice the paid up capital of the shipping companies.

*[Translation]*

**Opening of PHC**

392. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

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

(a) the details of fund allocated to each State by the Government for opening Primary Health Centres during 2002-03;

(b) the number of Primary Health Centres opened in each State during the last three years; and

(c) the details of funds proposed to be allocated to each State during the Tenth Five Year Plan for opening more Primary Health Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Primary Health Centres are established by respectively State Governments, as per their requirement, out of the over all funds provided to them and physical targets set by the Planning Commission under the State Sector Health Outlay. Thus, no separate funds are allocated by the Government of India for establishing Primary Health Centres. A statement indicating the number of Primary Health Centres opened in each State during last three years is enclosed.

**Statement**

*No. of PHCs established during 1999-2002*

| Sl.No. State/UT | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Arunachal Pradesh | 13 | 7 | 0 |
| 3. Assam | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. Bihar# | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Chhattisgarh | | | |
| 6. Goa | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 7. Gujarat | 17 | 17 | 31 |
| 8. Haryana | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 9. Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. Jammu and Kashmir | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11. Jharkhand | | | |
| 12. Karnataka | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. Kerala | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14. Madhya Pradesh# | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. Maharashtra | 63 | 6 | 0 |
| 16. Manipur | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17. Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. Mizoram | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 19. Nagaland | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. Orissa | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21. Punjab | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22. | Rajasthan | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25. | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | | | |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh# | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31. | D and N Haveli | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33. | Delhi | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 169 | 35 | 33 |

#Information for undivided State.

*[English]*

**WLL Technology**

393. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently de-licensed the Bluetooth wireless technology in 2.4 GHz band for indoor use; and

(b) if so, whether Government would permit use of this technology for outdoor users ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFROMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes Sir, with RF power limited to 100 milliwatt and for indoor use, including single contiguous campus of an individual, duly recognized organization or institution.

(b) Yes Sir, under a licence.

**Setting up of Indian Ayurvedic Export Council**

394. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from State Governments for the creation of an India Ayurvedic Export Council and creation of a Special Economic Zone for Ayurveda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

**Port Connectivity**

395. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any project for Roads aimed at Port Connectivity;

(b) whether there is any scheme to connect Karnataka State with Kasargode in Kerala;

(c) whether the Kerala Government has submitted a project to connect Cochin port with Mangalore port and thereby Mumbai, if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) whether the Government have any scheme to connect Cochin with Chennai port with roads of International standards, the details of the work done, if any in this regard, the amount earmarked or allocated or estimated, the period of implementation etc. ?

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

(b) Kasargode in Kerala is already connected to Karnataka State through National Highway-17 having two-lane carriageway. Consultancy assignment awarded for development of road connectivity to New Mangalore Port in Karnataka included the section of National Highway-17 from Mangalore to Kasargode. However, keeping in view the intensity of port bound traffic this section of National

Highway is not proposed to be developed to four-lane standards in near future.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The programme for development of road connectivity to major ports does not envisage connectivity from one port to another port. There is no scheme to connect Cochin Port to Chennai Port with roads of international standards.

**New Telephone Directory**

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

(a) whether the latest telephone directories have been printed and distributed to the subscribers in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the new telephone directories are likely to be distributed to the subscribers of Delhi and Mumbai ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The latest supplementary phone book 2001 (supplement to phone book 1999) was printed and is under distribution since January, 2001 and January, 2002 in Delhi and Mumbai respectively. The telephone directory is also available for Delhi and Mumbai on CD Rom (up-dated upto April, 2002). The latest directory is also available on internet in addition to directory inquiry 197.

(c) Though conventional printed directory is not much in demand, yet MTNL plans to provide the conventional directory to its customers during the year 2003.

**Anti-India Propaganda by Pak**

397. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan President on the sidelines of the recent UN General Assembly meeting in New York, had engaged in Nuclear Blackmail against India terming it nuclear threat to peace in South Asia;

(b) if so, India's response thereto; and

(c) the extent to which India was successful in dispelling the misinformation spread by the Pak President and his team ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In his address to the UN General Assembly this year. General Pervez Musharraf had made, by now the very familiar reference to South Asia being a nuclear flashpoint.

(b) and (c) Such assertions are predicated on seeing nuclear weapons as instruments of war which India rejects. Our nuclear doctrine is purely defensive and we do not see nuclear weapons as instruments of war. India will not be the first to use nuclear weapons nor will it use them against non-nuclear weapon States. India's proposals in the UN General Assembly on non-use of nuclear weapons and on controlling the nuclear dangers have received broad-based support.

*[Translation]*

**Sharing of River Water between India and Nepal**

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

(a) whether there is any disagreement between India and Nepal concerning sharing of river-water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far to resolve the differences ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) There is considerable potential for co-operation between India and Nepal in the field of water resources. India and Nepal are already actively cooperating in respect of flood forecasting, prevention of inundation and construction of embankments. To mitigate the problems of floods both in Nepal and in India, India has agreed to finance the construction of embankments on four major flood prone rivers in Nepal – Lal Bakaya, Khando, Kamla and Bagmati which are under various stages of implementation. The entire gamut of India-Nepal cooperation in Water Resources is overseen

by the Joint Committee on Water Resources led by the two Water Resources Secretaries. The JCWR has constituted the following sub-committees to go into specific aspects :-

- Flood Forecasting Commitee
- Standing-Committee on Inundation Problems
- Sub-Committee on Embankment Construction
- Coordination Committees on Kosi and Gandak
- Joint Team of Experts for Sapta Kosi/Sun Kosi High Dam Projects.

2. A "Treaty concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River, including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project" was signed during the visit of the then Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to India in February 1996. It has since been ratified by the two sides. Under this Treaty, India and Nepal have agreed to implemented the Pancheshwar Mutli-purpose Project as an integrated project. The work for preparation of the Detailed Project Report was commenced in December, 1999. Since then, field investigations and technical surveys have been completed. Some technical issues would require to be resolved before finalising the DPR.

3. The Governments of India and Nepal have also agreed to the setting up of a Joint Project Office on the Sapta Koshi/Sun Koshi project to work on surveys and investigations to collect data for the preparation of a DPR for the Project.

*[English]*

**Private Sector Participation in Port Sector**

399. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified areas for the Private sector participation in the port sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have issued any clear cut guidelines for the major ports in that regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI. SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has identified the following areas for private sector participation :-

(i) Leasing out existing assets of the Port

(ii) Construction/creation fo additional assets, such as :

(a) Construction and operation of container terminals.

(b) Construction and operation of bulk, Multipurpose and specialized cargo berths.

(c) Warehousing, Container Freight Stations, storage facilities and tank farms.

(d) Cranage/Handling Equipment.

(e) Setting up of captive power plants.

(f) Dry docking and ship repair facilities.

(iii) Leasing of equipment for port handling and leasing of floating crafts from the private sector.

(iv) Pilotage.

(v) Captive facilities for Port based industries.

The above areas are indicative in nature and individual ports can expand the scope of activities after prior consultation with Central Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. These guidelines aim at providing bankable documents, uniformity as well as reducing time in finalising bids for private sector port projects by specifying clear-cut bidding procedures, qualification criteria, content and evaluation criteria for technical proposals, selection criteria, financial bid format, revenue sharing procedure for redeployment of surplus labour, compensation in the event of default, termination procedure, disputes resolution etc. The guidelines also enjoin that private investment does not result in private monoplies and contain safeguards for protection of national security interests.

*[Translation]*

**Deaths due to carelessness of Doctors**

400. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of death and physcial disability that have come to light as a result of carelessness of doctors in Government hospitals of the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have initiated any action in the said cases; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for checking such carelessness ?

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

*[English]*

**Mobile Telephones Facility through Village Postman**

401. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

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

(a) whether his Ministry propose to introduce Mobile Telephone Facility through the village postman called mobile postman;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the target fixed for this facility;

(c) by when and the States/areas where this facility is first to be introduced; and

(d) the total amount earmarked for the purchase of Mobile telephones during the current financial year for the above purpose ?

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

(b) to (d) The Government is considering a proposal a have a pilot project on WLL based Phone through Grameen Dak Sevaks on expermintal basis. Modalities are yet to be finally decided.

**Construciton of Road**

402. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether North East Council had approved a project for construction of the road from Lakhimpur to Majuli-Jorhat-Lohit-Khabulu Bridge;

(b) whether a sum of Rs. 1.00 crore was sanctioned/ set apart for survey thereof;

(c) if so, whether the survey has since been completed, if not the reasons for the delay;

(d) the stage of implementation the project stands at present; and

(e) the steps so far taken and being taken to complete this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAOD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No Sir, as per information received from Department of Development of North Eastern Region.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

**MPLAD Scheme in Chandigarh**

403. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of recommendations made under MPLADS up-to-date during the period of 13th Lok Sabha in Chandigarh;

(b) the number of works fully completed and the amount spent thereon;

(c) the number of works begun but not completed and the amount to be spent thereon; and

(d) the number of incomplete works pending for more than 6 months, 9 months and one year respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) Recommendations for 372 works have been made under MPLADS by the MP during the 13th Lok Sabha period.

(b) 168 works have been completed. The expenditure incurred on these works is Rs. 3.25 crore.

(c) 72 works have started but not completed. The expenditure incurred on these works is estimated to be Rs. 2.50 crore.

(d) There are 18, 15 and 5 works pending for more than 6 months, 9 months and 1 year respectively.

**Congestion at Ports**

404. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a result of congestion at Indian Ports, waiting period for cargo loading and unloading has increased and consequently demurrage to be paid has also gone up during the last three years;

(b) if so, the average number of days for loading and unloading of cargo on major ports of the country; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) No, Sir. The average pre-berthing detention and average turn around time to ship on port account for all the ports in the last three years is as follows :-

| Year | Pre-berthing detention to Ships on Port Account | Average Trun around time |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 0.9 days | 5.10 days |
| 2000-2001 | 0.5 days | 4.10 days |
| 2001-2002 | 0.5 days | 3.70 days |

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Health Programmes Run by NGO in Gujarat**

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

(a) the details of Government and Non-Governmental Organisations implementing health programmes in Gujarat.

(b) the organization-wise funds allocated by the Government during the last three years and the names of the organizations who submitted the accounts;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint in regard to misuse of fund by any organization alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government have taken/proposed to take in such cases ?

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 placed on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

**National Illness Fund**

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

(a) whether National Illness Fund to Maharashtra has been sanctioned.

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the last instalment was given;

(c) whether any representations have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken/being taken 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 Government of Maharashtra has set up an Illness Assistance Fund called Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana Nidhi. The Central Government contributed Rs. 2.00 crores on 30.10.1998 towards the Jeevandayee Arogya Yojana Nidhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government has been asked to furnish utilisation certificate in respect of earlier grant of Rs. 2.00 crores and details of further contribution made by it to the Jeevandayi Arogya Yojana Nidhi.

**VPT in Andhra Pradesh**

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

(a) the total of Village Public Phones being operated by BSNL in Andhra Pradesh presently;

(b) the number of new Village Public Phones which will be made operational in 2002-2003 by BSNL; and

(c) the steps proposed by BSNL to improve phone services in Andhra Pradesh in the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) In Andhra Pradesh 23,419 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are being operated by BSNL as on 31.10.2002.

(b) There is no BSNL target to provide (VPTs) in Andhra Pradesh during the year 2002-03 as BSNL has already completed its share of providing VPTs in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The steps being taken to improve the telephone services during the current year are :

(i) Induction of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology in rural network.

(ii) Cellular Mobile Services are being inducted into the network.

(iii) Replacement of MARR based VPTs in a phased manner by landlines/WLL services.

(iv) Provision of Internet Dhabas in all the Mandal Headquarters.

*[Translation]*

**Operation of PCOs by Unauthorised Persons**

408. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some unauthorised persons are operating STD/PCOs allotted in the name of handicapped and unemployed persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard during the last two years;

(d) whether any case of nexus between the employees of telephone department and such persons have been detected; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last two years alongwith the action taken thereon, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAITONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A total of 22 such cases, 14 in Delhi and 8 in Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle, have come to notice.

(c) Action as per rules, has been taken in these cases. 19 PCOs have already been disconnected.

(d) No, Sir.

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

*[English]*

**Conversion of State Highways**

409. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State Governments have requested for conversion of their State Highways into National Highways;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) All proposals for conversion of State Higihways iinto National Highways have been returned to the respective State Government in June, 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government way however, consider conversion of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

**INDO-US Vaccine Programme**

410. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States of America has agreed to continue with the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme for another five years;

(b) if so, whether it has been decided that more emphasis will be given for the development of malaria, TB, HIV and typhoid vaccines;

(c) whether this decision was taken during the meeting of the Indo-US Science Forum held on March 19, 2002; and

(d) the details of other decisions taken in the meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Joing Working Group (JWG) of INDO-US Vaccine Action Programme has recommended to extended the Programme. The US side has conveyed its agreement. The Cabinet in its meeting on July 18, 2002 considered the issue and agreed to extend the programme for a period of five years w.e.f. August, 2002.

(b) A Strategic Plan Document prepared by the experts has suggested emphasis on the development of vaccines for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Governing Body meeting of the INDO-US S and T Forum held in March, 2002 discussed issues pertaining to administrative and scientific matters like holding of Joint Workshops, Forum Frontier Fellows Programmes, Invited Lectures and Creation of Databases.

**SIDBI's Report on SSI**

411. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI AKHILESH YADAV :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

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

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries (SSI) in the country are affected most due to the agreements signed under World Trade Organisation (WTO) as per the Small Industries Development Bank of India Report, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of remedial steps 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) and (b) Yes. While it can expose SSIs to greater competition, on the positive side, it enables them to procure raw material, technology and other imports in an easier way and on cheaper prices besides opening up opportunities for exports.

(c) The Government has taken various steps for marketing, technology upgradation, credit, quality improvement, etc. of SSI units. The Government has taken various remedial steps and the package of measures provides fiscal incentives, for easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

**Computerisation of Post Offices**

412. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) the names of places where new post offices have been opened in the rural areas in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and current year so far;

(b) the number of post offices computerised in these States during the above period;

(c) the impact of computerisation on the employment in post offices; and

(d) the number of employees declared surplus after compuerisation of post offices in these States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The names of places where new post offices have been opened in the rural areas in

Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and current year are given in Statement-I and III respectively. The names of places where new post offices have been opened in the rural areas in Maharashtra during the last two years and current year are given in Statement-II. The details of places where new post offices have been opened in rural ares of Maharashtra during the year 1999-2000 will be laid shortly on the Table of the House.

(b) The number of post offices computerised in these States during the above period is as under :

| Sl. No. | Name of State | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | Current year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Karnataka | 7 | 6 | 9 | – |
| 2. | Maharashtra | 21 | 40 | 202 | 11 |
| 3. | Jammu and Kashmir | 4 | 7 | 10 | – |

(c) and (d) The impact of computerization on savings in man power has not been assessed as back-office computerization is yet to be fully stabilized in most of the offices. The savings in manpower will mainly accrue from computerization of back office operations on account of elimination of duplication of work currently being performed in different branches of a post office.

The norms for deployment of manpower in computerized environment has not been fainlised. However, present, staff can be redeployed on the basis of actual physical observation and their pressing requirement in other new area of work.

The powers of redeployment of Group 'C' and Group 'D' officials vests with Head of Circles and any surplus manpower is being redeployed based on actual observation and their felt need in new areas of work.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Places where New Post Office have been opened in Karnataka during the last three years and current year*

**1999-2000**

| Place | District |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Urugapura | Bangalore Rural |
| 2. Kiragala | Chickmagalur |
| 3. Nallur | Hassan |
| 4. Dibbur | Tumkur |
| 5. Bellarpady | Udupi |
| 6. Beeranahalli | Mysore |
| 7. Chowdenahalli | Mandya |
| 8. Gatagaddi | Belgaum |
| 9. Devagodi | Chicckmagalur |
| 10. Budali | Dakshina Kannada |
| 11. Heggar Rehabilitation Centre | Uttara Kannada |
| 12. Soppinahosahali | Uttara Kannada |
| 13. Bevinahalli | Raichur |
| 14. Parwad | Belguam |
| 15. Mundge | Uttara Kannada |
| 16. D.S. Hadagali | Belgaum |
| 17. Bolare | Bangalore Urban |
| 18. Todur Camp | Uttara Kannada |
| 19. Boovanahalli | Hassan |
| 20. Amte | Belgaum |
| 21. Yedupura | Hassan |

**2000-2001**

| Place | District |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Thuppur | Shimoga |
| 2. Purudalu | Shimoga |
| 3. Harige | Shimoga |
| 4. Panchappady | Dakshina Kannada |
| 5. Pillya | Dakshina Kannada |
| 6. Vodinala | Dakshina Kannada |
| 7. Ajilamogru | Dakshina Kannada |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| 8. Javalikelagur | Chickmagalur |
| 9. Sampaje Gate | Dakshina Kannada |
| 10. Elathur | Dakshina Kannada |
| 11. Nayanagar | Belgaum |
| 12. Basarkod | Belgaum |
| 13. Yarda; | Belgaum |
| 14. Shivayoginagar | Belgaum |
| 15. Rakkasakoppa | Raichur |
| 16. Bagalgunte | Bangalore Urban |
| 17. Hirebellikatti | Belgaum |
| 18. Chikkamallapur | Chamarajnagar |
| 19. Honnekodige | Chickmagalur |
| 20. Kavalakki | Karwar |
| 21. Yaragudri | Belgaum |

**2001-2002**

| Place | District |
|---|---|
| 1. Kavadi | Chickmagalur |
| 2. Naganapura | Chamarajnagar |
| 3. Halandur | Chickmagalur |
| 4. Renjilady | Puttur |
| 5. Melukoppa | Chickmagalur |
| 6. Montepadavu | Dakshina Kannada |
| 7. Chikkop | Beglaum |
| 8. Nugganahatti | Belgaum |
| 9. Kodigehalli | Bangalore Urban |
| 10. Mandibele | Bangalore Rural |
| 11. K.B. Circle | Shimoga |
| 12. Jakbal | Beglaum |
| 13. Doddapur | Hassan |

**Current Year**

| Place | District |
|---|---|
| 1. Anantawadi | Karwar |
| 2. Herohalli | Bangalore Urban |

**Statement-II**

*Details of Places where New Post Office have been opened in Maharashtra during the last three years and Current year*

*List of EDBOS/DSOs opened in Rural area in Maharashtra during 2000-2001*

| Sl. No. | Name of EDBO | District | Date of Opening |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Dhangar Jawali | Beed | 05-01-2001 |
| 2. | Borgaon Bk. | Jalgaon | 10-01-2001 |
| 3. | Charthana | Jalgaon | 08-01-2001 |
| 4. | Veruli KH | Jalgaon | 10-01-2001 |
| 5. | Jaulka | Nashik | 19-01-2001 |
| 6. | Warni | Beed | 10-01-2001 |
| 7. | Karegaon | Beed | 05-02-2001 |
| 8. | Sonwala | Beed | 17-02-2001 |
| 9. | Malkapur | Latur | 29-01-2001 |
| 10. | Mangeli | Sindhudurga | 16-01-2001 |
| 11. | Talekhol | Sindhudurga | 18-01-2001 |
| 12. | Wadkhol | Sindhudurga | 15-03-2001 |
| 13. | Bhar Shirgaon | Sangli | 01-01-2001 |
| 14. | Tiware Ghera Prachitgad | Ratnagiri | 01-01-2001 |
| 15. | Arule | Sindhudurga | 15-03-2001 |
| 16. | Abje | Thane (W) | 15-01-2001 |
| 17. | Shivani | Yeotmal | 09-01-2001 |
| 18. | Gajanan Nagar | Akola | 01-01-2001 |
| 19. | Ranala | Nagpur | 05-02-2001 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20. | Jawala BK | Amravati | 01-12-2000 |
| 21. | Lava | Nagpur | 01-02-2001 |
| 22. | Wanadongri | Nagpur | 01-02-2001 |
| 23. | Konheri | Solapur | 17-01-2001 |
| 24. | Umarthi | Jalgaon | 16-03-2001 |
| 25. | Suray | Nandurbar | 13-03-2001 |
| 26. | Ud-Dawane | Ahmednagar | 05-03-2001 |
| 27. | Mahi Jalgaon | Ahmednagar | 15-02-2001 |
| 28. | Lavhaliotur | Ahmednagar | 03-03-2001 |
| 29. | Burhannagar | Ahmednagar | 23-02-2001 |
| 30. | Golawashi | Ratnagiri | 01-03-2001 |
| 31. | Mogarane | Sindhudurga | 15-03-2001 |
| 32. | Miregaon | Bhandara | 13-03-2001 |
| 33. | Shevge Dang | Nashik | 23-03-2001 |
| 34. | Malwadi | Sangli | 01-03-2001 |
| 35. | Galnimb | Shrirampur | 09-03-2001 |
| 36. | Valan | Ahmednagar | 08-03-2001 |
| 37. | Vadale | Satara | 08-03-2001 |
| 38. | Sandbhorwadi | Pune | 16-03-2001 |
| 39. | Pridavane | Ratnagiri | 15-03-2001 |
| 40. | Knadgaon | Ahmednagar | 31-03-2001 |
| 41. | Nagthana | Washim | 15-03-2001 |
| 42. | Dhaba | Nagpur | 15-03-2001 |
| 43. | Kuchana | Chandrapur | 31-03-2001 |
| 44. | Tadgaon | Gadchiroli | 31-03-2001 |
| 45. | Mahabala | Wardha | 19-03-2001 |
| 46. | Ainapur | Kolhapur | 28-03-2001 |
| 47. | Lohgaon | Ahmednagar | 15-03-2001 |
| 48. | Shirgaon | Pune | 27-03-2001 |
| 49. | Piral | Kolhapur | 22-03-2001 |
| 50. | Kasarsai | Pune | 27-03-2001 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Departmental Sub Post Offices** | | |
| 1. | Ankushnagar | Aurangabad | 17-3-01 |
| 2. | I.A. Musalgaon | Aurangabad | 31-3-01 |
| 3. | Jalkot | Aurangabad | 31-3-01 |
| 4. | Sawarkarnagar | Aurangabad | 5-3-01 |
| 5. | Dattawadi | Nagpur | 31-3-01 |
| 6. | Borgaon Rd. | Nagpur | 31-3-01 |
| 7. | Malkapur | Pune | 31-3-01 |

*List of new DSOs/EDBOs opened in Maharashtra during 2001-2002*

| Sl. No. | EDBO | District | Date of Opening |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Adgaon | Parbhani | 29.08.2001 |
| 2. | Gharewadi | Pune | 28.09.2001 |
| 3. | Borkheda | Jalgaon | 25.10.2001 |
| 4. | Antargaon | Amravati | 25.10.2001 |
| 5. | Bordi | Amravati | 31.10.2001 |
| 6. | Dhagewadi | Sangli | 19.10.2001 |
| 7. | Waypur | Dhule | 26.12.2001 |
| 8. | Vaslai | Nandurbar | 26.12.2001 |
| 9. | Jawalaga | Latur | 01.01.2001 |
| 10. | Manappavasti | Pune | 01.01.2001 |
| 11. | Kolambe | Jalgaon | 21.12.2001 |
| 12. | Bandwa | Akola | 01.02.2002 |
| 13. | Davorlim | South Goa | 01.02.2002 |
| 14. | Sakegaon | Buldana | 22.01.2002 |
| 15. | Morzadi | Akola | 01.02.2002 |
| 16. | Dongargaon | Nagpur | 01.02.2002 |
| 17. | Nategaon | Parbhani | 18.01.2002 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18. | Patoda | Nanded | 16.01.2002 |
| 19. | Malkapur Kherda | Nanded | 17.01.2002 |
| 20. | Mandve Khurd | Ahmednagar | 01.02.2002 |
| 21. | Thana PP | Bhandara | 06.02.2002 |
| 22. | Sukewadi | Ahmednagar | 01.02.2002 |
| 23. | Sarole BK | Jalgaon | 25.01.2002 |
| 24. | Bitkewadi | Ahmednagar | 04.02.2002 |
| 25. | Jambhavde | Ratnagiri | 19.02.2002 |
| 26. | Holichargaon | Satara | 04.01.2002 |
| 27. | Karwadi | Ahmednagar | 26.06.2002 |
| 28. | Mohote | Ahmednagar | 28.02.2002 |
| 29. | Kiwale | Pune | 23.04.2002 |
| 30. | Amboli (T) | Pune | 21.03.2002 |
| 31. | Devale (T) | Pune | 30.03.2002 |
| 32. | Mandwa | Washim | 01.02.2002 |
| 33. | Amberneri (T) | Chandrapur | 18.02.2002 |
| 34. | Satona | Gondia | 26.03.2002 |
| 35. | Wadamba (T) | Nagpur | 26.03.2002 |
| 36. | Ghonadi (T) | Gondia | 26.03.2002 |
| 37. | Hirabambai (T) | Amravati | 26.03.2002 |
| 38. | Rokadiyanagar | Akola | 28.03.2002 |
| 39. | Midc Shivar | Akola | 28.03.2002 |
| 40. | Mokhad (T) | Yavatmal | 27.03.2002 |
| 41. | Borda | Parabhani | 26.07.2002 |
| 42. | Dhar | Parabhani | 07.09.2002 |
| 43. | Ghata Pimpri | Bed | 09.02.2002 |
| 44. | Bawachi | Osmanabad | 15.03.2002 |
| 45. | Sakru Naik Tanda | Nanded | 25.02.2002 |
| 46. | Belatgavhan | Nashik | 22.03.2002 |
| 47. | Amoni (T) | Nandurbar | 22.03.2002 |
| 48. | Sattiguda (T) | Nanded | 28.03.2002 |
| 49. | Pedhe | Ratnagiri | 05.02.2002 |
| 50. | Hirale | Kolhapur | 26.02.2002 |
| 51. | Wadavli | Ratnagiri | 27.03.2002 |
| 52. | Dahivali T.V. | Raigad | 06.02.2002 |
| 53. | Aware | Raigad | 08.02.2002 |
| 54. | Devichapada | Raigad | 12.02.2002 |
| 55. | Pimpalshet | Thane | 21.02.2002 |
| 56. | Baple | Raigad | 05.03.2002 |
| 57. | Manivali | Thane | 05.03.2002 |
| 58. | Usar | Raigad | 06.03.2002 |
| 59. | Devkanhe | Raigad | 08.03.2002 |
| 60. | Narivali | Thane | 15.03.2002 |
| 61. | Suksale | Thane | 26.03.2002 |
| 62. | Vilkos | Thane | 28.03.2002 |
| 63. | Ghogaon | Satara | 28.04.2002 |
| 64. | Sursundi (T) | Chandrapur | 28.03.2002 |

*DSOs opened during 2001-2002*

| Sl. No. | Name of DSO | District | Date of Opening |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Sakur | Ahmednagar | 01.10.2001 |
| 2. | Saingar | Amravati | 28.11.2002 |
| 3. | Narendranagar | Nagpur | 01.12.2001 |
| 4. | Semodh | Paratwada | 01.01.2002 |
| 5. | Wardhaman | Nagpur | 30.03.2002 |
| 6. | Borad | Nanded | 08.03.2002 |
| 7. | VSSK Pangiri | Beed | 24.03.2002 |
| 8. | Temalegaon | Nashik | 30.03.2002 |
| 9. | Sanpada | Thane | 04.02.2002 |
| 10. | Apna Bazar | Thane | 30.03.2002 |

*List of EDBOS/DSOs opened in Rural area in Maharashtra during 2002-2003*

| Sl. No. | Name of Post Office | District | Date of Opening |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Borgaon Kasal BO | Aurangabad | 14.08.2002 |
| 2. | Malegaon Karyat BO | Nashik | 14.08.2002 |
| 3. | Kinod BO | Jalgaon | 24.08.2002 |
| 4. | Kavane BO | Kolhapur | 11.10.2002 |
| 5. | Mhalaginagar SO | Nagpur | 23.08.2002 |
| 6. | Sadashivnagar SO | Kolhapur | 09.08.2002 |

**Statement-III**

*Details of Places where New Post Offices have been opened in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and Current year*

**(I) Post Offices Opened during 1999-2000**

| S.No. | Name of Post Office | Date of Opening |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Lahari EDBO | 15.03.2000 |
| 2. | Chareel EDBO | 25.03.2000 |
| 3. | Vijaypur EDBO | 31.03.2000 |
| 4. | Glura EDBO | 08.03.2000 |
| 5. | Chamkoot EDBO | 23.03.2000 |
| 6. | Hajitarah EDBO | 24.03.2000 |
| 7. | Jablah EDBO | 08.03.2000 |
| 8. | Gujran EDBO | 13.03.2000 |
| 9. | Madana EDBO | 31.03.2000 |
| 10. | Devipora EDBO | 31.03.2000 |
| 11. | Parigam Jagir EDBO | 25.03.2000 |
| 12. | Ahagam EDBO | 29.03.2000 |
| 13. | Kakapora S.O. | 30.03.2000 |
| 14. | Saidpora EDBO | 31.03.2000 |
| 15. | Sugan EDBO | 31.03.2000 |

**II) Post Offices Opened during 2000-2001**

| S.No. | Name of Post Office | Date of Opening |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Mishriwala EDBO | 22.09.2000 |
| 2. | Sardab EDBO | 28.02.2001 |
| 3. | Gund Ibrahim EDBO | 28.02.2001 |
| 4. | Aloosa EDBO | 28.02.2001 |
| 5. | Kharpora EDBO | 27.02.2001 |
| 6. | Chanderkot S.O. | 24.03.2001 |

**III) Post Offices Opened during 2001-2002**

| S.No. | Name of Post Office | Date of Opening |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Talhar EDBO | 25.10.2001 |
| 2. | Fatehpur EDBO | 03.01.2002 |
| 3. | Seen Brahmana EDBO | 27.12.2001 |
| 4. | Chak Umrah EDBO | 04.01.2002 |
| 5. | Waghama EDBO | 19.02.2002 |
| 6. | Lakhri EDBO | 19.02.2002 |
| 7. | Dharalta EDBO | 19.02.2002 |
| 8. | Mamusa EDBO | 19.02.2002 |
| 9. | Allya EDBO | 19.02.2002 |
| 10. | Kishanpur EDBO | 19.02.2002 |
| 11. | Kundi Karol EDBO | 19.02.2002 |
| 12. | Bain EDBO | 19.02.2002 |
| 13. | Dhamal EDBO | 02.02.2002 |

**IV) Post Offices Opened during the current year (2002-2003)**

| S.No. | Name of Post Office | Date of Opening |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Batpora EDBO | 12.07.2002 |
| 2. | Kaluchak EDBO | 08.10.2002 |
| 3. | Dhanwan EDBO | 31.07.2002 |
| 4. | Rukail EDBO | 27.08.2002 |
| 5. | Dhara Dullian EDBO | 27.09.2002 |

**SAARC Meet**

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the recently concluded SAARC Ministers' meet at Kathmandu, the issue of terrorism was discussed;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the follow up action taken/proposed to be taken on that account;

(c) the other issues and proosals taken up at the meet;

(d) the outcome thereof;

(e) whether on the sidelines of the meet, both India and Pakistan took up bilateral issues; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The issue of Terrorism in the regional context did come up in the discussion of the SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting in August, 2002.

(b) to (d) the Ministers reiterated the decision of the 11th SAARC Summit to redouble efforts to prevent and suppress terrorism. The Ministers also recommended that an additional Protocol to the 1987 SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism be prepared. India's proposal for convening a SAARC Ministerial level meeting to discuss the issue of terrorism, was accepted. The Meeting of Legal Experts of Draft the Protocol and the Ministerial Meeting are expected to be held in the near future.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. There were no bilateral exchanges between India and Pakistan.

**Strike by BSNL and MTNL Engineering Staff**

414. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether there was a work to rule strike by the BSNL and MTNL engineering staff recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of the demands of these employees;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate their problems; and

(e) the losses suffered by the Government due to strike ?

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

(b) The Executives Negotiating Council consisting of Telecom Engineering Officers Association (India), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Executive Association (India) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited Executives Association went on an indefinite work to rule agitation w.e.f. 23.10.02 for fulfillment of their demands.

(c) The details of their demands were :

1. IDA pay scales for executives in BSNL and MTNL.
2. Payment of Pension by Government for MTNL optees.
3. Benefit of IDA pay scale for officers retiring in the intervening peirod.
4. Pay scale and pay fixation for DEs (Adhoc.)
5. No lateral entry at the level of JTO and above.
6. Time bound promotion and service weightage.
7. Cadre review for the cadres of JTOs and SDEs.

(d) Discussions/meetings were held with the representatives of the Executives Negotiating Council. The issues of concern i.e. IDA pay scales, fitment formula, promotional policy, payment of pension by Government for MTNL optees, etc. are being activity considered for approval by the Government. The agitation was called off on 31.10.2002.

(e) It is very difficult to quantitfy the losses in terms of money in such cases, especially, when the traffic only in a few directions was showing intermittent failure (Details given in Statement enclosed).

**Statement**

*Details of Telecom Services affected on some days due to Trade Union actions by the executives Negotiating Council from 23.10.2002 to 31.10.2002*

**Gujarat Telecom Circle :**

1. Following TAX routes were affected on 26.10.2002 :

   Am-Godra, Vadodara-New Delhi, Vadodara-Indore, Vadodara-Mehsana, Vadodara-Palanpur, Mehsana-Vadodara, Amreli-Bhuj, Am-Bangalore, Am-Bhopal, Am-Nasik, Rajkot-Agra, Rajkot-Cuttuck, Rajkot-Coimbatore, Rajkot-Patna, Rajakot-Hyderabad, Vadodara-Jodhpur, Vadodara-Lucknow, Vadodara-Am, Vadodara-Agra, Mehsana-Nasik, Mehsana-Godra, Mehsana-Anand, Mehsana-Himmatnagar, Mehsana-Surat.

2. Leased Circuits including circuits to press :

   (a) Circles to ISPs, Cellular Operators and leased lines were disturbed in the night.

   (b) BSNL Cellular Mobile Services also disturbed Pune MSC not accessible.

3. Long distance transmission network.

   (a) New Delhi one PCM failure.

   (b) U.P. (West) Telecom Circle 42 Nos of PCM between NOIDA and Delhi faulty.

   (c) Kerala Telecom Circle : Following TAX routes affected :

   TVM-Bombay, GTPR, EKM-Bombay, EKM-Kolkata, EKM-Coimbatore, EKM-Chennai, EKM-Hyderabad, EKM-Baroda, EKM-Agra and Kollam-GDS.

**Maternal Mortality Rate**

415. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the delivery and abortion related deaths are increasing in the country;

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

(c) the preventive measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Data on the number of delivery and abortion related deaths are not available. Registrar General of India, however, makes available data with regard to maternal mortality ratio.

**Maternal Mortality Rate**

This is defined as the number of maternal deaths on account of pregnancy, childbirth or within 42 days of childbirth per 100,000 live births.

Estimates of maternal mortality rate are available for the National level and some major States from the Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India for the year 1997 and 1998 only. These are given in Statement enclosed. The main causes of maternal deaths are :–

1. Direct Causes : Haemorrhage, infections, Obstructed Labour, Unsafe Abortion, Toxemia of Pregnancy etc.

2. Indirect Causes : Anemia, Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

3. Socio economic causes : Early age of marriage, adolescent Pregnancy, low status of women, low level of female education, lack of access to health services, gender bias and economic dependency.

**Maternal Health Programme**

Maternal health care is an integral part of the Family Welfare Programme. Certain vertical interventions like the National Nutritional Anemia Control Programme and Tetanus Immunisation Programme for pergnant mothers have been going on under the Family Welfare Programme since 1977-78. In 1992, the nationwide Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) (1992-97) was launched with World Bank support, for integrating various vertical interventions in the area of Maternal and Child Health. The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, which was launched in 1997 for five years, continues by way of strengthening of the CSSM activities along with certain new programmes. The major interventions of RCH programmes aimed at bringing down maternal, infant and child mortality are :

1. Provision of Essential Obstetric Care
2. Provision of Emergency Obstetric Care
3. Provision of services in backward districts by holding RCH Camps at Primary Health Centres.
4. Contractual appointments of additional ANMs for backward districts.
5. Provision of contractual or part time appointment of Anaesthetists, Gynaecologists, Safe Motherhood Consultants and technical staff like Laboratory technicians, Public Health Nurses etc.
6. Provision of drugs and equipment for Maternal Health at sub centres, primary health centres, community health centres/first referral units – including Iron and Folic Acid tablets for maternal and childhood anemia.
7. A scheme for 24 hour delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres.
8. Referral transport for pregnant women for eight backward States.
9. Facilities and training for medical termination of pregnancies for safe abortions.
10. Prevention, management and control of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI).
11. Intensification of information, Educaiton and Communication Programmes for Maternal and Child Health through the mass media as also decentralized local specific activities at the grass root level.
12. Involvement of NGOs in awareness generation and service delivery where Government services are not adequate.
13. Training of medical/paramedical and other serivce providers.
14. Training of Dais.

The need for bringing down MMR considerably and improving maternal health ingeneral has been strongly stressed in the National Population Policy – 2000, which has recently been approved by the Government. This policy recommends a holistic strategy for bringing about total inter-sectoral coordination at the grassroots level and also for involving the NGOs, civil society, Panchayati Raj Institutions and women's groups in brining down MMR and Infant Mortality Ratio.

**Statement**

*Maternal Mortality Rate India and Bigger States (Source : RGI, SRS, 1997, 1998)*

| Major State | MMR (1997) | MMR (1998) |
|---|---|---|
| India | 408 | 407 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 154 | 150 |
| Assam | 401 | 409 |
| Bihar | 451 | 452 |
| Gujarat | 29 | 28 |
| Haryana | 105 | 103 |
| Marnataka | 195 | 195 |
| Kerala | 195 | 198 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 498 | 498 |
| Maharashtra | 135 | 135 |
| Orissa | 361 | 367 |
| Punjab | 196 | 199 |
| Rajasthan | 677 | 670 |
| Tamil Nadu | 76 | 79 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 707 | 707 |
| West Bengal | 264 | 266 |

**Delay in Replying the Letters of MPs**

416. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that abnormal delay in receiving replies from various Ministries to the written queries raised by the parliamentarians even some Ministries/Departments at times takes more than five/six months time is replying their letters;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether there is any existing norms for replying to the written queries other than simple acknowledgement to the queries raised by Members of Parliament;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to speedy reply on letters written by VIPs and Members of Parliament ?

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) Some representations have been received in the past regarding delays in sending replies to letters of Members of Parliament.

(b) to (d) Detailed guidelines exist in para 60 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure to deal with the letters received from the Members of Parliament. As per the guidelines, letters received from Members of Parliament should be acknowledged within 15 days followed by a reply within the next 15 days. Where delay is anticipated in sending a final reply, or information has to be obtained from another Ministry or another office, an interim reply is required to be sent within a month (from the date of receipt) indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given. Disposal of letters from the Members of Parliament is the responsibility of the Ministries/Departments concerned. It is expected of all the Ministries/Departments to ensure that replies to the Members of Parliament are sent expeditiously as laid down in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure.

(e) The instructions regarding replies to letters received from Members of Parliament and VIPs have been reiterated from time to time to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for their strict compliance.

**Beating Heart Surgery**

417. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether with new technology pf "beating heart surgery" now available the cost of surgery can be considerably reduced;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes the introduction of the new technology in Government hospitals so that the benefit of the cost reduction goes to the patients; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. As compared to conventional surgery, beating heart surgery cost nearly 25% less.

(b) and (c) At present there is no such proposal.

**Withholding of Tax**

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

(a) whether the Japanese practice of imposing 20 percent withholding tax on information technology turnover treating it as a fee for technical services an inhibiting factor for the Indian Companies from rapidly enlarging business with Japan;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken up this matter with that country; and

(c) if so, the latest details of steps taken by Government and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This issue was taken up by the Indian Competent Authority with their counterpart Japanese Competent Authority and their Tax Policy Division in a recent visit to Japan. However, the issue has not yet been resolved as it involes interpretations of Indo-Japan Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and reaching a mutually acceptable understanding.

**Indo-ASEAN Summit**

419. SHRI A. NARENDRA :
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-ASEAN Summit was held in Cambodia on November 5, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the participants and the issues that had been discussed with the outcome thereof;

(c) whether on the sidelines of the Summit, the country signed any bilateral treaties with the Participating countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Apart from Prime Minister, the Summit was attended by the Head of State/Governments of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, The Summit focused on the theme of 'strengthening India-ASEAN cooperation'. The leaders of India and ASEAN agreed to strengthen India-ASEAN cooperation in different fields, including in trade and investment, human resources development, information technology, science and technology, tourism, people-to-people exchanges, and in combating the menance of international terrorism and other transnational crimes. Upon the conclusion of the Summit a Joint Inaugural Statement was released to the press.

(c) and (d) India and Cambodia concluded the following agreements during Prime Minister's visit to Phnom Penh for the India-ASEAN Summit :

(i) A Credit Agreement to extend GOI credit line of US$ 10 million to Cambodia;

(ii) A bilateral Trade Agreement;

(iii) An MOU between the Archaeological Survey of India and APSARA Authority of Cambodia for Preservation of Angkor Archaeological Park; and

(iv) A non-governmental Agreement for cooperation between IIT, Bombay and the Cambodian Institute of Technology.

**Pak's Commitment to end CBT**

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

(a) whether the Government have prepared a dossier that seeks to expose to the global community Pakistan's U-turn on its commitment to end cross border terrorism (CBT);

(b) if so, whether the said dossier was put before the UN General Assembly session; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the Assembly agreed with India's views ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTENAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Government has made available to world leaders ample evidence of Pakistan's failure to fulfil its commitment to end cross border terrorism. During his address to the UNGA on September 12, 2002, PM also emphasized "Pakistan's duplicity in claming to be a crucial partner in the international coalition against terrorism while continuing to use terrorism as an instrument of State policy against India."

PM's statement, which now forms a part of the record of the UN, has been noted by world leaders and countries attending the UNGA.

**Pak-North Korea Nuke Nexus**

421. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem regarding Pakisan-North Korea nuke nexus as reported in the Pioneer dated October 19, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The U.S. State Department announced on October 16, 2002, that during the visit of Assistant Secretary James A. Kelly to North Korea in early October, North Korea admitted to having a program to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. A New York Times report published on October 18, 2002 quoted US intelligence officials having stated that Pakistan was a major supplier of ciritical equipment for DPRK's clandestine nuclear weapons programme. The report stated that equipment such as gas centrifuges used to

create weapons-grade uranium appeared to have been "part of a barter deal" beginning in the late 90s in which North Korea supplied Pakistan with missiles in turn.

(c) The report of Pakistan's links with North Korea in the nuclear field has not comes as a surprise to the Government. Pakistan's missile programme has been developed with assistance from other countries. including North Korea, Reports that Pakistan has in return aided North Korean nuclear programme need to be investigated seriously. The problem of clandestine transfers and acquisition of missile and nuclear technologies involving Pakistan is a matter of deep concern because Pakistan today is the epicentre of international terrorism.

**FDI Report by Planning Commission**

422. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recently submited a detailed report on FDI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several eminent economists have criticized the Planning Commission's report on FDI;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to re-examine the report before implementation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The Steering Committee on FDI has proposed some measures to attract more FDI into the country which include the following :

- Consider the enactment of a Foreign Investment Promotion Law that incorporates and integrates aspects relevant to promotion of FDI.
- Urge States to enact a special investment law relating to Infrastructure to expedite all investment in infrastructure sectors and remove hurdles o production in this critical sector.
- Empower the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) to give initial Central level registrations and approvals where possible, with a view to speeding up the process of project implementation.
- Change Government of India's Rules of Business to empower Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) to expedite the processing of administrative and policy approvals.
- The aggregate FDI target for the Tenth Plan should be disaggregated in terms of sectors and relevant Administrative Ministries/Departments, to increase accountability, This could help ensure that the policy pre-requisites for increasing domestic Private investment and FDI are expedited by the concerned departments.
- Sectoral FDI caps should be reduced to the minimum and entry barriers eliminated. With the exception of 'Defence Industry', FDI caps can be removed in all manufacturing and mining. Caps can also be eliminated in Advertising, Private Banks and Real Estate and raised in Telecom, Civil Aviation, DTH/KU broadcasting, Insurance and Plantations (other than tea).
- The existing strategy for attracting FDI should be overhauled. The relative emphasis must shift from a broad (scatter short) approach to one of targeting specific companies in specific sectors. The Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) should be reformed to implement this strategy. It should be chaired by a person with global credibility and involve Minister level functionaries who can interact with the heads of the Fortune 500 companies.
- The informational aspects of the strategy should be refined in the light of the perceived advantages and dis-advantages of India as an investment destination and should use information technology and modern marketing techniques.
- The Special Economic Zones (SEZ) should be developed as the most competitive destination for export related FDI in the world, by simplifying

applicable laws, rules and administrative procedures and reducing red tape to the levels found in China. The focus should be on accelerated/immediate implementation of reforms that may take a much longer time [e.g. decade(s)] in the country as a whole and not on tax sops.

- Domestic Policy Reforms in the Power Sector, Urban Infrastructure and Real Estate should be expedited to promote private domestic and foreign investment.

(c) Planning Commission is not aware of any such criticims on the report.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Report has been submitted only recently. the question of re-examination and the details thereof does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Theft of Nuclear Material**

423. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of theft of nuclear material from various atomic centres in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases in which the stolen nuclear material have been recovered; and

(c) the steps likey to be taken by the Goverment to check the theft of nuclear material from various atomic centres ?

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) Nil.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

(c) Adequate security measures are already in place at various Atomic Centres in the country to prevent any theft of nuclear material.

*[English]*

**Indo-Bangladesh Ties**

424. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to further improve bilateral relations with Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the talks held between both the countries at different levels during this year;

(c) the various issues which figured in the disucssions; and

(d) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) India and Bangladesh interact on an ongoing basis on various matters aimed at improving bilateral ties. A number of bilateral meetings take place regularly in addition to other visits at different levels between the two countries. Mr. M. Morshed Khan, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visited India and 16-17 June 2002 and the Minister of External Affairs visited to Dhaka on 24-25 August 2002. During the two high level exchanges, discussions were held at the highest level on issues of mutual interest. The discussions helped to strengthen and further enhance our bilateral relations and facilitated better understanding between the two Governments

Other important meetings that took place this year since January included meeting to review the Protocol/ Agreement governing the Kolkata-Dhaka bus service (New Delhi, 14-15 March 2002), Director General-level talks between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) (Dhaka, 22-25 March 2002 and New Delhi, 28 October to 2 Novermber 2002), second meeting of Joint Boundary Working Groups I and II (New Delhi, 26-27 March 2002), Trade Review Talks (Dhaka, 8-9 April 2002),-16th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (Dhaka, 21-24 June 2002), 4th meeting of Joint Committee of Experts on sharing of Teesta waters (New Delhi, 27-28 August 2002), first meeting of Joint Group of Customs Officials (Dhaka, 2-3 November 2002).

The meeting on Kolkata-Dhaka bus service addressed various operational issues relating to running of the bus service. Director General-level talks between BSF and BDR were aimed at promoting better understanding and coordination between the two forces guarding the borders. Meeting of Joint Boundary Working Groups addressed various pending matters relating to India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974. The Trade Review Talks focussed on promoting bilateral economic and commercial linkages. While the Standing Committee of Joint Rivers Commission addressed the issues relating to border rivers, the Joint Committee of Experts looked into sharing of waters of common rivers between India and Bangladesh. The first meeting of Joing Group of Customs Officials was aimed at ehancing cooperation between the Customs authorities and address various operational issues.

**Appointment on Compassionate Grounds**

425. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :

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

(a) the number of officers and staff of Railway Mail Service in Lucknow, Gorakhpur Zones and in West Bengal who died while in service during the last three years;

(b) the number of their eligible dependents who have been employed on compassionate grounds from 1999 till date;

(c) the number of eligible dependents who have not been employed so far;

(d) whether any representations have been made with regard to giving employment to such eligible dependents of the deceased officials on compassionate grounds; and

(e) if so, the action taken so far by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) 36 officers and staff of Railway Mail service, Lucknow, Ghorakhpur Divisions and in West Bengal died while in service during last three years.

(b) None of the dependents have been employed on compassionate grounds from 1999 till date in Railway Mail Service in Lucknow, Ghorakhpur zones and in West Bengal.

(c) No eligible dependent has been employed so far in Lucknow, Gorakhpur zones and in West Bengal.

(d) 35 dependents of deceased officials have applied for appointment on compassionate grounds.

(e) Out of 35 applications, 5 applications have been considered and rejected keeping in view the guidelines of the nodal Ministry on the subject. In the remaining cases, action is being taken to complete the process of collection of information and consideration of the applications for appointment on compassionate grounds as per the instructions and guidelines of the nodal Ministry governing such appointment.

*[Translation]*

**Dental Diseases**

426. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to rising consumption of chocolate, toffee and soft drinks dental diseases are taking the shape of epidemics among the children and the youth of the country;

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

(c) whether All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Indian Dental Association have also suggested to include denal disease programmes in the National Programme for the Eradication of Diseases; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government on the above suggestion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) It is true that due to rising consumption of chocolate, toffee and soft drinks, there is an increase in the incidence of dental diseases.

(c) and (d) The Government have intiated a Pilot Project on National Oral Health Care Programme in 5 States of Delhi, Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala and North Eastern States. The main objective of this programme is to develop a low cost, sustainable and accessible preventive programme and under this the main component is the oral

health education of the Community i.e. to generate awareness among the public about the good oral hygiene and to restrict sticky food items and follow healthy practices.

*[English]*

**Grant of Additional Pension**

427. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission has recommended for grant of additional pension at the rate of 0.5 per cent for each completed six-months period of service in excess of 33 years subject to a limit of 35 years;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been accepted;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

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 Fifth Pay Commission recommended additional pension at the rate of 0.5 percent of emoluments for each completed six monthly period of service or one percent of emoluments for each year of service in excess of 33 years.

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

**Compensation to Indians**

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

(a) whether the Government have received any representations recently from Kuwait-Iraq war affected Indian Citizens regarding Un Compensation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) The representations mainly ask that the persons who had failed to apply for compensation within the due date fixed by the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC), Geneva, should be given a chance to file claims now.

(c) The Government of India on it own had already taken up this matter with the UNCC, Geneva, to allow submission of late individual claims by Indians who had failed to apply on UNCC forms but had applied earlier on the Government of India forms which were withdrawn once the UNCC was set up. The UNCC replied in March 2000 as follows :

> "The four years during which the Commission continued to accept claims for filing constitutes the longest filing period of any such claims programme in history."
>
> As a result of the Governing Council's December 1995 determination, it will no longer be possible to accept for filing the submission of any more individual claims in the above-mentioned categories." i.e., categories "A", "B", "C" and "D".

*[Translation]*

**Pulse Polio Drops**

429. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of children who have been administered Polio drops during the last three years till date in the country, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government provide any financial assistance to the States to run the Polio Eradication Programme; and

(c) if so, the amount provided to each State for this programme during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Information is contained in Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The vaccine is supplied to the States in kind. Funds provided to the States towards operational expenses of the Polio Eradication Programme are given in Statement-II.

**Statement**

*Roundwise coverage under Pulse Polio*

| Sl. No. | State | 24th Oct 1999 | 21st Nov 1999 | 19th Dec 1999 | 23rd Jan 2000 | 27th Feb 2000 | 26th Mar 2000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 40095 | 40128 | 40004 | 40253 | | |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 9848606 | 10446207 | 10343361 | 10250317 | | |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 191835 | 197863 | 197187 | 198734 | | |
| 4. | Assam | 4221984 | 4267636 | 44237809 | 4397860 | 4492651 | 4553661 |
| 5. | Bihar | 19301315 | 18269358 | 19815850 | 19057161 | 21209779 | 19919187 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 104773 | 110063 | 113480 | 115230 | | |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | | | | | | |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 29250 | 29269 | 30900 | 31692 | | |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 16492 | 17230 | 17993 | 18606 | | |
| 10. | Delhi | 1943749 | 2015191 | 2118412 | 2269537 | | 1930688 |
| 11. | Goa | 119941 | 122799 | 124562 | 128113 | | |
| 12. | Gujarat | 6160034 | 5900755 | 6383787 | 6603064 | 6622070 | 668677 |
| 13. | Haryana | 3185589 | 3335029 | 3456469 | 3543661 | | |
| 14. | Himchal Pradesh | 689587 | 674656 | 681151 | 688383 | | |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1499222 | 1536400 | 1447142 | 257854 | | |
| 16. | Jharkhand | | | | | | |
| 17. | Karnataka | 6382044 | 7094088 | 7077449 | 6861814 | | |
| 18. | Kerala | 2856848 | 2868981 | 2875708 | 2886227 | | |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 6572 | 0 | 0 | 6725 | | |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 12138544 | 12348675 | 12511535 | 1369457 | 13479433 | 13415303 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 8686384 | 8783592 | 8893023 | 11476742 | | |
| 22. | Manipur | 223888 | 323692 | 330847 | 299667 | | |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 429890 | 421849 | 418940 | 426330 | | |
| 24. | Mizoram | 110928 | 110089 | 109604 | 110920 | | |
| 25. | Nagaland | 227333 | 232755 | 229348 | 237296 | | |
| 26. | Orissa | 4031529 | 2532943 | 4568137 | 4601990 | 4639264 | 4317325 |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 95349 | 102089 | 102389 | 103934 | | |

*Immunization from 1999 to 2002*

| 23rd Apr 2000 | 24th Sep 2000 | 5th Nov 2000 | 10th Dec 2000 | 21st Jan 2001 | 14th Oct 2001 | 2nd Dec 2001 | 20th Jan 2002 | 3rd Mar 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | | | 39150 | 49404 | | 37661 | 39271 | |
| | | | 10592242 | 10660112 | | 10568299 | 10660742 | |
| | | | 160265 | 172843 | | 171368 | 168970 | |
| | | 4505206 | 4548935 | 4528733 | | 0 | 3373915 | 3373915 |
| | 20035015 | 20587370 | 21219453 | 21259668 | 18159257 | 18438438 | 18700614 | |
| | | | 98426 | 115912 | | 116081 | 122796 | |
| | | | | | | 3195600 | 3259345 | |
| | | | 32397 | 32665 | | 32445 | 33550 | |
| | | | 17655 | 18755 | | 17892 | 19359 | |
| | 2313104 | 2316187 | 2321917 | 2383461 | 2496245 | 2569126 | 2630643 | |
| | | | 123630 | 127335 | | 124143 | 126644 | |
| | | 7058640 | 7119245 | 72270500 | 2688221 | 7207865 | 7345087 | |
| | | 3493866 | 3619264 | 3750177 | | 3670284 | 3798927 | |
| | | | 669455 | 688618 | | 688915 | 697513 | |
| | | | 1559857 | 1575451 | | 1595267 | 1661204 | |
| | | | | | 1011380 | 4823376 | 4908411 | |
| | | | 6721983 | 6991685 | 2325829 | 7148442 | 7148859 | |
| | | | 2890252 | 2932313 | | 2902381 | 2935426 | |
| | | | 6595 | 6814 | | 6529 | 6853 | |
| | | 13235768 | 10638458 | 13400520 | | 10152826 | 10246803 | |
| | | | 10937442 | 11898695 | 4343170 | 11801047 | 11974303 | |
| | | | 296781 | 305605 | | 327250 | 336072 | |
| | | | 346869 | 357155 | | 345428 | 369188 | |
| | | | 103499 | 104915 | | 112177 | 113970 | |
| | | | 213105 | 209106 | | 230128 | 228912 | |
| 1981373 | | 4578117 | 4601351 | 4617921 | | 4655168 | 4729842 | |
| | | | 103593 | 105175 | | 101152 | 103921 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28. | Punjab | 3374277 | 3410874 | 3504395 | 3491548 | | |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 9636232 | 9850831 | 9795060 | 9010618 | 9864273 | 10028478 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 72630 | 74685 | 73236 | 74265 | | |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 6888523 | 7040429 | 7212537 | 7290497 | | |
| 32. | Tripura | 386684 | 387972 | 392969 | 405540 | | |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 29782249 | 30763206 | 31567427 | 31468584 | 31969325 | 32226046 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | | | | | | |
| 35. | West Bengal | 8829534 | 9008168 | 8173979 | 9167293 | 9210050 | 9117830 |
| | Total | 141490011 | 142317532 | 147030690 | 149290012 | 101486845 | 102195293 |

*During rounds held on 9th Dec. 1995, and 20th January 1996 Children under 3 years were covered.

**Statement-II**

*Release of funds to States/UTs for PPI*

*(Rs. in Lakhs)*

| Sl. No. | Name of the State/ UTs | Funds Released to States 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 25.85 | 2.09 | 7.45 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 945.84 | 457.09 | 707.86 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 146.65 | 38.58 | 46.43 |
| 4. | Assam | 527.61 | 326.52 | 309.25 |
| 5. | Bihar | 1160.05 | 2206.53 | 1585.33 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 28.00 | 5.42 | 8.00 |
| 7. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 23.86 | 1.56 | 2.54 |
| 8. | Daman and Diu | 31.13 | 0.98 | 2.04 |
| 9. | Delhi | 102.90 | 275.02 | 226.55 |
| 10. | Gujarat | 678.90 | 5.99 | 542.73 |
| 11. | Goa | 32.02 | 590.06 | 9.26 |
| 12. | Haryana | 270.96 | 343.79 | 246.34 |
| 13. | Himachal Pradesh | 228.38 | 66.07 | 100.44 |
| 14. | Jammu and Kashmir | 240.86 | 96.06 | 152.59 |
| 15. | Karnataka | 476.17 | 437.20 | 539.07 |
| 16. | Kerala | 452.41 | 130.25 | 196.24 |
| 17. | Lakshadweep | 22.43 | 0.60 | 1.52 |
| 18. | Madhya Pradesh | 1725.43 | 1334.82 | 736.02 |
| 19. | Maharashtra | 1064.78 | 516.61 | 903.66 |
| 20. | Manipur | 89.58 | 9.52 | 58.17 |
| 21. | Meghalaya | 72.68 | 13.45 | 73.10 |
| 22. | Mizoram | 40.04 | 3.59 | 21.50 |
| 23. | Nagaland | 70.14 | 7.59 | 42.33 |
| 24. | Orissa | 683.04 | 411.89 | 318.00 |
| 25. | Pondicherry | 44.42 | 4.91 | 8.46 |
| 26. | Punjab | 292.10 | 312.18 | 243.46 |
| 27. | Rajasthan | 890.45 | 939.58 | 720.77 |
| 28. | Sikkim | 37.01 | 2.45 | 13.85 |
| 29. | Tamil Nadu | 723.46 | 329.70 | 492.88 |
| 30. | Tripura | 60.64 | 12.80 | 68.48 |
| 31. | Uttar Pradesh | 1834.19 | 3544.13 | 3186.89 |
| 32. | West Bengal | 740.90 | 1104.74 | 884.50 |
| 33. | Uttaranchal | 0.00 | 0.00 | 129.11 |
| 34. | Chhattisgarh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 196.63 |
| 35. | Jharkhand | 0.00 | 0.00 | 323.64 |
| | Total | 13762.841 | 13531.77 | 13105.09 |

| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3561609 | 3587792 | 3619246 | | 3595094 | 3639390 | |
| | | 10460850 | 10733032 | 10910844 | | 10857035 | 11148849 | |
| | | | 70068 | 71190 | | 72401 | 70250 | |
| | | | 7209197 | 7390587 | | 7304335 | 7545105 | |
| | | | 386280 | 399927 | | 398164 | 411895 | |
| | 31957229 | 33633787 | 34086747 | 34570056 | 33918056 | 34394247 | 1350523 | |
| | | | | | | 1331919 | 33948374 | |
| | 7023754 | 9100626 | 9152659 | 9311549 | 9103866 | 9158595 | 9395182 | |
| 1981373 | 61329102 | 112532026 | 154207594 | 159793487 | 74046024 | 1518150978 | 163250648 | 3373915 |

**Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes**

430. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

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

(a) the number of private hospitals and nursing homes in Delhi which are in possession of public land against token amount of Re. 1/- per sq. metre;

(b) the norms for allotting public land against token amounts;

(c) whether all the existing private hospitals nad nursing homes have fulfilled the norms;

(d) if not, the details of such hospitals and nursing homes;

(e) whether any action has been initiated against those hospitals and nursing homes;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the guidelines of the Government regarding treatment of the poor patients in the said hospitals and whether the poor patients are being treated in these hospitals as per the said conditions; and

(h) if so, the number of poor patients treated in each of these hospitals during the last two years alongwith details in this regard ?

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

*[English]*

**Machines in AIIMS**

431. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news items captioned "AIIMS Ki Machino Main Kharid Ke Nam Par Kamison Khori" apearing in the *Dainik Jagran* of October 29, 2002;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of machines have been declared unfit for use by the doctors of Government hospitals;

(d) if so, the number of such machines lying unfit in AIIMS; and

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

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

(b) Yes, Sir. The Institute received complaint against one of the faculty members alleging that he has attended a conference in Hong Kong from 20th to 21st March, 2002 by accepting the hospitality by S. Tyco Healthcare, a Multi- national Company from which the faculty member had purchased equipment worth over Rs. 10 lakhs in the Department on behalf of AIIMS. A Committee has been constituted to conduct a detailed enquiry into the complaints.

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

*[Translation]*

**Poor Maintenance in Nuclear Plants**

432. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of poorly constructed and maintained blast furnances in the N-plants in the country;

(b) the number of casualties that has taken place so far therein; and

(c) the remedial steps 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) There are no blast furnaces in nuclear power plants

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of the above.

*[English]*

**Funds for Agriculture in Tenth Plan**

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

(a) the total amount earmarked for agriculture and allied sector during the ninth plan, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the actual investment made in these sector during the above period;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the investment in Tenth Plan in view of increase in drought, cyclone, flood and earthquake, like natural calamities, in some States; and

(d) if so, the steps 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) and (b) Sectoral plan allocations, including allocation for Agriculture, to State are based on proposals of the States concerned that are drawn up according to their priorities. These proposals are finalized in consultations with the States and are indicated in the plan accordingly. Statements I and II showing State-wise, year-wise Plan allocation for Agriculture and Allied Sector during the Ninth Plan together with the corresponding expenditure are enclosed.

(c) and (d) Expenditures on relief for natural calamities in States are primarily provided from outside the Plan. States are however allowed to re-prioritise their sectoral allocation of Plan funds in such eventualities, it required.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise and Year-wise Final Approved Outlay for Agriculture and Allied Sector during Ninth Plan*

(Rs. crore)

| Sl.No. | States | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| I. | **Special Category States** | | | | | | |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 52.33 | 43.47 | 51.12 | 46.37 | 53.21 | 246.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Assam | 141.13 | 140.90 | 158.98 | 169.33 | 166.87 | 777.21 |
| 3. | Himachal Pradesh | 161.14 | 183.43 | 196.40 | 191.06 | 207.58 | 939.61 |
| 4. | Jammu and Kashmir | 146.24 | 187.38 | 190.10 | 204.15 | 262.69 | 990.56 |
| 5. | Manipur | 28.23 | 26.05 | 29.88 | 21.05 | 21.93 | 127.14 |
| 6. | Meghalaya | 30.94 | 34.81 | 37.88 | 43.95 | 41.73 | 189.31 |
| 7. | Mizoram | 26.35 | 34.21 | 35.19 | 31.78 | 33.59 | 161.12 |
| 8. | Nagaland | 20.13 | 23.17 | 24.50 | 28.91 | 38.01 | 134.72 |
| 9. | Sikkim | 34.37 | 18.26 | 20.09 | 23.16 | 25.36 | 121.24 |
| 10. | Tripura | 32.69 | 28.81 | 36.49 | 37.75 | 49.81 | 185.55 |
| | Total I | 673.55 | 720.49 | 780.63 | 797.51 | 900.78 | 3872.96 |
| II. | **Non-Special Category States** | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 122.02 | 170.77 | 181.27 | 191.70 | 142.64 | 808.40 |
| 2. | Bihar | 48.38 | 48.66 | 54.87 | 43.02 | 55.28 | 250.21 |
| 3. | Goa | 9.42 | 10.07 | 12.62 | 12.50 | 18.46 | 63.07 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 317.62 | 350.48 | 414.81 | 472.55 | 599.14 | 2154.60 |
| 5. | Haryana | 86.02 | 102.59 | 99.27 | 103.65 | 110.66 | 502.19 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 182.09 | 278.85 | 227.07 | 287.79 | 300.46 | 1276.26 |
| 7. | Kerala | 202.27 | 226.80 | 226.60 | 186.50 | 155.25 | 997.42 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 213.05 | 336.37 | 311.20 | 258.21 | 311.50 | 1430.33 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 313.14 | 330.66 | 435.36 | 468.78 | 324.51 | 1872.45 |
| 10. | Orissa | 121.75 | 152.99 | 84.53 | 127.88 | 81.55 | 568.70 |
| 11. | Punjab | 56.69 | 115.80 | 141.48 | 165.94 | 183.26 | 663.17 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 302.82 | 331.52 | 255.18 | 169.65 | 122.81 | 1181.98 |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 364.50 | 426.99 | 439.60 | 413.12 | 306.60 | 1950.81 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 326.08 | 417.94 | 363.73 | 794.89 | 295.36 | 2198.00 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 54.17 | 57.43 | 100.55 | 119.93 | 202.84 | 534.92 |
| | Total II | 2720.02 | 3357.92 | 3348.14 | 3816.11 | 3210.32 | 16452.51 |
| | Total I and II | 3393.57 | 4078.41 | 4128.77 | 4613.62 | 4111.10 | 20325.47 |

**Statement-II**

*State-wise and Year-wise Actual Expenditure for Agriculture and Allied Sector during Ninth Plan*

(Rs. crore)

| Sl.No. | States | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 $ | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| I. | **Special Category States** | | | | | | |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 49.05 | 41.25 | 42.06 | 41.93 | 53.21 | 227.50 |
| 2. | Assam | 134.13 | 123.27 | 153.20 | 169.33 | 166.87 | 746.80 |
| 3. | Himachal Pradesh | 151.96 | 187.87 | 195.16 | 191.06 | 207.58 | 933.63 |
| 4. | Jammu and Kashmir | 153.48 | 160.79 | 182.76 | 193.95 | 262.69 | 953.67 |
| 5. | Manipur | 21.24 | 25.12 | 54.33 | 12.95 | 21.93 | 135.57 |
| 6. | Meghalaya | 28.76 | 31.96 | 36.36 | 40.57 | 41.73 | 179.38 |
| 7. | Mizoram | 23.39 | 21.53 | 34.77 | 31.70 | 33.59 | 144.98 |
| 8. | Nagaland | 14.86 | 17.67 | 14.85 | 28.38 | 38.01 | 113.77 |
| 9. | Sikkim | 20.01 | 18.26 | 18.46 | 24.22 | 25.36 | 106.31 |
| 10. | Tripura | 33.37 | 30.39 | 37.72 | 44.81 | 49.81 | 196.10 |
| | Total I | 630.25 | 658.11 | 769.67 | 778.90 | 900.78 | 3737.71 |
| II. | **Non-Special Cateory States** | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 178.53 | 204.96 | 164.73 | 227.11 | 142.64 | 917.97 |
| 2. | Bihar | 46.74 | 49.79 | 47.16 | 55.68 | 55.28 | 254.65 |
| 3. | Goa | 9.34 | 9.91 | 12.76 | 13.55 | 18.46 | 64.02 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 287.98 | 324.32 | 441.94 | 376.07 | 599.14 | 2029.45 |
| 5. | Haryana | 104.81 | 79.83 | 90.13 | 92.92 | 110.66 | 478.35 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 234.72 | 303.58 | 291.81 | 283.79 | 300.46 | 1414.36 |
| 7. | Kerala | 217.79 | 1217.49 | 227.52 | 186.50 | 155.25 | 2004.55 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 414.39 | 345.89 | 337.91 | 211.01 | 311.50 | 1620.70 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 297.46 | 313.09 | 404.22 | 225.18 | 324.51 | 1564.46 |
| 10. | Orissa | 124.12 | 129.21 | 122.40 | 145.33 | 81.55 | 602.61 |
| 11. | Punjab | 48.60 | 77.20 | 81.67 | 138.45 | 183.26 | 529.18 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 274.63 | 290.37 | 238.55 | 150.27 | 122.81 | 1076.63 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 303.78 | 390.56 | 395.13 | 417.35 | 306.60 | 1813.42 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 406.82 | 477.72 | 609.35 | 714.33 | 295.36 | 2503.58 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 77.95 | 82.08 | 180.60 | 179.01 | 202.84 | 722.48 |
| | Total II | 3027.66 | 4296.00 | 3645.88 | 3416.55 | 3210.32 | 17596.41 |
| | Total I and II | 3657.91 | 4954.11 | 4415.55 | 4195.45 | 4111.10 | 21334.12 |

$ : Actual Expenditure not avialable; Revised Oulays have been taken.

**Disinvestment in Shipping**

434. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to disinvest in shipping industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The disinvestment of Shipping Corporation of India is at an advanced stage and the Transaction Documents are likely to be submitted for finalisation shortly. These documents would be frozen in the context of the decisions finalized and thereafter, financial bids would be called by the Government.

**Item Purchased through Re-Sellers**

435. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kendriya Bhandar is supposed to procure stationery items and other items from the maunfacturers only failing through their authorized distributors designated for supplies to Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, whether Kendriya Bhandar has been purchasing the items from re-sellers;

(c) whether there is any proposal to order an investigation into the purchases from re-sellers at higher rates and to bring the officials responsible for selling the items at higher than market rates; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Where the manufacturers express their inability to effect direct supply to Kendriya Bhandar, purchases are made from their authorized suppliers.

(c) and (d) While registering authorized suppliers, an undertaking is taken from them that the prices quoted to Kendriya Bhandar are the lowest and that they will not quote lower rates than the rates offered to Kendriya Bhandar to any other Department/Organisation without passing the benefit to Kendriya Bhandar. Presently, there is no proposal to order investigation into purchases from resellers.

**Filling Up of Posts**

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

(a) whether any special drive has been undertaken for filling up of vacant posts of different categories in the department and its sub-ordinate offices, reserved for SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

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

**WLL Technology in Rural Areas**

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

(a) whether telephone connections are being provided under WLL system in the rural ares where there has been shortage of cable;

(b) whether solar chargers have been provided for telephone connections under the WLL system in those villages which have not been electrified so far;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is not providing solar chargers to the villages which are not electrified and in which telephone connnections have been provided under the WLL system;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken for redressal of such complaints ?

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

(b) to (e) Solar chargers are not being provided for telephone connections on WLL systems except for Villate Public Telephones (VPTs). Some complaints were received from UP(E) Telecom Circle in regard to provision of WLL connections in non-electrified villages where the applicants were demanding solar panels and chargers. Guidelines were issued to the Telecom Circles in August 2002 not to provide WLL Telephones in non-electrified villages. However, exception has been permitted in the cases where the applicant has no objection to installation of WLL telephone despite normal power not being available. It would not be possible for BSNL to provide solar chargers for non-VPT WLL telephone connections.

**Telephone Connections to Post Offices**

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

(a) whether telephone connections have been provided to all the post offices in the State of Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the number of post offices where the telephone connections are yet to be provided; and

(d) by when the telephone connections are likely to be provided to the remaining post offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Details of 16 departmental post offices yet to be provided with telephone connections are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Telephone connections to post offices are provided in a phased manner. Sanction for telephone connections to 16 post offices has since been issued.

(d) Connections are provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited subject to availability of resources.

**Statement**

*List of Post Offices without Telephone Connections in Meghalaya*

| Sl.No. | Name of Post Office |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. | Balat |
| 2. | Banasree |
| 3. | Bholaganj Bazar |
| 4. | Jaiaw |
| 5. | Lower Mawprem |
| 6. | Madanriting |
| 7. | Motinagar |
| 8. | Meghalaya Sectt. |
| 9. | Mawlai |
| 10. | Mawiong |
| 11. | NEHU Campus |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| 12. | Oakland |
| 13. | Rilbong |
| 14. | Sumer |
| 15. | Araimile |
| 16. | Rongra |

**Life Expectancy amongst Women**

439. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINIDA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether life expectancy of women in Madhya Pradesh is the lowest in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the lowest and highest life expectancy amongst females in other States;

(c) the factors responsible for low life expectancy in females in the country; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to raise female life expectancy in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In so far as major States are concerned.

(b) As per the report of the Technical Committee on Population Projections Constituted by Planning Commission 1996, the levels of expectation of life at birth for the year 2001-06 are indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The low life expectancy in females in the country is affected by a wide range of socio-economic determinants like access to health services, nutritional status, marriage at young age and gender bias as well.

(d) Major initiatives being taken to raise female life expectancy in the country include enhancing availability of basic Health Care Services, Essential obstetric care, Emergency obstetric care, 24 hour delivery services, Referral Transport for pregnant women, MTP facilities, Dai Training and RCH Camps.

**Statement**

*Projected Leves of the Expectation of Life at Birth 2001-2006*

| Major States/ All India | Male 2001-2006 | Female 2001-2006 |
|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 62.79 | 65.00 |
| Assam | 58.96 | 60.87 |
| Bihar | 65.66 | 64.79 |
| Gujarat | 63.12 | 64.10 |
| Haryana | 64.64 | 69.30 |
| Karnataka | 62.43 | 66.44 |
| Kerala | 71.67 | 75.00 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 59.19 | 58.01 |
| Maharashtra | 66.75 | 69.76 |
| Orissa | 60.05 | 59.71 |
| Punjab | 69.78 | 72.00 |
| Rajasthan | 62.17 | 62.80 |
| Tamil Nadu | 67.00 | 69.75 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 63.54 | 64.09 |
| West Bengal | 66.08 | 69.34 |
| India | 63.87 | 66.91 |

Source : Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections - 1996, RG India.

**Target for Development of SSI in Tamil Nadu**

440. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set-up any target for development of Small Scale Industries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the target has since been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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 (d) The Central Governmet does not fix any target for setting up of Small Scale Indsutries. However, the Government of Tamil Nadu has fixed targets for development of Small Scale Industries. They are monitored by the State Government by way of registration of new units. The total target and achievement made in respect of establishment of new Small Scale Industrial units in Tamil Nadu for the last seven years are furnished below :-

| Year | Physcial Target set up | Achievement made |
|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 14700 | 16410 |
| 1996-97 | 16200 | 17770 |
| 1997-98 | 17024 | 18320 |
| 1998-99 | 17870 | 18682 |
| 1999-2000 | 17500 | 18574 |
| 2000-2001 | 17500 | 18603 |
| 2001-2002 | 17500 | 17964 |

**Funds Borrowed by NHAI**

441. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of funds borrowed by NHAI from the Asian Development Bank for the Golden Quadrilateral;

(b) the interest charges being paid to ADB for this loan;

(c) whether there is any possibility of expediting re-payment to ADB;

(d) whether NHAI proposes to find financial partners to reduce debt-burden; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDHURI) : (a) National Highways Authority of India has signed a loan agreement for US $ 180 million with Asian Development Bank for Surat-Manor Tollway Project on Golden Quadrilateral (GQ). Also, a loan agreement has been signed by the Government for an amount of US $ 240 million for Tumkur-Havali section of National Highway-4 on GQ.

(b) Interest rate is London Inter Bank Offered Rates (LIBOR) plus 60 basis point.

(c) Loan will be repaid as per ammortisation schedule, agreed in the loan agreement.

(d) and (e) In order to reduce debt burden, 22 number of projects amounting to Rs. 7032 crores on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT), Annuity basis and under Special Purpose Vehicle have been tied up on GQ.

**Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

442. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

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

(a) the details of the centrally sponsored schemes being run in the country for development of youth as on date;

(b) the amount spent on these schemes during each of the last three years;

(c) whether it is proposed to formulate more such schemes in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) National Service Scheme, popularly known as NSS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, being run by this Ministry, which was launched in Gandhiji's Birth Centenary Year, 1969 with it primary

focus on the development of personality of students through community service. The Scheme has two types of programmes, viz. "Regular Activities" and "Special Camping Programmes" undertaken by the volunteers. Students are expected to work as volunteers for a continuous period of two years, rendering community service for a minimum of 120 hours per annum. The expenditure on the programmes of NSS is shared between the Centre and the State Government in the ratio of 7:5 except in the case of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territories without Legislatures, North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and other hilly areas as notified by the Planning Commission. The entire expenditure in case of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territories without Legislatures is met by the Central Government. The pattern of sharing expenditure between Central Government and North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and other hilly areas as notified by Planning Commission is 3:1 instead of 7:5. In addition, the entire expenditure on administration, training, research, monitoring, evaluation and publication pertaining to the Scheme and the full cost of NSS State Liaison Cells set up in the concerned Departments of State Governments is met by the Government of India. The existing patter of expenditure on NSS Regular Activities and Special Camping Programmes is Rs. 160/- and Rs. 300/- respectively per volunteer in normal areas and Rs. 200/- and Rs. 400/- respectively per volunteer for North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and other hilly areas as notified by the Planning Commission from time to time.

(b) The amount spent on the Scheme by the Central Government during the last three years is as under :

(Rupees in lakhs)

| 1999-00 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 |
|---|---|---|
| 2354.43 | 2888.62 | 2818.48 |

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to introduce any other centrally sponsored scheme for overall development of youths.

**Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra**

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

(a) whether the pilgrims who went on yatra to Kailash-Mansarovar have on return urged the Government to provide certain facilities including Indian Cooks and Doctors during their stay in Chinese territory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Government receives suggestions from time to time from different quarters for improving facilities for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Suggestions for improvements on the Chinese side are discussed with the latter and include improvements in medical, transportation, accomodation and cooking facilities.

*[Translation]*

**MTNL Officers Involved In Corruption**

444. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) the number of Group 'A' and 'B' officers of the MTNL found involved in corruption during each of the last three years;

(b) the number out of these officers punished; and

(c) the number of cases pending for investigation/ inquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) During the last three years, 72 Group 'A' officers and 160 Gr. 'B' officers of MTNL have been involved in corruption. The year-wise figures are as under :

| Year | G. A | Gr. B |
|---|---|---|
| 1.11.1999 to 31.10.2000 | 15 | 45 |
| 1.11.2000 to 31.10.2001 | 39 | 72 |
| 1.11.2001 to 31.10.2002 | 18 | 43 |

(b) Out of these, 13 Gr. 'A' and 45 Gr. 'B' officers have been awarded punishment.

(c) Number of cases pending inquiry/investigation/ trial against Gr. 'A' officers is 59 and for Gr. 'B' officers is 115.

*[English]*

**NHAI's Projects**

445. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to seek public investment board's approval for taking up fresh projects worth about Rs. 10,000 crore;

(b) if so, whether these projects form the first tranche of second phase of Rs. 30,000 crore National Highway Development Project;

(c) whether the NHAI has also sought a go-ahead for accessing Asian Development Bank funding for a 500 km stretch on the north-south, east-west corridors; and

(d) if so, by when these schemes are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The Second Phase of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) comprises 4/6 laning of 5812 kms on North-South and East-West Corridor. The first tranche of this phase comprising four laning of 506 kms at the cost of Rs. 2574 crores has been approved by Public Investment Board for accessing Asian Development Bank (ADB) funding. For remaining length of the Second phase, Government approval will be sought appropriately.

(d) The first tranche of Second phase under ADB funding is targeted for completion in 2005-06.

**NIC Network**

446. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) the number of districts covered under the NIC Network;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to make it operaitonal up to the Block/Tehsil level;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the said proposal is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The number of District Centres (District Collectorates) covered are 585 districts.

(b) to (d) Government had approved a plan to extend NICNET to block level in 487 blocks in all the eight North Eastern States including Sikkim as a part of setting up IT based Community Information Centres (CICs) in this region. This project has since been completed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in August, 2002. There is no other sanctioned proposal.

**Export Growth In IT Sector**

447. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the export growth registered by IT sector during the first half of current fiscal as compared to the corresponding period;

(b) whether there is any proposal to formulate a new medium and long term IT Policy for the growth of the sector in the next five years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the role envisaged for private sector in IT development; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage private sector in IT Development ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The IT sector has registered an export growth of 20.76% in rupee terms during the first half of 2002-2003 over the corresponding period last year.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, as a result of continuing liberalization and economic reforms programme of the

Government since 1991, Industrial Licensing has been abolished for the IT sector, all the IT products are freely importable and import duties are being brought down to zero% in a phased manner. Upto 100% Foreign Direct Investment is permitted in this sector, except Business to Consumer (B2C) e-Commerce. The Export Oriented Units (including Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) unis are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits under Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act. The STP Scheme designed to promote exports of software and services is working successfully and the EHTP Scheme has been modified to enable the hardware industry to meet the challenge of zero duty regime on import of IT products by 2005.

(d) and (e) In the liberalized economic environment, the private sector has a big role to play in IT development. The steps taken by the Government to promote the IT sector are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

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

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.

2. Approval for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.

3. Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) Schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC.)

4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by EHTP/ EOU/EPZ units shall be counted towards fulfillment of minimum Net Foreign Exchange eaming as a Percentage of exports (NFEP) and the minimum Export Performance (EP), provided that the items are manufactured in the unit and attract zero rate of basic customs duty. Positive NEEP is required to be achieved in 5 years instead of every year.

5. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/EHTP schemes and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes.

6. Accelerated depreciation norms extended to computers and computer peripherals to all units and capital goods of IT hardward units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP). These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years.

7. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.

8. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%

9. In the Budget 2002-03, the peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 35% to 30%. Customs duty has been reduced on stepper motors for computers/ printers from 5% to 0%, floppy diskette and unrecorded magnetic tape form 15% to 10%, ink cartridges/ribbon assembly/ribbon gear assembly/ ribbon gear carriage for use in printers for computers from 25% to 5%, 56 items of capital goods for manufacture of semiconductors from 5% to 0%, 24 items of capital good (around 200 sub-items) for manufacture of electronic components from 25.35% to 15%. tools/moulds/dies for electronics industry from 25% to 15% and on 46 items of raw materials for manufacture of electronic components from 25.35% to 5%.

   - Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals continues to be @ 15% and all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors continue at 0%. The concessional rate of customs duty @ 5% for specified raw materials for the electronics industry (121 items) continues. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @ 15%, parts of Telecom continue @5%, parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular telephones continue at 0%

10. The Central Excise duty structure was rationalized from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, in the Budget 2001-02, and continues.

11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.

12. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.

13. EDU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax act.

14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.

15. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act covers transmission of data.

16. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.

17. IT Enabled Services are eligible for Income Tax benefit under Sections 10A, 10B and 80HHE of the Income Tax Act.

18. DEPB rate will be same for a product whether exported as CBU or in CKD/SKD condition.

19. Threshold limit for obtaining "Export House" status reduced to Rs. 5 crores from Rs. 15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/Jammu and Kashmir, exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following new/special facilities :

    - 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;
    - Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.

20. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EDU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognised non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.

21. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognised schools run on a non-commercial basis by any organisation are exempted from customs duties.

22. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.

23. To give thrust to Venture capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

24. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognised stock exchange in India.

25. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit was raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.

26. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.

27. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/ GDRs. Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/ GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.

28. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of

15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.

29. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without a license, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs. 50 crores.

30. Indian Companies wishing to invest abroad may now invest upto US$ 100 Million on an annual basis through automatic route without being subject to the three years profitability conditions, up from existing limit of US$ 50 million (Budget announcement 2002-03).

31. Indian Companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).

32. To induce more investment for R and D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.

33. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.

34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.

35. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

**Observations of U.S. Deputy Secretary of State**

448. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. State Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage during his recent visit to India and Pakistan had observed that there was a decline in Indo-Pak tension;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In public comments made after his visit to India on 23-24 August 2002, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage stated that the situation was better than it was in May 2002, but that incidents of violence were on the upswing and that incursions across line of control had increased from the end of June, though were still below the seasonal annual highs.

(c) Government has noted that U.S. officials have, on a number of occasions, recognised that cross-border infiltration from Pakistan is continuing. Goverment's decisions are based on its objectives and its own assessment of the situation on the ground. It is Government's position that a complete cessation of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan is essential for easing tensions between India and Pakistan.

**VSNL Investments**

449. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICAITONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the differences regarding VSNL investment in Tata Tele has been sorted out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of Rs. 12,000 crores initially VSNL will invest Rs. 600 crores in TATA-TELE; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (d) Sir, as per the decision of the Committee appointed by the Board of VSNL for this purpose, in the first four years an amount of Rs. 636.80 crores will be

invested by way of equity in Tata Tele Services. An option has been kept to invest a sum of Rs. 199.00 crores as per time table and mode to be decided mutually between VSNL and TTSL.

**Visit of U.S. State Department Director**

450. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. State Department Director visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes. the U.S. State Department's Director for Policy Planning Dr. Richard Haass visited India on 28-29 October 2002.

(b) His visit provided the two sides the opportunity to discuss long-term development of India-U.S. relations and exchange views on regional and international developments, including the current trends in cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.

(c) The visit was part of the process of, and contributed to,the strengthening of the strategic framework of India-U.S. relations, agreed upon by Prime Minister and U.S. President Bush in November 2001 in Washington D.C. and reaffirmed during their September 2002 meeting in New York.

**National Population Policy**

451. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are considering to withhold population stabilization funds from States which deviated from the National Population Policy;

(b) if so. the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to achieve population stabilization by 2045; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target ?

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) and (d) The National Population Policy 2000 approved by the Government gives the objective of reaching a stable population by the year 2045. The Central and State Governments are implementing the National Family Welfare Programme intended to achieve the objective of a stable population by the target year.

**National Telecom University**

452. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government for setting up of a National Telecom University at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon ?

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

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had earlier given a piece of land for locating a research centre. Andhra Pradesh Government have now suggested that they may not insist upon surrender of the land, if Department of Telecommunication sets up a National Telecom University.

(c) The proposal was examined by the Ministry and Andhra Pradesh Government was informed that Ministry does not intend to venture in University projects. In view of above, Ministry has decided to release this land back to Andhra Pradesh Government.

*[Translation]*

**Use of Antibiotics**

453. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Goverment has been drawn towards the news-item "Antibiotics Ka Prayog Khatarnak Star Tak Pahuncha" publishing in the daily "Hindustan" dated September 18, 2002;

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

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Govenment to tackle the situation ?

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

(b) The authorities of Sir Gangaram Hospital have informed that WHO is proposing to funds a project titled "Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use" which is likely to start from January, 2003. The technical services agreement is yet to be signed.

(c) In order to check indiscriminate use of antibiotics. It has been made mandatory under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules that all antibiotics are sold only against the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioner. For this purpose, antibiotics have been classified under Schedule H of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

*[English]*

**Telephone Exchanges In Pune**

454. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMAITON TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges operating in Maharashtra particularly in Pune district;

(b) the telephone exchanges in Pune district that are not capable to link to the remote and rural areas of the district with the urban areas;

(c) whether a demand for opening 250 new exchanges in Pune district has been received by his Ministry;

(d) if so, whether former Minister had also assured the public representatives of that area to solve the problem; and

(e) the progress has been made in this regard, so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) 4699 number of Telephone Exchanges are working in Maharashtra State as on 31.10.2002. In Pune District 283 Telephone Exchanges are working.

(b) All the exchanges are capable to link to remote and rural areas of district.

(c) No such demand has been received so far. However during the year 2002-03 there is a proposal of opening 8 number of Telephone Exchanges in Pune District.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

**Annual Growth Rate**

455. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the 10th Plan has targeted a 8 per cent growth annually for the year 2002-2007;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes/schemes chalked out for this purpose;

(c) the details of the outlay and budgetary support earmarked in the plan;

(d) whether any policy on disinvestments of PSUs has also been targeted in the plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and criteria, if any, fixed for this 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) The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan as approved by the National Development Council has set a target of 8 per cent annual average growth rate of GDP for the Tenth Plan period.

(b) to (e) The Tenth Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council.

*[Translation]*

**Repair and Maintenance of National Highways in Rajasthan**

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

(a) the year-wise amount of funds sanctioned and spent on repairs and maintenance of the national highways in Rajasthan during the last three years since April 1, 1999;

(b) whether the national highways in Rajasthan are in bad condition; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being 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) The details of allocation and expenditure on repair and maintenance during last three years on National Highways in the State of Rajasthan is as under :

| Year | Allocation (Rs. in lacs) | Expenditure (Rs. in lacs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000 | 3320.00 | 2857.96 |
| 2000-2001 | 3412.25 | 3412.25 |
| 2001-2002 | 4448.55 | 4282.84 |

(b) and (c) Maintenance and repair of National Highways is a continuous process. National Highways in Rajasthan are generally being maintained in traffic worthy condition, keeping in view the availability of resources.

*[English]*

**Golden Quadrilateral Projects**

457. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of RAOD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre has frozen disbursement of funds on second round for road building projects under the NHAI managed Corridor and Golden Quadrilateral projects;

(b) whether it was found that many States had diverted funds meant for building roads to other uses; and

(c) whether the Golden Quadrilateral project implementation is on schedule and likely to be completed by December, 2003; 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) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. the funds meant for building roads have not ben diverted to other uses.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The implementation of projects under Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is progressing satisfactorily and is targeted for substantial completion by December, 2003. Out of the total length of 5846 kms of GQ, four-laning has already been completed in a length of 1159 kms. Four-laning of 4551 kms is in progress. Contract is expected to be awarded soon for the remaining length of 136 kms.

*[Translation]*

**Widening of Roads under Golden Quadrilateral Scheme**

458. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some alterations or the work of widening the national highways has been done under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme;

(b) if so, the reaosns therefor; and

(c) the States where problems in implementation have cropped up under this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAOD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) In general, the four laning of National Highways under Golden Quadrilateral is being carried out along the existing alignment. However, minor alterantions are made in the existing alignment at some locations to improve the geometrics. Some bypasses are also being provided in built-up areas, where traffic congestion is acute and land availability is not adequate.

(c) Some problems relating to land acquisiton, shifting of utilities, quarries and law and order etc. have been faced in implementation of this project in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

*[English]*

**Sports in Kerala**

459. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of sportsman who have recently succeeded to bring fame to India in the recent Asian Games;

(b) whether Keral was given substantial participation in these games;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the incentives given to our sports personnel who excelled in Asian Games or International Meets recently;

(e) whether the State Government has given any proposal for development of sports in Kerala;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Union Government propose to start any sports complex of International Standard in Kerala; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Details of such sportspersons are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) It is true that a number of sportspersons from Kerala participated in and were among the medal winners in the last Asian Games. However, the selection of sportspersons/teams for Asian Games is done by the concerned National Sports Federations on the basis of performance of sportspersons and not on the basis of the State to which they belong.

(d) The Sports personnel who win medals in Asian Games and other important international meets are given cash awards, monthly pension, railway passes and those who are in Government service are also given special increments.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. During the last 4 years 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 (as on 15.11.2002) 26 proposals for creation of sports infrastructure have been received from the Government of Kerala. Nine proposals which were found viable have been approved with a central assistance of Rs. 153.99 lakhs for creation of sports facilities in various places under the Scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure".

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*XIVth Asian Games, 2002*

*Total – 35 Medals*

*Gold – 10 Sliver – 12 and Bronze – 13*

**Gold**

| Sl. No. | Name | Discipline | Event |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Bahadur Singh Sagoo | Athletics | Spotput (M) |
| 2. | Saraswatisaha | Athletics | 200M (W) |
| 3. | K.M. Beenamol | Athletics | 800M (W) |
| 4. | Anju Bobby George | Athletics | Long Jump (W) |
| 5. | Neelam Jaswant Singh | Athletics | Discus Throw (W) |
| 6. | Jincy Philips, Soma Biswas, K.M. Beenamol, Manjeet Kaur, Manjuma Kurikose, S. Geeta | Athletics | 4 x 400M Relay (W) |
| 7. | Yasin Merchant and Rafathabib | Billiards | Snooker Doubles |
| 8. | Shiv Kapur | Golf | Individual |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | B.C. Ramesh,<br>Samsher Singh,<br>Neer Gulia,<br>Ramesh Kumar,<br>B.C. Suresh,<br>Sanjeev Kumar,<br>Denesh Kumar,<br>Jagdish,<br>Manpreet Singh,<br>Sunder Singh,<br>Jagadeesha K.K.<br>and Ram<br>Mehar Singh | Kabaddi | Men |
| 10. | Leander Paes and<br>Mahesh Bhupathi | Tennis | Doubles |
| **Total – 10 Gold** | | | |
| **Silver** | | | |
| 11. | K.M. Binu | Athletics | 800 M (M) |
| 12. | K.M. Beenamol | Athletics | 400 M (W) |
| 13. | Madhuri A. Singh | Athletics | 800 M (W) |
| 14. | Bobby Aloysius | Athletics | High Jump (W) |
| 15. | Soma Biswas | Athletics | Heptathlon (W) |
| 16. | P. Ramachandan,<br>Manoj Lal,<br>Satbir Singh,<br>Bhupender Singh,<br>Jata Shankar and<br>Paramjit Singh | Athletics | 4 x 400 M<br>Relay (M) |
| 17. | Geet Sethi and<br>Alok Kumar | Billiards | Doubles |
| 18. | Dilip Tirkey,<br>Devesh Singh Chauhan,<br>Bharat Kumar,<br>Jugraj Singh,<br>Dinesh Nayak Vatheir<br>Viran Rasquinha,<br>Vikram Vishnu Pillay,<br>Ignace Tirkey,<br>Bimal Lakra,<br>Gagan Ajit Singh,<br>Prabhjot Singh,<br>Daljit Singh Dhillon,<br>Tajbir Singh,<br>Kanwalpreet Singh,<br>Dhanraj Pillay and<br>Deepak Thakur | Hockey | Men |
| 19. | Nitin Mongia | Yachting | Ok Dinghy<br>Open (M) |
| 20. | Manavjit Singh,<br>Mansher Singh and<br>Anwer Sultan | Shooting | Trap Team (M) |
| 21. | Suma Shirur,<br>Anjali Bhagwat and<br>Deepali Deshpande | Shooting | 10M Air Rifle<br>Team (W) |
| 22. | Mahesh Bhupathi and<br>Manisha Malhotra | Tennis | Mixed Doubles |
| **Total – 12 Silver** | | | |
| **Bronze** | | | |
| 23. | Shakti Singh | Athletics | Shot Put (M) |
| 24. | Anil Kumar | Athletics | Discus Throw<br>(M) |
| 25. | J.J. Shobha | Athletics | Heptathlon (W) |
| 26. | Madhuri A. Singh | Athletics | 1500 M (W) |
| 27. | Geet Sethi | Billiards | Men Single |
| 28. | Inderjeet Lamba,<br>Bhagirath Singh, | Equestrain | Team Eventing<br>(M) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Rajesh Pattu and Deep Ahlawat | | |
| 29. | Jenil Krishnan, Inder Pal Singh, Roshan Lal and P.T. Paulose | Rowing | Four-Oars without coxswain (M) |
| 30. | Ashim Mongia and R. Mahesh | Yachting | Enterprise Open (M) |
| 31. | Rajesh Chaudhary | Yachting | Laser Radial Open (M) |
| 32. | Surender Bhandari | Taekwondo | Men's Fly Weight-58 Kg. |
| 33. | Leander Peas and Sania Mirze | Tennis | Mixed Doubles |
| 34. | Vishal Uppal and Mustafa Ghouse | Tennis | Men Doubles |
| 35. | Pal Winder Singh Cheema | Wrestling | Free Style 120 Kg (M) |

**Total – 13 Bronze**

**Increase in Number of Childless Women**

460. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

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

(a) wether as per a study conducted by the International Institute for Population Studies India's southern and western regions show a higher percentage of childless women at the end of their reproductive span;

(b) whether Andhra has the highest incidence of childless women followed by Goa;

(c) the percentage of childless women between 45-49 years of age and the comparative world figures indicating the comparative status of each State in this regard; and

(d) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) As per the National Family Health Survey conducted in 1992-93 and 1998-99 by International Institute for Population Sciences, a Statement-I showing Statewise/ Regionwise percentage of childless women at the age 45-49 is enclosed. A similar Statement-II for selected countries as per WHO Report is enclosed.

(d) The ore infertility is due to biological variations in chromosome, congenital and endocrnological abnormalities. The acquired infertility is due to geographic variations in infections, environmental and occupational factors.

**Statement-I**

*Percentage of Childlessness among currently married women age 45-49 years*

| Regions in India | NFHS I (1992-93)* | NFHS II (1998-99)* |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| **North** | | |
| Delhi | 2.5 | 0.5 |
| Haryana | 0.4 | 1.5 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 2.1 | 1.8 |
| Jammu | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Punjab | 1.2 | 1.7 |
| Rajasthan | 3.0 | 1.7 |
| **Centre Region** | | |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1.0 | 1.5 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1.9 | 1.7 |
| **Eastern Region** | | |
| Bihar | 1.9 | 1.5 |
| Orissa | 4.7 | 2.6 |
| West Bengal | 3.2 | 2.9 |
| **North-Eastern Region** | | |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 4.9 | 0.1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| Assam | 1.4 | 2.7 |
| Manipur | 1.0 | 1.4 |
| Meghalaya | 3.7 | 1.7 |
| Mizoram | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Nagaland | 1.2 | 0.0 |
| Sikkim | – | 1.2 |
| Tripura | 2.3 | 1.4 |
| **Western Region** | | |
| Goa | 2.8 | 4.6 |
| Gujarat | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Maharashtra | 1.3 | 4.1 |
| **Southern Region** | | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 5.1 | 2.2 |
| Karnataka | 4.3 | 2.2 |
| Kerala | 2.0 | 3.3 |
| Tamil Nadu | 2.7 | 4.2 |
| All India | 2.5 | 2.3 |

*Based on less than 25 childless women

Source : National Family Health Survey, International Institute of Population Sciences, Mumbai.

**Statement-II**

*Childlessness in Selected Countries*

| Countries | Rate |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| Ghana | 2.6 |
| Kenya | 2.3 |
| Mozambique | 13.3 |
| Brazil | 4.6 |
| Canada | 7.4 |
| Egypt | 12.9 |
| Iran, Islamic Republic | 3.1 |
| Bangla Desh | 2.7 |
| Nepal | 3.6 |
| Sri Lanka | 2.6 |

Source : World Health Organization (1991 Infertility : A Tabulation of available Data on prevalence of primary and secondary Infertility).

**12.00 hrs.**

## OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

### Maintaining Dignity of the House

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as you are aware, today when some Members were trying to raise the U.P. issue, a Member menacingly approached Shri Rashid Alvi, the Hon. Member. This behaviour of the concerned Member not only in the presence of the whole House but in the presence of distinguished guests from abroad has lowered the dignity of the House. I, therefore, strongly deprecate his behaviour and warn him to behave properly in future so that the dignity of the House is maintained. I would like also to look into the proceedings and expunge all remarks which are unparliamentary and are hurting the feelings of others.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what sort of warning has been conveyed by it and what follow up action has been taken. Whether it is sufficient to resolve this matter. . . . *(Interruptions)*

**12.02 hours**

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

### Unprecedented Drought situation in the country

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : I now go to Adjournment Motion.

I have to inform the House that I have received 22 notices of adjournment motion regarding the unprecedented drought situation in the country which has not been addressed by the Union Government adequately and lack of comprehensive policy initiative of the Union Government to combat the situation, has increased the sufferings of the drought affected people in several States of India. I call upon the Union Government to respond to this issue immediately with a view to helping the affected States. These notices were received from the following Members :

1. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, hon. Leader of the Opposition
2. Shri Mahboob Zahedi
3. Shri Basu Deb Acharia
4. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh
5. Shri Santosh Mohan Dev
6. Shri Shyamacharan Shukla
7. Shri Madhusudan Mistry
8. Shri Manik Rao Hodlya Gavit
9. Shri K.A. Sangtam
10. Shri Saiduzzama
11. Shri A.F. Golam Osmani
12. Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar
13. Shri Rameshwar Dudi
14. Shri Ram Raghunath Chaudhary
15. Shri Savshibhai Makwana
16. Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy
17. Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar
18. Shri Tarachand Bhagora
19. Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar
20. Shri Madhab Rajbangshi
21. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi
22. Dr. Girija Vyas

I have given my consent to Shri Tarachand Bhagora who has secured first place in the ballot to move the motion in the following form :

"Unprecedented drought situation in the country and lack of comprehensive policy initiative of the Union Government to combat the situation, thereby increasing the sufferings of the drought affected people in several States of India."

Shri Tarachand Bhagora, meanwhile in his letter received by me just now has requested that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi may be permitted to seek leave of the House and initiate discussion in his place.

I have accepted his request. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi may now ask for leave of the House.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek leave of the House for moving the adjournment motion regarding :

"Unprecedented drought situation in the country and lack of comprehensive policy initiative of the Union Government to combat the situation, thereby increasing the sufferings of the drought affected people in several States of India."

MR. SPEAKER : Is the leave opposed by anybody ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, at the outset, as you have given the permission and as I have said yesterday that we are ready to discuss any subject under any motion and formally from the Government side not opposing the motion, we would like the discussion to happen. But to make my conscience clear and to get the record straight I would like to only place on the table of the House the information that strictly speaking, this subject does not come under the motion for adjournment. But as you have already permitted, we are not objecting to it.

MR. SPEAKER : Though the subject matter, namely the drought situation in the country is an issue which is normally discussed by way of short duration discussion, looking at the gravity of the problem and the number of notices under Rule No. 56 for adjournment motion, as a special case, not to be quoted as precedent, leave is granted. Under Rule 61, the adjournment motion is to be taken up at 1600 hours or at an earlier hour. Under Rule 62 not less than two hours and 30 minutes are allotted for its discussion.

If the House agrees, the discussion on the motion may be taken up immediately after laying of papers etc. I think the House agrees.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I have to say something, nothing for the Members or the Adjournment Motion. I would like to say one thing that it must be made clear to the Members and the media that normally the Adjournment Motion comes on the same day. You cannot give notice for an Adjournment Motion saying that 'Tomorrow, the House will be adjourned and this will be discussed under Adjournment Motion.' Many times we see in the media and sometimes, a Member also says that he is moving an Adjournment Motion on next Tuesday on such and such subject. This is not the system of Adjournment Motion. I think, this is time to educate people on the Adjournment Motion. Adjournment Motion is of a sudden occurrence. It should be brought for the same day. A Member cannot even give a notice for tomorrow's Adjournment Motion. You have to give it on the same day. . . . *(Interruptions)* Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I am not talking about the Members. Since 6 o'clock in the morning. I am seeing on television that the Adjournment Motion is likely to be moved in the Houses. I think, people need to be educated on the issue of Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Members are aware of the rules which he has quoted.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I think, we have completely complied with Rule 56. Before 10 o'clock of the day, a Member has to give notice for an Adjournment Motion. A Member has the right to give notice for Adjournment Motion subject to its being in order. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The motion is quite in order.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We have complied with the rules. It is not that we gave notice yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, kindly fix up the time for voting also. When will the voting take place ?

MR. SPEAKER : As the normal practice is, the voting will take place at 6 o'clock.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : What is the time for debate – four hours, five hours or six hours ? You kindly fix up that also.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, by 6 o'clock, we will be able to do voting provided all the Members have spoken.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : How many Adjournment Motions can be moved in a Session ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is no rule. It depend on how many instances take place.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Not more than the days of the Session! . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Can Adjournment Motion be moved everyday ? . . .*(Interruptions)* Since Adjournment Motion is a matter of great public importance, it should be disposed off on the same day. You cannot carry on moving it everyday. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh Shri Amar Singh was threatened to life and was snubbed at Ammausi Airport in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh on 11th November by the local administration. I have given this information in the form of adjournment motion.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : All other notices are disallowed today. You can raise it in some other form on any other day.

Leave for moving Adjournment Motion regarding drought situation in the country is granted.

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**12.07 hrs.**

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[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 on behalf of MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI, AVSM 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. 577(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening (four-laning) of National Highway No. 2 (Panagarh Palsit Section) in the district of Burdwan in the State of West Bengal.

(ii) S.O. 695(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2002 seeking to amend Notification No. S.O. 58(E) dated the 20th June, 2001.

(iii) S.O. 696(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2002 authorising Shri B.K. Patnaik, Officer-in-Charge, Khurda Collectorate as the Competent Authority to perform the functions of such authority under the National Highways Act, 1956.

(iv) S.O. 697(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2002 authorising the Competent Authority to perform the functions of such authority under the National Highways Act, 1956.

(v) S.O. 712(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 25 (SAI Bridge Approach, Lucknow side) on Kanpur Road in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(vi) S.O. 764(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada Visakhapatnam section) in the district of West Godavari, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(vii) S.O. 765(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Nellore-Chilkaluripet section) in the district of Guntur, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(viii) S.O. 733(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2002 seeking to authorize Additional District Magistrate, Auriya, in place of ADM (Land Acquisition) Agra as Competent Authority in District of Etawah in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(ix) S.O. 734(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning for Allahabad bypass (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) on National Highway No. 2 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(x) S.O. 735(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2002 seeking to authorize Additional District Magistrate, Allahabad as Competent Authority (Allahabad Bypass Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(xi) S.O. 738(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th July, 2002 seeking to amend Notification No. S.O. 1092(E) dated the 3rd November, 2001.

(xii) S.O. 850(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 9 (Nandigama-Ibrahimpatnam Section) in Krishna District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(xiii) S.O. 856(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2002 regarding Authorising of Additional District Magistrate, South West, District, South West NCT of Delhi as the competent authority in respect of land stretch of National Highway No. 8.

(xiv) S.O. 872(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Ichapuram to Ganjam Section) in the District of Ganjam in the State of Orissa.

[Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

(xv) S.O. 1038(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2002 seeking to amend the Notification No. S.O. 366(E) dated the 26 April, 2001.

(xvi) S.O. 1039(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2002 seeking to amend the Notification No. S.O. 123(E) dated the 29th January, 2002.

(xvii) S.O. 1040(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th September, 2002 seeking to amend the Notification No. S.O. 524(E) dated the 17th May, 2002.

(xviii) S.O. 943(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Gudipadar to Suvani Section) in the State of Orissa.

(xix) S.O. 941(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in the District of Khurda in the State of Orissa.

(xx) S.O. 942(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 5 (Bhubaneswar-Calcutta Section) in the State of Orissa.

(xxi) S.O. 1016(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2002 seeking to appoint competent authority for acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section)

(xxii) S.O. 1059(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2002 seeking to amend Notification No. S.O. 1106(E) dated the 8th November, 2001.

(xxiii) S.O. 1060(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance etc. of National Highway No. 4 between Chennai-Ranipet Section in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xxiv) S.O. 1061(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway NO. 4 (Pune to Satara Section) in the State of Maharashtra.

(xxv) S.O. 905(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in the District of Khurda in the State of Orissa.

(xxvi) S.O. 924(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of existing National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam to Sunakhala Section) in the State of Orissa.

(xxvii) S.O. 925(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Pune to Satara Section) in the State of Maharashtra.

(xxviii) S.O. 926(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xxix) S.O. 936(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September,. 2002 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance of National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(xxx) S.O. 927(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land on Nation Highway No. 8B (Porbandar District border) and (Bambanbore Junction) in the District of Rajkot in the State of Gujarat.

(xxxi) S.O. 928(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land on Nation Highway No. 15 in the District of Kachchh in the State of Gujarat.

(xxxii) S.O. 929(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 14 in the District of Patan in the State of Gujarat.

(xxxiii) S.O. 930(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 14 in the District of Banaskantha in the State of Gujarat.

(xxxiv) S.O. 931(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning (Udaipur-Ratanpur Section in the State of Rajasthan.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT – 5997/2002]

(2) A copy of the Central Motor Vehicles (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 699(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2002 under sub-section (4) of Section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act. 1988

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT – 5998/2002]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 919(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2002 directing that the National Highways Authority of India to entrust the management of the stretches (Kishangarh-Ajmer Section and Ajmer-Udaipur Section) of National Highway No. 8 in the State of Rajasthan for a period of 5 year issued under sub-section (1) of section 31 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT – 5999/2002]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 920(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2002 entrusting the National Highway No. 79A to the National Highways Authority of India issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT – 6000/2002]

(5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :–

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT – 6001/2002]

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 GANGAWAR) : Sir, I on behalf of *Shrimati Vasundhara Raje* beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Small Industries Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT – 6002/2002]

**12.07½ hours**

## ASSENT TO BILLS

*[English]*

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table seven Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Tenth Session of Thirteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on 16th July, 2002 :–

(1) The Delhi University (Amendment) Bill, 2002;

(2) The Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill, 2002;

(3) The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2002;

(5) The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2002;

(5) The Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2002;

(6) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3, Bill, 2002; and

(7) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4, Bill, 2002.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, of the following three Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President :-

(1) The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2002.

(2) The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act and Other Laws (Repeal Bill, 2002.

(3) The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

**12.08 hrs.**

## COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

### Seventeenth to Nineteenth Reports

*[Translation]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I beg to present the Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports* (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

* These Reports were presented to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 26th August, 2002 under direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, 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.

**12.08½ hrs.**

## COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

### Second Report

*[English]*

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Ethics.

**12.09 hrs**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

### Eighteenth Report and Minutes

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Sir, I beg to present the Eighteenth Report* and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) thereto of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Fifteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Consumer Affairs (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution).

**12.10 hrs.**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eight and Thirty-ninth Reports

*[English]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English

* These Report was presented to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 14th August, 2002 under direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, when the House was not in Session. Hon'ble Speaker ordered the printing, publication and circulation of the Report under rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology :–

(1)* Thirty-seventh Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Eighteenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on "working of Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)" relating to the Department of Telecommunications.

(2)* Thirty-eighth Report on "Problems of Hardware and Software and Requirements of IT Industry" relating to the Department of Information Technology.

(3) Thirty-ninth Report on "Communication Convergence Bill, 2001" relating to the Department of Telecommunications.

**12.10½ hrs.**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### Thirty-seventh Reports

*[English]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-seventh Report** (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development on 'Implementation of Part IX of the Constitution' of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).

* Presented to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 17th September, 2002 under direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, 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 Report was presented to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 26th August, 2002 under direction 71A when the House was not in session. Hon'ble Speaker ordered the printing, publication and circulation of the Report under rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

**12.10¾ hrs.**

## JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF WAKF BOARDS

### Fourth Report

*[English]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) the Fourth Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning Wakf Boards, on Meghalaya Board of Wakfs.

**12.11 hrs**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

### One Hundred-fifth Report

*[English]*

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA (Nominated) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the One Hundred-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

**12.11½ hrs.**

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

### National Welfare Board for Seafarers

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That is pursuance of Rule 4(i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

[Shri Ved Prakash Goyal]

"That in pursuance of Rule 4(i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers subject to the other provisions of the said Rules."

*The motion was adopted.*

**12.12 hrs.**

## MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

### Unprecedented drought situation in the country – (Cont'd)

*[English]*

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the House do now adjourn."

I thank you on behalf of any Party and my own behalf for giving us this opportunity to raise an issue which has been causing severe and extensive distress to crores of men, women and children in large parts of the country.

I was going through the reply to a Starred Question in the House on Monday and looking at the dimension of the tragedy.

- Andhra Pradesh: 22 districts
- Chhattisgarh: all 16 districts
- Haryana: all 19 districts
- Himachal Pradesh: all 12 districts
- Jharkhand: all 22 districts
- Karnataka: 24 districts
- Madhya Pradesh: 32 districts
- Maharashtra: 33 out of 35 districts
- Orissa: 30 districts
- Punjab: all 17 districts
- Rajasthan: all 32 districts
- Tamil Nadu: 19 districts, although the formal declaration has not yet been made.
- Uttar Pradesh: all 70 districts
- Uttaranchal: all 13 districts; and
- West Bengal: 3 districts.

The report further adds :

"Besides, Gujarat has recently declared 13 districts as drought affected."

Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir, even Gujarat is reeling from drought and the repercussions have been severe because it has come on the back of the terrible and massive earthquake. Yet, the BJP and VHP do not seem to be agitated about the drought and its effect on the people of the State, but instead they carry on with their divisive, hate-filled propaganda.

It seems that this is clearly one of the worst and most widespread drought that we have had in a long time. Substantial portions of the *Kharif* crop have been lost and according to the Government's own advance estimate, the shortfall of Kharif foodgrain production this year may actually well be closed to 19 per cent. Sowing has been far less than normal. Even in the areas where there has been sowing, the crop has withered.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a signal of the impending drought was visible many months ago to all of us and surely to the Government also. A weak monsoon was forecast. There were reports on television; there were reports in the newspapers. Its impact could definitely have been anticipated. Even after the *Kharif* crop was lost there was time to take action to protect at least the *Rabi* crop, but this too was not done.

I have seen the drought-induced misery in various parts of our country as many of you who come from those areas have undoubtedly also seen. I do not wish to make this a political issue since the lives of so many *kisans* and *khet mazdoors* are involved. But I am compelled to say that the Central Government has not treated or tackled this national calamity with the sense of urgency required as was done, for instance, during the drought of 1987-88. I regret to say that the Central Government has responded,

in a most lethargic and insensitive manner and has not taken serious notice of the gravity of the situation that prevails in so many States.

I have held a number of meetings with the Chief Ministers of Congress-governed States. We have collectively met and together we drew up certain suggestions and action points. We then, all together, called on the hon. Prime Minister and that was on August 05. At that point we had made certain suggestions which I would like to quickly list out.

One suggestions was that an all Party Committee be set up to galvanise the implementation of the relief package. This has not been done. We had also suggested a special meeting of the NDC to be convened to discuss the drought situation and short and long term plans to deal with such an emergency. We requested for immediate despatch of Assessment Teams from the Central Government to the affected areas. This was done but after quite a bit of delay. I had suggested that the corpus of the National Calamity Relief Fund be raised to at least Rs. 10,000 crore. At that time we were told that the National Calamity Relief Fund has no monetary limit. And yet most of the States have received a tiny fraction of the relief assistance which they had asked the Centre for. I had also asked for the waiver of interest on short and medium term loan extended by co-operatives and commercial banks to the farmers in drought hit areas. Now, the waiver has not been announced but what the Government has done is that it has simply deferred this by a year. Here I would like to ask a question. In this not adding the burden to the next year ? I had also suggested changes to improve the effectiveness of the National Crop Insurance Scheme and also I had asked if the Government could have, for obvious reasons, a system whereby emergency seed production plans could be made to make good the loss in seed production during the *Kharif* season. Now, this too has not materialised.

There were many other suggestions that came from the Chief Ministers at that very meeting at which I think the hon. Agriculture Minister himself was present. There were many other suggestions from experienced Chief Ministers. The Government has now announced a package of relief measures. It almost seems to me that the same package keeps being announced from time to time perhaps to give an impression that a lot is being done. But, I am afraid I have to say that the truth is quite otherwise. The package is obviously inadequate and it has come too late. We are told that the reports of the Central teams are still being processed for further releases in future.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are in November. The Kharif crop is already lost. Wheat sowing has started. When is the Government going to act ? This is what all of us through you would like to ask the Government and would like to also get a reply. We know that there are a large number of Districts that are chronically drought-prone. So, why did Government not show greater preparedness to meet any contingency, especially in these regions ? It seems to us that this attitude is quite incomprehensible. I believe that the time has come for a comprehensive review of all long-running schemes like the Drought-Prone Areas Programme and the Desert Development Programme, so as to make them effective because today they are simply not effective.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, drought management must be a cooperative endeavour. There is no room for confrontation between the Centre and the States here. We all must recognise the severe fiscal problems that are faced by all States Governments. Many States are actually taking measures both to raise revenues and to manage their expenditures well. Therefore, the Centre must help these States. It must be more flexible in the implementation of relief and rehabilitation programmes without unnecessarily adding to the fiscal burden of the States.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a time when our country had a famine code. Now we have successfully abolished mass famine. That was a huge, tremendous hurdle and we were able to successfully cross that hurdle – I would say here – greatly thanks to the leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. I believe we all know that not more than 40 per cent of the cultivated are in our country is irrigated. Even if all of the country's irrigation potential is harnessed, 40 per cent of the cultivated areas would still be rain-fed. Thus, vulnerability to the vagaries of the monsoon simply cannot be avoided.

I would suggest, therefore, that the time is ripe for the country to think of a drought management code in the form of appropriate legislation that would codify a detailed action plan, which would automatically come into force when the rains fail. This code should also cover relief

[Shrimati Sonia Gandhi]

measures, food and drinking water supply, alternative cropping systems, grain, seed and water banks in villages. There should be special focus on the really vulnerable section of our society who inevitably face acute distress during times of drought and who inevitably and always suffer the most, and these are the *dalits*, the tribals and landless labourers, women-headed households, the old, the aged, the destitutes, infirm, pregnant and nursing mothers, and all those who cannot avail of the Food for Work Programmes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make yet another suggestion which would definitely strengthen our drought management effort. The system for allocating resources in times of calamities like drought, must not only be fair and equitable to all affected States, but also must be seen to be fair, equitable and transparent.

Here again, there seems to be a standard refrain of the Centre when allocating foodgrains to the States. The standard refrain is that the States are not lifting the grains. Now, the Government, of course, has all the figures; and I too have checked them with some of the Chief Ministers who are in charge of the Congress-ruled States. I must say that the picture that emerges from the reports that they have given is a quite different one.

I would just like to quote a few cases. For instance, Madhya Pradesh was allotted one lakh metric tonnes of grains as drought relief in the current financial year. This was to be lifted by 30th November. The State has already lifted 75 per cent of this and the rest will be lifted by the 21st November. They have also asked for another five lakh metric tonnes, but that has not been given so far.

Chhattisgarh was allotted only 50,000 metric tonnes for drought relief this year and this allotment was made on the last day of September. By October end, the State had lifted the entire quantity. They have also utilised the entire quantity; and they have again asked for another five lakh metric tonnes, which is still to be cleared.

Karnataka asked for six lakh metric tonnes. They were allotted only two lakh metric tonnes. They have lifted 1.65 lakh metric tonnes. They have not been able to lift the rest because of movement problems of the FCI. The State has been requested to have this sorted out. In the meantime, they have asked for another two lakh tonnes immediately, but as of now, this is still to come.

In the case of Rajasthan, it is really, I would say, the State which is the most distressed at the moment because of more than four years of consecutive drought conditions; and it has asked for 56 lakhs metric tonnes, against which it has been given only 2 lakh metric tonnes. The State has lifted the entire quantity and has been desperately asking for more. I am told that only yesterday, a further allocation has been made and that too, of only five lakh metric tonnes.

So, Mr. Speaker, Sir, does this not show that the Centre is trying to pass the buck, rather than acknowledging its own shortcomings and adopting a more serious attitude towards these major calamities ?

What we need is objective criteria to determine the nature and quantum of Central assistance. It is actually no use for the Centre to shift the responsibility to the States, as it has repeatedly done on so many occasions. After all there are limits to what the States can do on their own, without adequate support from the Central Government under such circumstances.

Sir, here, I am not speaking only of Congress-ruled States; I am speaking of all the States that have been so badly impacted, irrespective of the party in power.

Sir, today this country is facing the dichotomy of overflowing godowns and empty stomachs. Starvation deaths, at any time, are a blot on our society and more so when we have such huge levels of foodgrain stocks. Today, our stocks for foodgrains are four times more than the 16.8 million tonnes required for ensuring food security. For over a year, my Party colleagues and myself have been requesting the Prime Minister to start large scale food-for-work and food-for-nutrition programmes across the country, particularly, in those traditionally vulnerable regions. We have also been asking for an increase in the coverage and allocation under the Antyodaya Programme. Yet, very little has been done and the Centre has not yet addressed the very genuine demand of the States regarding transportation cost of the foodgrains that are allotted to them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government has been particularly privileged in presiding over the largest foodgrain stocks in the history of our nation. Here again, I would like to recall Shrimati Gandhi's name because it was under her leadership that this was made possible. Yet, the Government has failed miserably in providing basic and essential food security, when and where it is most needed. It has failed to use the surplus to alleviate endemic malnutrition. The real underlying tragedy of endemic malnutrition is often overlooked. I am sure, all of us understand that it is only to be expected that the nutrition situation deteriorates further during acute drought years. Ironically, for two years prior to the drought, the opportunity offered by the surplus food stock to prevent acute distress among poor people was simply frittered away. While the Central food stocks were steadily rising, the off take of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System was declining. Why did this happen ? This is again a question we would like the Government to answer. This happened due to the Government's own distorted policy which reduced the PDS offtake at a time when they should have actually been increasing.

Well this is not an occasion to score debating points. There have been some unfortunate attempts to reap political capital out of the recent tragic deaths in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh without going objectively into the facts. It is most unfortunate, of course, that these deaths have occurred. On my request, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan had instituted a high level inquiry to see if any administrative lapses occurred in the Baran District. I have seen the inquiry report. It acknowledges the unprecedented famine in the entire district and it also acknowledges the fact that since failure of the monsoon is not very common in the Baran District, people there are less equipped to handle the distress. The report clearly establishes, however, that the immediate cause of death in both those villages was specific illnesses. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has given a detailed report about the deaths in Shivpuri District. According to the report, most of the affected families are owners of land. Most of them had stocks of foodgrains in their homes at the time the deaths occurred in the family.

Therefore, I believe we need to carefully analyse the cause of such deaths and learn from experience rather than make accusations at a time when the drought is already causing sufficient distress.

I do hope that we will mount a collective response to mitigate the impact of drought in the years to come. I believe that we have the knowledge, we have the technology, we have the skills and we have the resources. What we need desperately is the will and the commitment. This is an issue on which there can be no division in this House and I am sure that there is no division in this House. I trust that all Members from all sections of the House will be united on the need for vigorous and timely action.

The Centre – and this is most important – has to provide the leadership. It is still not too late. There is much that can still be done. But that requires a sincerity of purpose and a sense of urgency. I hope that this will be reflected after the conclusion of this debate.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the House do now adjourn."

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, let me bring it to your notice that there will be no lunch hour today and the discussion on the Adjournment Motion will continue.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a good trend to skip 'Zero Hour' and lunch hour so after. Therefore, Zero Hour and lunch hour must be taken.

*[English]*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Today we are discussing about famine. So, let us skip lunch!

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : I have asked to skip the lunch hour today only.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It should not be a routine affair. We may skip lunch hour and Zero Hour only under special circumstances. It is inappropriate to skip Zero Hour and lunch hour very often. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : The food is very much there, only the Lunch Hour has been skipped. You may accompany me for lunch. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : After having lunch, you can come back.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : How the hon. Members who are not ready to leave the House for even a minute, will have their lunch ? That's why, I am raising this question. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : People are dying due to starvation, we may skip the meals for a day while attending the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be given the chance to speak. A student of Maulana Azad Medical College has been gang raped. I should be given chance to speak on this issue. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow, you will be given a chance to speak during Zero Hour.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of Opposition brought adjournment motion in the House on the issue of drought and a debate was initiated on the issue. She was expressing her concern in this regard. She had convened a meeting of Chief Ministers belonging to Congress Party in which they discussed the same issue. Sir, adivasis and dalits are dying every day in drought affected Rajasthan due to starvation. And this meeting was convened in a hill station of Rajasthan – Mount Abu. Five to six crore rupees were spent on this meeting. Money was spent lavishly. I would like to ask the leader of the opposition whether it was not possible to hold this meeting in Delhi. . . .*(Interruptions)* Shedding crocodile tears on the issue of drought will not serve the purpose . . .*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is levelling allegation, starvation deaths have not taken place there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down and listen to him.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : It is right that country is facing unprecedented drought. 14 States are drought affected. People are dying due to starvation in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be order in the House. Please sit down.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Through you, I would like to ask the leader of opposition whether the reasons for starvation deaths in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were also discussed in this meeting of Chief Ministers. She was mentioning in her speech that the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were stating that these deaths have taken place due to some disease and not due to starvation. She was mentioning that especially the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has said. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your party member is speaking, let him speak.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble members are not taking this issue seriously. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please speak in detail while replying to this issue. It is inappropriate on your part of interrupt. All of you please sit down. Your party member is speaking, let him speak. You can raise your objections later on.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, she said that the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have stated that these deaths have taken place due to some disease and not due to starvation. She also said that the deceased had land to cultivate and plenty of foodgrains at their houses. I challenge the House in this regard. I myself have visited Naharia, Khajuri, Lamnia and Bhalai village of Ganj Basauda Tehsil of Vidisha district in Madhya Pradesh where starvation death have taken place. They may send their team to enquire whether their houses

have plenty of foodgrains. I will renounce the politics if it is found true. It is completely illusionary. The fact is that 31 people have died due to starvation in Ganj Basauda Tehsil of Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh alone. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : I will resign from the House if hon'ble Members proves that starvation deaths have taken place in Shivpuri area of Madhya Pradesh. However, if the hon'ble Member fails to prove it, he should resign. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : I accept the challenge. Starvation death have taken place in Ganj Basauda Tehsil of Madhya Pradesh. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Wrong figures can not be presented in the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Through you, I would like to submit that an all party Committee should be constituted to know the truth in respect of Madhya Pradesh. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the precious time of the House is being wasted. The hon. Members should speak on the subject. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Leader of the Opposition herself is saying that they had plenty of foodgrains in their houses and they were possessing land and property also. But the truth is that they were not having anything to eat. Crops could not be produced due to drought. As a result they were not able to earn whatever that were earning earlier. . . .*(Interruptions)* Relief works were not started at a desired scale. Not a single relief work was started under the scheme "Food for Work" and in 'Sampooran Gramin Rozgar Yojana' in Ganj Basauda Tehsil of Vidisha district when such deaths started taking place there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : He is misleading the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary, please sit down. We are discussing an important issue.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing a very important issue. The issue is in the form of an Adjournment Motion.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency is badly affected by drought.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, please sit down.

*[Translation]*

Please listen to me. I would like to appeal to all the Members that the issue under discussion has a national importance. I just want to say that I allowed the adjournment Motion because of the importance of this issue. Now when the discussion has been initiated on this issue. I would like that more and more Members could get the chance to speak on it. Therefore, I request all of you to let all the hon'ble members express their views. How I would be able to give chance to all, if you will not listen to my request. I appeal to all of you not to level allegations and counter allegations on this issue. Farmers of our country are waiting hopefully for our action on this issue. You are aware that a number of people are starving in various parts of the country. Therefore, this issue should be discussed with a view to help them. I will definitely give you the chance to place your views before the House. If the hon'ble Members from this side want to make any speeches, please let them do so. Please do not disturb them.

*[English]*

Please keep silence and let there be a serious discussion on this issue.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, very humbly, I would like to request that we should

[Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan]

accept the fact that starvation deaths have taken place and if the mistake is on our part, we should accept it and then. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. If, despite my repeated request you are not allowing him to speak, how the House will function in such a situation ?

*[English]*

Hon'ble Member, please go ahead with your speech.

*[Translation]*

Not only to you but I am appealing all the members.

*[English]*

I want complete silence in this House. What is this going on ? Do you not know the importance of the issue ? Do you not have any concern for farmers ? The way you are behaving is absolutely objectionable.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that if any mistake has been committed, all of us should try to rectify the same. I am not saying all this out of party politics rather I am compelled to say all this as the issue has been raised here and such a incident has taken place in my constituency. The truth is that desired work was not done under "Sampooran Rojgar Yojana" – The scheme "Food for work" could not be implemented there. Existence of Anganwadi was only on papers. The cards which were to be distributed for helping the people living below the poverty line could not be distributed. Drought has affected the daily wagers also. Crops got damaged due to which they could not get their wages. And the relief work which was to be undertaken on a large scale could not be started even at a small scale. A person keeps on working till he has the capacity even without having his meals, but Mr. Speaker, Sir, when they came on the verge of starvation in the absence of any relief, they started eating boiled seeds of Sama grass. They prepared chapaties from this grass. I am aggrieved to say that the Chief Minister of a State mentioned Sama grass chapati a nutritious one and also mentioned the preparation of kheer with it. Very humbly, I would like to request. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if it is the same Sama grass which is commonly used by the people of the country during fast, then there is no two opinion that it is very nutritious. It is used in my parliamentary constituency also. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a farmer. Hon'ble Member is not aware. The grass which I am showing is not the one which is known as sama, which it very nutritious and is sold at Rs. 80 per kg. I have tasted the chapati made of it when. I visited the adivasis. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your time is going to be over, please continue.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would speak only when she will allow me to speak. I am saying that this grass is not Sama grass which hon'ble Member is mentioning. It is a different type of grass. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowed to bring anything in the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : I brought it here to reveal the truth because they are saying that it is nutritious. . . .*(Interruptions)* My submission is that it is not the same Sama which is nutritious and is sold at Rs. 80 per kg. This Sama is not eaten tastefully rather it is eaten under compulsions. To satiate one's hunger. . . .*(Interruptions)*

I am submitting that it is not the same Sama which is sold at Rs. 80 per kg. That Sama is for the rich people. This is wild grass. I have eaten the chapati made of it, that's why I am raising this point. Chapatis made of this grass are difficult to swallow and create stomach problems. Adivasi people were surviving on Sama. Ditori, Gulasari and Gawar etc. but gradually they stated suffering from malnutrition and caught in the grip of ill heath. On medically examining the 91 children of these areas, it was found that they were having third and fourth grade level of Portion and Calories in them. Their bodies are just

skeleton of bones. They have enlarged lever which is affecting their stomach also. I had taken all those women and children to the Chief Minister of Bhopal. They staged dharna there. You can confirm it from newspapers also. Electronic media was also present there, You can confirm from them also. The truth is that they started eating this grass when they were having nothing to eat.

As a result, today they are falling prey to malnutrition. Due to this, their bodies have become so weak that they cannot even resist against small diseases like cold and cough and ultimately died. We can say that they have died of ailments instead of starvation.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, a tribal of 50 years died there. When we raised this issue, it was told that since he was old, he died. When a tribal reaches 50 years, it is said that he is old whereas a leader of 50, 60 or 70 years, is called as a young leader. I would like to know whether the same story of a tribal will be repeated in India. In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, all these deaths have occurred due to starvation only. Here, the leader of opposition was quoting the figures. I will not read the figures of 2001-2002 but I would like to tell the figures of foodgrains supplied from Central Government to Madhya Pradesh for mid day meal under welfare scheme. During the year 2002-03, from April to till last month, 18,000 tonnes of foodgrain was allocated under mid-day meal scheme but out of which only 1002 tonnes of foodgrain that is more than the half of the foodgrains was lifted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Similarly, under normal and special components of 'Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana' 430.51 tonnes of rice and what were allocated to Madhya Pradesh but they had lifted only 171.84 tonnes. The same position is in regard to the PDS. Hon'ble Leader of Opposition was mentioning about this. If we see the figures of PDS, we will find that during the year 2002-03, total 750 thousand tonnes of foodgrain has been allocated to Madhya Pradesh out of which they have lifted only 15.933 tonnes. I mean to say that about 15% of foodgrains is being lifted under PDS. Similarly, only 15% wheat and 26.81% rice were lifted by them. This is the situation which is prevailing there.

As regards the problem of drought under which Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka are reeling, the Government have never said that it will not help them but even then the State Governments of those States are not working effectively. If the State Governments do nothing then what Central Government alone can do ?

The Central Government have taken all necessary steps in this regard immediately. Hon'ble Leader of opposition was saying that this Government have woke up very late, which is not true. As the drought hit the States, last year during monsoon session, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture held a Conference of Agriculture Ministers of all States on 24th July and had a meeting with them, after that on the basis of their suggestions he had taken many policy decisions to deal with the drought. The funds, from the Calamity Relief Fund were provided to the affected States during August, in advance, whereas it is given in the month of November. The Central Government had released the first instalment of Rs. 648.45 crore and the second instalment of Rs. 551.04 crore in advance. Besides, 13.25 lakh tonne of foodgrains was also provided free of cost to start relief work. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had constituted Special Task Force under the Chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister and that special Task Force had also decided that major portion of foodgrains could be utilised under 'Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana' for dealing with drought situation.

Issue of Rajasthan was being discussed. Besides all these things, Rajasthan alone was provided 30,000 tonnes of cattle fodder seeds and Rs. 11.66 crore were provided for maintenance of cowsheds. The Central Government had made arrangement for the free transportation of water and cattle seeds by railways. A Central team has visited 14 drought affected States and it has submitted its report also. On the basis of these recommendations the Central Government have decided to provide Rs. 2000 crore to the drought affected States. The Central Government have also decided to provide Rs. 237 crore to flood affected States. It has been decided that 5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Rajasthan and 1 lakh tonnes of rice to Orissa will be provided separately. While quoting the figures, perhaps the hon'ble leader of Opposition might have forgotten that on 16th, 19.5 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrain has been allocated again and a sum of Rs. 2000 crore will also be provided immediately to the drought hit States. Extra bonus on minimum support price. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your time is over.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : I will take some more time. The time which has been wasted should not be included in my time.

Extra bonus on minimum support price has been increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per quintal. In Rajasthan kits of fodder seeds were distributed for cattle and arrangement of alternative seeds were also made for the crops which has been damaged. Rajasthan alone has been provided around Rs. 2000 crore from 1998 to till date out of which Rs. 155 crore, were meant for drought relief. This funds have been spent on setting up Rajiv Gandhi Schools i.e. the funds have been diverted. It shows the seriousness of State Government of Rajasthan to deal with the drought situation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : An amount of Rs. 30 crore has been spent extra thereon.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : The condition is very bad whether we talk about Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan. Rs. 450 crore were allocated to Madhya Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana'. Rajasthan was allocated Rs. 402 crores. But I am pained to say that Madhya Pradesh Government has not spent even Rs. 50 crores out of these Rs. 450 crores in the entire State. Similarly Rajasthan Government has also not spent even half of the allocated amount. Had this funds been utilised properly, the activities related to relief work and provide employment to labourers, would have been accelerated. The Central Government will provide full assistance to deal with the situation arising out of drought. Besides, it will provide other required assistance also. But I would definitely like to submit that the assistance being provided in the name of drought should be percolated down to the grass root level as hon'ble Leader of Opposition has said. Drought is a catastrophe for some people but it is a boon for some people. Some corrupt officials, politicians and brokers use the funds, provided for relief work, for their own interests and they are pocketing the money. I can give many such examples. The funds and foodgrains provided to Madhya Pradesh under Sampoorna Gramine Rozgar Yojana to provide employment to labourers have been provided to a certain influential Panchayats but the work to be undertaken under the said scheme have not been launched by them.

**13.00 hrs.**

All these works are being done by tractor, JCB and Bulldozer as a result, the poor people are not getting employment in the name of drought relief. Therefore, there is a need for an effective monitoring system, so that sufficient assistance could be provided for drought relief. I agree with the hon'ble leader of Opposition that an All Party Committee should be constituted in which barring representatives of political parties, representatives of social organisations, voluntary organisation and some social workers be included so that there could be an effective monitoring of all relief measures to tackle drought.

MR. SPEAKER : Now you please conclude.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : I will take some more time.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given you more time.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : I will take two-four minutes more.

We should have a Drought Relief Committee not only at national level, but even at State and district level also so that there could be an effective monitoring of relief measures. The Government should come our with a comprehensive and long term policy to tackle drought problem. Every year we face the situation of drought, every year we discuss this issue but unless and until any long term policy is formulated to tackle the situation we will not be able to solve the problem.

During last few years, we have continuously exploited the nature. We should not exploit nature because it will disturb ecological system. We should exploit it only to certain extent but the way we have exploited it, it has disturbed the ecological system and natural cycle as a result these catastrophes are arising. My submission is that there should be a comprehensive programme to dig ponds in every village with the assistance provided for drought relief. If necessary, a law should be enacted to reserve land for the purpose of digging ponds in every village. Particularly the funds which are being provided through "Sampoorna Gramine Rozgar Yojana" should be utilised in water conservation works. There is a need to construct several check dams and stop dams.

Alongwith this regarding the proposal of linking rivers, I admit that there is a need to form national consensus immediately. On the one hand we are facing flood and on the other we are facing drought. It is not possible that the flood water, which is causing havoc, is diverted to drought hit areas. I welcome the initiative of hon'ble Prime Minister for convening meeting of all political parties for evolving common consensus on the issue of linking rivers. I admit that it is a difficult task, and it requires more than 5 lakh crore rupees. We may face other difficulties also but if the House is resolved in this regard then every problem can be solved. The networking of the rivers should be undertaken as early as possible.

Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that the delayed recovery of debt would not help the farmers. Unless and until the interest, on the loans provided to the farmers, is waived off, the farmers would not get any relief. Whenever any such catastrophe occur we postpone debt recovery as a result of which double interest is recovered next year. The farmers are burdened with such a huge amount of interest that they have no other way except committing suicide. Hence we should discuss about waiving off interest on loans provided to farmers.

I would also like to submit to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that I do agree with the Leader of Opposition that there is a need to make amendments in the Crop Insurance Scheme.

**13.04 hrs.**

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

Crop Insurance Scheme is already being implemented in the country. I belong to a farmer's family. Whenever any farmer buys fertilizers and seeds through cooperatives then insurance premium is deducted but when there is destruction due to flood, drought and hailstorm and the crops of farmers get damaged, their insurance claims are refused to be paid on the plea that a Tehsil and not any individual is considered as a unit in this regard. Therefore, unless and until more than 60-65% crops of the Tehsil are ruined, farmers will not get any relief or compensation. It is sheer injustice. My submission is that under the Crop Insurance Scheme, a farmer itself should be considered as a unit. Unless and until the loss, suffered by an individual farmer is not compensated, Crop Insurance Scheme would just help the Insurance companies to grab money in the form of premium without benefiting the farmers in anyway.

I would like to make one more submission. Through you, I would also like to submit to the hon'ble Leader of Opposition that the farmers are distressed due to erratic power supply in the country. They get electricity for 2-5 hours and that too during night. Due to this they have to wait whole night in their fields. I have visited my parliamentary constituency. There a farmer requested me to make some arrangement so that they could sleep at night. When I asked the reason for not sleeping at night, he told me that the power cuts are imposed throughout the day and it is only at night that we get power supply and that too is erratic. Hence I and my son remain in our fields throughout night. The moment electricity is available, I switch on the button instantly. The next moment I hear my son saying that it's gone. The situation is that not a feet of land is irrigated. I am not demanding that electricity should be provided free of cost. The move to provide free electricity to serve political ends and get votes has created problems. Today the farmers are on the verge of getting ruined. If both the Central and State Governments discuss the matter properly and make joint efforts to improve the power situation in the country then only the farmers could get some relief. On one hand due to lack of power supply, the crops are getting destroyed while on the other hand drought has severely affected the farmers ultimately leading them on the verge of getting ruined.

This House has to resolve to combat the drought situation in the country. We should rise above party politics to discuss this matter. Blaming either Central or State Governments will not do. We should unitedly consider this issue and evolve a consensus to tackle this situation. A resolution to the effect of properly combating drought, preparing the farmers to face the situation and saving the country from the tragedy of starvation death should be taken.

*[English]*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, as everybody knows, the country is being faced with a very serious drought situation. We are having a very serious debate on this grave situation. The drought management should done in a cooperative endeavour, and it should be above party

[Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan]

politics. It is the prime duty of the Central Government to take the leadership, and unite all factors to tackle this grave situation, and help the people.

Sir, unfortunately, at the outset, I must say that very recently, the hon. Prime Minister of India had declared that some steps would be taken by the Government to tackle this grave situation. But the important steps declared by the Hon. Prime Minister to tackle this grave situation of drought are totally inadequate.

The Government have decided to declare a moratorium to repay the medium term loans of the farming community of the country, especially, those reserved for the fourteen declared drought affected Sates. It will be effective up to 31st March. But, Sir, after 31st March, what will happen ? Will the farming community of the country, especially, the drought-affected areas, be able to repay their medium term or short term loans ? No, Sir.

So, first of all, I would like to tell the Government, through you, Sir, that this moratorium is totally inadequate. The loans should be totally written off.

But what I demand on behalf of my party is its waiver. What is happening is that the Government is boasting time and again that all our godowns are overflowing ? While our godowns are overflowing, people are dying due to starvation.

On this particular point, I demand that the Government should immediately review the Food Policy which is being implemented by the Government now a days and the foodgrains should be distributed free of cost in those drought affected areas.

Now, 14 States have been declared as drought affected States by the Central Government. I would like to ask the Central Government what was the criteria for declaring them as drought affected States. Sir, I come from the State of Kerala. According to the official sources, the Meteorological Department has stated that compared to last year, this year monsoon has been 14 per cent less in the State of Kerala. But the State of Kerala has not been included in the list of drought affected States.

Sir, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are the neighbouring States of Kerala. As you know very well, the monsoon is almost same in these three States. But Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been declared as drought affected States, whereas Kerala has been left out. If I remember correctly, on 8th or 9th August, during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, some of the Members from the State of Kerala approached the hon. Prime Minister and gave him a memorandum to declare the State of Kerala also a drought affected State. But till date it has not been declared as a drought affected State.

Unfortunately, we came to know that the Government of Kerala did not demand that the State of Kerala be included in the list of drought affected States. Sir, it is a very unfortunate thing. Till date, all the official sources say that monsoon has been 14 per cent less this year, though the Kerala State has not been declared as drought affected State. The farming community of Kerala is facing a very serious and acute situation. Even though the declared remedies and steps by the Central Government are adequate, these are small steps in getting anything for the farming community of Kerala because Kerala has not been included in the list of drought affected States.

So, I seek a reply from the hon. Agriculture Minister while he replies to this debate, as to why the State of Kerala has not been included in the list of drought affected States declared so far.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition has rightly pointed out that it is a very serious situation and all the steps should be taken by the Central Government. It must be above the party politics. The Central Government should take the initiative and leadership in tackling this grave drought situation in the country

Now, I come to Food Policy. That is also connected with the remedies and steps that are taken to tackle the drought situation. So, Food Policy is very important. Now, the Public Distribution System in our country is totally collapsed. That is why, everybody is pointing out that even at the time of over-flowing of foodgrains in the godowns of our country, people are dying with empty stomach. So, it should be reviewed. These foodgrains should be distributed free of cost of the drought-affected areas, tribal areas, backward areas and remote rural areas. In such a way, the Government should come forward to tackle this serious and grave situation in the country. Unfortunately, I must say that discrimination is coming up in the matter of taking steps by the Central Government to tackle the drought situation in the country. There should not be any

discrimination against any State in the matter of taking steps to tackle the drought situation. So, in such a way, a very serious attention must be shown by the Central Government. Very serious steps must be taken by the Central Government against this very serious drought situation in our country.

While we are discussing about the drought situation, some parts of our country are facing floods also. So, there should be a permanent mechanism to tackle all these natural calamities such as drought and floods.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the adjournment motion moved by the leader of Opposition in regard to famine, amounts to only sheding crocodile tears because, all the States being governed by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi's Congress Party, may it be Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh or any other State, which ever has been affected by the drought, the State Governments over there have totally failed to manage the situation.

Sir, as my colleagues have just said, the starvation deaths have been reported from Bara district of Rajasthan during last few days. MP of my neighbouring constituency Dr. Girija Vyas ji is also the President of Rajasthan Pradesh Congress. The reports are continuously coming from Adivasi areas like Dungarpur, Banswada and Western Rajasthan and Ajmer district that the situation over there is dreadful due to famine. It is true that Rajasthan Government has declared 32 districts as drought affected districts. As these States have been declared as drought affected districts, they must get aid from Central Relief Fund or Calamity Relief Fund as approved by Central Government or Rajasthan Government.

Rajathan Government have drawn all these funds. Union Government have provided adequate relief to the Rajasthan Government in the form of potable water, fodder and other assistance to combat the drought situation. I am sorry to say that the intention of the Rajasthan Government is not good – "na surat buri hain, na seerat buri hai, bura vahi hai jiski neeyat buri hain". The reason behind my saying this is that the intention of Rajasthan Government is not good and that the Rajasthan Government has totally failed in managing the situation arising out of drought. It has failed in providing employment to the people, making arrangements for employment, it has failed in lifting the foodgrains, making arrangement for drinking water, as well as it has proved unable in providing livelihood to the people and failed in saving the livestock of the Rajasthan. On the basis of Geobels theory, the State Government is repeatedly telling the lie that the Union Government are not providing any assistance.

Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here. I would like to request him that the Government of India should issue White Paper. The State of Rajasthan is facing drought continuously for the last four years. Lord Indra is unhappy with Rajasthan. The people in our villages say, whenever Congress have come to power, the State had faced the drought situation and whenever the Bharatiya Janata Party come to power, Madam may understand it well, in Rajasthani it is said the 'Janta aur Jamana, Congress aur Akal'. Whenever Congress had came to power, the State had to face situation of drought whenever Bharatiya Janata Party came to power, the State enjoyed good time, it rains, it is absolutely true. During last few days, the starvation deaths took place in Bara of Kota in Rajasthan and Star TV, Zee TV, Doordarshan and other means of media or newspapers have also confirmed those starvation deaths.

Sir, I regret to say, that Sonlaji said that those death were not due to starvation, but due to malnutrition I would like to ask my colleagues from Congress Party, whether malnutrition does not mean starvation ? They do not get two square meals. They work hard to earn their livelihood but they do not even get two square meals, they do not get adequate food, they have to sleep without food. They have to eat leaves and grass, as a result of which they die. I am surprised to say that the Rajasthan Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Nair, Secretary, Home Affairs. It has already submitted its report. But, it do not had courage to give report against the Rajasthan Government, they were saying that deaths took place due to malnutrition. The Congress Governments are playing tricks, whether it is Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh, the starvation deaths are taking place over there. Hon. Minister of Food, was present there. He released foodgrains from Food Corporation of India's godowns. The State Government can lift the available foodgrains from FCI godowns in Rajasthan. The Union Government has arranged five to ten mounds of foodgrains to each and every Sarpanch, so that nobody die of hunger. The families where they do not have any earning member, those who

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

are helpless should not die of hunger. Therefore, in order to provide free foodgrains there, the Union Government has supplied wheat bags under special scheme namely 'Annapoorna Yojana'. It is regrettable, that under Congress rule, the Sarpanchs had even misappropriated the wheat supplied under Annapoorna Yojana. They are not supplying that wheat to the people who do not have to grain to eat. The starvation deaths which took place in Bara are the black spot in history of Rajasthan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that during last 55 years, the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies have ruled the State only for 10 years. For rest of the years, the Congress Party had ruled the State. If the Congress might have sought permanent solution for drought during its regime, if the effort would have been made to make Ganga-Yamuna water available to Rajasthan, the starvation deaths would not have taken place. If the Chambal water would have been supplied under life scheme to those areas of Rajasthan which are facing water scarcity, people would not have faced starvation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to say that probably, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is not aware of poverty and situation being faced by poverty-stricken people.

*[English]*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Sir, this is not the way. She has visited the worst affected areas. He should correct himself. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Girija Vyas, you can speak when you get your turn.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Congress Party has ruled the State of Rajasthan for 45 years. If the then Minister of Agriculture and the Government would have made efforts to redress the problem of drought, the Rajasthan would not have faced drought for fourth consecutive years. It is like "Rome was burning, Nero was fiddling." There were reports that starvation deaths are taking place in Rajasthan but Congress was convening conference of Chief Minister's of Congress ruled States in Rajputana-resort, a five star hotel in Mount Abu, and you can well imagine the expenditure incurred thereon. I am sorry to say that hon'ble Sonia Gandhiji visited there, to shed crocodile tears and said I want to survey the drought affected areas. Rajasthan Government made arrangement for her visit to a few selected places, which can be visited by helicopter only and she met a few people, which had nothing to do with drought relief. Those people were already taught what they had to speak and what not. There Soniaji said that Ashok Gehlot has done the good job, as everything is well managed. I want to say that "Garib ko mat sata, garib ro dega, sunega uski khuda to tujhe jarh se kho dega." Soniaji gave certificate to Shri Gehlot and after that Gehlot ji was also relaxed. He should have taken steps to provide employment and relief to the poor.

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan had called the meeting of MPs of Rajasthan in the capital itself. But 16 out of 25 MPs are from BJP. They were not invited in that meeting. Only 9 MPs from Congress were invited. These MPs are not satisfied with the way drought is being handled. I do not know how he pacified them

Munsi ji please find out why I have not been called so far to speak on famine ? It is discriminatory policy of the Government of Rajasthan. . . .*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation is grave so give me a little more time to speak. I want your protection. Two lakh tonne wheat was specially allotted by the Government of India under Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana and for other works. A special quota of 5 lakh tonne was also allotted. It was to be released in two lots of two lakh tonne and three lakh tonne but the Government of Rajasthan could not lift it. They blame each other and try to take credit for the good work being done "Mehamadiya ki topi Ahmedia ke mathe and Ahmedia ki topi Mehmdia ke mathe," Meetha-Meetha' hup and Kadwa-Kadwa thu." which means they take credit for good deeds and blame others for wrongful deeds. They are telling that they have done a lot for the people and that they are distributing grains and that they had requested the Central Government also but the Central Government are not providing funds. I would like to quote the figures. The Congress Government over there misled the people. They have hypnotised media. Ads of two pages are being given. I would have been happy if the

advertisement had Girija ji's photo. On one corner of the ad we find the photo of Congress President and on other corner photo of Gehlot Saheb. Crores of rupees are being spent on ad-war but on arrangements are being made for providing food to the hungry, for providing relief to famine affected people or far removing drinking water scarcity and to protect their live stock. Live stock is main source of agriculture there. I would like to thank Central Government for having announced free supply of fodder from wherever it is available through goods train to famine affected States, so as to protect their live stock. Goods trains full of fodder are being sent of Rajasthan but the Government are unable to lift it from Railway stations. There is none to take it or for making arrangements for its storage. Panchayat depots have been opened in villages. I visited 4-5 panchayats in Kisangarh constituency. Sarpanches submitted a memorandum stating that they wanted to open depots. I made written.requests several times but no action was taken. Grain depots are not opened. . . .*(Interruptions)* Once straw was full of dust and fodder was poisonous. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are a number of speaker. We must finish the debate by 6 o' clock. There are more than 33 Members who want to participate in the debate.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, six buffalos died in Puskar Fair Kerosene oil in the village is not supplied in time. A Congress party worker was caught black marketing it and large stock was recovered from him. The condition is worse there. You must read newspaper published from Rajasthan.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling the next speaker, Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi. There are more than 33 Members who want to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, I want your protection. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you have started at 1.18 p.m. you have already taken 7 minutes.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, I will conclude within two minutes. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Can I cut short your Party's time ?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government of India allotted funds for providing famine relief, providing drinking water and for rural employment but it was spent for opening Rajiv Gandhi Swarnjayanti School. Rs. 158 crore were spent on it. He would be .surprised to know that existing schools do not have teachers and rooms. . . .*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may please be given two minutes to speak. I need your protection. Rajiv Gandhi schools have been opened at several places but B.ED or STC qualified persons are not getting job there.

Favorite people of Sarpanches or Congress party, who are just matric or even non-matriculate have been employed in these schools who are paid a paltry sum of Rs. 1000-1200. An inspector visited one of the schools who found that a teacher was telling the students that river Ganga originates from Himalayas, and flows in to the Arabian sea via Haridwar-Inspector Saheb asked the teacher that you are sending river Ganga in Arabian Sea. He said that it will merge in Arabian Sea if we are paid only Rs. 1000-1200.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, please resume your seat. You have taken nearly 20 minutes.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since he is a professor, he is talking on education; he is not talking about drought. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, you may start now.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : This is the condition in cities and villages. Through you, I want to tell that the

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

condition in Rajasthan has become grave. The Central Government should issue a white paper and it should take immediate steps for providing relief to the maximum number of drought affected people of Rajasthan and also to save them from lackadaisical attitude of the Congress Government.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present 14 States are facing drought and famine situation. Some of these States have been reeling under drought and famine for the last 2-3 years continuously but Rajasthan has been facing drought and famine for the last five years. Consequently it is a sensitive matter on which I rise to speak. Just now, our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi spoke on grave situation prevailing in the entire country. It is natural that elected representative of the country will be concerned regarding it. There may be some differences between our line of thinking. I would like to request hon. Members humbly to cooperate on such issues and do not politicise several such important issues concerning common people which are likely to come up for discussion during this session. We should avoid such situation and take them seriously according to seriousness of the issue and realise the agony of common men and should endeavour as to how to take the country out of it ?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to the speeches of both sides – treasury benches and the opposition. Whenever country is in grip of famine there category of people get most affected. First category is marginal farmers. But, medium type of farmers are economically somewhat better who can face such eventuality but marginal farmers get worst affected. Second category of such people is agriculture labour who depend upon agriculture. Neither he has land nor any other source of employment. He works is the fields of farmer whereby he earns livelihood for his family. Most affected category is animals associated with agriculture which include, Oxen, buffalos and goats. Last Kharif crop in 14 most affected States has been totally destroyed because of drought and famine and Rabi crop which was about to be sown, only 50 percent has been sown in these States and in some of the areas even lesser land has been sown. Though Kharif crop was already sown. I have seen the figures of Madhya Pradesh where 60 percent land has been sown. Out of this, only 30 percent crop has come up which is 30 percent of normal production.

Kharif crop has already been destroyed and in absence of availability of water for irrigation, prevailing drought and high temperature the crops which were to be sown. Only farmers understand, what shall be its consequences and others are not able to understand. If the seed retained by the farmer to be cultivated next year, is no more left with him then the farmer would definitely face crisis next year also. So, this crisis is not for the present year but its far-reaching results would effect the farmers in the next year too.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no water left in the wells of the villages. I visited the area of Madhya Pradesh to which I belong. And the condition of water level is that the level of water in wells having hand pump which used to be in the month of March-April can now be observed in the month of November. Please imagine how can people of the entire village subsist with such meagre amount of water throughout the year. I warn the Government if no effective steps are taken immediately, the country may have to face crisis. There would be Drinking water available from the month of March itself and at some places even from the month of February itself. There are 138 such municipalities in Madhya Pradesh where water is being supplied at intervals of two days, or three days or even as long as eight days. This is the condition of towns. The State Governments should, through their resources. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara) : It is his Government there.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Its my rule, his rule and the Government's rule. I had made a request earlier also that if one has to see from the Government point of view, the condition of Uttar Pradesh is worse. Whom should I blame for this. Do not go into the rule of Governments, please look at the entire situation in a wider perspective, only then one can find some solution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say one more thing that it is very necessary to make drinking water arrangements there. Secondly, purpose would not be solved if the payment of loan by the farmers is asked to

be made by the next year. I agree with the views of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan that farmers would get relief only if the interest on their loan is waived off. Otherwise, the very next year, the farmer would have to re-pay the same loan with interest on the interest itself, which would worsen his economic condition. Agricultural labourers are migrating from villages in large number. People are migrating to places where they are getting work, be it Punjab, or Delhi. I cannot say anything about other States except Madhya Pradesh. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan is not here, I think he might have said something out of political reasons because the fact is that the Madhya Pradesh Government have opened 11,748 relief centre in all the district, where 3.68 lakh labourers are working. Entire construction work is related to processing of water. Relief work is being undertaken everywhere for making ponds, stop dams, small reservoirs so as to store water and to raise the level of water in wells. Shivraj Singh ji is not here, I would have felt good had he been here. Twenty lakh rupees have been provided for each district and they have been told that this is first instalment. The collector has been directed to initiate relief work involving an expenditure of upto sixty lakh rupees. Work on Schemes upto development block level has been started in the entire district, I would like to draw your kind attention towards just two-three things.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted by your whip, which is ten minutes, is over. There are five more Members from your side who are yet to speak.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : I would try to finish my speech within time. Mr. Chairman, Sir, everyone is aware about the economic condition of the State Governments. Economic condition of some of the States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. is very bad. These Governments, for the last three years, are combating the drought situation by providing relief work and it is quite natural that if they do not get sufficient assistance, they would fail in their effort. Big States like Uttar Pradesh also need help from the Union Government. I will not say that the Centre did not give any financial assistance, they did give, but how much ? A Central team was sent to Madhya Pradesh and they conducted a survey there. After the survey and after assessing the situation, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh put a demand for rupees 4869 crore keeping in view the wide expanse of drought i.e., 32 out of 45 districts are in the clutches of drought. But a mere assurance of financial assistance of Rs. 1100 crore was given First instalment of Rs. 500 crore was released and after that, nothing has been provided so far. We had made a demand for foodgrains. We had wished that the labourers should have been given work under the 'Food for work' programme, but even half of the quantity of foodgrains as demanded by the State Government was not provided. Situation of Rajasthan is also the same, they had demanded for 65 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, but actually how much was approved ? Merely five lakh tonnes was approved and only two lakh tonnes have been supplied.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted to you is over. You have taken four minutes more.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : He can say that the Union Government had provided the assistance but whether the assistance extended by the Government was sufficient in proportion with the conditions prevailing there. We shall have to make deliberations on this aspect and it would be disastrous if we leave the entire situation on the State Governments.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan had talked about the starvation. I personally visited the area 'Shivpuri', where it happened. There are three four families where deaths took place. These families have accepted that they had foodgrains in their respective homes. . . . *(Interruptions)* Please let me finish my statement. A foodgrain bank has been established in that village and 28 sacks of foodgrains are stored in that bank. It's not that they cannot procure foodgrain from that bank. Had they not worked, even then they would have procured foodgrains from that bank. But foodgrain was not required. Actually these five-seven persons died due to some disease. Malaria, Dengue fevers are quite prevalent in that area presently, it has mixed symptoms of viral also. It can spread in other areas also. Deaths have taken place in my native place also. Some

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

persons have died due to measles. We will not do justice if we say that every death has occurred due to starvation. And therefore, we should consider only those deaths that have occurred due to starvation if any such thing has occurred anywhere, be it Rajasthan, Orissa or any other State, then the Government of that State should be held responsible for it. None should be safeguarded. I am not here to safeguard to support anyone.

At the end, I would like to say that the hon. Member had said that Madhya Pradesh did not procure its total share of foodgrain allotted to it. With due regards, I would like to say that the hon. Member's information is not correct. I lakh tonnes of foodgrains was sanctioned for my State. Out of which 75000 tonnes of foodgrain has already been procured by us till the last month. We have demanded for some additional foodgrain which has not yet been alotted to us. You are saying that we have not procured it. They can see the report of foodgrain sent under the 'Nutrition Scheme'.

**13.49 hrs.**

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

The foodgrain sent under the Nutrition Scheme, was infected, rotten and of inferior quality. What do you want, the Madhya Pradesh Government should procure such foodgrain and provide it to their children ? How can we give rotten foodgrain to our children which may then result into deaths – in fact we immediately wrote to the Government that why such an inferior quality foodgrain was supplied to us. We requested that these foodgrains may kindly be changed with a better quality one. But you would be surprised to know that we were not provided good quality foodgrains. Keeping in view all these facts, we should prevent ourselves from making allegation and counter allegation and rather a wide, integrated scheme should be formulated, so as to check flood or drought situation.

Sir, an average property worth 10 thousand crores rupees gets destroyed every year either due to drought or flood in one or the other area. We can prevent ourselves from the crisis of flood as well as of drought, if we link all rivers of the country inter-se. I am aware that many years back, in 1950, a project was initiated to link River Ganga and Kaveri, but it has not been materialised till date. Perhaps this could not happen since the economic condition of the country was not good and we were not getting sufficient foreign aid, but today it is appropriate time that instead of destroying our property worth 10,15 or even 20 thousand crore rupees every year, we should talk to financial institutions, which could link all rivers of the country and this make solution for drought and floods occurring in the country and some far reaching permanent solution could be made otherwise every year we would discuss here in the House about crisis of flood and drought and cry helplessly without any permanent solution for them in the country. I, therefore, request this august House here to forget all disputes and make a unanimous decision on this and work with great seriousness and start the project as soon as possible, so that our descendants could, atleast get relief of flood and drought.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Adjournment Motion has been introduced by the hon. Leader of opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and through this motion, a discussion is being held in the House on the flood and drought situation specially. I oppose this Motion on behalf of my party Shiv Sena. 55 years have passed since we achieved independence. And during these 55 years, be it the Centre or the State including Delhi, it was the Congress which ruled the country. This includes Panchayats. Panchayat Samitis, Taluk Panchayats, district level panchayats, Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha – it is the Congress which ruled about 40 to 45 years out of these 55 years. There was no one to check them and Congress only ruled the country. I only want to say that if genuinely the leader of Congress as also the party itself had wished for the welfare of the farmers, their condition would not have worsened so much. The Congress party in its regime of 40-45 years did not take any concrete step to provide relief to farmers from flood and drought. The present situation is the result of such previous actions. I feel that it is a serious problem but all the political parties are trying to achieve their political motives instead of combating this serious situation.

Therefore, you should make an appeal to all the parties to see that our party is of the view that such a calamity should not be seen from political point of view

Especially in Maharashtra, Congress ruled for 40-45 years and during these years, the area of irrigation was merely 10 percent. During this period, i.e. for four and a half to five years, when there was coalition Government of the Shiv Sena and the Bharatiya Janata party, the area of irrigation was increased from 10-12 percent to 22-23 percent. This was done to provide relief to the farmers there. During the regime of our Government in Maharashtra, the farmers were supplied electricity for 24 hours of the day for the purposes of irrigation. Today there is Congress party Government in Maharashtra.

I am not delivering any political speech, but only discussing about the condition prevailing in Maharashtra. There is power-cut for six to eight hours in a day. Especially in rural areas, where farmers require power for irrigation, they are not getting it. Even after the power-cut of six to eight hours a day, there is no power supply. This is the condition of Maharashtra.

I feel proud to say that during the regime of coalition Government of Shiv Sena and Bharatiya Janata party, farmers get electricity 24 hours a day throughout the week except for once in a week. There was no load shedding at that time. The hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha presently Shri Manohar Joshi has been the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The Congress party people at that time used to say that he is 'Brahmin' how can he know about cultivation, but this great 'Brahmin' provided electricity to farmers for complete 24 hours in a day.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, cotton is predominantly grown in Maharashtra. All big and small farmers grow cotton there. Out hon. Leader of Shiv Sena, Shri Balasaheb Thakre had said that if his Government comes in power in Maharashtra, he would give Rs. 2300/- per quintal for cotton to the farmers by establishing monopoly of cotton. I say with pride that we practice what we preach. This is the principal and policy of the Shiv Sena. I am of the view that the support price of cotton was never so high in the last 40 45 years as high during the regime the coalition Government of Shiv Sena and the Bharatiya Janata Party. Today the condition of farmers in Maharashtra is very deplorable. The cotton growers in Maharashtra are committing suicide. It has been published in the local newspapers of Maharashtra that farmers of nine areas have paid loan with regard to cotton.

**14.00 hrs.**

The payment of cotton purchased by the Maharashtra Government last year has not been made so far. Our coalition Government had fixed the price of cotton at Rs. 2300 per quintal. The Maharashtra Government fixed its price at Rs. 1500 to 1600 per quintal last year. It is a fact that the farmers are committing suicide as the Government have not yet made payment to the farmers. Nine farmers have committed suicide so far but no Government officer has visited their house. The payment due to the farmers has not yet been made by the Government of Maharashtra nor taken any steps in this regard so far. On the one hand, farmers are suffering from providence and on the other from the administration. The farmers of Maharashtra are suffering on two accounts. Sir, through you, I would appeal that not even a single penny has been given to the farmers out of the total amount of Rs. 65 crore granted by the Union Government from their Natural Calamity Relief Fund. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please conclude.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Efforts should not be made to pass the buck on one another. Funds released by the Central Government should be provided to farmers whereas they are diverting it. Long term policy should be evolved to tackle with drought. A committee should be constituted to carry out a study on linking of rivers and there is a need to ponder over seriously to facilitate irrigation through it all over the country. We have plenty of grains but our distribution system is faulty. Even now, children are dying of hunger in tribal areas of Maharashtra. Large stock of foodgrains is lying in godowns of Central Government, but there is a need to tone up the distribution system. Such unfortunate situation should not recur in future in our country that the children, the sons of farmers die of hunger while there are plenty of foodgrains.

Through you, I urge the hon. Minister of Agriculture as he is an able Agriculture Minister, to implement Crop Insurance Scheme in each State. If crop of a farmer gets damaged due to drought or he is unable to get good yield, he should get compensation. Day by day, the farmers are getting debt trapped for no fault of theirs. There is scarcity of water in some of the States whereas there is no water in others. A farmer takes loan for sowing paddy in his field

[Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav]

and for buying fertilizers, but if crops get damaged due to drought and he gets no production, it is none of his fault. Therefore, my submission is that such a policy should be framed whereby at least interest on loan of marginal and medium level farmers, who are debt trapped, should be waived off

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over, you may conclude now.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : So far, our task force has failed in providing relief to the farmers. A team on behalf of Union Agriculture Ministry was sent to each State to study the condition prevailing there, but it is yet to submit its report. Even if, the report has been received, no relief has been provided so far. The Centre and State Governments should chalk out a joint programme to tackle drought and take effective measures at the earliest in this regard.

The Centre have food for work scheme. Since we have plenty of food grains and enough labour force, we can implement it as agriculture labourers from villages are fleeing to metros like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Food for Work scheme should be implemented to avoid large scale exodus of these people.

My only submission is that as the farmer is our a bread-provider, the Government should endevour to save him since he himself is hungry. If the farmer is saved, we will be saved. The Government should frame a long-term policy to tackle drought, which can be implemented in whole country, i.e. each State or each district. The Government should constitute a Committee to ponder over its seriously and take effective measures.

I conclude with these words.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on drought.

About three years and a month has passed since I have been a Member of this House. I have experienced that this apex House has been discussing drought and flood every year for the last three years. We hold discussion and think that our duty is over. I feel that we have become so insensitive that we think that our dutles are over by just blaming each other. After observing the discussion on drought in the House, it has become quite clear that the ruling party and the opposition parties have tried to hold each other responsible for it. Even 55 years after our independence, if the farmers are forced to survive on the mercy of nature, it is a shame on our democratic system. We should be forced to think what we have given and what we have not given to the farmers during this 55 years of our independence.

Just now, I listened to the speech of hon. Leader of the Opposition. During her speech hon. Sonia Gandhi said that we have got rid of famine but not drought. When I went through newspapers of last few days, I came to know that spokesperson of BJP, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqui Saheb held local administration of Rajasthan responsible for 51 deaths that occurred there and that BJP delegation had just visited famine affected areas of that State. We should not have illusion on famine and drought. I know that Rajasthan and Orissa are facing famine today. States such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand are reeling under famine. This tug of war and alleging each other is not limited upto this only. Hon. Agriculture Minister is sitting here. Today itself, I read statement of leaders of his party wherein they have stated that Shri Sharad Yadav and Kumari Mayavati have rendered the farmers in such a pitiable condition. It is the statement of present officials of the district unit of Rashtriya Lokdal. Leaders of RLD have alleged that Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Yadav and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kumari Mayawati is responsible for putting farmers in sad state and late starting of crushing of sugarcane in Mills.

I would like to tell that right from State Legislature to the Parliament, we are bent upon blaming each other. This way we shirk our responsibilities. I want to tell this House seriously that if the Government do not take effective measures to solve the problems of farmers, who are another form of God, it will have to face the wrath of farmers in the days to come. We should sit here and ponder over how serious their resentment would be.

Every year crores of rupees and many lives are lost in drought and flood, whereas, so far, the Government have

not formulated any water policy. How Unfortunate it is that even 55 years after independence the country has no Water Policy. Today, the Government should take steps to prevent excessive exploitation of ground water caused by scanty rainfall as a result of rapid environmental changes. We should store rainwater scientifically so that the land absorbs it.

Just now, Chaudhary ji has said that it will be difficult for people to get water from February onwards. I had been to Rajasthan recently. The people were not getting drinking water even in the month of November there. As I have learnt from the newspapers, people are pinning for drinking water in Orissa, too. Perhaps the Government cannot imagine, if such is the situation in November, what it will be in the month of February, March and May-June. If people in power in the Centre want to get rid of their duties by passing the buck on others, they are committing a great mistake and they are putting democracy in danger.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to blame any party. Uttar Pradesh is being ruled by alliance of Bhartiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Rashtriya Lok Dal. I have read the statement of Agriculture Minister of U.P. in newspaper. He, too, has expressed his resentment over the measures taken by the Government in this regard. 51 people died of hunger in Rajasthan. Hon. Sonia ji, who had been to Mount Abu recently, also expressed concern over hunger deaths. Just now, Shivraj Singh ji has mentioned the pitiable condition of Madhya Pradesh before the House.

We should accept the truth honestly instead of blaming each other in this context.

I would like to say to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that the Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price of paddy at Rs. 530 per quintal. Besides the Government have also provided a bonus of Rs. 20 per quintal as drought relief measure. This way the farmers should get a Minimum Support Price of Rs. 550 per quintal for paddy. I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Food, Public Distribution that it is a serious subject. The average yield of paddy and wheat in my constituency Maharajganj is even more than Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh. However the farmers there are forced to sell their paddy through the brokers at the rate of Rs. 375 to Rs. 390 per quintal. They are not getting even Minimum Support Price fixed by the Government, leave aside the bonus of Rs. 20 per quintal as drought relief, they are not even getting the MSP fixed by the Government. They are getting only Rs. 375 to Rs. 390 per quintal for their paddy. The farmers have toiled their sweat and blood to produce a record quantity of paddy even in this adverse condition of drought, even in those areas, Government have failed to procure their produce. Today we are facing the wrath of the farmers. The workers of Bhartiya Kisan Union and Rashtriya Lok Dal are protesting at various places in Western Uttar Pradesh.

The owners of the sugar mills in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have said that they would procure the sugarcane at the MSP by the Union Government and the States have no right to enhance this amount further.

Unfortunately, even the High Court of Uttar Pradesh has given its verdict in favour of the sugar mills owners. I would like to say that the Government should issue an ordinance empowering the State Government to fix the MSP for sugarcane for their respective States and if necessary, a legislation to this effect should be introduced in the House to remove this bottleneck. If the sugarcane worth Rs. 95 per quintal is procured at Rs. 62 per quintal by the sugar mill owners, the farmers would not be able to realize even their cost price. Today the farmers are forced to burn their sugarcane and paddy crop. Instead of providing encouragement to the farmers who have been giving their invaluable contribution to the national stock even in this critical juncture of drought, they are being discouraged. Hence, I would like to submit very humbly that attention should be paid in this regard and also that the Centre should issue guidelines to the States and ensure that these guidelines are complied with in letter and spirit.

Shri Shivraj Singhji has just said that not even the 25 percent of the funds allocated to Madhya Pradesh under the Pradhanmantri Grameen Sadak Yojana had been spent. I would like to say to my BJP colleague that they should also pay attention towards the States where BJP coalition Government is in power, as the case is in UP where BJP alongwith Bahujan Samajwadi Party is running a coalition Government. Not even twenty five percent funds allocated to UP, which is the largest State in the country, have been spent. I challenge that if I am proved wrong

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

I am ready to resign from my MP seat. I would also like to say that the funds allocated to various States under the Pradhanmantri Sampoorna Rozgar Yojana being run for the poors, are being misused and I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards it. Earlier when your friend was the Minister of Rural Development several crore rupees were siphoned off to various districts of UP under the undue interference of some persons and those funds have been misused at large scale. If you probe into that other facts would be revealed. I am saying this because when you were the Minister of Food and Public Distribution, you had tried to do away with several lacuna prevailing in the system by working very honestly. I don't want to go into as to what extent you were successful in achieving your target. Today it is the entire responsibility of the Ministry of Rural Development to ensure whether the funds allocated by the Centre to the States for providing employment are being fully utilised or not and whether the workers are actually being hired or not or the entire sum is being cornered by the contractors and also a probe be heed to ascertain all these things.

We would have to chalk out a blueprint to deal with the problems of drought and floods. Recently the hon. Prime Minister has allocated an amount of Rs. 56000 crore for widening of the national highways in all parts of the country. I am not opposed to that scheme but I want to say that had these funds been allocated or invested under some other useful head like providing irrigation facilities to the farmers as well as for providing drinking water to them, then the result thereof would have been fruitful and positive.

Due to the vast changes in environment, glaciers are melting and the climate is also changing. My friend from Himachal Pradesh is sitting here. My friend from Mandi Legislative Assembly constituency is also here. Recently while on tour of Estimate Committee we had visited and studied the sites of glaciers and found that even in the month of September no glacier were observed at places where they used to be present as huge mass of ice during the summer months. Hence, I would like to say that we should try to make concrete efforts to improve our environment as per the need of the country and should not follow the international dictates in this regard. If we do not make concrete efforts, it is sure that we can not prevent our agriculture from getting ruined.

Besides, I would like to say that we should have to think deeply for resolving the drought problem in the country. As has been said by the leader of the opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji, that 40 percent of irrigation is still dependent on the rainfall. I would like to say on the basis of my definite information that still two third of the fields are on the mercy of the nature. To combat with this situation we should link the big rivers carrying more water, with the smaller rivers, carrying less quantity of water. The rainwater should be properly preserved and we must take some initiative to tackle the problem of drought.

Sir, the discussion in the House is taking place over the names of the States wherein the starvation deaths have occurred and also wherein it have not. We came to know from the newspapers that His Excellency President Kalam was also perturbed over this drought situation in the country. He has directly asked from the States Governments to submit the report on this problem. However still the people in the Centre are not serious about the problem. I would like to say only this much that if You don't become alert to the situation you will suffer from the same fate in the centre also in the year 2004 general election as your Government is being swept off in every State legislative Election. Hence I would like to say that if you have even little sympathy and pain for the farmers, then a Joint Parliamentary Committee be constituted immediately. Besides, a Committee comprising of Members from all the parties should also be constituted which may submit its report by seeking the opinion of the Agriculture scientists and engineers and the follow up action be taken by the Government on the basis of this report.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue regarding drought situation in various States of the country is being discussed in the House. Discussion on drought situation has been held earlier also but scanty rainfall continuously for last three years in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and in some parts of Maharashtra has made the situation more

grave. The State Governments and Union Government should have taken effective measures to tackle drought situation. But despite assurance given by the Union Government for providing every possible assistance they did not do so and a result of which the State Government could not make proper arrangements, and thus drought situation has become worst. Weather has changed drastically and this is the most severe drought of the century.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards some parts of Madhya Pradesh. Despite drought in these areas the Chief Minister of the State claimed that not shortage of foodgrain or drought but malnutrition is the reason for deaths in these areas. When this issue was raised in Legislative Assembly then hon'ble Chief Minister had to admit that some areas may be facing such situation and then a proposal was made to send a group there to assess the situation. Such incidents have taken place in Shivpuri and Ganjbasauda. Similar situation prevails in my constituency Mandsaur district. A few days ago, I toured Kojya village of Neemuch district. I wanted to show you the specimen of loss suffered by people there due to drought but I could not bring it here.

It is an evidence that the situation is very grave in these areas. I would like to cite two three examples. The Union Government have launched several schemes of rural development wherein foodgrain is provided at concessional rates. The foodgrain allocated by centre is sent to consumer stores from where it is sold in black market. It does not reach the needy people living below poverty line. Recently a case was detected regarding selling of foodgrains in black market by a godown in Mandsaur district. The property worth crores of rupees has been seized from Chief Manager of this store I referred the matter to the hon'ble Minister. Hon'ble Shardji is present here. I would like to say that immediate action should be taken to dissolve the management because not only manager but the whole management is guilty. I would not mention the name specifically here, you can find out those who are in the management. Now they are trying to blame BJP Government that assistance is not being provided. You can find out why such situation prevails there.

Secondly, I would like to say that Union Government have given crores of rupees of digging wells and ponds for permanent solution of drought problem. I would like to cite an example of Bhanpura techsil of Mandsaur district of my constituency. There has been a pond for many years, which has also been mentioned in documents of Revenue Department. Now it has been shown on papers that another pond had been constructed there. Where these funds have gone ? Gandhisagar dam is in my area which has a large submerged area. There is less water today but that may increase in near future. You can imagine how difficult it would be to solve the problem of drought if money is embezzled in the name of constructing pond there. State Governments are getting funds in the name of drought problem but this money is being embezzled, I have given a written complaint in this regard and I am ready to give it again if hon. Minister wants that. Sir, what action is being taken by State Government in this regard. Union Government have given crores of rupees for developing unfertile land into fertile land. In place of developing unfertile land or constructing ponds, efforts are being made to spend this money somewhere else. I have given several examples of my Parliamentary Constituency, related the situation of Ganj-basoda, Jhabua, Kojya and Shivpuri villages of Neemuch district of Madhya Pradesh from where several complaints regarding starvation deaths have been reported. Detailed discussion has already been held on that. I do not want to go in those details again but would like to say that proper arrangements should be made there immediately. It has become necessary to construct ponds wells, small and big dams for water harvesting.

Sir, I have already requested that some arrangements should be made for foodgrains. The State Governments say that they do not have storage facility and Union Government say that they are ready to provide assistance, grant and assistance through banks for constructing small godowns. They are not ready to lift the foodgrains allocated by Union Government and blame Union Government for not providing required assistance to them. The Union Government are ready to provide assistance but system in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is disturbed and action should be taken to improve the situation. Arrangements should be made for that. The issue of Rajasthan has been discussed here in detail. A central team was sent there to assess the situation who found that there is some lacunae which even the Chief Minister has accepted. The

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

drought situation was discussed in conference of Congress Chief Ministers held at Mount Abu recently wherein Union Government was blamed. The situation is that State Government are saying that all the required arrangements should be made by the Union Government. Then what is the rationale in handing over the responsibility to the State Government. Union Government is ready to provide thousands of tonnes of foodgrain but State Governments do not have storage facility. Crores of rupees are allocated in the name of construction of roads, ponds but these funds should be utilised properly and there should be arrangement for its monitoring. I have also raised a matter under Rule 377 wherein I have raised this demand. I have submitted that Ratlaam, Mandsaur, Neemuch of Madhya Pradesh and several districts of Rajasthan are in very deplorable condition. Disposal of work is delayed inordinately in these districts even after getting information for tender notice. I, therefore, demand from the Government that monitoring committee should be constituted to monitor this work, besides a parliamentary committee should also be constituted to supervise the quality and procedure of these works. Today I have again drawn the attention of the Government towards this issue to find out reasons behind it and how this situation can be improved. We always try to find out permanent solution to the problems. Yesterday, during debate on Sardar Sarovar Project hon'ble Member from that side raised issue regarding distribution of its water among Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. I would like to say that existing system in this regard should be strengthened and the House and the hon'ble Minister should pay attention towards the suggestions given in this regard. Will it not be appropriate to make a link of rivers by linking river Narmada to Chambal, Chambal to Shipra and Shipra to Shivna for irrigating Malwa region? This procedure has been started in Gujarat by linking Narmada to Sabarmati and should be extended further.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rule 377 would be taken up later on. You can give your suggestion at that time.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : I am telling about the further plans for tackling drought problem in case there is no rain. Several crops have been affected and this time also due to shortage of water crops will be affected. People are saying that for last three years they have not got good yield and their condition is worsening.

I would like to raise another demand. The hon'ble Prime Minister has issued orders to suspend the recovery of loans by bank but it is not clear that interest on it will also not be charged. My submission is that if interest is not waived of then they will have to pay double interest next year. Therefore interest should be waived of along with suspension of loan recovery. Today Madhya Pradesh is facing power crisis and on the other hand double amount is being charged from the farmers. Their power connections are cut for delay in payment of bills even by two days and thousands of rupees are taken in the name of providing reconnection. Thus farmers are suffering due to drought, shortage of power and mismanagement on the part of the State Government. This should be taken seriously. Instead of indulging in counter allegations a concrete policy should be formulated. Can we not formulate a National Water Policy, National disaster management policy to work unitedly on it at the time of crisis and move in the right direction, so that these problems could be solved and we can also get benefit of various rural development schemes formulated by the Union Government.

The adivasis and people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are the worst drought affected people because transportation of foodgrain in their areas is very difficult. The reasons being improper transport system and other arrangements. There is need to think as to how it could be made easier. I would also like to submit that instead of providing foodgrains through warehouses, a system should be evolved in which agencies are appointed in drought hit areas and foodgrain is made available directly. I have several examples published in newspapers. Supreme Court has stated about Rajasthan that :

> "The Supreme Court told the Counsel for the Rajasthan Government that 'Your Chief Minister has no business to ask for more foodgrains when what was allocated by the Centre was not lifted."

*[Translation]*

Supreme Court has told the counsel that the State has no jurisdiction and right to raise special demand for

foodgrain allocated to them by centre. There is Congress Party in power in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. These were proposed to be made model Governments but instead of becoming model their condition is deteriorating :

*[English]*

"..unfortunate deaths taking place in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan due to malnutrition do not happen further."

*[Translation]*

Such situation should not develop there. Malnutrition results due to lack of timely assistance to people. Several parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are also affected and they should also be given assistance.

'Times of India' newspaper has given that Chief Secretary will be responsible in case timely action is not taken in this regard. While citing example the newspaper has asked Digvijay Government as to why required measures are not being taken by the Government in case of starvation deaths. The newspaper also says that State Government should check recurrence of such incidents I will conclude after giving one example. Attention should be paid towards strengthening the present system for distributing foodgrain to more and more persons. These are the cuttings to 'Hindustan Times' wherein it has been given :

*[English]*

**Many go hungry in MP's cities**

"Surprisingly as it may seem, Madhya Pradesh despite having a Government which seems to lay great emphasis on development programmes, languishes, at the bottom where food security in urban areas is concerned. According to the Atlas, the State is fairly insecure in respect of eight of the seventeen indicators. Sample this – MP's poverty percentage is very high. . ."

*[Translation]*

The drought situation is a matter of concern for all of us. I would like to make a submission that situation should not deteriorate further and the Government should take precautions so that starvation deaths do not occur in future. The Union Government have assured time and again that adequate foodgrains and funds will be provided. I visited the area I come from and did not find anyone working under drought relief programme. When I enquired from the District Collector, he told that work was about to be started because allotment of funds was delayed which further aggravated the problems. Water level has receded and tubewell does not serve the purpose even at the depth of 700-800 meter. There is motor to extract water but it can not be used properly due to power shortage in Madhya Pradesh and the voltage is very low. In the prevailing circumstances people are unable to get water. There is no water, no fodder for cattle. I had gone to Jodhpur and I saw deplorable condition prevailing there.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) Our State Government have made the maximum demand. Union Government have been withholding the money. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has sent demand for foodgrain and funds time and again but the Union Government have not been providing why partiality is being done in this regard ?

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : I never interrupt you or any other person. You may speak on your turn. You may not accept deplorable condition prevailing there ? Do you not admit power shortage there and deplorable condition of farmers. Farmers are running from pillar to post but they are not getting power for even two hours which has aggravated the problem further. Is there not shortage of drinking water ? Have the essential goods of consumer stores at Mandsaur been not sold in black market ?

Kantilalji is my good friend. His constituency is just adjacent to mine. Similar condition prevails in his constituency. Is the problem of drinking water not to be solved there. If it is not done the problem would further aggravate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been to Jodhpur, the present Minister of Finance Shri Jaswant Singh comes from there. The price of a cow be worth Rs. 8-10 or 12 thousand is being sold at Rs. 500 just because there is no fodder to feed the cattle. Who can deny the severity of drought problem.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

In place of taking drought seriously, only leveling charges on Union Government is not going to solve this problem. This problem should be taken seriously. Adequate quality of foodgrains, fund should be provided for protecting adivasis, Scheduled Castes and poor people at every cost. Livestock should also be saved by making arrangements for fodder. Farmers will be ruined if affected people are not protected. Farmers, at present are on the verge of destruction. Our State has been in grip of drought consequently for the last three years. The Government should make a national policy to solve this problem. Some wayout should be found to deal with the problems of drought to check recurrence of starvation deaths in future.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we had met in August last time. Then we left for our respective States with the hope that we will get full assistance from the centre and the centre would provide assistance to all the famine struck States and help in combating with the calamity. I would especially like to talk about Rajasthan here. Today when we have met here, the same subject is being discussed in the House. Situation has become more grave owing to the compounding of the problem in the last few month which has belied all hopes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have no words to portray before the House the misery of famine affected areas of Rajasthan. I would like that a study team of the Parliament be sent there to witness themselves the severity of drought with parched earth, depleted green cover, dried lakes and the dearth of the drinking water. The people are looking with a gaze in the hope of assistance. Besides the misery of the livestock which is reflected through their eyes and face is heart rending. In this context we remember later Shri Rajiv Gandhi when he himself visited to witness the misery of the poor people. He did not leave the situation in the hands of the State Government even though the State was being ruled by Congress. He made an assessment of the foodgrain stock of the people and other facilities provided to them and the employment number of employed persons in the States. Hence Rajiv Gandhiji not only provided assistance but also gave a new concept for the famine affected areas but we failed to implement it. Today we expect the Union Government to go through the management concept of Shri Rajiv Gandhi as how to manage the situation in the affected areas within a minimum span of time, there existed guidelines in this regard.

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, we are told that there was again an attempt by the terrorists today to attack the Parliament and they took several rounds. They are caught finally. I desire that the hon. Home Minister may kindly take the House into confidence whether this report is correct or not. . . .*(Interruptions)* I think, before we rise for the day, the hon. Home Minister can report the matter to the House.

*[Translation]*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : However there is vast difference in the situation of 1987-88 and the present one. Today the entire country is in the grip of famine while earlier famine had struck only few States. The day before yesterday it was stated in the reply of a question that all the parts of the Rajasthan are affected. Earlier where 3.50 crore people were affected, this time around 4.5 crore people and double the number of live stock are affected and 32 districts are continuously in the grip of famine for the last five years. In total 40689 villages comprising 4.49 percent of country's population and 4.51 crore livestock is affected. All the crops have also been damaged and rabi crop worth 7382 crore rupees has been damaged.

There has been loss to the tune of 4417 crore rupees in rabi crop and Kharif crop worth 7382 crore rupees is also expected to be damaged. The drinking water is not available in 87 percent area and the ground water level has decreased up to 0.32 to 5.12 metres. Ponds have dried up and the inflow is almost negligible. Strategy would have to be formulated in regard to the suggestions given by my colleague representing adjoining constituency. The State Government did not receive that much money which it demanded from the centre. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the State Government's decision of providing the wages to the APL families as well besides BPL families. A decision to formulate plans for relief work and to connect them with the centrally sponsored schemes has also been taken. The State Government has declared that special efforts will be

made for the preservation of livestock and the Government is also committed to accelerate the nutrition and other health programmes. One crore people are daily being benefited through ICDC and they are being given breakfast under this scheme. The decision to expedite the 'Food for work' Programme has also been taken by the State Government. This has happened for the first time that the relief work had been undertaken from 16th August and as now. . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is like a drop in the ocean. There are three to four hundred workers in a panchayat while only 10-15 workers have been given employment under BPL. It is like a drop in the ocean. No difference is left between APL and BPL. Famine has been continuing for the last four year, hence more and more people should be provided employment. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Hence we appeal to the Union Government that the workers employed in August. . . . *(Interruptions)* You please listen to my view. Government should provide funds for the relief work started in August and also undertake the 'Food for work' programme only then their number would increase. Hence the State Government has decided that the wages would be given for ten days only.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The State Government is not spending the money. All the money was spent on Rajiv Gandhi 'Pathshalas'. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : I want to assure that one bagful of foodgrain and Rs. 150 would be given in ten days and thus the number of persons on work would increase from 12 lakhs to 36 lakhs. The survey of the destitutes is being undertaken and I would like to appeal to all the MP's to help the Government in protecting the destitutes on the lines of the decision taken by our party. Provision for providing free foodgrains has been made. Irrespective of whether the credit for this goes to Central Government or the State Government, it is our responsibility to extend our assistance to the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have taken one more decision and that is to provide foodgrains for 60 days in advance to the workers given employment. Such provision does not exist in any State. However Rajasthan should be praised for the initiative taken in this direction. The funds for transport have been increased and as far as the losses are concerned. . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : You please name the panchayats where the foodgrains have been provided in advance during relief works ?

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : You name the panchayats where it has not been provided. . . .*(Interruptions)* He does not have the full information, firstly you should update yours then ask the question. As far as loans are concerned, short term loans have been converted into mid term loans. The State Government have started giving special grant for fodder cultivation. As far as foodgrains issue which was repeatedly raised is concerned, I would like to submit that upto 94.5 percent of the foodgrains being given for BPL families was lifted where it was 70 percent of the total foodgrains given. The percentage of the foodgrains lifted in other category had been 75 percent but not in case of APL families. I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government as how the people would prefer purchasing wheat from the open market when it is so costly. Hence I have been continuously urging the Union Government that besides BPL, API should also be given assistance from the same funds under the same head.

Besides, one rupee per beg of foodgrains should be reduced for BPL families so that the people may be benefited from it.

Sir, we are in an era of privatisation. The only profit earned by the fair free shop owner is the empty beg. The would lead to black-marketing PDS is not being paid full attention. . . .*(Interruptions)* the same situation would prevail unless the margin of profit is not increased. . . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar) Whose responsibility it is to look after PDS. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Policy is framed by the Union Governments hence we are saying. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jaswant Singh Yadav ji, Shri Rawat ji, please resume your seat. When you will be given chance, you can also have your say. Now please resume the seat.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : You find the truth bitter. . . . *(Interruptions)* You do not want to hear the truth. You must have the courage to hear the truth. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kriplaniji, Shri Rawatji, Please resume your seats. It is not proper. The member has a right to speak. You don't interrupt him. You can express your view when you get the opportunity to speak. Please resume your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Presently the foodgrains for the BPL is being lifted. APL people are also poor. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go in record without my permission, please resume your seat.

*(Interruptions)**

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : He is not able to cope with the truth. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your views will not be included in the proceedings because you are speaking without my permission You resume your seat. You don't have right to speak.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : He is insulting the chair. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting. There is no point to interrupt. You resume your seat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : When Rawatji was speaking, Girija ji did not interrupt even once. Now when Girijaji is speaking he is interrupting time and again. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your views are not being included in the proceedings.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : It is not a matter of Rajasthan alone. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now why are you speaking ? This speech is not being included in the proceedings.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point in your speaking. You resume your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : You can not prove truth as untruth by shouting. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member, who are not allowing Dr. Girija Vyas to speak and are interrupting should be instructed that if they want to speak on Rajasthan a separate notice should be given in this regard. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he does not have the courage to listen the truth. . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Day before yesterday the Chief Minister of Rajasthan held a meeting in which our hon. Member were not invited. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you making noise. You please sit down whatever he is speaking would not go on record.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rajasthan Government had submitted a proposal seeking assistance of 77,519 crore rupees in view of the situation prevailing there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rawat, you are repeatedly speaking without the Chair's permission. This is not fair.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to know that out of the total amount sought for, 400 crore rupees

*Not recorded.

were to be provided by the Union Government but only 207 crore rupees have been sanctioned and that too is being tried to be adjusted and efforts are being made to ensure that the State Government does not get even a single paise in cash. Hence I have raised this original question in this House. When the incidents of starvation deaths are reported here, it is shameful on our part. I would say that the Union Government. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN As you are speaking without permission, your views are not being recorded.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister is giving a wrong statement. I have not said that the deaths have occurred due to starvation. I have said that it is your statement that the starvation deaths have taken place in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and if it is so then it is only your responsibility to check it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the report of the State Government has already been submitted and in regard to repeated mention of starvation deaths in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, I would like to say that better stop playing politics on the issue of hunger. I would like to appeal the people of Rajasthan not to shamelessly raise this issue and not expose the entire House giving it a bad name. If the politics is to be played then it should be issue based and either by praising the good efforts of the opposition or by bringing to the fore the misutilisation of funds given to the opposition ruled States. If you want to play politics then the corruption in which you have indulged the exposed. Wait for the people's verdict if you want to play politics but do not play politics on the issue of starvation and drought. My submission is that the people are dying there due to drought.

**15.00 hrs.**

MR. CHAIRMAN : His speech is not being included in proceedings so you please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : I would like to submit that the leader of opposition has raised very important issues and expressed the sentiment that it is not a subject matter of politics and a law should be formulated in this regard, promote the concept of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had remarked that mere providing financial resources will not solve out the the problem of famine, rather there should be management at the time of famine. Strict laws should be formulated for the proper management and the responsibilities of the Central and State Government should be fixed for the compliance of the said laws. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Through you, I would like to submit to all the Ministers that the amount demanded by the States, particularly Rajasthan which is facing drought situation should be provided immediately. Besides this the Central Government should ensure that food grains, drinking water and fodder are provided and the electricity water supply from other States are provided to Rajasthan. Through you I would like to extend my thanks to Sonia ji that she urged Madhya Pradesh to allow livestock at their border to enter into the States. However, I would like the Central Government to interfere regarding the livestock at the Uttar Pradesh border. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rasa Singh ji, you have already delivered your speech. Is it proper to interrupt the other hon'ble Members ? Why did you stand ? You please take your seat. Your party will not give you change to speak that is why you are looking for an opportunity to speak in the middle of the speeches of other Members.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : We are talking about the livestock and not about them. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Through you I would like to submit that people should be benefitted by the ICDS Scheme however I am sorry to say that the Central Government have withdrawn this scheme and so people are not getting the benefit of the ICDS Scheme. They talk about the alleviation of poverty however they do not have any strategy to alleviate it. Besides, there is no monitoring of the funds which are provided for the purpose. The assistance that is provided in the form of food grains must be monitored. A monitoring committee should be setup to monitor the famine management works as has been suggested by the leader of opposition. Sincere efforts should be made to check the spread of desert in drought prone areas. With heavy heart I would like to appeal the

[Dr. Girija Vyas]

Government not to politicise the issue of assistance keeping in view the condition of the State particularly Rajasthan. They should not politicise the issue of deaths due to hunger and famine, rather they should help these States by way of providing financial assistance to them.

*[English]*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Indian Meteorological Department has declared the year 2002-03 as the drought year. The drought of 2002 is counted among the four worst droughts of the Century.

Sir, the State of Andhra Pradesh has been witnessing the severe drought for the last four years, particularly this year we are facing the major drought situation in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, as against this backdrop, the hon. Minister of Agriculture also spoke about the agriculture situation in this country. As compared to the last thirty years, this year is the most worst affected in this country. So, I hope, the Government of India will take necessary steps to protect the farmers, weaker sections and everybody concerned.

In the case of Andhra Pradesh, the failure of the South-West monsoon was one of the reasons. We received only 411.8 millimetre of rains from South-West monsoon as against the normal figure of 624 millimetre. We received 149.6 millimetre of North-East monsoon as against the normal rainfall of 180.2 millimetre. In the South-West monsoon, there is a fall of – 34 per cent and in the North-East monsoon, there is a fall of – 17 per cent.

Even in the Kharif season, the total cultivation in Andhra Pradesh is in 1.80 lakh hectares. Out of this we have sown in only 64.13 thousands hectares and there is a shortfall of 22 per cent. And particularly in paddy, out of the total cultivation of 26.95 lakh hectares, we have sown in only 17.94 lakh hectares with a shortfall of 33 per cent. Even in groundnut out of 15.42 lakh hectares of total cultivation, we have sown in only 12.14 lakh hectares. These are the particulars about crops in Andhra Pradesh. Even the sown area is also totally damaged due to the dry spell. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : The State Government did not help the farmers. You released water for only the first part. . . .*(Interruptions)* When the farmers were having hope, you did not release the water for the second phase of agriculture which has resulted in these problems. . . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Madam, please do not interrupt. Please wait for you turn to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, they released water for the first phase only and did not release water for the second phase because of which crops in 60,000 acres of land have been damaged. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Please wait. I will give all the facts. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may speak when you get the opportunity . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : You have also promised 24-hour electricity which you did not fulfil. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : You should not talk about Andhra Pradesh. . . .*(Interruptions)* You have no right to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I would certainly speak. . . .*(Interruptions)* What are you talking of . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is here. . . .*(Interruptions)* Please hear me. If you want to mention anything you speak in your turn but not in this way.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : You did not release water for the farmers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, in Andhra Pradesh we have declared 22 districts as drought-prone. Out of the

1,104 mandals in the State, we have declared 933 mandals as drought-affected and basing on the situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh, along all the States in India, we have submitted a memorandum to the Government of India to extend an assistance of Rs. 810.90 crore from NCRF and 15 lakh metric tonnes of rice to take up the employment assistance works which is the need of the first State along all the States. Andhra Pradesh has witnessed drought not only this year but for the past four years we are facing this drought situation.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : This is due to your Government. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Even last year also, we approached the Government of India for a financial assistance and for providing foodgrains. But they did not give financial assistance. They have allotted 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of rice under 'food for work' programme for the drought-prone works and to create employment potential to the people of Andhra Pradesh. Particularly in this year even the Central team headed by Shri Negi, M.D., National Horticulture Board visited the State from 9.9.2002 to 11.9.2002 and toured the districts of Cuddapah, Anantapur, Madak, Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Prakasam and Nellore districts. At that time rains came for one or two days and based on that he submitted a report. After that, due to the dry spell, the sown area is also completely damaged. This has happened in the month of September. After September, till today we have no rains in Andhra Pradesh. That is why we have declared further 89 *mandals* as drought-affected *mandals* in the State.

The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh personally came to Delhi on 31st October, 2002 and requested the Centre to provide assistance of Rs. 1,210 crore and 25 lakh tonnes of rice for the employment generation works. On 13th November, 2002 there was a discussion in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly where they have passed a unanimous resolution by all the political parties and submitted the resolution to the Centre. I will quote from it :

> "the House unanimously resolves to request the Government of India to extend liberal and timely relief to the drought-affected areas in the State. The House further resolves to request the Government of India to release at the earliest cash relief of Rs. 1,860 crore."

This is the latest request by the State Government after taking stock of the situation and in consultation with all the political parties when they arrived at this figure. We requested for supply of 22 lakh metric tonnes of rice as has already been requested by the State Government. The resolution further says :

> "The Government of India is also requested to extend the following relief measures for the benefit of the farmers :
>
> waiver of interest on agricultural loans;
> rescheduling of collections and issue of fresh loans.
>
> The House further resolves to request the Government of India to expedite the sanction of drought assistance and relief measures to alleviate the hardship of the people and the distress of the farmers."

This resolution is supported by all the political parties. This is the latest resolution passed on 13th of this month. So, I am requesting the Union Government.

As per the recent decision of the Task Force, they have released financial assistance to all the States. A statement of Madam Sonia Gandhi was reported in the newspapers that Andhra Pradesh Government is financially supported more by the Government of India. It is not a fact. Somebody may have misled Madam Gandhi. According to the figures, Andhra Pradesh has 22 affected districts. Already, Madam Gandhi has also mentioned about it. We received Rs. 174.61 crore. Tamil Nadu have got 19 affected districts and they received Rs. 228 crore. Rajasthan has 32 affected districts and they got Rs. 207 crore. Even, Madhya Pradesh got Rs. 125 crore and Karnataka got Rs. 221 crore.

**15.11 hours**

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Andhra Pradesh received only Rs. 174.61 crore in this particular year, 2002-2003. So, it is not correct that Andhra Pradesh is getting more financial assistance from the Centre. Even, we requested for 22 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains. Recently, Andhra Pradesh Assembly unanimously passed a resolution and requested the Government of India for 25 lakh metric tonnes of rice. Out of that, they have sanctioned only three lakh metric tonnes

[Shri K. Yerrannaidu]

of rice to the State of Andhra Pradesh. Even, there are other States also which received one lakh, 1.5 lakh or two lakh metric tonnes of rice. It depends upon the situation in the State. We are not bothered about release of more money to the other States. The needy States are there. There Government of India should support all the States. This is the need of the hour that the Government should intervene and support generously all the States affected by drought.

In this context, I would submit that last year, we received 31.5 lakh metric tonnes of rice. I have to tell on the floor of the House. – even the leader of main Opposition Party, Madam Sonia Gandhi is also here – that in Andhra Pradesh, we have sanctioned nearly 5,21,000 works throughout the States. We put all the information in the Internet, but even in Andhra Pradesh, somebody is talking that Government of India is allotting more funds to Andhra Pradesh, but in Andhra Pradesh, leaders were talking that we are supporting this Government and still we did not get any money for the State of Andhra Pradesh to safeguard the people of Andhra Pradesh, for carrying out drought-proof works and other things. In this connection, they are unnecessarily creating an impression that out of 31.5 lakh metric tonnes of rice, there is misutilisation. By this propaganda, the Government of India may tomorrow stop release of rice and ultimately, the works will be affected.

If somebody says that there is mis-utilisation, we are ready to face any inquiry. So, far we have conducted many inquiries. So, we released some books and we have sent all these books to all the agencies. Under the Food for Work Programme, so far 441 Governments officials are involved in irregularities. We have suspended those people. Even 145 Government officials were suspended and 54 Sarpanches of MPTCs and ZPTCs involved in irregularities were suspended. They are from all the political parties. . .*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, normally it is a big programme. With 31.5 lakh metric tonnes of rice allotted to the State of Andhra Pradesh, we have executed 5,21,000 works. Even, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi once said on the floor of the House about misappropriation that the Government was providing one rupee while ultimately only 18 paise reached the people. What happened to the rest of the amount ? In such a big programme, irregularities may happen. . . .*(Interruptions)* We are not justifying that. But if some irregularities are there, we have even suspended the representatives of political parties including that of Congress, TDP and CPI.

We have seized many licences from the millers, and we have taken necessary steps, like initiating inquiries against those who have committed offences, etc. We have suspended some of them, and we have taken action against some others.

We have already submitted the first report of the Government of India. Our Chief Minister personally came here and submitted the second report wherein he sought Rs. 1,210 crore. Recently, a request was made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh through a Resolution passed by the State Assembly requesting for an amount of Rs. 816 crore and 25 lakh metric tonnes of rice.

We would like to know on what basis you have allocated the moneys to States and what are the guidelines. We were the first among various States who have submitted the memorandum to the Central Government. At that time, there were rains in many States, but in Andhra Pradesh, since June, due to the dry spell, even the crops in the sown area were spoiled. The Andhra Pradesh Government, even without waiting for the assistance from the Government of India, has so far released Rs. 256 crore, under various programmes, to the people of Andhra Pradesh. Recently, on the floor of the Assembly where a discussion on drought took place, that is, on 13th September, the Chief Minister has announced a further assistance of Rs. 206 crore, in addition to Rs. 256 crore already announced under various programmes, like for drinking water, for procurement of fodder, 50 per cent subsidy on seeds, etc. We are providing 50 per cent subsidy on seeds to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh. We have started implementing various programmes for the farmers. The Central Government, so far, has given only Rs. 174 crore, and they released only three lakh metric tonnes of rice. They have also rescheduled the loans where the drought situation is very bad.

In this scenario, what are the priorities of the Government of India ? In this present situation, what criteria have you adopted to sanction the money to help all the States ? In Andhra Pradesh, particularly in the river

*Krishna*, and in Karnataka, all the reservoirs are empty and there is no water in the tanks. The Leader of the Opposition also knows about it. Due to the dry spell and lack of rains, the situation is very grave, and the people are suffering. Two crores of animals are suffering for lack of fodder and grass. When the situation is like this, you have given a meagre amount of Rs. 174 crore, whereas the Government of Andhra Pradesh has so far released Rs. 256 crore under various programmes. Recently, we have given a sum of Rs. 205 crore, in addition to Rs. 256 crore that we have already released.

In this situation, the Government of India should have a clear-cut policy. We have submitted our reports and, if necessary, you can send another Central Team. The earlier Central Team, sent in the month of September, toured many districts and witnessed the situation in many areas. At that time, due to the dry spell, all the crops were spoiled. In this scenario, the amount sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh is very meagre. Recently, all the political parties in the Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Assembly have unanimously passed a resolution requesting the Government of India to extend the necessary financial help to our State.

Looking at the prevailing situation in Andhra Pradesh, we feel sad that you are neglecting Andhra Pradesh. Out of Rs. 800 crore, we expected Rs. 500 crore in the first instalment, but we received only Rs. 174 crore. This amount is very meagre compared to some other States, which have declared drought in the month of October. In their case, though the Central Team suggested a certain amount, you have released more than that. The situation in our State is known to everybody; meanwhile, many Central Ministers visited Andhra Pradesh and they have witnessed the situation in Andhra Pradesh. Even then, we received only Rs. 174 crore. On behalf of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, I am sorry to say that this amount is not only very meagre, but also is not sufficient to do anything. We have so far released Rs. 415 crore to meet the present challenges. We have taken up many schemes to provide employment to the poorer sections. In this context, through you, I am requesting the Central Government to release the amount that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for and also to release the remaining 23 lakh metric tonnes of rice so that we can provide work for the labourers.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, I remember that discussion was held on drought and flood in Monsoon session and is again being held on drought in winter session and the leader of opposition Sonia Gandhi ji has moved the Adjournment Motion. More than 14-15 States of the country are affected by drought. The farmers have been ruined. Public life is in total chaos. It is due to this that Adjournment Motion has been moved by the leader of opposition Sonia ji. I rise to support it. When-ever the questions regarding the starvation deaths are raised in the House, the Members of the ruling party assert that it is the responsibility of the State Government and not the Central Government. If there is starvation dealth in any State and the Central Government do not feel responsible then such Government is not the Government rather it is worthless and insensitive Government. The death of human beings due to starvation is a blot for all. The State Governments who are the administrators also bear responsibility, however the Central Government are more responsible for this. . . . *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : What happened to the fodder for cattles ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not indulge in cross talk.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Famine and drought are so unfortunate that people in villagers say that 'Dahiya hoi aur sukhai jaie'. That means flood is not as a devastating as drought. There is crisis of drinking water for animals also however I do not know whether the people in power realise the crisis or not.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Has fodder been eaten up ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : People are not getting food (Interruptions). Many a time peasants allow their cattle to roam free. At some places they get rid of their ownership over the cattle by way of colouring their animals and allow them to roam freely. Such complaints have been received from two three States. Now people have started taking it lightly. If the magnitude of insensitivity is so high then what will happen if not death due to starvation ?

[Shri K. Yerrannaidu]

"Jake Rajya Priye Praja Dukhari, Vo Nrip Hoi Narak Adhikari"

If the people of a State are unhappy and miserable and the State Government instead of doing anything pass their responsibility on to the Central Government and vice versa then it is not going to benefit the people and such Government cannot tackle the situation. Just now we have heard that the flood management has been taken up under national disaster management scheme. The Ministry of Home Affairs and drought management is with the Ministry of Agriculture. I do not know about it. I would like that they should clarify it as to what is the position. Initially the process of passing the bucks was between the Governments. Now similar is being done among the departments of the Government. Once I heard that the disaster management has been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the day Advani ji become the Deputy Prime Minister efforts have been made to reshuffle the departments. The Central team have paid visit. All the States have demanded certain amount of assistance to face the situation of drought however not a single paisa has been provided so far. Swami Viveka Nand used to say that nothing noble can be achieved by deception and deceit and the drought situation can not be tackled without money.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Sir, they are talking about fraud and deceit. The entire fodder has been eaten up by them and their Government. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH* : They interrupt in the middle of the speech. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This word will not go in the record.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH* : The farmers are getting ruined. Peasants are dying . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Unparliamentary words will not go in record.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, Andhra Pradesh Government have demanded for Rs. 1210 crore, Chandigarh has demanded for Rs. 880 crore and Haryana and other States have demanded for Rs. 1885 crore. It will take time if I give information about all the States, Uttar Pradesh has also demanded for Rs. 7,539 crores. The State Governments are demanding funds from the Central Government to tackle the situation arising out of the drought in their respective States, however you have not allocated even single paise. If it is so then you donot have moral right to criticize the State Government and complain that people are dying of starvation due to the inaction of the State Governments.

Sir, I would like to tell you about their deception. The commission has recommended that for Calamity Relief Fund, three part would be provided by the Centre while the fourth part would be provided by the State Government. It had to be released even when there was no drought, since the commission has recommended so. They say that funds have been released, even if it is so, it is not generosity. In the reply to a question, he said that as per the recommendation of the Commission, Union Government should release funds, but not one paisa has been given to tackle drought. Only thing that has been done is that States have been given ten thousand to three lakh tonnes of cereals depending on their requirement. Even the cereals supplied by the Central Government are rotten. The cereal worth Rs. 185 crore, which is rotting in their godown and which is not fit even for animal consumption has been given to the States. That is why I would like to ask why the States are being criticised for starvation deaths, why they are being held responsible and Union is absolved of all responsibility. Even if there is no drought, States have to be provided funds from Calamity Relief Fund. They did not provide funds during floods. The House had discussed flood, a Central team had gone there, but not one paisa was given. Therefore, the Union Government and their partners have no right to criticise State Government since they are trying to tackle the situation on their own. I accuse Government of India of being casual, insensitive and deceptive. You can counter my points by providing facts and logical arguments. Even Supreme Court has issued a notice in this regard and said during hearing that it is Government's responsibility to ensure that that there are no starvation deaths. Supreme Court has to intervene when the Government is so insensitive and casual.

*Not Recorded.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : The wheat allocated to your State has not been completely lifted.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Uptill now, I was speaking about country, now will speak about the State.

Sir, I would like to ask Government of India whether Bihar is in India or not. It seems that they consider Bihar out of India, hence the injustice with Bihar. I would like to quote the annual report of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, which was laid on the Table of the House this year. It identified 183 districts as drought prone. In it, 11 districts are in Andhra Pradesh and 6 in Bihar. It is there in a document of a department under Government of India. The reply given by the Government yesterday the 18th, does not even mention drought in Bihar. Everything appears yellow to a jaundiced eye, similarly, Government of India also has a jaundiced eye. I would like to prove from their own document that nothing has been mentioned about drought prone areas. There is drought in several districts of Bihar. You belong to that place. You are fighting for flood control measures. You have organised padyatras etc. I had been to Jantar-Mantar for fast with the aim of tackling flood. A few people are still there. An all party delegation, under the leadership of Chief Minister had not hon'ble Prime Minister. We had urged him to free Bihar from the scourge of flood caused by rivers originating in another country. We are discussing drought. What happened to the proposal of linking the rivers. They wake up only when Supreme Court takes cognisance of the matter. Supreme Court had asked about what happened to the linking of rivers. They have taken some measures in that directions but that will not suffice. It is said in Ram Charit Manas – 'Ka Varsha jab Krishi Sukhane'. Rain is futile once the crop is destroyed and it will not benefit farmers in any way. Bihar has been ignored and injustice has been done to it. There are many districts such as Nawada, Gaya, Nalanda, Aurangabad etc. which are chronically drought affected. It is there in their own documents. They have ignored Bihar and it, alongwith some other States, has not been given even a paise. If there is to be a waive off it should be done with honesty. It should not happen that it should continuously get debt notices and the loan keep on increasing and the resources of the State are spent only in debt payment. Therefore, I would like to caution you that everything should be done in transparent manner and poor farmers should not be cheated. It should not happen that farmers go on believing that their loans have been waived and after a couple of years he gets debt notice and interest continues to accumulate on his loan. It will be a great burden for farmers and would lead to deterioration in their condition. That is why I would like to ask what is the harm in implementing food for work programme and crop insurance. These two programmes should be implemented in an effective manner. It would enable people to get jobs and would also prevent starvation deaths. Government may also get some of its work done.

Therefore, Government need to take strict action and not pass on its responsibility. If the Government passes its responsibility on others it create problems for people, farmers and poor. Government should come forward for immediate as well as long term solution to the natural calamities. Central Government ought to stop transferring its responsibility to the State Governments. When he was speaking about farmers, he termed them as the God of earth. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Government to save farmers from the losses due to natural calamities. Government should formulated policies for protection of farmers.

*[English]*

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagappattinam) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, it really pains me to talk about the plight of the rural poor and the agriculturist who suffer the worse due to the drought conditions prevalent in many parts of the country. Of course I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to take part in this discussion. It pains me to participate in the discussion on drought situation year after year because it reminds us the fact that we witness this situation even after 55 years of independence. All these years we have been taking only cosmetic measures. Only now we have waken up to the reality that there must be a long-term strategy evolved to wipe out this problem once and for all. We have been listening to the members emphasising on this point that there must be a lasting solution to this vexing problem.

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*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A.K.S. Vijayan]

This Government led by our beloved Prime Minister Vajpayee has commenced steps in the right direction to evolve a lasting solution for overcoming drought problems in the country. Two days back our Prime Minister had made a historical announcement that this Government would take up a major scheme to link all the major rivers of this country. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister a team is constituted to evolve ways and means to link all the major rivers of the country which would help irrigation and also help us to overcome drought problems in several parts of the country. I would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for setting up this panel. I would like to impress upon this Government that nationalisation of rivers alone could pave a better path and would help this panel to evolve better ways and means to overcome the problems faced by the agricultural community.

Due to drought conditions in several parts of the country we also witness death due to hunger, malnutrition and so on. In my constituency in a village called Adichapuram in Mannargudi Taluk in Thiruvarur District there was a death due to starvation. A seven year old boy, son of an agricultural labourer named Chandrasekhar, died due to starvation arising out of drought conditions prevailing over there. In Thanjavur, Nagappattinam, Thiruvarur Districts of Tamil Nadu, we find the poor agricultural labourers resorting to eat field mice, snails, crabs and certain wild vegetable leaves. I point out this common occurrence there to highlight the intensity of drought conditions prevailing there. This morning in this august House we saw an hon. Member showing a dried up dying crop to draw the attention of this Government to the plight of drought conditions prevalent in the country. The farmers and agriculturists in my region, the traditional rice granary of Tamil Nadu, are witnessing the same plight now with their crops withering away. If this drought condition continues for 5 more years the paddy cultivation itself would be wiped away from Thanjavur region. We may also witness a time when the future generation may not know from which crop or tree paddy comes from.

Twelve years ago, during a similar situation the erstwhile Chief Minister to Tamil Nadu announced a relief to the agriculturists of reduce the agricultural input cost. During his third term as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi announced free-electricity to farmers for irrigation purposes. That steps was taken to ensure that agricultural activity continue and provide livelihood to the agricultural labourers. Now we hear that that scheme may be withdrawn by the present Tamil Nadu Government. I for one who would like to emphasise that electricity must be provided free of cost to the drought prone farmers not only in Tamil Nadu but all over the country. This must help the farmers and agricultural labourers to have their sustenance and continue with their agricultural activities. We must also ensure that all relief measures reach the needy poor especially the rural poor. Both the Centre and the State Governments must ensure that all relief reaches the agriculturists in time because ours is an agro economy. I would like to impress upon the Union Government that the Centre must evolve suitable guidelines to ensure that the relief reaches the needy rural poor in a proper manner. Few months back the Tamil Nadu Government came out with a scheme to provide farmers with funds to raise bunds towards watershed management. But what happened was to the contrary. Instead of farmers, the ruling party workers were provided with those funds and no redressal was available even when it was taken to the notice of the then District Collector of Thiruvarur and the then Executive Engineer of the Agricultural Wing over there. The agro-engineering efforts were thus rendered futile. At this juncture, I would like to lay stress on the point that such schemes devised by the Centre must reach all the poor farmers. So I urge upon the Centre to evolve ways and means to ensure that the benefits of the schemes reach all the needy in a proper manner at the appropriate time.

Our Prime Minister has announced that there will be a moratorium on agricultural loans. I am afraid that this will only be adding injury to the insult. It would be better the loans are waived off at this juncture when the drought conditions are hitting hard the agricultural community. Our Prime Minister who would like to conceive several measures for the welfare of the agricultural community must ensure a long term solution to the problems faced by the farmers.

Once again, I thank the Prime Minister and this Government for taking up the proposal to link all the major rivers of the country and I urge upon you to translate that

into action to the earliest to help the farmers overcome the drought related problems.

With this, I conclude.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak. I am going to request all my hon. colleagues in this House that they will bear with me when I am speaking on this subject. Anything that is said is to be viewed in the collective responsibility of what is good for our country. It is not about individuals because no single person is important than the farmers of India. So, I take this opportunity to raise this issue. What is the common factor? Rashrapatiji in the Rastrapati Bhawan, Speakers in their Chairs, media in their galleries, Members of Parliament, poor people, rich people, soldiers fighting in Kargil, all these people need to be fed. They are fed by the farmers. Farmers feed the people. Today, he is the man who is starving. Who is this farmer? He is the true countryman who lives in the remote areas of our nation where there are no hospitals for the aged, no schools for his children and no hope of getting his children married because of the drought conditions. These are farmers of our country and they are being forced to commit suicide.

Today we are in drought situation.

*[Translation]*

Why drought occurred in the country? Were we not aware of it? Did we have no means to identify drought.

*[English]*

Shri Yerrannaidu has just now mentioned that this is the second consecutive monsoon failure. We should have been aware of what is going to happen. It is the failure of not having a vision for agriculture. There is no vision document for agriculture vis-a-vis WTO; vis-a-vis bumper crop productions; vis-a-vis technology and development that is taking place the world over. We have national remote sensing agencies which can give you aerial surveys; which can give you layer by layer data analysis of how much water you have; how many reservoirs you have; and what is your capacity to give water to the agriculturists of our country. We did not even address that issue. We did not accept that kind of technology. Nor did we pass it down to our farmers.

*[Translation]*

Everybody says that their crop has been destroyed due to drought and they should be paid compensation.

*[English]*

Agriculture is not just about crops. You have pisciculture, aquaculture, and horticulture. You have live stock also to deal with. It is not just human beings who get affected because of food shortage. When we say farmers, we do not just mean the farmers who grow paddy and rice. We also have fish farmers. We have fishermen who are dependent on this. Today, the lakes are dry. We do not get fish. The rates of fish feed have gone up. We are not able to get fish feed to do fish sowing or to keep our fish nurseries alive. Look at our seed nurseries. Crop failure is only one aspect of the issue of drought. We have no seed for preparation. It is because our seed nurseries have dried up.

You do not have seeds for the next crop.

*[Translation]*

We were talking about Kharif. At the time of drought, Shri Yerrannaidu said that by God's grace water is now available.

*[English]*

And so, you say that you were able to save the last crop of *Kharif*. If the Centre is going to calculate that kind of water availability and take that crop into account, then the systems analysis that we have for what is required for drought analysis will be a failure. We have got to look at it far more analytically. We have to understand that if we take the last crop into account and say that this is not drought-stricken, it will not do justice to anyone. You know the vagaries of monsoon are much more complex than that. It is rather an archaic and antique way of evaluating what is required for a drought prone area.

Along with this, we have the livestock. Andhra Pradesh has one of the largest poultry industries for us. Because of the food shortages, we do not have coarse grain availability. With no coarse grain availability, animal feedstock has gone up.

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury]

*[Translation]*

People may say that they have buffer stock of rice and wheat.

*[English]*

You cannot mix *chawal* or *gehun* with animal feed because it has a high nutrient quality. We require coarse grain.

In this connection, I would like to say that I have written to the hon. Minister, to the hon. Prime Minister and to the Commerce Minister almost three months ago requesting that we should have availability of coarse grains. If need be, we must import this without import duty to make it available to our farmers and for livestock.

*[Translation]*

Everyone says here that there is no water nor fodder for animals. It will not settle things.

*[English]*

Even if I can give feed to my livestock, I need the micro nutrition for my animals. Trace minerals like zinc, magnesium and potassium are required for the well-being of animals. A farmer like me has to spend between rupees 30 and 1500 rupees per animals today to keep the animal lively and healthy in this drought period. The Government has not even addressed to that. Leave alone the Central Government, the State Governments do not even know that such issues exist in our country and this is our requirement.

Now, I come to Floriculture, Horticulture and orchards. Please look at as to what is happening in Nagpur. The Nagpur oranges have world recognition. They are on the decline now. You have huge old orchards which are lying there, which are dying of a rare virus which has been affecting the crop. Soon, God forbid, the Nagpur oranges are going to be history. Orange is one of the few things that we take such a great credit and pride in.

The next point is that we have lopsided development of State Governments which lack vision, which talk of technology and they give us all useless things. This is a Government that has invested Rs. 1400 crore in what it called as *"Meeru Neeru"* Bore-wells were put in all over the State indiscriminately. They are put in even fluoride water areas whereby the ground water level is declining. We have given birth and given rise to rare virus and diseases which are affecting both people and animals today.

*[Translation]*

AN HON. MEMBER : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member is entering the well of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak from your seat.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : I am doing so.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : We are approaching the Rabi season. So far, neither the Centre nor the State has spelt out any contingency plan as to how it is asking our farmers to deal with the Rabi season. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has indirectly told the District Collectors not to encourage planting of Rabi crop, which is fine! It is a fine drought.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : We have discouraged planting of paddy only. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : What is the crop holiday and what is the compensation that they are going to give to my farmers ? Do you expect the farmers to sit idle ? Everyone is very much excited when Mr. Bill Clinton visits, when Mr. Bill Gates visits. But when it comes to paying bills, nobody wants to talk about that bill.

*[Translation]*

He doesn't mention about the Bill nor does he send the electricity bill to the farmers.

*[English]*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : It is very true.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : So, this is what I am asking. When a State Government tells not to go for planting crops, what compensation will the State Government or the Central Government give ?

*[Translation]*

Both just meet and shake hands. They speak on phone at will. The matter of our losses crop up, then they blame each other for levelling allegations.

*[English]*

I also want to tell you what happened in Andhra Pradesh. About Andhra Pradesh, they want to speak a lot of good things. I belong to Andhra Pradesh. Please give us food. I will never fight on that issue. But I am asking this question. In the Kharif season, the Government has given us an assurance in Andhra Pradesh telling us that it is releasing the Sagar waters under the Nagarjun Sagar Canal project. I am speaking about my district. I am talking about Khammam.

We have the largest population of tribals and landless labour there. When they said, they would release water to us, seeds for 50,000 acres were purchased by my poor farmers who went to the market and borrowed money because the banks will only give them as long as there is good credit. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

If even one person does not give instalment in the village, it is called bad credit and the entire village is held responsible for that and no bank gives money to the farmers. Then the farmer is compelled to go to the market and get loan at the rate of interest of 17, 18 or even 20 percent and keep on paying interest throughout his life. We were assured that they are releasing water. We purchased seed for sowing purposes. Then our seed developed and when the crop was ready. They refused to release water and also told us that there can be shortage of drinking water too. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : I would like to intervene with your permission.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : First, let me complete. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to react to what Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury has said. We never assured fully. We expected that due to rains, we would have sufficient water. So, we promised it Finally, we did not get rains. Then, we requested the Chief Minister of Karnataka : "They are suffering due to lack of power. You have enough water in Almatty and Narainpur. You release 50 TMC of water for Andhra Pradesh to protect all the standing crops. Then, we will produce the power. Anyhow, we are producing the power. We will continue to produce it. We will give it to you. You give water to save the crops of those people." The State is under the Congress regime. But these people are not influenced. When there is the Nature's fury, what can we do? . . . *(Interruptions)* The problem has arisen due to lack of rains. Because of dry spell, the farmers have suffered a lot. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : It shows how the rest of the country is with the Congress. That is very good. . . .*(Interruptions)*

A loss to the tune of Rs. 40 crore has come for my farmers because that Government could not release water.

*[Translation]*

They say that Karnataka not provide water. I am telling you that not even a single farmer asked for 24 hours power supplies. The State Government, very confidently assured 24 hours power supply on 15th of August because of newspaper publicity. What to talk of 24 hours. We do not get even 3 hours of uninterrupted water supply.

*[English]*

Because of sub-standard power supply that they are supplying, the farmers have no rights as consumers.

*[Translation]*

Our motors get burnt. Amount of Rs. 1500 to Rs. 3000/- is spent on their rewinding. You may count the total expenses alongwith interest.

*[English]*

Ultimately, we came to know that the farmer is under the clutches of commercial term loans. Even no industrialist also can borrow list that. We are forced to borrow like that. We are living under such terrible conditions dunng drought.

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury]

What happens during drought ? The entire cycle takes place. Privatisation of common property resources, village water, forest land, grazing land and water tank takes places.

*[Translation]*

Rich people acquire watering holes of the village and then no one is there to take care of tribal, poor people and dalits. We should support them.

*[English]*

What happens is that mortgaging of ration cards takes place during drought. You have to have a micro-analysis along with the macro-vision of what is happening in agriculture. A lot of poor people mortgage their ration cards so that they could get some money to live. Despite all this hot air and talk, which this Government does without any concept or visual of what is happening in the drought situation, they have not addressed the drought management. Today, they say that they have no contingency plan that they have spelt out to the nation at large. Waiving of loans is only one issue.

For the next crop also, I have to get an interest-free loan as a farmer because I do not have the resource any more. I cannot go to any other place besides waiving and deferring of the payments. They must give it to us. If NABARD can give to the Gramin Banks at four and six per cent, why is it that as farmers we are supposed to pay 12-16 per cent as a commercial loan in the banking system. Now, the NABARD should come forward and give us our loans directly as part of the drought management.

It should be done directly as part of the drought management, as well as compensation has to be given for farmers who are going to take crop holidays. Landless labours have to be assured that their ration cards will be left for them

He was indulging in self-praise. There were many scams. There was a report about this in *The Hindu* newspaper yesterday. Sir, 557 quintals of rice was caught being misused by the State Government. Of course he has confessed that these things happen. I hope they will see that these things do not happen in future.

Also, there has to be special focus on women. I am not talking about women's liberation but women are 50 per cent of the agricultural communities. We are the women who harvest the seeds. We are the ones who sow the seeds. We are the ones who keep their animals. We are the ones who feed their animals. We are the ones who carry their children. There is no nutritional food or package available for women.

Now, I will come to subsidy on drip irrigation. It was given to women as a special incentive. It was withdrawn by an unimaginative Union Government. Please see that you restore subsidy on drip irrigation. A part of their water management was with drip irrigation where you get better yield, better productivity, better direct supply of nutrition, and micro nutrition for their plants.

Along with this, I would like to refer to the serious power situation in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, Rs. 7.50 per unit is being charged to the farmers. They talk about giving us subsidy. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Its not true. It is beyond your perception. Infact the farmers grow foodgrain for the Union and State Governments in lieu of Subsidy. Is there anyone who could understand our problems. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

Unless you are able to take up those issues, it is difficult to solve the problem. They were boasting about internet information. Let them not forget this.

*[Translation]*

Bureaucrats who used to commit irregularities on files are now doing them on internet. Persons doing verification are public representatives. The whereabouts of public representatives in their State are not known.

*[English]*

This is an important time when we look at the water resources, water mapping, crop planning. You have to

think. We cannot sit like this till a drought descends on us. Then you say that you are releasing funds for drought management. You should be able to anticipated drought with today's scientific data analysis. You should be in a state of preparedness. You have got to look at crop planning in a completely different way.

You know Assam has come into rice production. They are a water-rich place. East Bihar is a water-rich place. So, you have got to leave water rich or crops which require water to those States, and look at the planning in other States. Unless you have some such thing, as crop planning or analysis, droughts like this bring a shift in crop pattern. They go from food crop to cash crop. As all your scientific prophesies have told you that you are going to go in for food shortages in the near future.

Sir, my fervent appeal to the Government is this. The tragedy arises that the Union Government has never considered agriculture as a primary focal issue. The last two or three years' agricultural budgets have been pitiful, inciting, and meaningless to the agricultural community. Because of lack of agricultural inputs in the budget, private spending has also been zero for our country as a result of which agriculture is always treated as a side subject. Only when there is a crisis, people pretend to care and talk in this Parliament. Non of this reaches the remote areas. My farmers are constantly harassed by bankers. Unless you have a revolutionary approach, and you have a visionary, and a missionary compassion to this community, do not imagine that farmers are going only to kill themselves. Beware of the wrath of farmers!

*[Translation]*

When the farmers would rise, everyone would be taken aback.

*[English]*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Just a minute. I want to clarify one point on the floor of the House. My colleague, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury talked about power tariff. She gave some examples.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am challenging her. One of the best States in the country is Andhra Pradesh. We are providing power for nine hours even now to the farmers, and 20 hours to the ordinary consumers. You send some Parliamentary team to Andhra Pradesh.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Such a big lie.

**16.00 hrs.**

Sir, Just day before yesterday I've come back from my district. And the situation is that there is no power for three hours together. . . .*(Interruptions)* Ask me, I do cultivation, how can you know about that.

*[English]*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, I would like to express my views on behalf of my party.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : On behalf of the country!

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : On behalf of the country on this motion.

During the last Session, we had a discussion on drought. We explained in details the needs of the farmers and the drought conditions prevailing in the country. We highlighted the drought situation in Tamil Nadu last time.

It is the policy of our AIADMK Party since as early as 1972 that all the rivers should be nationalised. When the late former Chief Minister Dr. MGR was alive, he propounded this policy and that policy was reflected by the present Chief Minister, Purachithalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha in Rajya Sabha as early as 1982 that all the rivers should be nationalised. If there is no water, the drought condition comes in. Even in spite of the Supreme Court, the Cauvery delta area farmers are not able to get water.

Sir, it is the politics of water. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikaballapur) : Sir, the records are there. We have to set right the records. We have been giving them water. But when we have no water, how can we give it to them ? . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, he is misleading the House.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, the Farakka Barrage issue was settled between India and Pakistan and Tiesta Water Dispute has been settled between India and Bangladesh.

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

But we are not able to resolve this issue between two States in our country. So, the Supreme Court had to interfere. The Supreme Court has passed the orders. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, our Chief Minister has requested them to take water, but his Chief Minister refused to take it. She does not even respect the Prime Minister. She is so much audacious. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, water would have come to Tamil Nadu to save the Cauvery delta area farmers. But due to failure of South-West monsoon during the current year 2002 and because of lack of rainfall, 19 out of 28 districts of Tamil Nadu have been affected by drought, it was declared.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu reviewed the situation and convened a meeting on the drought conditions, calling all the Collectors as early as on 23.9.2002. Based on that, she submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister asking for the allocation of Rs. 1400 and odd crore. We saw from the papers that Tamil Nadu has been granted Rs. 228 crore towards drought relief by the Central Government, but so far there is no official communication till date.

Before getting the allocation, the Chief Minister toured the Cauvery delta area on 24.6.02 and she announced a special relief package of Rs. 164.18 crore to the drought affected Cauvery delta areas of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur and Nagapattinam.

Sir, to alleviate the sufferings of the Cauvery delta area farmers, the Chief Minister had also announced, before the receipt of this amount of Rs. 228 crore from the Central Government, a special Deepavali gift of Rs. 210/- per hamper. As many as 10 lakh farmers were given this Deepavali gift at the cost of Rs. 21 crore. The State was helping the farmers to combat the drought conditions. Had the Government of India sanctioned Rs. 1,434 crore plus 5.5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, we would have been able to overcome the drought conditions. So, we request at this juncture that the Government of Tamil Nadu be sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,434 crore minus Rs. 228 crore if they have sanctioned. I would say that in spite of drought conditions, there is no starvation death in Tamil Nadu. Even in this serious financial crunch, the Government of Tamil Nadu headed by our Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi had given a bag, to the farmers, containing 10 kilograms of rice, one kilogram of sugar, 250 grams of sweets, 100 gram of ghee, and all vegetables plus Rs. 50/- cash as Deepevali gift. It costs about Rs. 210/- per head. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, it is only for two days. What about the remaining 363 days in a year ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem) : Sir, this is too much. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : What is this ? Are we in Parliament ? . . .*(Interruptions)* If you want, you go and give. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I am not confined only to Karnataka. I am confined to the entire India. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : What is this ? Please control him. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : You cannot control Dr. Jayalalitha. How can I control him ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : At this juncture, I would say that the Government of India should have a foresight of these drought conditions because in every Session we talk about the serious drought situation on one day but we are not able to remedy the drought situation prevailing in the country. We discuss and we disperse. What do we get for the farmers ? Do they merely get the benefit out of our discussion ? Cutting across the party lines, we are arguing and putting forward our case for all the farmers irrespective of their region and irrespective of any other creed. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara) : Including the DMK farmers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandian, please address the Chair.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, there is a lot of distraction. There must be a flow. When I am in the flow, there is an interruption. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHIRMATI MARGARET ALVA . Please do not look back. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : What are the criteria for allotment ? What are the criteria in respect of the allocation of drought relief by the Central Government ? We, the Members of the AIADMAK Parliamentary Party, met the Prime Minister.

We presented a Memorandum asking for Rs. 1,434 crore. We met the Finance Minister. Three months after the Members of Parliament presented the Memorandum, a Central Team was sent. The Central Team submitted a report recommending allocation of Rs. 500 crore, but we got only Rs. 228 crore. The Central Government should have, at least, sanctioned the amount as per the Central Team's assessment. The Central Team was consisting of Shri Joginder Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of India; Shri R.P. Singh, Joint Director, Directorate of Cotton Development; and Shrimati Nalini Pathak, Assistant Director, Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs. So, four teams were sent to different parts of Tamil Nadu to asses the drought situation. They collected materials. They went to the spot. They assessed the drought damage. They had sent their recommendation for allocation of Rs. 500 crore. Let the Minister, at least today, sanction the balance amount of Rs. 272 crore.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Are you supporting ?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : We are not supporting anybody. The mover of the Motion is from your Party. I am speaking on your Motion. Is participating in a drought discussion a crime ? Should it not be serious ? It should not be lively. It should be like an obituary reference. The farmers are dying there. The farmers are not able to repay their loans.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi) : Just now he said that there was no death. Now the hon. Member says the farmers are dying.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : What is this ? There is no death. If a dead man happens to be a farmer, do you mean to say that it is a starvation death ? What is this ? So, to alleviate the sufferings of the farmers of Cauvery delta area, the Government of India should have acted swiftly. The Government of India, after getting the report of the Committee, should have immediately sanctioned that amount. The hon. Chief Minister also briefed the Team about the failure of the monsoon. There is some anomaly. If Tamil Nadu is in drought condition, they will be able to give a relief package. There is a technical word that each district should be declared as drought-affected. When the Whole State is declared as a drought-affected State, why should there be a declaration of each Taluka and each village ? The whole State is suffering from serious drought condition. So we should not stand on technicality. This technically is an official technicality. The people of the State are suffering. So I would request the Government of India to come out of all the technicalities and give relief package to every State. I asking for all the States because we are discussing the serious drought condition in every part of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : I will finish my speech in a minute.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : Then, why are you not declaring the districts as drought-affected areas ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : That is why I have said when the whole State is in a drought condition, where is the need for declaring each Taluka and village ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Does that include Chennai ?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : It is including Chennai. Chennai is in drought. The people are suffering even for drinking water.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Then, the basic tax may be exempted for the farmers.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : This is not Tamil Nadu Legislature. This is Parliament.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : But fortunately or unfortunately, you are from AIADMK and I am from DMK.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : You ask your DMK men there to raise it in the Legislature. This is a higher forum. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : There are 10 Ministers sitting in the Ministry from your side. I do not know how much money they have got for Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : You are representing Tamil Nadu. You are ruling Tamil Nadu, but you are not sending any direct report to the Central Government.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : Sir, I am thankful to my friend Shri T.M. Selvaganpathi for reminding that there are ten Ministers sitting on the Treasury benches. What are they doing ? Why should they be Ministers ? They are there to look after Tamil Nadu's interests. They are not there to look after their personal interests. For them, their personal interests are above all people's interests. The ten Ministers have shirked their responsibility. They have not talked to the Prime Minister. They have not talked to the Government. They are not agitated over the matter. All the Ministers have kept quiet. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Yes, I accept your argument. In the case of Karnataka, all hon. Members who represent Karnataka have approached the Prime Minister along with their Central Ministers. Your ego has prevented you from approaching us. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : This is not unparliamentary. Ten Ministers are there from the State of Tamil Nadu. It is a fact. It is a fact that they have not done anything in the interest of the people of the State. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is a fact that the ten Ministers are looking after their personal interests. . . .*(Interruptions)* Do you want me to expose their personal interests ? Each Minister has a personal agenda. They do not have a people's agenda; they do not have a farmer's agenda. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Let the people know that the ten Ministers from the State are keeping quiet. They are not even present here. Where are those ten Ministers from Tamil Nadu ? What is their appointment apart from attending Parliament ? Attending Parliament is an important matter. This is not an allegation. It is a fact that all the ten Ministers are not representing the interests of the people of Tamil Nadu. There is no Central Minister from Tamil Nadu present here. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Why are you giving so much time to him ? He is speaking for the last one year but there is nothing concrete, he is raising only the dispute of Karnataka and Tamilnadu. This is not the place for raising Tamilnadu – Karnataka dispute, raise it outside. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : I am asking about the ten Ministers from Tamil Nadu. Why should they not be here ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. There are 26 hon. Members to speak.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : These are interruptions. You should not take them into account.

This matter should be discussed in broad detail. Everybody should know what the Ministers are doing. They have not approached the Prime Minister because of political considerations. They want the drought to continue. They want that the Chief Minister should not be able to disburse the amount. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : How long will this discussion continue and whether we would be given time or not ? Whether members sitting at the back seats would not get time ? Please give the ruling. I have given prior notice for my question, atleast members sitting at the back should also be given a chance to speak. Our name is there in the list and we need your ruling in this regard. We can discuss referential issues besides drought, but regional disputes should not be raised here. This is a serious issue, everyone should be given a chance to speak on this. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ramanand Singh ji, your name is there in the list, please sit down. Why do you rise every now and then without permission.

*[English]*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : I do not know Hindi. I do not know what he is saying.

We have a discussion on disinvestment. On that issue, we can discuss in different voices. On the question of farmers, why should there be a partisan discussion ? Let it be a House discussion for farmers. Let there be a House discussion where all the parties come together. Let all the Ministers work together. Let all the Ministers approach the Government, talk to the Government and exert their power. They are exerting their powers on personal agendas. They are exercising their powers for their personal benefits. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What is the personal benefit ?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : If you bring a No-Confidence Motion, I would give out all the personal agenda.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will he keep this promise ? If we bring a No-Confidence Motion against the Government, will he support it ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Would you vote with us ?

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN : You bring the Motion. We will think about it on that day. Why do you want to anticipate our stand now ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

Sir, there was a failure of monsoon which necessitated the drought conditions. Now, it is up to the Central Government, at least, to remedy the situation prevailing in India.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, main answer to the question would be given by the hon. Minister of Agriculture. There are only three points related to my department, regarding which I would like to give some information to the august House. The demand for foodgrain made by the States under the special component of SVRI, was fulfilled. In all, around 38 lakh 29 thousand tonnes of foodgrain was distributed in the entire country under the special component scheme.

**16.21 hrs.**

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Besides, 14 lakh 26 thousand tonnes of foodgrain has been provided in the States affected by drought. I agree that it is a new achievement for India that our farmers have produced foodgrain in such huge quantity that it is becoming difficult to store it in godowns and we are exporting it. The country which used to import foodgrain four years back, is today exporting it to 30 countries of the world. But under such circumstances, when we do not have place to store it, the news of starvation is definitely a matter of concern. It is not a matter of discussion or allegations and counter-allegations. What is the reason that despite each district of the country, having huge quantity of foodgrain, we are hearing news of starvation, the House should make serious considerations in this regard. I am of the view that there is no shortage of foodgrain but there is lack of proper management. We are trying to find out the loopholes. All States, that demanded for foodgrain under the special component scheme as also recommended for that, have been provided foodgrain.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to put another point before the House. There are so many schemes related to rural development with the Ministry of Rural Development and in all the annual budget of our Ministry is Rs. 14,000/- crore. The foodgrain provided by us costs rupees eight thousand crore. A total of rupees 22,000 crore are with our Ministry which are fixed for the development of villages and which are released to the States. What is the use of so many schemes, the people in rural areas would get jobs only if these schemes are implemented. There is a requirement to give jobs to the people due to the situation arising out of drought. This problem can be solved if all the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are implemented properly in the States.

I do not have figures of condition prevailing in the entire country, but I have collected details of States which are affected by drought. I am surprised and even the House should be surprised as to why such a situation has arisen. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the beginning of the years the opening balance of the schemes of Ministry of Rural Development with the drought affected areas was rupees 3275 crore. We released rupees 5705 crore.

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

In all, these drought affected States had rupees 8980 crore for implementing the rural schemes. This year, after we released our instalment, these States had rupees 9659 crore for implementing the Rural Development Schemes. And the amount spent was rupees 2186 crore. So rupees 9659 crore could have been spent, and can be spent but as per the report upto September, rupees 2186 crore were spent and rupees 7473 crore were left unspent. When this remaining amount of rupees 7473 crore would be spent on the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development in rural area, then the people would get employment and when they get employment we can certainly combat the situation arising out of drought.

Rajasthan state has been discussed here at length. I was looking into the details of Rajasthan. The opening balance of all our schemes for the current year in Rajasthan was. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Please provide State wise details of schemes to the House, the funds of which have not been spent. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : I would provide the House with statewise details. I was saying that discussion on Rajasthan State has been held at length here. The news about Rajasthan is a matter of deep concern. If people in any corner of the country are starving then it is definitely a point of concern for the entire country. The opening balance of all Rural Development schemes in Rajasthan was rupees 207 crore and we released rupees 460 crore. In all, Rajasthan had rupees 682 crore for Rural Development schemes out of which rupees 58 crore were spent. Why the entire funds were not spent ? We have released funds and requested them to utilize these funds so that we could release the next instalment but Rajasthan spent only rupees 77 crore out of rupees 683 crore. Even today Rajasthan has rupees 604 crore to be spent off. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA (Jhunjhunu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not right. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister is not yielding. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : I am talking about the drinking water in Rajasthan. That area is affected by drought. They need water but the situation of drinking water is such that opening balance. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : You are not right. . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, this is not the proper way. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is raising basic objection in this regard. . . .*(Interruptions)* Whatever he has said is not correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sis Ram ji you can speak when you are called. You please take your seat. Your name is included in the list. When your turn comes only then you may speak. You please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : It is not matter of his turn. The basic objection that he is raising is that the figures that are being placed by him are not correct. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sis Ram ji, you will speak when your turn comes.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : If these figures are wrong then you please supply the correct one. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sis Ramji you may speak when your turn comes and refute his Statement.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The people of Rajasthan are facing problems. Funds allocated for the rural development schemes are not being spent. It is due to the inaction of the Rajasthan Government that funds are not being spent. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, with all due respect to the hon. Minister, I would request that the hon. Minister may kindly enlighten the House. . . .*(Interruptions)* We are not questioning him. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the hon. Minister may kindly enlighten us about one thing. Rural Development budget of a particular State is divided into Plan and Non-Plan budget. When the Plan support comes, then the other grant is allotted. Rural Development Fund comprises of, if I am not wrong – the Minister may correct me if I am wrong – PMGSY, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and also other components of the *panchayati raj* programme. It is not exclusively for drought. He should explain head-wise which are the heads of the entire rural development programme. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is not correct. . . . *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rasa Singh ji you please take you seat. I have called Sis Ram ji.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the figures he is quoting that the amount is directly sent to Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please sit down. You have expressed your view.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was submitting about the drinking water. I would like to tell about the resolve of the State Governments regarding the availability of water in the even of drought. Funds have been allocated to the Rajasthan Government for drinking water schemes and its opening balance was Rs. 83 crore. The funds which were released by the Union Government to Rajasthan for drinking water schemes were Rs. 133 crore. Thus Rajasthan Government has Rs. 217 crore for the implementation of drinking water schemes. Out of that only Rs. 43 crore have been spent so far and Rs. 173 crore are balance. Why are you not spending that amount. I would like to submit that if the State Government run all the village development schemes then there will not be any problem in generating sufficient employment opportunities.

At the end, I would like to submit that there are 13 such regims where drought condition is prevailing. There are total of 310 districts which are affected by drought. We have some norms for releasing of the funds. There are two conditions for releasing the second instalment. Once the first instalment is released second instalment is released only when utilisation certificate stating that 60% of the first instalment has been spent, is submitted. The State Government had requested to relax it as it had some difficulty. So the Government of India relaxed this condition and it was decided that out of the 310 districts only 174 district will be benefitted by this relaxation. Rs. 484 crore and seven lakh tonnes of foodgrains was released by the Government. However, there are 136 such districts which could not take second instalment in spite of this relaxation. It means that they could not spent even 40% of their previous instalment. They are not utilizing the funds and are complaining that they are not getting funds. It is not healthy situation. If the State Governments utilise the funds allocated for various schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development then there will not be any problem in providing employment to the people. Funds amounting to nearly seven thousand crore rupees are lying idle under various schemes of the Ministry meant for these drought affected areas. My submission is that if the entire amount is spent then there will not be any problem in providing employment to the people.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : I am laying* on the table of the House the utilisation certificate given to Rajasthan Government by the Auditor General, Rajasthan.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the biggest State of the country. If the hon. Minister has figures regarding Uttar Pradesh with him, he should lay those figures also on the table of the House.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire nation is in the grip of drought and on several occasions discussions in this regard have been held in the House but the problem remains at it is. The reasons behind that is that we did not make efforts to know the basic reasons of it. We should seriously think over the main

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*As the Speaker subsequently did not accord the necessary permission the paper was not treated as laid on the table.

[Shri Ram Sajivan]

reasons if it and should seriously ponder over it. I feel that the life of rural people is most affected by drought and the Central Government are not paying that much attention towards it as it should do.

Once I got an opportunity to hear in the House and a village oriented atmosphere was created in the country 'Chalo gaon ki ore'. However, today everyone has forgotten it. Earlier entire House was agreed upon this and we had some principle but today that principle is reflected neither in any scheme nor in any tone, speech and point of view. So, first of all we should change our attitude that we have to pay attention towards rural problems as poor people inhabit in India. if the attention is paid towards this then we will succeed in solving the problems of flood and drought.

Earlier also I had submitted in the House that our influential leaders come from Urban areas and they control entire policies. However, I have firm belief that the leaders coming from cities does not have knowledge about the life in rural areas. When it comes to rural life and the solution of the problem is concerned, I firmly believe that our attitude should change. When anything happens in Mumbai Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai it is widely reported in newspapers. It is the attitude in our country. So unless we pay attention to the main reasons this problem will not be solved.

Many times it has been discuss in the House. I would like to submit in the context of Uttar Pradesh that Uttar Pradesh administration first of all deferred the collection of revenues in drought effected districts. There after other States deferred the collection of revenues. The objective of deferring the collection of revenues and other related works was to provide relief to the farmers and drought affected villages. This demand was raised from other States also and it was on account of this that the Government of India became active and some steps were taken in this regard.

Hon'ble Minister was saying that he sanctioned crores of rupees but they were not spent. Therefore, he is not to blame and the blame should go to the State Governments. Such an approach will not help in ameliorating drought problem. This is political approach just to disgrace others. If he has given funds then there is no State Government of any party which would not want to spend those funds. They demand for funds and in my opinion the funds meant for States are not spent because of certain reasons. Hon'ble Minister has left but one-two hon'ble Ministers who are present here should mark my words.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : I support the views of Ram Sajivanlji. One hon'ble Minister delivered his speech and left. Now another is waiting to deliver his speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is giving close attention to your speech.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : We also do the same. Leave the matter.

Fund provided to the States are not spent. On the basis of my experience, I would like to say that the funds sent are clubbed with so many conditionalities that the officers are scared to spend them even when the State Government asks them to do so. You might not be aware of it as you do not go through the details. The officers think that by spending the funds, guidelines would be violated and their job would be in threat. Therefore, the conditionalities need to be reviewed. If they can't do this, they can take the advice of MPs who may give valuable suggestions in this regard. I can quote few examples in this regard. The Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, which consists of 7-8 districts of Southern Uttar Pradesh and Northern Madhya Pradesh, is a drought affected area. Every year I raise the issue of drought and drinking water problem in the House. As per my information, Government sent funds for digging tanks with the aim of ameliorating drought conditions. The digging started but the condition was laid down that the work should be labour oriented. I am not against labour oriented policies, but Central Government has confused officers and State Governments by laying down such conditionalities.

If the funds are sanctioned for the digging of tanks, then the cost of extracting one bucket of earth would come to Re 1. The labour oriented dual policy of the Government of digging tank to store water and providing work to people is all very good. Everyone would praise such a scheme but what happens in practice. The practical thing is why worker would go to work in 10 bighas of land. It would

result in the fact that neither tank would be dug nor the labourer would get his wages. You will be in a dilemma. As a saying goes, "Duvidha mein donon gaye, Maya mili na Ram." Neither water could be stored in the tank nor there was work for labourers. The labour aspect will have to be abandoned if the tank is to be deepened and water is to be stored. Labour can be used for roads. They can also be used for some other works. If the digging of tanks are conducted through tractors and machines, then thousands of tanks would certainly be dug. Those tanks would solve the problem of drought.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You had promised to conclude in two minutes.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, the State Government provides Rupees one lakh as subsidy to the farmers for the boring of tube wells. I had raised this issue here a number of times. Hon'ble Irrigation Minister replies that it is not included in their programmes. Why would I have raised the matter if the programme had been included among the programmes of the Centre ? They should also provide Rs. one lakh as subsidy to the farmers for boring tubewells as are being provided by the UP Government. UP Government have limited resources. If the problem is attended to in this manner, the problem of drought will be solved.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the issue of drought.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we discuss drought and flood in each session but the issue remains unsolved. Whenever drought, flood, starvation or poverty issue is raised, it is said that no politics should be involved in it, but whenever adjournment motion is moved, pure politics is played here. We are people's representatives but we also indulge in deception in saying that there should not be any politics but we also play politics in it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry and also distressed. As Shri Ram Sajivanji was saying that Union Government provide funds, but where is the blame for State Governments, if the funds are not utilised. It is because, there are many preconditions for its utilisation.

I would like to quote the example of my area. In daily Hindustan, dated 10th November, a news published on the front page under the caption "Sangrampur ke gaon mein Jaanlewa Garibi aur Bimari!" This is on the front page of the Bhagalpur edition of the paper. When I went there, I came to know that a man Umesh Dube died of hunger. A baby of one and a half years of age died one and a half months ago and then her mother also died. After reading the newspapers I reached there on 11th November and enquired about the episode. I was told that Umesh Dube was a Brahmin and the deceased mother and her baby were Rajputs. It was for the first time I ever heard people of Brahmin and Rajput community dying of hunger and I rushed to their place. I was surprised to learn that both the families had red ration card meant for below poverty line families. There was no entry in those cards regarding food or money provided under various schemes of Central Government such as Antyodaya Yojana, Annapurna Yojana etc. I would like to know how the Union Government would arrange the supply of grains to the red card holders. Red card holders get food grains free of cost so that they could survive. How Government propose to arrange supply of grains to people living below poverty line. The machinery for the purpose, the policy framework and rules in this regard should be clearly laid down. It should be discussed as to how grains would be supplied to them especially as the number of red card holders is very high.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know, as to how all the grains are exhausted. Whether they are lying in godowns, or with Public Distribution System shopowners, or they are sold, or have gone to Mafia or in black market or because of the complicity of the administration. Discussion should be held as to how that grains would be supplied to those people. There should not be any politics in it. States should not be given a bad name. But how the Union Government propose to arrange supply of grains to them. Through what channel the supplies would be made. What are Centre-State relations in this regard. We should discuss the issue keeping all the above mentioned aspects in mind, but we only play politics here. The empathy that we should have for poverty, starvation, injustice and artocities is no longer in us because of the politics. We only speak here because we want power and chair.

[Shri Brahma Nand Mandal]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am talking about empathy because, I have seen it all with my naked eyes. Now only one person of that family survives and he, too, is handicapped. After my visit, administration provided him aid of Rs. 10000. I talked about it to the local D.M. We should ponder as to how such a situation is still prevailing after 53 years of independence.

Hon. Minister of Rural Development was saying that we have adequate stocks of foodgrains. Godowns are full with grains. We export grains to 30 countries. But even then we see people dying of starvation. We should ponder over it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we continue to debate here about flood and drought. Every year Bihar is devastated by floods and drought both. I would like to say that 18 districts of Northern Bihar are devastated every year due to flood. Infrastructure worth thousands of crores of rupees is destroyed and we are here only to debate the issue.

It is said that fifteen years ago, Planning Commission had estimated about Bihar, especially Northern Bihar, that the rivers Originating in Nepal, be it Kosi or Gandak or Baghmati, could be harnessed to produce 40000 mw of power every year. At present, the same water destroys 18 districts of entire north Bihar. 15 years ago, Planning Commission had said that the cost of generating one MW of power is Rs. 4 crore. Now that cost must have escalated. Union Government should talk with the Government of Nepal on this issue. Many purposes can be served through one project. Floods can be controlled, water can be used for irrigation, hydel power can be generated and the overall welfare of the farmers can be made possible. The very problems of flood and drought would be solved once and for all. Even after 53 years of our independence we have failed to do it. Why schemes are not being formulated in this regard ? Is there scarcity of funds ? I do not agree to this. I think it is due to lack of determination. We are no concerned about the agony of thousands of people suffer during floods. Houses, schools and roads get damaged during floods. But every time we just lament upon this issue in parliament and Legislative Assemblies. It is not that funds are not spent. Huge funds are spent but I feel pain to say that politics is being played in this regard. People have elected us to fight for their cause and solve their problems. But we always work with an aim to regain the power in future. There is no shortage of funds. I have examples from my constituency. I will raise the issue of drinking water.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Another member from your party is waiting for his turn to speak. Please speak in brief otherwise he may not get time.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN : 25 more members have to speak. I have informed you that another member from your party has to speak. Therefore, please be brief.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I always abide by you. I will not take much time. I just want to say that in order to solve the problem of flood and drought, members of all the political parties be in ruling side or in opposition, should seriously discuss this issue. Priority should be given to the basic problem especially the problem of flood and drought of all the States of the country. Substantial part of the budget should be spent to solve these problems. We may get rid of these problems if we are able to do this.

With these words, I conclude while stating that this adjournment motion is politically motivated and I oppose it.

**17.00 hrs.**

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the Government, I would like to provide some information to the House which would facilitate the hon'ble members to discuss the matter. The country is facing serious drought and it is a matter of satisfaction that the House is discussing it. I do not want to make a long speech rather I just want to intervene a little and through you, I would like to give suggestions as to how we can provide relief to the flood and drought affected areas. In this regard, on behalf of the Government, I would like to place some figures for facilitating the hon'ble members debating the issue.

Sir, the allocation during 2001-2002 was 400 lakh mt. tonnes. Last year Rajasthan and other parts of the country were in the grip of drought. The allocation in targetted PDS was 300 lakh mt tonnes last year and this year it is 445 lakh mt tonnes. Only 100 lakh mt. tonnes has been lifted during the last seven months. Under the scheme "Food for Work" the allocation for SGRY was 35 lakh mt. tonne in the whole country. 28 lakh mt. tonne was allocated for mid-day meal scheme and 6.00 lakh mt. tonne was allocated under other welfare scheme. Last year 32 lakh mt. tonne was allocated out of which 29 lakh mt. tonne was lifted. This year 54 lakh mt. tonne has been allocated under SGRY scheme and 40 lakh mt. tonne has been lifted so far, 27 lakh mt tonne for Mid-day meal scheme and 4 lakh tonne for other welfare schemes. In toto 96 lakh mt. tonne was allocated out of which 53 lakh tonne could be lifted. Central Government is providing foodgrains free of cost under SGRY. Under this Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were given 3 lakh mt. tonne, 0.50 lakh mt. tonne, 0.25 lakh mt. tonne, and 0.10 lakh mt. tonne, respectively during the recent drought. Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Rajasthan were given 0.40 lakh, 2.00 lakh, 2.00 lakh, 0.5 lakh tonne 2 lakh mt. tonne, 1 lakh mt. tonne, 0.5 lakh tonne, and 7 lakh tonne, respectively.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that the issue under discussion is how to tackle the problem of drought. From my experience of the last 6-7 months. I can say that drought affected areas are far flung areas which are difficult to approach and where transportation is expensive. These are mostly tribal areas. I do not want to got into the controversy of the news from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan.

I have given the figures pertaining to all the States. Government of different parties are in power in these States. You would notice that the work regarding identification of poor has been done effectively in South but not in North India. How these schemes would be implemented effectively unless the identification of the poor people is completed. These schemes would be fruitful only when we adopt a better way to identify the poor. South has really done a good job in this regard.

Regarding Antyodaya scheme, I would like to tell the House that North India's performance in this regard is about 72-89% where as in south it is more than 90% Antyodaya scheme meant for the poorest of the poor has been very successful. In this scheme, identification work of the poor people seems good as per the figures but not in reality. I would like to submit that the outcome of the inquiries conducted by our teams sent to drought affected areas of Orissa, Uttar Pradesh or Rajasthan reveal that poor have not been identified properly. Hon'ble members are also critical about the system adopted for identification of poor. They are also levelling allegations and counter allegations upon each other in this regard. I would like to submit that leader of opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has initiated this discussion very effectively in the House. I would also reply in the same manner so that something concrete could come out of this discussion. The question before us is how to identity the poor.

If proper identification of the poor is done, then all the schemes such as JRY, food for work, Mid day Meal Scheme etc. would be successful; I would like to mention that an amount of Rs. 40 crore is being spent on Food Welfare Scheme only. Our Government have raised the allocation to such an extent only after the continuous efforts. It is a big allocation. The country has sufficient stock of foodgrains. Hon'ble supreme court also says the same thing. We are discussed this issue in the House but there must be concrete outcome of this discussion. The only thing which has come out is that poor were not identified. Earlier also I have mentioned that south has done better work regarding identification of the poor. The situation in this region regarding the foodgrains lifted is as good as that of allocation. I do not want to comment on the States of North-India but here the work culture and system is not streamlined. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how the poor would be identified when Central Government has restricted the issuance of red or yellow cards to one crore poor people. Government have limited the number of poor people. Among whom the surplus stock of foodgrains were distributed ?

**17.09 hrs.**

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I said that the method of identification of poor people should be simpler. I have talked to Prime Minister also and said that Chief Ministers of all the States should be called to discuss this issue. Today different parties are in power in different States. We may level allegations on each other in the House but the reality is that we have kept 40 crore rupees for foodgrain welfare scheme. Just now Shri Shanta Kumar was mentioning that funds are allocated for rural development but is not being spent. There may be faults in funds management by the Government in this regard. I think the rules in this regard are also very complex due to which funds could not be utilized. Definitely corruption is a separate issue for discussion but the question before us is that we should identify the poor. I strongly fee that had the funds given for rural development been utilized appropriately, our villages would have been prosperous. However, this was not done.

Anyway, we should not lament upon the past. Our country is in the grip of famine and drought. Several areas are facing water crisis. We have sufficient stock of foodgrains, adequate funds and other means also. The need is to bring them to the ground i.e. to utilize them properly. I would submit that out team had visited Orissa and reported that PDS system there is faulty. Reports from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have not been received yet. The team sent to Rajasthan has also reported about the faulty system there. Rajasthan is the worst drought affected area. Earlier this area was not drought prone but this year drought has strucked this part also. We provided 30% foodgrains but the fair price shops have not been opened in adequate number there. Theneed is to streamline the arrangements. Through you, I would like to tell the House that an easier way for identification is to include the poor landless labourers. We all should make collective efforts in this regard. The Government alone can not do it. I have talked to the hon'ble Prime Minister. Chief Ministers of all the States should be called upon to hold a meeting on this issue. There is no bigger challenge than drought. It would be really a big job if we successfully tackle this problem. Floods and droughts are the regular features in our country. To tackle these problems. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : A problem arisen when list of B.P.L. is formulated in villages. I had visited a village one month ago. In Panchayat system there is no problem to identify the poor. The problem is inadequate availability of the means for the poor due to which their number has to be restricted to a certain limit. Hence, indirectly, there would be a limit on the number of poor to be included in the list. How we would tackle this problem ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : In the very beginning, I have submitted that there should be a discussion on the loopholes prevailing in the existing system. It is necessary that what is being given should reach the people. Number of people under B.P.L. is increasing. Under Antyodaya scheme, they could have been identified but that could not be done. We agree that rules should be simplified to evolve a solution. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : The card should be given only to the people living below poverty line. However, it is being given to those also who are not included in below poverty line category.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I have not understood. What he is saying. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPAE (Thane) : He himself does not understand what he says. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : He said sometimes people who are no covered under BPL get this card. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, please sit down.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The country has sufficient stock of foodgrains. The House should commit that not a single starvation death would take place in the country. Government of India is ready to extend all possible help. This discussion should conclude with a resolution that not a single person would die of starvation. Government is ready to take all steps on its part. We can hold discussion to sort out the problem if any.

With these words, I conclude.

*[English]*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikaballapur) : Sir, at the outset I want to congratulate Shri Pandian for not having any death due to starvation. But I really want to offer my condolences because many people died due to heavy rains in the last one month.

So, they are not suffering from drought now.

Coming to my State, Karnataka, unfortunately, we have been experiencing drought for the last two years. This year's drought is unprecedented in the last sixty or seventy years. We have never suffered from this sort of a drought.

Almost all crops have perished, and not a single drop of water is there in any of the tanks. Cattle are suffering without fodder. Human beings are suffering. They do not have proper work to do. We are not getting sufficient drinking water. Day by day, it is depleting. If we go beyond 600 feet, we are getting fluoride water. In many districts, we are suffering for want of drinking water also. Sensing this, our Government was benevolent enough to write off Rs. 127 crore of interest to the farmers. The House should, now, think of the magnitude of drought that we are suffering from.

The Leaders of all the Opposition Parties, and also the ruling party from my State, met the hon. Prime Minister twice, both in the month of July and in the month of August, with the delegation, and handed over Memoranda to him. But, unfortunately, nothing serious was done. No serious action was taken to mitigate the problems of our State. They have offered two lakh tonnes of rice. I thank them for that. Shri Sharad Yadav was telling that we have been given 2 lakh tonnes of rice. He must know out of that, we have yet to receive 50,000 tonnes, and whatever was given, I would like to tell him was more of wheat, and less of rice. Even wheat and rice that were given to us are dumped in the Bangalore Railway Station. They have not been moved to all the FCI godowns at the district levels. That was also a problem for us. We have already appealed to the Government to give us more rice. Our appeal is for 13 lakh metric tonnes but they have given us only two lakh tonnes. They do not know the severity. If any of their representatives comes to Karnataka, then he will know the real problem. He will come to know how many people have been engaged in one work.

Take for example desilting of tanks. For desilting of one tank, you will see five hundred or six hundred people are working. This is the problem in our State. It is a serious problem.

Sir, when we gave a Memorandum for the first time, that was for Rs. 525 crore. Afterwards a Committee came there. They went around the districts. They really felt that there was a real drought. They gave some recommendation to the Government of India. In the second Memorandum, we appealed for Rs. 1525 crore. Sir, let alone getting Rs. 1525 crore, we did not even get Rs. 1525. Whatever they have given us, they were according to Planning Commission's recommendation. They ought to have given that money. That money could have come to us otherwise. On that money, we cannot drill a new borewell. This is another problem. We can only deepen the borewells.

Sir, I am at a loss to understand why the Government of India is having a step-motherly treatment towards some States and is helping the other States. Probably those States that are supporting them in their malfunctioning or maladministration are being given better amenities from the Government of India and not those States, especially Congress ruled States, which are not supporting them. We are suffering. We are also in the federal structure of this country. We are also human beings. There should not be any politicisation between one State and another State. There should be humanitarian consideration. For the sake of that, I appeal to the Government of India, this will not only go into the federal structure of the country, but this will create unnecessary complications in the day to day administration in the country. So, they should be equal to everybody. They should understand the problerns of each State and they should react quickly. They cannot skip over, they cannot have slumberness. This is going to damage the fabric of federalism. I request the hon. Minister to take a note of it.

The other day, we read in the papers that under the chairmanship of Deputy-Prime Minister, Shri Advani, the Task Force Committee meeting was held and a package of Rs. 2000 crore is being given for drought relief. I do not know how much of it Karnataka is getting. We cannot understand.

[Shri R.L. Jalappa]

The position now is that all the horticulture crops are dying. We were already suffering on account of might menace. Coconut crop is drying and now arecanut crop is also dying. If the arecanut crop does not get water for six months, it will die and it will take another eight years to reproduce it again.

I request the hon. Prime Minister, Deputy-Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Agriculture to have some human feelings and not to differentiate between States. This will not take you anywhere. You may be there for some time, but next time you may not be there. That is not permanent. We may go there or you may come here. That is why we do not want to politicise this issue and please for heavens sake forget about this and be considerate and be helpful to all the States which are suffering because of this drought.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after day long deliberations on the serious drought situation in this country, at the end, I have nothing more to add. But one thing is, as you know, that almost every year this vast country is suffering because of so many natural calamities and almost every year on part or the other part of this country is reeling under drought conditions. This year, particularly, the drought situation is so to say unprecedented as a vast part of this country has been affected by serious drought conditions.

I would not like to enter into any controversy while discussing about drought because as you know, particularly on the party of we, the politicians, it has been a regular practice to change our stand every five years. As we change sides, this side or that side, we also change our stand. When we sit this side, we vehemently deny starvation deaths and when we come to that side, we vehemently allege that there have been numerous starvation deaths in the country. This is most unfortunate that we are trying to do politics on the dead bodies of the starving masses of this country.

I do not want to take such type of politics at least in this august House.

Sir, I would like to refer to my poor State, Orissa, as you know, which has been reeling under various natural calamities consecutively since last four years. During the year 1999, it suffered unprecedented super cyclone, around 50,000 people died, and the poor State Government is still to recover from that unprecedented natural calamity. In the next year 2000, there was a drought situation in almost all parts of the State. Last year, again there was an unprecedented flood. Again this year, as it has been happening in other parts of the country, Orissa is also reeling under severe drought condition.

Sir, I do not accuse the Central Government of not extending the helping hand to my State. I appreciate the statement of the hon. Food Minister which he made a little while ago and I appreciate that he has admitted the truth. But what he has said is the trip of the iceberg. The Minister has admitted that there is rampant corruption in the whole Public Distribution System in the country. That is one of the prime reasons for which the millions of our countrymen are suffering though the Food Corporation of India godowns are full of foodgrains. I do not understand where the defect lies. I think, the time has come on the part of the Government and the time has also come on the part of the Opposition to ponder over it to have a self-analysis.

Sir, I cannot but agree with the demand made by our hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. The Prime Minister has announced deferment of loan and interest this year. But in the next year, various State Governments and the Central Government are going to hit upon the poor people to collect that overburdened loan and overburdened interest. This is not going to help the drought-stricken people of various States. So, it is a just and genuine demand. The Government of India should, even if they do not want to waive the loan amount, the principal amount, consider to waive at least the interest portion of the loan of the millions and millions of farmers in the country.

Sir, I want to hit upon another point. That particularly this year, many farmers in my State have gone for crop insurance. Those who are loanee-farmers, those who have taken loan from the co-operative societies and banks, have insured their crops; and also non-loanee-farmers, those who have not taken loan from the co-operative societies and banks, have also insured their crops. But what is happening is that most of the State Governments – this burden of paying insurance money is shared by both the

Central Government and the respective State Government – as they are going through financial crisis, are not in a position to pay 50 per cent of their share, which they ought to pay. Therefore, the General Insurance Corporation is making undue delay in giving this insurance money to the farmers. The Government of India should take care of this aspect. Taking into consideration the peculiar financial position of most of the State Governments, I think, it is the prime responsibility of the Government of India to take this aspect into consideration so that GIC should be able to pay the insurance money to the farmers for their crops insured at the appropriate time. As you know, Sir, neither the Insurance Company nor the State Governments nor the Central Government is paying interest for the delayed payment of the insurance amount. So, this is a very important factor.

Sir, another thing I want to hit upon, as I said, is that millions of our farmers have insured their crops and most of the farmers this time are losing their crops, and they are expecting the State Government and the Central Government to pay their insurance money in time. But, Sir, in many of the States, particularly in my State, for the purpose of insurance, the block is one unit. Many Gram Panchayats, where the crops have been completely damaged due to drought, they are deprived of this insurance money.

When we approached the State Government of Orissa, they said this was not their duty; this was not coming under their jurisdiction and it was coming under the Central Government's jurisdiction. When we approached the Central Government, they passed the buck on the State Government. So I do not understand whose responsibility it is to fix whether the *Panchayat* should be a unit or the Block should be a unit.

So far as my State is concerned, I, particularly, belong to the backward area of western part of Orissa. I want to mention the name of Bolangir district, which many of the hon. Members might be knowing from Star TV, Zee TV and various other TV channels. Everybody thousands and thousands of farmers, who are having even three or four or five acres of cultivable land, are leaving their villages. They are migrating to other cities in other States for livelihood with their families and children only, leaving behind in the village their old father, mother and the disabled persons.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prasanna Acharya, will you please conclude ?

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA : Just now I was referring to one thing which I would like to say. You cannot give me more time. I am saying a vital point. I know when I mention this point here, many would say that this is contradictory. When there is a severe drought situation in the country, there is another serious problem that the farmers are facing, that is, distress sale. This is very contradictory. When the country is reeling under a severe drought condition, every grain of foodgrain should be sold in the market. There should be buyers. Unfortunately and surprisingly, in some irrigated pockets of my own State, this is not happening. In my own State, I know there are a few irrigated pockets under the Hirakud Dam system which is a major irrigation project. I know other pockets also, particularly in the State like Chhattisgarh, which is my neighbouring State. I know some irrigated pockets in Madhya Pradesh also, where there is a serious drought condition. Even in the few irrigated pockets, not even a grain of foodgrain is being sold. The farmers are bound to sell their paddy and wheat in distress. The minimum support price fixed by the Government is not ensured to the farmers. It is very peculiar situation.

As the hon. Food Minister said, the total PDS system in Orissa has crumbled. But a good chunk of whatever is being lifted by the State Government under the PDS system, under the *Antyodaya Yojana* and under the Food-for-Work Programme, is being recycled and is again coming back to the FCI godowns. In this process, the poor farmer is being cheated. The unscrupulous traders and the millers' agents, in collusion with or in connivance with some corrupt officials of the Food Corporation of India and the State Government, have formed a *Vyuha Chakra*. They have formed a coterie and they are looting the farmers. The farmers in the irrigated belt are not able to sell their paddy and wheat at the minimum support price fixed by the Government. So, on the one hand, there is a serious drought condition. The people are starving. People are drying. On the other hand, there has been some foodgrain which the poor farmer is not able to sell. It is a peculiar situation in this country. So, I would urge upon the Central Government to look into all such factors.

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

I will take a minute more. As the hon. Members have said, every year in every Session we are having a weeklong or a daylong deliberation on natural calamities like drought and flood situations. My point is, what is the long-term strategy adopted by the Government of India to deal with such situations ? Drought is not new this year only. Every year, we are facing this drought situation. So, what is the long-term strategy adopted by the Government of India to find a lasting solution to this problem ? That is most important.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I fail to understand why discussion on the things happened 6 months earlier, is being held today.

People of Kalahandi and Shivpuri area of Orissa are drying due to starvation. I am surprised and also sorry to say that Deputy Prime Minister is the Chairman of the task force committee constituted during the month of August on drought issue but we are discussing it today. I have all the figures with me which show 213 districts and other 14 districts as drought affected. 328 out of 523 districts are facing shortage of water. Only 18 reservoirs out of 70 were having adequate water level and the remaining were having low level. Only 18 reservoirs were having full water level i.e. 130 billion qb. meter.

After much delay, discussion is being held today. Figures, show 7 lakh hectare of land with cotton cultivation, 28 lakh hectares with pulses, 2700 hectares with edible oils, 44 lakh hectares with coarse grains and 41 lakh with paddy cultivation. My question to hon'ble Minister is that six months have elapsed since then. What happened to that allocation ? Please tell us the Outlay. Centrally sponsored schemes are not for drought prone areas. Is any relief given under these schemes during drought ? My submission is that no relief is given under these schemes. Task force has asked not to take strict measures regarding loan rather some relaxation should be given.

Just now hon'ble Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister were presenting this views. Hon'ble Prime Minister asked to waive off the interest of the farmers. It means they have to pay the principal amount of loan. Then what would be the plight of agricultural labourers affected by drought.

NCCP had demanded Rs. 17 thousand 461 crore and 109 lakh mt tonne of rice worth Rs. 40-50 crores. But please tell what was given by the Government out of it.

The Chairman of Standing Committee on Agriculture is sitting here . We had visited the drought affected areas with the committee. We were surprised to see that coconut trees were also dried up due to drought. We witnessed the effects of drought in the adjoining area of the village. Thousands of coconut trees there also had dried up. Before that I was not aware that Banana trees also dried up due to drought. This is the present situation. We are discussing the problem of drought after six months of drought hitting the country. A committee was also constituted to tackle this problem. Hon'ble Minister is present here.

In Consultative Committee, we have drawn the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards drought problem. Information regarding impact of drought as per meteorological has been given and according to this information 14 States were affected by drought but their number has increased during the last six months. Just now, hon'ble Minister has told that 13 States have been affected by drought. There is some mistake in figures given by the Government. As per my information 16 States are still in grip of drought and some more States have been hit by drought. It has been stated that a package of Rs. 2000 crore is being given. Announcement regarding several packages like Bengal package and other packages have been made earlier. The hon'ble Prime Minister has recently stated in the House that the production of foodgrain will double by 2010. Under such a situation how will the production of foodgrain double when 16 States are in grip of drought.

Today, several hon'ble Members have stated that rabi and kharif crops have damaged. As such, how will the production double. Rather it will decline further. A good policy has been formulated but four more points should be added to that.

My several friends have raised the issue of water and gave suggestion to link various rivers. I have already told

that Bihar is a good example for this where some parts of the State suffer drought and other parts face flood. Both these problems can be solved if water of flood affected areas is diverted to drought prone areas but for that purpose some projected and policy should be formulated. Agriculture policy has been formulated by the Government. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Zahediji, your time is over now.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : I will conclude in one minute. I do not have much to say. I would like to suggest that there should be total loan exemption. Farmers have to pay interest if loan remains pending. Farmers would suffer financially if they pay interest on that loan. It should be corrected. PDS should be revived for proper food supply. Hon'ble Minister has made a good point here but reality is different. I would like to submit that in place of figures and paper work ground reality should be taken into account. People living below poverty line should be given free of cost foodgrain and the people living above the poverty line should be given subsidised foodgrain.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of water has been raised here. I would like to say that attention should be paid to the old projects. So far the issue of fodder is concerned, I, myself have gone to Rajasthan. Condition is very bad there. Arrangements for fodder should be made in agricultural farms established there. The farmers affected by drought have a feeling that if it is done, fodder would be made available in that area. I have also visited Purulia and Bankura districts of Bengal which are getting good crop at present. Farmers of that area have asked me to say this point in the House. Farmers of Bankura and Purulia had dealt with drought problem sometimes ago, in the same way the farmers of other States in the country should solve this problem at war footing level and become self-reliant by growing various crops. They have sympathy with drought affected farmers. Progress of farmers will make the country prosperous and strong. Farmers of Bengal are with farmers of drought affected areas in tackling the problem of drought and they will make more efforts in this regard. Bengal is not a separate State but a part of the country. There will not be drought problem in any State, If the country is united. Farmers will help the affected farmers and this should be done at war footing level. Otherwise farmers will suffer a lot.

*[English]*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kakahandi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the adjournment motion, the reason being that when the mover of the motion was moving the motion, she said that nothing should be discussed here politically as it is a human problem which we are facing today. But in the same vein she mentioned about the lethargy of the Government and the slow progress the Government is making. I think, by now she must have heard the two hon. Ministers who intervened, the Minister for Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and the Minister for Rural Development and heard their reports.

I would like to mention here that, when the monsoons were delayed and due to the delay in the monsoons, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, a day after the Indian Meteorological Department's forecast for monsoons to hit Orissa failed, had taken prompt action. I would like to quote :

> "The Union Agriculture Minister Shri Ajit Singh today reviewed the situation with senior officials of the Ministry, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Meteorological Department. Later he said a contingency plan was in place and an officer of the level of Joint Secretary would coordinate relief for farmers now that the Indian Meteorological Department's forecast is that renewal of the monsoons will not be in the next five days."

But these monsoons never came and therefore, today we are discussing an Adjournment Motion on drought, which is an unprecedented drought in the history of natural calamities in the country. Before this, we had never had a drought of such a serious nature.

Sir, there has been deficient rainfall and as everybody has mentioned here and as per the sense of the House, about two-third of the country has been severely affected by drought. Now, the biggest task in front of the Government lies in mitigation of drought. How do we mitigate the drought ? I would like to remind the august House that there was a particular Government which ruled this country for 42 years and also the mover of the motion has mentioned that in these 42 years, they have been able to create irrigation facility for only 40 per cent area of the

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

country and 60 per cent of the country is still dry. It depends completely on monsoons. Today, it is an admitted fact that rural population of the country is 60 per cent, and the agriculturists and the rural India contribute about 20 per cent to 24 per cent of the GDP. Today, that sector has been severely affected. I am sure that the Government is in its full stride to fight the drought. Therefore, Sir, I am opposing the Adjournment Motion.

It is necessary and I would also request the Opposition to drop this motion. It is more so because the Members from the Opposition have expressed that it should be a non-political issue and the human aspect should be dealt with to reduce human sufferings in the future. Also, I would like to remind the august House that when there was a discussion under Rule 193 in the House about deaths due to malnutrition in Kashipur, in the KBK districts of Orissa, at the time, the hon. Member Shri Shivraj Patil had also mentioned that 'when we are discussing about hunger, when we are discussing about starvation, when we are discussing about drought and the miseries of the poor people, there should be no party-lines.' It should be on humanitarian basis because we are all citizens of this country. We are not enemies. As we say, we are all of the same country and we belong to this country. We have to mitigate the sufferings of the poor.

Sir, I would not like to lengthen my speech because all the hon. Members have spoken vividly about drought. I would just like to give some remedial measures which can be followed by the Government. It is for the first time that crop insurance has been introduced. It is a progressive step taken by our Government to introduce crop insurance. Here, there are some anomalies. For example, when the crop insurance of a non-loanee is being done, they are taking block as a unit to determine drought. I request that a *panchayat* should be taken as a unit to determine drought. Secondly, they are seeing the cropping pattern and the crop output of the last three years. So, for the previous two years, there were successful monsoons and there was record production, and in this third year of drought when the calculation is made, the average will become low and the farmers will be denied getting the benefits of crop insurance.

I would like to make another suggestion. Another progressive initiative for the farmers which our Government has taken is Kisan Credit Card. Kisan Credit Cards should be properly validated. They should be re-validated so that in the future, farmers can take further loans, and the Government should come forward to provide cereal and should subsidise seeds and other inputs for agriculture.

The third remedial measure that should be taken up is regarding relief codes. The relief codes are outdated because these relief codes were made during pre-Independence days, and that was just copied by the State Governments. That should be recast and the yield per acre should be raised.

MR. SPEAKER : Your time is over, and you have to conclude now.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : I come from a very drought-prone area; I belong to the KBK area. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, when her late husband was alive, visited Kalahandi, Nuapara and Khariar. Then, in 1985, I was the MLA, and I had the occasion to meet her and receive her at the Airport.

MR. SPEAKER : Is that the reasons why I should give you more time ?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Everybody is pointing an accusing finger and saying that the Government is implementing GATT. Who signed the GATT in 1993 ? In GATT, the paragraph on 'Agreement on Agriculture' is blank because you never insisted on it or never deliberated upon it properly.

Generally, drought relief measures are taken by any Government to mitigate the sufferings of the people. At the same time, there is a Plan expenditure under which the Central and State Government implement their projects. There is a lot of money in that. However, most of the Central and State Governments' projects are being delayed because of the Forest Act, 1980. This Forest Act, 1980 should be looked into so that the projects can progress in the right direction immediately.

On the climate change, the hon. Minister, Shri Baalu, led the delegation to Johannesburg, South Africa. We came to learn a lot there, though our performance was

average. We must have a climate policy made for this country. Recently, a Climate Conference was held in New Delhi where 187 countries attended the function. In the Conference, it was assessed that these monsoons might totally fail in future. It means that we might not receive the South-West Monsoon in future. I would like to know how far it is true because monsoons contribute about 80 per cent of the precipitation that results in rainfall in our country, and the remaining is contributed by snowfall. The situation is completely different in Orissa and North-East as compared to the situation in North, that is, Punjab, Haryana, etc., which is different, and it is because their rivers are fed by the snow, but in our case, the rivers are fed by rainwater.

Today, in the KBK districts of Orissa, we are passing through hell, migration, malnutrition are seen there. Therefore, I request the Government that the amount of money which was promised to us, that is, Rs. 200 crore to be given to that area for its all-round development, for building dams and for AIBP, should be immediately released. They have released only Rs. 50 crore till date.

There is a severe problem of drinking water in my State of Orissa. All the 30 districts have been affected severely. There are pockets where the situation is very serious because the fluoride content is more and thereby people are suffering in Nuapara district, Bodan Block. I would request the Government to kindly rectify these problems.

Lastly, in the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, major lift irrigation points should be included in the programme so that it could solve both the problems, that is, drinking water and irrigation.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today in this august House the leader of Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi initiated discussion on drought under Adjournment Motion. I do not agree to that because during the course of discussion on this issue hon'ble Members tried to take political mileage out of it.

**18.00 hrs.**

They were saying that it is not a matter of politics. It is really a matter of serious consideration that even after elapsing 55 years of Independence we are unable to tackle drought problem. When poor people and agricultural labourers in villages do not get food due to drought how can we deal with drought problem. Our country has witnessed heavy rain during the last 55 years and if this rainy water had been checked from flowing waste into the sea and conserved. We would have not got opportunity to speak on the issue of drought here.

Sir, 387 districts of 16 States are in grip of drought and these States have demanded Rs. 31 thousand crores to tackle this problem. The Government have sanctioned only Rs. 483 crore. The Government say that there are Rs. 7000 crore for calamity fund. I urge upon the Government that this funds should be given to States. They have demanded Rs. 31 thousand crore. The Government claim that States are not spending the funds. The States have no problem in spending if required funds are given with good intentions but States do not have funds, how will they spend it.

Sir, Sonia Gandhiji has moved a motion in the House to discuss drought issue under Adjournment Motion. What is going to happen in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. I would like to say that there is need to think over seriously on the measures to be taken for tackling drought problem. I have repeatedly requested that a plan should be formulated to conserve rainy water in Mumbai and Konkan Patti and divert it to drought prone areas of Sholapur and Pandharpur in Maharashtra. This proposal should be considered seriously but so far no progress has been made in this regard.

**18.02 hrs.**

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

Madam, we are trying to conserve rainy water but they are trying to sideline us and fail our efforts. I would like to say that we cannot be stopped in this manner and there is need to consider the issue seriously. The country have been suffered by drought as BJP and NDA have got a chance to come to power. This situation would have not arisen if the Government have tried to conserve rainy water during last four years since they have come to power. The Government have asked as to what was done by Congress Party during last 55 years likewise, I would like to ask that what has been done by this Government during last 4

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

years. The Government face shortage of funds but what has been done to generate resources. The Government should make sincere efforts to generate resources but that is not being done.

Madam, our friends were telling that 40 thousand megawatt of hydro-power can be generated by utilising the Ganges water which is going waste and it will cost Rs. 1 lakh 60 thousand crores. There is need to make efforts for generating power Shri Anant Gangaram Geeteji is present here and he knows very well that farmers are demanding more power in every village and we are unable to provide that and therefore, there is a need to consider the issue of power generation seriously.

Ajit Singhji is also present here. He is son of a farmer. But he has changed his side. He should work for welfare of farmers. I would like to say that like Maharashtra 'Employment Guarantee Scheme' should be implemented throughout India after studying the model of Maharashtra carefully in this matter. The Government should think over it seriously to avoid starvation deaths in any part of the country. Efforts should be made to tackle drought problem. The Government know that it will aggravate this problem further if timely action is not taken in this regard. There is a need to tackle the problem of drought in place of playing politics on this issue.

Unitedly we should face this problem. I would like to appeal that a time bound scheme should be formulated to tackle the problem of drought so that the country could be benefited. We should make efforts in this regard collectively.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balia, Bihar) : Madam Chairman, I hail from rural area of Bihar. There is a saying in my area that jackal hawls in the night when he feels cold and plans to dig a big den in the morning to save himself from the cold. But in the morning when he feels the heat of the sun, he forgets everything. I just want to say that the first famine struck the country in 1949. At that time a detailed discussion was held in the House on this issue. Since then this issue is debated in the House regularly. Every time when flood or drought hit the country, the debate takes place in the House and Government gives its reply and the House is adjourned, but no solution is evolved to tackle the problem. We could not get rid of this problem till date.

Even today 330 districts out of 593 are affected by drought. Discussion is being held in the House in this regard. It is really ironical. Israel is a small country, which was established in 1945. The country had barren land and always had to fight a war. But still, with their vigour, willingness and policies, they have flourished. Today Israel is a self-reliant country. Egypt has the capability of lifting up the water by boring upto thousand feet in the mountains for irrigation and to promote agriculture. In this way it is earning more than nine crore dollars. In India where the natural resources are in abundance and we have many rivers, flood water but we have not been able to use that property. That is why we are facing this situation. Nine projects have been completed. Crores of rupees have been spent on these projects but still it is being stated that we could generate the irrigation capacity upto 50-55 percent only. It means that on an average we have enhanced only 5.5 percent irrigation capacity through each project. We have failed to cater to our need. This is an important issue.

Today, leader of opposition has brought adjournment motion in the House though it was not an issue for which adjournment motions should have been moved in the House. Monsoon comes in the month of June in our country. During June, July and August, the country was facing drought. The session of the House was going on during this period. It is not that drought struck the country all of a sudden after that session. Even then the Chair, considering the seriousness of the issue relaxed the rules and accepted the adjournment motion on it. Today discussion is being held on this issue. We have heard all the members properly and the House has taken it seriously. My submission is that the mere discussion over it will not solve the problem.

I would like to say and many other friends have also stated that a meeting of senior leaders of all the parties should be held and agricultural scientists and experts should also participate in that. Apart from that, if needed, a meeting of progressive farmers should be called in which a solution to tackle the problem of drought and flood should be evolved. A policy should be formulated in this

regard. Governments may change but that policy should not be changed. If the House is really serious about these problems, then we should think in this direction.

As I have stated we receive good rains. We can harvest the rain water by building reservoirs, check dams, water harvesting dams, ponds etc. so that we could utilize this water at the time of need and this would not even require heavy expenditure.

Today the Government says and it is a fact that there is paucity of funds. China invaded our country in 1962. At that time Rs. 262 crores were spent on defence. The need for spending on defence was felt after the Chinese invasion. Thereafter, an economic emergency was imposed. Various small schemes were discontinued and more funds were spent on defence. Today there is a need for over all restructuring of various plans in order to tackle the problem of drought and floods. There are various schemes which are useless. You have been a Minister and are aware of these facts. We may require these schemes later on but we must set the priorities. Today, our priority is to get rid of flood and drought as it affects agriculture which is our back-bone. 65 percent of the population is associated with agriculture. 25 percent of domestic production comes from agriculture. When agriculture production declines it badly affects the country's economic situation.

10th Five Year Plan is going to start. It's draft has been prepared and has also been approved by the cabinet. However, I would like to say that if required, the plan may be restructured. During the course of discussion held in this House in 1977 on such a plan, I suggested to give names to every scheme like irrigation scheme, power scheme, industrial schemes etc. Schemes should be formulated specifically otherwise country would not be benefited. Basic problems of the country cannot be solved without it. Therefore, I repeat that the tenth five-year plan should be specifically named as Irrigation Scheme for tackling the problem of drought.

Today, our country is facing a drought. We can exploit the sunlight for solar power. Rs. 5 crores are spent for generating I MW of electricity and that is a very costly affair. We can use non-conventional energy resources for agricultural sector. Today, we have good quality pumps of 10-20 horse power, which can be run by using non-conventional energy resources. We must utilize them.

Today, we have irrigation facilities. Tamil Nadu has created 96 percent irrigation capacity and 83 percent in Punjab, 73 percent in Rajasthan, 69 percent in Haryana, 63 percent in Andhra Pradesh, 67 percent in Wet Bengal and 43 percent in Gujarat has been created. But Rajasthan is still facing drought because the problem is to make the maximum utilization of various resources available for irrigation.

There are about 5 thousand State tube wells in Bihar. You will be surprised to know that not even 100 tube wells function properly there. Bihar has about 2000 lifts out of which not even 50 are functioning properly. Lakhs of rupees have been spent on them. We must find out as to what deficiencies are there and how we can properly use the irrigation capacity and also how we can raise that capacity. It will enable us to make the irrigation capacity more useable. Alongwith the increase in irrigation capacity, proper water management should also be considered. For this purpose, the farmers must be trained and they should be provided with the additional facilities so that they make the maximum utilisation of available water resources.

Hon'ble agriculture Minister is sitting in the House. I would like to State that various research works have been undertaken in agricultural sector, and so it should be ascertained as to which crop may be grown with the minimum water. Since we cannot control the nature, information regarding such crops should be disseminated among the farmers so that they could sow such crops during drought.

Initially, when Monsoon was about to reach Meteorologists forecast that there would be normal monsoon this year also, but it proved otherwise. Can we evolve any sort of mechanism whereby we can achieve accuracy in judging weather forecast. Adequate research work has been done in this regard, therefore, now we should take up this task.

Many members held discussion which I do not want to repeat. In 1967, Shri K.L. Rao stated in this very House that flood and drought causes loss to the tune of Rs. 38 thousand crore every year and about Rs. 9 thousand crore

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

are spent on relief work by the Government every year. Therefore, he suggested for linking of rivers. Linking of rivers will help in increasing agriculture production worth Rs. 75 thousands crore. But rivers could not be linked. We should take steps to link the rivers with each other.

In 1956, Dr. Lohia told that river conservancy work be undertaken since rivers get sited slowly. It raises river-bed whereby rain water flows down to the sea as a wastage.

Therefore, in 1956, Dr. Lohia advised that every 10 years river conservancy work be undertaken. These days several employment oriented schemes are in vogue. If we utilise these schemes for river conservancy work, we can increase river depth thereby and we can use the silt removed during conservancy work in the field and increase agriculture production. We should take initiative in this regard.

Each district in the country should have adequate stock of grains and the task of its distribution be entrusted to the collector who will be held responsible in case of any starvation death. Today, hon. Minister of consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and the Minister of Rural Development said that if anyone dies of hunger while there is enough stock of foodgrains in the country, there can not be more shameful thing than this. We should realise that the fault lies with the system. As Food Minister has said rules may be amended if need arises.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Conclude it now, there are many more speakers.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Well, I will conclude. To sum up, I would like to say that a suitable policy by framed and funds be provided and as hon. Food Minister has said, if need arises rules may be amended as the House is supreme. In the end, I would like to say that we should formulate development oriented policy and mere criticism of each other or mere discussion will not serve my purpose. The Government should initiate in right perspective than only this problem can be over come permanently otherwise we will keep on facing the same problem.

With these words, I oppose Adjournment Motion and would like to say that we should ponder over this issue seriously and try to find a way out.

*[English]*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Adjournment Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. The Government of the day has failed to meet the drought situation with a comprehensive policy. Even after 50 years of Independence, a country like ours has to depend on the mercy of the monsoon. Around 60 per cent of our arable land is not irrigated so far. . . .*(Interruptions)* This is not a discussion in regard to the Left Front.

I am not only accusing the Government of the day. Since Independence, most of the Governments have shown their apathetic attitude in this respect. That is why our country is facing such a crisis where we have to depend on the mercy of monsoon.

We are today deliberating about meeting the challenge of such a drought situation and we can give our suggestions. My point is that we have to study the problem in-depth before taking any major step towards having a permanent solution. This year, the drought was widespread right from the bread basket in the North to the South. I think about 16 States have been affected and more than 360 districts have been declared as drought-affected. It affected the production of Kharif crops like rice, wheat, pulses, coarse grains and cereals as also pisciculture, floriculture and everything. Water lable has gone down in many States. All this has further worsened the plight of the small farmer and the landless labourer. There has been a steep fall in rural income and accentuation of the drinking water problem in most of the drought affected areas.

This is like a national disaster today. But I wonder why the Central Government has not declared it as a national disaster in such a situation. They have shown an apathetic attitude in this respect. Yes, one Central Team has visited fourteen drought affected States. But it is not understood as to why they did not visit Best Bengal. The West Bengal Government has declared three districts – Bankura, Purulia and Paschim Midnapore – as drought affected districts. But, it is not understood as to why the Central Government has not declared West Bengal as a drought affected State. Yet, I must thank the Committee as they have submitted a memorandum for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. But the Union Government has failed

to respond to it. The Team demanded – as has been answered on the 18th of this month to a starred question – an amount of Rs. 31,146.01 crore assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. Today I have heard the interventions made by both Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Shanta Kumar. But they did not mention anything about the National Calamity Contingency Fund. They have stated some figures as to how much they have released towards foodgrains and towards other crops. But this is not adequate. This is too little and too late. States are not at the mercy of the Central Government and this is not a favour done to beggars either. About two-thirds of our country has been affected by this drought situation.

They are laying the responsibility on the States. We heard the debate here from the Treasury Benches. They were accusing the States and some friends or colleagues were accusing the Centre. Madam, this is the responsibility of both the States and the Centre. You have to admit that this is a national disaster.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please be brief. There are 16 more. Members to speak.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : It is a matter of concern that the same Central team did not visit West Bengal and I have mentioned it earlier. The Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) suggested the following. (1) Extension of subsidy on agricultural inputs irrespective of the size of the holdings; (2) Waiver of interest on loans obtained by farmers; (3) Restoration of fertilisers subsidy; and (4) Removal of the distinction between APL and BPL. It is not understood how the Government is responding to these points. Madam, I demand that not only the interest on loans but also all kinds of agricultural loans in 2002-03 obtained by the farmers in the affected areas should be waived. At the same time, I would like to say that more stress should be given on food for work, watersheds and crop insurance. Necessary amendments should be made in these aspects. It is said that while considering these subjects, panchayats should be taken as units. More burden has been given to the States. It is not only that. Earlier, the share was one-third to the States and two-thirds to the Centre. Now it is 50 per cent to the States and 50 per cent to the Centre. This should be amended. These points should be considered.

My last point is to have a permanent solution to check the drought situation. There they must have a National Commission on it so that they would come out with concrete proposals and we can go forward based on those proposals.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Madam, drought, the topic of discussion is very serious one. During last session also, it was discussed under Rule 193 and this time it is being discussed through Adjournment Motion. The sincerity and cordiality observed by hon. Leader of the opposition while moving Adjournment Motion makes me to feel that the discussion on it could have been held under Rule 193 without moving Adjournment Motion. Sensing the gravity of this issue she has moved Adjournment Motion. It is the right of the Opposition and it is under discussion in the House. But, discussion is being held in such a way as if it is being held under Rule 193 as entire House took keen interest in it leaving no chance for bitterness. I know, I have limited time. So, I would request only Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Food and Minister of Rural Development to implement Food for Work Scheme in Rewa division of Madhya Pradesh which covers my constituency, and to provide some relief to the people over there and see the functioning of Public Distributions system as to how it works ? Irrigated area in M.P. is just half of that of our country and it includes three percent of Rewa, Sidhi, Shahdol, Katni and Jabalpur. It is most drought hit area of M.P. which often faces the fury of severe famine.

Madam Chairman, drought situation is quite severe this year. It rained one-and-a-half month late and then farmers sown crops including paddy. But after one and half month the water dried up. Later rain played truant. Thus paddy crop got totally damaged. Soyabeen was not sown. Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi ji has aptly said that agriculture labourers, rural labourers and marginal farmers are most sufferer. Madhya Pradesh is ruled by the Congress, therefore, he has not provided further details. Because, it was his compulsion but broadly, he has expressed the situation very nicely and with sincerity. Hon. Shanta Kumar ji has presented figures so nicely. He said that about 4.30 lakh tonne foodgrains was provided to Madhya Pradesh but during last 6-7 months just half of it that is 2.15 lakh

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

tonne grains was lifted. I want to know as to why it was not lifted whereas people were dying of hunger there. Hon. Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan from Vidisha constituency also has expressed his views. Congress is ruling M.P. and people are dying of hunger there. Hunger does not bring instant death. Malnutrition spreads slowly. Further, I would like say that corruption is rampant even in distribution of Old Age Pension in M.P. Even widows get monthly pension after months. Muster rolls are prepared and people are asked to sign for six months at a time. It is also one of major reasons. Foodgrains are not supplied to rural areas of Chittrakoot. Tribals in this area eat Samba grass and they get affected by malnutrition. Not only Madhya Pradesh, whole country is reeling under drought. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa) : Hon. Member is talking baseless thing. There is no substance in his talks, there are preposterous. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Has the Chief Minister awarded a contract to his father. . . .*(Interruptions)* I mean to say that people in Madhya Pradesh are facing malnutrition. Madhya Pradesh is not lifting foodgrains and it is not availing the benefits of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. I am sad to say that the Chief Minister of M.P. is a king who has neither seen poverty nor has any concern about it. May I know to whom the contracts have been awarded under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana of the Central Government. Contracts are being given to special type of people. Rs. 450 crore have been provided under this scheme but even Rs. 50 crore have not been utilised. . . .*(Interruptions)* I would like to tell that the name of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana has been changed and no work is being undertaken. Funds are being misused under this scheme and relatives are being made feudal lord.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Ramanand Singhji many hon. Members of your party are to speak so you may sit down please.

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : The leader of the opposition has very seriously demanded a drought relief package of Rs. 10,000 crore. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh alone has demanded Rs. 5000 crore and if every State seeks similar amount it will run into several thousand crores. The Central Government has recently provided Rs. 60,000 crore for rural development to Madhya Pradesh. But no work has been done there so far. All the scheme are just on paper. People are dying of hunger. The sole intention of the State Government is to have funds from the Centre, collect money for elections, help the favourites and earn money. Government officials make crores of rupees in every scheme. Only 2.15 lakh tonnes foodgrains was lifted out of 4.30 lakh tonne released. Why did the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh not lift 2.15 lakh tonne foodgrains provided for drought relief. Sonia ji, what action you are taking against your Chief Minister and speaker. . . .*(Interruptions)* Who tried to sacrifice a child. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : See, your time is over and I have called the next Member to speak, therefore, you may take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I am calling the next speaker.

*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I will call the next speaker if you do not finish your speech.

*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri K. Srinivasulu to speak now.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Scheme of Madhya Pradesh should be completed. The Government of India should constitute an Inquiry Commission so that corrupt Congress can be exposed. . . .*(Interruptions)* A Committee consisting Members of Lok Sabha be constituted to tackle drought situation in each State and so as to ensure that none dies of hunger in any State. . . .*(Interruptions)* They should control their CMs. Misappropriation of funds by them should be checked and their working be monitored. . . .*(Interruptions)* We all should endeavour that no one dies of hunger.

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri K. Srinivasulu, please start.

*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, please do not disturb him. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : It is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I have called the next speaker. Please stop it. Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Srinivasulu, please start. You have five minutes to speak.

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (Anantapur) : Madam, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion.

The entire State of Andhra Pradesh is reeling under severe drought conditions. With the limited resources available, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, under the able leadership of our beloved Chief Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, is providing all relief measures. It has set apart Rs. 250 crore for this purpose. The State Government has asked the Union Government to provide Rs. 1680 crore and 22 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains to take up relief measures in the State.

I represent one of the most worst drought-hit districts, that is, Anatapur. Ours is the second lowest rainfall receiving district in the entire country after Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. Anantapur district receives every year only 540 mm rainfall. This year, only 250-300 mm rainfall has been received. In this decade, we witnessed seven drought year. For three years, there is no sufficient rainfall. We are facing this year severe drought conditions. No farmer has sown seeds in his land. Only 30 per cent sown area was recorded this year. I fully associate with the opinion of our leader Shri K. Yerrannaidu.

I reiterate the situation in the district. In my district, the desertification has already started. The Desert Development Programme is being implemented for the last four years. But there are no results because insufficient funds are received. So, we have to plan for long-term measures to combat the drought situation in that district.

I urge upon the Union Government to prepare a long-term plan for Anantapur district because it is the second lowest rainfall district. The Union Government should adopt our district and prepare a special plan. Our beloved Chief Minister has announced Rs. 350 crore as a special package for the district. Like that, I would request the Union Government to release more funds on a priority basis for the Anantapur district because the farmers' children are not studying in schools and colleges. They are roaming about on the streets. Some of them are seen as suppliers in hotels. Some of them are seen in garages as child labourers. This is the situation in that district. All farmers are becoming labourers, rickshaw-pullers or daily wage earners.

So, once again I urge upon the Union Government to please see that Anantapur district gets more funds and special packages amounting to at least Rs. 500-600 crore for a five-year or a six-year plan.

*[Translation]*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you since you gave me an opportunity to speak. It is not for the first time, we have been discussing drought every year since 1995. Hon. Leader of the Opposition also raised this issue and suggested for formulating a scheme whereby a permanent solution to drought and floods can be found out. But it depends upon the Government whether to pay to it or not. We would keep on holding discussion and people would continue dying of drought and flood.

Today, the country is passing through such condition. A point regarding creation of river grid to tackle drought, emerged today during discussion between Congress and the ruling party, which should be extended from Brahamputra to Ganga and Ganga to Couvery. But, is the Government serious about it? The Government are not paying any attention towards it. Have they said anything regarding

*Not Recorded

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

ruling of Supreme Court in this regard. There is a dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over water. The people of Tamil Nadu are praying "Allah, megh de, pani de." But they are not getting anything. The people of Tamil Nadu are asking for glass of water but Karnataka says that if we give them water today, what shall we do tomorrow. The Central Government is sitting as a mute spectator. The policy of Divide and Rule is prevailing today. Thank God, it rained in Tamil Nadu on 29 October and people of Tamil Nadu got a sigh of relief.

Sonia ji mentioned many other things. During premiership of Jawaharlal Nehru scheme regarding Brahamputra and Ganga was evolved in 1956. That time its cost was estimated as Rs. 506 crore only. Some one has just said that at present it will cost more. All other rivers, including Cauvery should also be linked under this scheme. Supreme Court has said that it will cost Rs. 6 lac and 50 thousand crore more. There is no need to made hurry in this regard. The ruling party should see it in right perspective. It should be done in the national interest with a view to save farmers and others. A sum of rupees five thousands crore is not a very big amount. The Government spend Rs. 10-10 lakh on relief work. Enough funds are being spent on Food for Work programme. The funds being spent on this programme can be spent on this scheme. Enough politics has been done in this matter earlier also. Teesta Barrage Project was executed for six districts of Northern part of West Bengal in 1973 with an estimated cost of Rs. 69 crore 72 lakh. It could not be undertaken during Congress rule. It was implemented when left parties came to power in West Bengal. Rs. 838 crore have been spent on this project and the Government of West Bengal have been demanding continuously that more funds be provided for completion of this project. But, the Central Government are not paying anything. 60 percent of the amount sought by the Government is to be provided as loan. The Government are not providing even that. Rs. 700 crore are required for this project but the Central Government are not providing even a pie. Completion of this project is in national interest. No politics should be played in relief work meant for drought affected people. Please leave playing politics. My submission is that the amount of Rs. 600-700 crore demanded by the Government of West Bengal be provided to it.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Madam Chairman, drought is a natural calamity and alongwith it ignorance of man not only destroys human life but also take cattle, and plants in its grip and worsen the situation. According to the Meteorological Department 330 districts are badly affected by the drought. Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana are among the 14 States of the country which are badly affected by the drought. If assessed, it will be clear that 29 percent of area of the country is affected by the drought, which include 10 percent area severely affected by the drought. According to Centre for Monotiring Indian Economic Survey, there was acute water scarcity. Last year, it was 4-5 percent. There was 90 centimetre rainfall on an average which was less by 19-20 percent. This scarcity has not only affected agricultural projects in the entire country, but also the industrial units. This way 10 to 20 percent industries have suffered loss. According to the Government's estimate, this year Standing crops on 20 million hectares of land have been destroyed and 10 million hectare of land has not been ploughed due to lack of rainfall. The Planning Commission has estimated the loss of 12 thousands crore rupees this year. In order to meet the situation different State Governments have demanded 31 thousand crore rupees from the Centre. The demand of Rs. 1800 crore had also been made by my State, Haryana.

In last month of September, an Inspection team visited Haryana and submitted its report to the Centre. After that Rs. 109 crore were allocated to Haryana. Relief cannot be provided to the drought affected farmers of Haryana from this meagre amount.

Madam Chairman, it is very sad that a responsible Minister in the Government during his visit to Hisar gave statement that Haryana Government has not made any demand for relief work. The august House is a witness that while initiating debate on drought and flood, Shri Ajay Chautala had made the same demand, it is in record. How can the Haryana Government, who follows the policies of Late Chowdhary Devi Lal, can go against the farmers ? The Statement of hon'ble Minister of regrettable.

**18.54 hrs.**

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Haryana Government had demanded Rs. 1800 crore. If the hon'ble Minister say that we have not demanded, then today we demand that Rs. 1800 crore should be allocated to Haryana. If the Minister, who claims to be the well-wisher of the farmers, give this type of false statement, it is very sad.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I demand that the funds demanded by the Haryana Government should be immediately given to it. But alongwith it, I would like to appeal that it is a common collective appeal. It depends on time, but if we see history, as we have heard from our grandparents that there was a time when people used to eat bark of trees at the time of drought. Today, the hon'ble Minister himself has agreed that our godowns are full of foodgrains. We are not short of foodgrains. Today, we are in need of only 23 million tonnes of foodgrains, while we are having 69-70 million tonnes of foodgrains in store.

Haryana is a State, after Punjab which gives maximum contribution to Central pool of foodgrains. In that regard, I would like to say that our water management system is not good. Many big projects are lying pending. If we connect the basins of cauvery and Ganga, it will be beneficial for the country. The Supreme Court has given the ruling that SYL should be constructed before 15 January. But as per date nothing has been done over there. Can the construction work of SYL canal be completed in such a short time ? I would like to submit to the Government that pending water projects, particularly SYL project should be completed in he stipulated time limit so that the farmers of Haryana, particularly of Mahendergarh and Narnaul of Southern Haryana may get its benefit. There is no dispute with any State. It is the Supreme Court's ruling.

In the end, I would like to say that sometimes ruler and administrator doubt whether they will be able to reform the system with strict compliance to rules, but I would like to say that in view of public interest rules should be strictly complied to in case of SYL canal. If done so, it will be in the larger interest of the country. You are repeatedly giving me signal, that time is over. While expressing my gratitude to you, I conclude and appeal that we all should work together to tackle the drought situation. The opposition has some responsibilities in this regard, at the same time. Government has more responsibilities. The poor suffers more, therefore, special attention should be paid towards the poor. With these words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon'ble Prime Minister will intervene.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not risen to give reply to the discussion, the discussion will continue. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Sir, after Prime Minister's intervention, nobody will sit in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I will be here, I will listen.

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE : My colleague, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture will give reply to the discussion. Shri Yadavji has presented some information in regard to the situation arisen due to drought during the discussion. It shows that drought is widespread, severe and Union and State Governments are making efforts to handle this situation.

**19.00 hrs.**

Sometimes this allegation hurts me that Union Government is discriminate among the States on political ground. I deny this allegation. If it is the part of politics, then I do not want to say anything but during last three-four years, we have not discriminated among States on any matter. The fact is that we have taken initiative in helping those States, where BJP Government is not in power. . . .*(Interruptions)* NDA moves with the cooperation of regional parties. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Ramdasji, please let him speak. You may please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have some figures with me for comparison. I do not claim that I am the winner

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

in any argument but when allegations are levelled, the befitting reply has to be given. Severe drought hit the country in 1987 also. I would like to mention the steps taken by the then Government.

In 1987, 8-7 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were distributed under different employment schemes, whereas in the current year we have distributed 19-25 lakh tonnes of foodgrains free under 'Sampoorna Gramine Rozgar Yojana'. In 1987, Rs. 842 crore were spent on employment generation, whereas in the current year, already 2000 crore rupees have been spent, and more will be spent in future. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Everybody listened to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition. Now would you not listen when the hon. Prime Minister is speaking ? She would speak later on.

MR. SPEAKER : You please keep quite.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, effective steps have been taken in view of the severity of the famine this year. Centre is fulfilling its obligations and is providing assistance to the States. The financial condition of several States is not satisfactory. Hence while formulating the schemes we are paying attention to the fact that the interests of the States should not be neglected.

A provision for 10 thousand crore rupees has been made for the Food for Work Scheme wherein States would be provided the foodgrains worth 5 thousand crore rupees annually. The remaining Rs. 500 crore is to be given as cash to the States. Similarly the State Governments can implemented various small irrigation projects and water harvesting schemes. We want that such schemes be completed in time so that the people may get relief from the drought.

Sir, steps have been taken in the entire country to provide some relief to the farmers regarding the burden of loans. The interest realisation on the crop loan has been stopped. We have said that the loans on crop along with the interest thereon would not be realised during the current financial year. The Government have announced for providing relief in the payment of crop loans in view of the severity of the drought. This benefit would be available to all the drought affected areas.

We do not want the issue of drought to be politicised. There is no dearth of the will power, rather it is strong. Decisions are also being taken without delay but the root cause of the problems coming to the fore at various places in the system have been received in legacy and we have failed to rectify in the last four years. We provided foodgrains and it became available to the States but the problem was how to send it to the districts, tehsils and the villages. Some States stated their problem in that though the centre is providing free foodgrains to them, who would bear the cost of its transportation when they lack sufficient funds to meet it. This is the problem and the decision have been taken keeping this thing in view.

I would like that we should consider by sidelining our political interests even though the politics goes in for the entire 365 days and the elections also do take place every now and then. The issue of vote also comes to the fore at some place or the other but in view of the severity of drought it can be said that unless States and the Centre cooperate with each other and all the political parties cooperate even in the centre, it would be very difficult to overcome this crisis. I would like to appeal all to extend their cooperation in combating this drought.

Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji said that the all party meeting has not taken place. Now a days even the meeting of the Chief Minister is an all party meet. The meeting of the Agriculture Ministers had taken place. We maintain contact and exchange our views and we have also extended our cooperation to the States which have constituted their all party committees. We should avoid the instinct of playing politics and I do not know as to how much we can do so in electoral years.

All of us are suffering from the same disease and I shudder to think as how far our country would face this dreaded drought. Drought strikes every two to three years. There are no foodgrains, fodder and the drinking water and a permanent solution to this problem be found out.

Though this issue was considered after Independence but desirable attention was not paid to this issue. May be the dearth of resources was the reason of failure. Effort to link all rivers can be made. Still only 40 per cent land is irrigated and the rest is still without water. Water is life and if enough attention had been paid earlier towards the various water harvesting projects situation would have been different. However, I would like to urge upon the House to cooperate me in this regard. All of you should decide collectively. I assure you that there would not be lack of funds in the project for linking all the rivers.

When the projects to broaden highways and construct new ones was started, doubts were raised regarding the mobilisation of funds at such a large scale. The money is in the country, the need is to spend it properly. Rivers can be linked and the talks can be held with the neighouring countries. There is a need to raise this issue at a war footing. How long would we continue to face the drought ? Allegations and counter allegations would follow and the life would become even more miserable. Now, the foodgrains production has increased and our farmer and the scientists deserve congratulations for this. However, the news of starvation deaths are being reported despite the availability of foodgrains. The truth of the news is only revealed later on. Clarifications are given but what impression does it convey to the psyche of the people abroad and they are forced to ponder as to what kind of country this is where the people are dying of hunger despite the fact that the godowns are filled with foodgrains.

This is not an issue of party. Today different States are being ruled by different parties. We have to take every Government along with us and extend our support to all as well seek everyone's support. However, the starvation deaths lead to controversies. One part of media is interested in such happenings to keep their newspapers running. This is not right and I do not want to dwell in it detail.

Such an incident has also taken place in Orissa. Somebody had gone there to take a photograph. When he got the news that a person had died due to starvation but to his dismay he found that there was no death and he declined to take photograph. Rather he waited for him to die. Later it become clear that there was no possibility of starvation death there. However, ensuring the proper distribution of foodgrains is the responsibility of the system and we are somewhat lacking on this count. We will have to find a solution for it.

However, I was talking about linking rivers. Supreme Court has taken initiative only later on after our meeting in the Centre had taken place. One presentation took place and the Government and the Ministry was asked to formulate a scheme. I invite Soniaji to cooperate with us in this work. This would change the destiny of our country. It will take time to link all the rivers and to find a solution to drought problem but we have enough time to accomplish our task. A task force on Cauveri and Ganga has been set up.

Now-a-days I am associated with the Cauvery dispute and the dilemma is whether to hear Karnataka's arguments or look at the Tamil Nadu's interests. Court though arbitrate, takes a lot of time. How can we resolve these riparian disputes ? The decision of the Supreme Court should be accepted but how long the issue of sharing the river water would remain as the bone of contention between us. I am of the view that the entire House should start thinking and making progress in this direction and it is what we want to convey through the session and Government's programme.

There are several other issues and I would not say much on it. I would like to reteriate that drought be kept aside of the politics. Drought be viewed as a humanitarian issue. There is no fodder for the animals. Though we have been supplying it yet it is not adequate. Similarly there is a dearth of drinking water. Transportation of the free drinking water, fodder and foodgrains is being done by Railways. There is no shortage of foodgrains in the country but there is a problem of its distribution and I invite that all hon. Members give their suggestions to improve the condition in their respective constituencies to the State Governments and send the copy of the same to the centre also. The menace of the drought is going to last long. Now new crop is to be sown. How much losses will be suffered is hard to estimate but we should be ready to face all the circumstances. I wish that the discussion prove fruitful from that point of view.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for having given me permission to speak on the adjournment Motion. I, on behalf of my party support the Adjournment Motion which has been introduced as it involves a very serious issue.

The hon. Prime Minister, during the discussion, gave valuable suggestions viz, the role of NDA Government at the centre vis-a-vis Co-ordination required with the State Governments etc. were especially emphasised by the hon. Prime Minister. I feel the adverse effect of drought on farmers is almost similar to that of floods because both ruin tea gardens in North Bengal. Just as during floods people are displaced, tea plants get swept away similarly during drought tea plants get dried We made repeated requests. I tried to put my points in the Previous session whenever there was a discussion on drought or flood or any natural calamity. I have repeatedly requested the NDA Government at the centre that if we wish to protect the tea gardens, agricultural fields-the property of our country in the northern areas of Jalpaigudi, Darjeeling and cooch Bihar in West Bengal, we should seek the cooperation of Bhutan and constitute Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission The Union Government are quite competent in giving assurance but how far is it implemented, is doubtful. I would, therefore, once again, like to draw the attention to the Government in this direction that the Government should give assurance that they would fulfill their promises in order to solve the problems of poor people arising out of conditions of drought or flood.

Instead of accusing the Union Government I would suggest them to make efforts to get the cooperation of the State Government after having proper talks with them. The Union Government would be able to find right solution to the problems if they get Co-operation of the State Government. But I feel that the present Government are taking more interest in the disinvestment Process than in giving priority to the poor people. The Government are paying attention more towards giving profits and benefits to the affluent class, which is already earning huge profits. The economic policy adopted by the Government Proves the same fact. And that is why I am afraid that the Government may get entrapped in the policy beneficial to the affluent class as a result of which the poor people may be deprived of the help in conditions of drought. I have apprehensions that the poor people, farmers and labourers experiencing problems may not have to meet the same situation for long. I, therefore request the Government to practice what they say otherwise the common people would give a befitting reply in the next elections.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for having given me time to speak. I rise to speak on behalf of the Janata party (secular) in support of the Motion introduced by the leader of the opposition in the House, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi.

It was a good discussion and the hon. Prime Minister has also given proper assurance but I think even he is Maharashtrian and many other persons from Maharashtra are also here. A severe famine occurred in Maharashtra in 1972 which affected the entire Maharashtra. Shri Vasant Rao Naik was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra at that time. He did good work. He paid the labourers, Provided fodder, water etc. And also made good arrangements during crisis also. During crisis also, the situation was tackled meticulously and that is why things went right during crisis period.

I request the Government to look into the facts as to how to make good arrangements during the period of crisis. Maharashtra was hit by famine at that time, but now it has two-three serious problems. Sugar cane farmers are facing crisis. Prices of Sugar have fallen since the Government have imported sugar. So, the farmers are facing serious problems. Secondly at that time there was no power-crisis.

Presently the power-crisis is so acute that there is no power available for the farmers to work on their agricultural fields. Despite availability of water, irrigation is not possible without power. And that is why this crisis needs to be immediately tackled. Mr. Speaker, is well aware that rice is grown in abundance in Maharashtra. Similarly 'rayee' is also grown there. And most of it is grown in tribal areas, which has resulted in crisis in these areas. Hon. Prime Minister have also given assurance for providing work. In Indian mythology, yamraj had blessed savitri with eight sons, but how can one have sons without husband.

Similarly the forest laws etc. create hindrance in the work of construction of roads, big and small dams, or canals, It is right that these laws were enacted during the regime of congress party but the Government should think seriously to annul these laws so that they may not be a hurdle in providing work to the tribal people.

*[English]*

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi) : Sir, thanks you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate.

I am speaking on behalf of the MDMK headed by Shri Vaiko, who is presently imprisoned due to the misuse of POTA.

I belong to Pollachi Constituency which is situated both in Coimbatore and Erode. The farmers are suffering a lot of problems due to failure of monsoon for the last two years, particularly in Coimbatore and Erode districts. Due to failure of rain, the groundwater has gone down to the level of 1,000 feet. Many bore-wells have become dry and water is not available when new bore-wells are opened. You do not get water even at the depth of 1,000 feet.

There are about ten lakh coconut trees in the above districts. The coconut trees are long-standing crops, and it takes, at least, seven years to get yield from a tree. In my Pollachi Constituency alone, about four lakh yielding trees have become dry and dead once for all. The small and marginal farmers are unable to remove even the dried up trees and to plant new saplings for want of funds. Further, the coconut farmers are suffering due to poor yield caused by ereophyte attack for the past three years. Even for the poor yield, the farmers could not get a reasonable price. The benefit of purchasing dry coconut (copra) by Government has also not reached the farmers.

All these difficulties and the present severe drought condition due to failure of monsoon have created great financial loss to the farmers. Hence, I would request the Central Government to provide Rs. 1,000 per dried up tree as compensation for the affected farmers to enable them to plant new saplings.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Krishnan, your time is over, please conclude now.

DR. C. KRISHNAN : The allotment of Rs. 36 crore for compensating the loss of coconut trees may be sufficient, and more funds should be allotted.

MR. SPEAKER : Your time is over.

DR. C. KRISHNAN : At least, Rs. 500 may be given for each coconut tree, and rice also should be given.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Krishnan, please sit down, you time is over. The last speaker is Shri Prakash Ambedkar.

DR. C. KRISHNAN : Further, the failure of monsoon has caused scarcity of drinking water in many places in Coimbatore and Erode districts. I would request that Coimbatore and Erode districts may be declared as drought -affected areas. Remedial measures should be undertaken on a war-footing basis by treating this drought as a natural calamity.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Sir, I only have a few points to make.

Sir, I have seen drought conditions as prevailing in the country. I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly be attentive to this because he has to face this situation. There is a very good book titled 'Everybody loves a good drought' by Shri P Sainath It is a book that speaks about what goes on in the Administration when a drought takes place. However, I am not going to deal on these issues.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister pointed out that drought is one condition that we have been facing after every three years. There are areas that are known as Rain Shadow Areas. We have not been able to mark these Rain Shadow Areas in the last 40 years. These are areas where the average rainfall is less and they are the first affected areas. I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly pay special attention to this aspect. Now with the help of satellites we have been able to eliminate both arid and non-arid land both geographically as well as geologically. This would go a long way in solving the problems of Rain Shadow Areas.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has mentioned about linkage of rivers. But this would take a long time. This is not going to happen in a short period of time. Then we have to contend with climatic changes. We have been

[Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar]

observing that the period of rainfall is getting shifted in the areas where there are dams. There is a standing instruction to the authorities to open all the gates of the dams up to the month of July and they should be closed after the month of September. In the last five years my constituency has been a victim of this changing pattern of rainfall. We have a drought situation in the months of June and July and then again a wet drought like situation in the months of September and October. This is the case across the country. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to kindly look into this aspect.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister mentioned about the financial conditions of the States. I would say that the States today are in a debt trap. They do not have enough financial resources of their own. The States today are asking even for the transportation cost to make available the help, to the common man, that is given by the Centre. I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister to impose a professional tax, which is already there in Maharashtra, which could be used to make available the assistance given by the Centre to the common man. If that is done, then I hope that dissatisfaction expressed by the hon. Prime Minister over the fact that the help given by the Centre does not reach the common man would largely get reduced and things would reach the common man.

Sir, we have said that there should not be any politics played with drought. I do not know whether the Centre would clear it or not but the State Chief Minister have already started playing politics with drought. In some States even though there was no drought like situation, yet those States have been declared as drought affected States. Central teams are sent to assess the situation and if they say that there is no drought, then help is not given to those States. I would like to impress upon the concerned Ministers not to play politics with drought in order to save their own seats. I have seen this thing happening in two States this year.

Sir, I would also like to impress upon the Minister, through you, that sites that were available for digging ponds have now got exhausted in the last 50 years and those sites have now been silted. This is a period where we can de-site such sites and make provision for increasing the sources of drinking water. I would like to request the hon. Minister to see that such programmes are included in the policy. Neither the *Zila Parishads* nor the State Governments have the machinery to de-silt the ponds in order to increase sources of drinking water. I would like to request the hon. Minister to look into these aspects.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the drought situation in the country today. The Leader of the Opposition, Mrs. Gandhi used the Adjournment Motion to discuss this sensitive issue. Although it does not fall under that category, considering the seriousness of the situation, you good self allowed discussion under Adjournment Motion.

I am happy that this august House is discussing and deliberating on drought and that many Members have gone beyond the purview of drought and discussed the situation of the PDS, the problem of water, climatic changes, and how this drought has affected the rural economy. I am happy about it because this debate has focused attention on these issues. I hope the debate and deliberation here would lead to some thinking not only in the Central and State Governments but in many other organisations involved in this subject in order to look into why our Public Distribution System is collapsing, why the rural development programmes are not really helping in developing the rural areas, and in general, why our farmers are feeling distressed.

I am sure everyone here knows about the seriousness of the situation but I would like to give some statistics. At the end of the South-West Monsoon, the deficiency in rainfall was about 20 per cent. It was 24 per cent in 1987 and 30 per cent in 1972. So, if you look at the Statistics, you would think that it is not a very serious drought and our media has projected it that way. If you read the papers and watched TV, in July-August there was a grim situation in the country. But they have forgotten all about drought in the last two months because, as the Statistics show, rainfall was deficient only by 20 per cent. However, July rainfall is crucial for Agriculture and this July was the driest ever July since we started keeping statistics in 1875. Therefore, the distress is much more in fact.

Let us also remember the fact that there are other natural calamities too. There are cyclones, there are floods

and their effects are severe but they last a short time. Drought is something whose effects linger on for a long time. The soil situation is changed, the water table goes down. Although there may be no starvation deaths, it increase malnutrition and children's health is affected. As the Prime Minister has said, we should be prepared for this drought extending beyond the next crop also.

As far as *kharif* goes, we expect that the loss would be upwards of 15 per cent. Out of about 900 lakh hectares sown, normally 160 lakh hectares had 50 per cent damage or more. Twenty per cent area was not sown at all. So, the drought is severe, there is no doubt about it. It is much more widespread than the earlier droughts. The Government is serious about it. I want to assure you, the Prime Minister has assured you, that there is no politics involved in this. If you really look at the figures, in this House itself the Leader of the TDP said that they have been given less money, although the opposition party keeps complaining that we always favour the States ruled by our alliance partners. Shri Yerrannaidu himself mentioned that in this case we had discriminated against Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : I had shown the statement also.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet) : It is alleged that there is discrimination against Andhra Pradesh under pressure from the Congress. Is it right or wrong ? That is what Shri Chandrababu Naidu had said. You kindly clarify it.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I would like to assure the hon. Members that there is no discrimination involved in the assistance we have given so far. The procedure has been laid down by the Eleventh Finance Commission.

The details about how the money has to be distributed, what are the norms for which money can be allotted, have been laid down by the Eleventh Finance Commission and it was with the consent of all the Chief Ministers that these norms were laid down. So, there is no question of discrimination against anybody. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : So, you say that there is no pressure from anybody. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : There is pressure from every State. As I said, there is pressure from every political party, which is normal because, after all, people are suffering. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He has not yielded, Shri Janardhana Reddy.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, the Leader of the Opposition will be speaking after me. Therefore, I hope whatever he wants to say would be reflected in his leader's speech. So, let me say what I want to. I have heard all of them. I am not going to say anything which is going to hurt their sentiments. I have no intention to hurt their sentiments. All that I am saying is that there is normally pressure in such a situation. It is expected because after all people are suffering. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What he wants to know is whether the Congress Party's pressure has reduced the quantum of foodgrains given to Andhra Pradesh. That is what he wants to know. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister speak now. Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Minister, you may continue your speech.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Sir, I mentioned about Andhra Pradesh because that is just an example. There has been an on-going campaign that Andhra Pradesh is favoured. This time, they have received less money than what Karnataka got, which is ruled by the Opposition Party. So, what I intend to say is that there is no favouritism. The situation might have been different when Andhra Pradesh was given more foodgrains. The situation would have been like that at that time, and so, it was done like that. But now the situation in this drought condition is different, at least as far as the reports that we have about the data that we have. It is an on-going thing.

The Task Force on drought which met has given assistance only for three months. We will review the situation in January again. If they again feel that the situation has got worse, I am sure, all these things will be considered again.

Anyway, as I was saying,, the procedure is laid down. The State gives a Memorandum; there is a Team which goes from the Centre which discusses with the State officers; their report is submitted to an Inter-Ministerial

[Shri Ajit Singh]

Group which is a Group of Secretaries. There is a Task Force constituted by the Prime Minister under the Chairmanship of the Deputy-Prime Minister, Shri Advani. That looks at those things and decides how much money can be allotted to each State, etc.

Once again, I would like to say that the Task Force has agreed to whatever recommendations were made by the Inter-Ministerial Group. If we had changed anything, then you might have said that there is some politics involved in it. We have, *in toto*, accepted the recommendations made by the Inter-Ministerial Group.

I need not go into the details as to how much assistance has been provided because my esteemed colleagues, Shri Shanta Kumar and Shri Sharad Yadav have given you those statistics already. I am sure, all of you are aware through the Media also, how much is given and what has been done about it, etc.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition did mention that there was probably no urgency and the urgency that ought to have been shown was not shown in this case. I would like to mention that the Agriculture and Relief Ministers' meeting was held on the 24th July. The Task Force was constituted on the 31st July. It has met six times. There were many complaints that the Task Force was not meeting, the reports are coming and they are not discussing the reports etc. The Task Force, since it was constituted on the 31st July, has held six meetings; they met on 1st of August, 16th August, 10th September, 20th September, 11th October and 16th November. As I said, the assistance they have provided is for three months. We will review the situation again in January. If the situation in each State has not improved – whatever is warranted and whatever memorandum is received – we will examine and we will seriously look at them.

As regard urgency, the second instalment of CRF was released on 7th of August itself. The Task Force made the recommendations on 16th of this month and we had already released advanced instalment of CRF so that the States could not say that they did not have ready cash to spend for the drought relief.

I would also like to mention that there was a meeting of the Leader of the Opposition along with the Chief Ministers of the Congress-ruled States with the Prime Minister and his colleagues. She has mentioned in her speech that they gave a memorandum but she was not sure what action has been taken on that. They had requested to initiate Food-for-Work Programme. It was initiated immediately. They said that the financial assistance should be given. As I mentioned, the second instalment of CRF was given immediately. The memorandum also said that it should be declared as a national calamity. I would like to say that there is no such provision in today's rules, regulations, and the Constitution. There is a Committee headed by Shri Sharad Pawar which is looking into this situation. There is formation of Crisis Management Group which was constituted on 31st August itself. The NDC memorandum also mentioned that NDC should consider the short and long term measures. I am sure that the next meeting of the NDC would consider that. The Prime Minister mentioned what steps he is planning to have a long term solution for the drought problem.

There was a mention that the corpus of the Contingency Fund should be increased to Rs. 10,000 crore. I would like to mention that NCCF has no limitation. Whatever the situation demands, the Government is committed to provide from NCCF. It has an initiatial Provision of of Rs. 500 crore. But the 11th Finance Commission itself has mentioned that money can be raised if it is needed. The Task Force has cleared Rs. 2000 crore. Therefore, I am sure that the amount which would go from NCCF would be more than Rs. 500 crore.

The Memorandum also wanted extension of the time for the Crop Insurance Scheme. Any State which recommended for the extension of time, it was done. Here is would like to mentioned that Rajasthan is the worst affected State in this drought and this is the third drought in four years. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is fourth or fifth drought, whatever it is. I am saying that it is the third year in four years because last year Rajasthan had good rains. I expected that Rajasthan should be the first State to use Crop Insurance Scheme. It is because having three droughts in four years, I understand, the Rajasthan Government's financial situation may not be good.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, crop insurance scheme has not been implemented in Rajasthan.

*[English]*

SHRI AJIT SINGH : This is what I am saying. Nineteen States which include Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Orissa, have implemented that Scheme. The Rajathan Government has no excuses for not implementing that Scheme because if that scheme was implemented, they would not have been facing this problem today. We understand that Rajasthan situation is very bad.

The Government has allowed free movement of the fodder and water for Rajasthan. Not only that, we have allotted more than 30,000 metric tonnes of wheat for animal feed for Rajasthan. Rajasthan's main wealth comes from animals. Realising the problem faced there, we have spoken to NDDB, and they have increased the amount to five lakh litres of milk per month from Rajasthan which is more than twice what they normally take. Normally, in November and December, price of milk is reduced but they have agreed that if the drought continues, they will consider what price has to be paid to the farmers.

As far as long-term programmes are concerned, there are many programmes like Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme; Drought-prone Area Programme; Desert Development Programme; Integrated Wastelands Development Programme and *Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana*. I do agree that in view of this drought we have to consider what to do about water because that is going to be a problem. The Prime Minister has mentioned about the disputes between different States. The Government seeks cooperation of all the Opposition Parties in our efforts because water is to be treated as a national resource. Without that, we cannot solve this problem in the long run.

It is not just the question of linking up the rivers. Our traditional methods of water conservation should be followed. We have Bawlis, Johars and tanks in the village side. They all have been taken over and houses constructed. So, we have to go back to our traditional methods of water conservation. For this again, we seek your cooperation as most of the States today are ruled by the Opposition. Therefore, as the Leader of the Opposition herself mentioned in the morning, this fighting against drought has to be a cooperative venture between the Central Government and the State Governments.

Let me also mention one point about what the Central Government can meet. Besides allotting money for different schemes, we do not have any implementing agency. We can allot foodgrains, but for getting it to the hungry, we do not have any machinery. I have written to the Chief Ministers that the input subsidy of Rs. 2000 crore should be deposited directly into the affected farmers' accounts instead of giving it in cash or in kind. We can only request the States and it is up to the States to act on our request. Many hon. Members wanted all-Party meetings and also formation of an all-Party Committee. This question was also raised last time when the same subject was discussed. In my letter to the Chief Minister I have requested them to create a Committee at the district level of all the elected representatives who can supervise this drought relief work. I do not think many States have done that. Therefore, all I want to emphasise is that while it has to be a cooperative venture, at the Central level we can only authorise you to use the Plan money for drought relief; we can give you money from NCCF; we can tell you how to use that money; we can give you free railways transport for the fodder and foodgrains for feeding the animals. But ultimately the implementing agency is under the control of the State Governments.

It is not a question of blaming anybody. Let us work together. There should be no shirking of responsibility on the part of anyone. We have foodgrains, but people are dying of starvation. As the Prime Minister has said, in such a situation we should all hang our heads in shame. We are producing enough foodgrains to export to the world at large, but people are malnourished here and people are under-nourished in our own country. We have to look at our PDS once again. We have to look at our rural development programmes both of the Central Government as well as State Governments all over again. I would also request the media to please keep it in mind. The drought is not yet over. There is a lot of distress in the rural areas and we are alert to that. The Task Force would be meeting whenever needed. We seek your cooperation in alleviating the misery of the people in the rural areas of our country.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had a very long day with many important speeches.

[Shrimati sonia Gandhi]

I will not take very long so that everyone can go home after this tiring day.

Now, this morning, when I spoke, I asked the Government for all possible support to be given to the drought affected States. I spoke for all the States affected by this problem. I did not speak for only Congress-ruled States and I believe that this really ought to be the spirit in which we must face this tremendous challenge.

This morning, I had made a number of suggestions. Many of these suggestions were supported by a number of colleagues from all sections of this House and since some of them have not been touched by the hon. Minister in his reply, I would just like to reiterate or repeat them.

Now, I refer to the first demand which was for setting up an all-Party Committee to galvanise the implementation of relief packages. I think this would go a long way to help the co-ordination between different parties and, of course, subsequently the States.

Then I had also said, that a special meeting of the NDC would also be most helpful to co-ordinate between the Centre and the States. Of course, you have mentioned about the Task Force and several other Committees but I believe that this would also be important.

I had asked for the waiver of interest on loans taken by farmers and launching a large-scale Food for Work Programme in traditionally vulnerable areas. You have mentioned the Food for Work Programme. Of course, we know that it is in place but it is necessary to strengthen this particular programme.

I also had asked for expending the Antyodya Programme which is a fairly successful programme. That is why, if the Ministry could expand it, it would be extremely helpful to those who are suffering most these days on account of drought.

I also had mentioned about the issue of transportation. The Prime Minister briefly touched upon it but this transportation cost of foodgrains is a constant issue being thrown from the States to the Central Government and back and forth. This could also be looked at as revamping and strengthening of the PDS also. But the most important of all, I feel, and this is something that you have not really touched, is the drought management code. If Government could look at it, it would be extremely good.

The Food Minister and some other hon. Members mentioned that large amounts of foodgrains have been sent to States like Madhya Pradesh which have not been lifted. Some Members mentioned it and I think even the Food Minister also mentioned it, if I am not mistaken. But I would like to ask as to how much has been sent specifically for drought relief. I have already quoted figures in the morning to show that all foodgrains sent for drought have been lifted not only in Madhya Pradesh but by most Congress-governed States.

Then, some hon. Members were also referring to foodgrains allotted under other-on-going schemes like the PDS. Now, the PDS itself is defective and many hon. Members agreed with it. I think, in fact, the Food Minister himself admitted the need for strengthening and revamping the PDS.

**20.00 hrs.**

Then, the Minister for Rural Development, Shri Shanta Kumar, mentioned figures to prove how much he has released to the States and again how little the States have utilised it. But I do not want to go into this because we do not have the time. We can perhaps discuss it separately. These aggregate figures, I think, can hide many things. There are many schemes being run by his Ministry. It would be interesting to know how much was released and for which scheme, how many of these schemes have special relevance to the drought-affected areas, when were these releases made, what percentage of this was for plan expenditure, for instance. There is no time, as I said just now, to go into the details. But these are very relevant questions for which at some stage we would like to have answers.

Hon. Prime Minister hinted that we have said that there is political discrimination in giving assistance to the States. This is not what I said this morning. All that I said was that criteria for assistance should be objective and transparent. That was all I said. To this day, we are still

unaware of the formula on the basis of which assistance is being calculated for each States. After all, there is no connection between what a State has been demanding and what the State is getting. Here is another question for which perhaps we would like to have an answer. The Prime Minister has compared the 1987 support to the drought areas with that of the 2002. If he had given the details of the foodgrains stock then, the rupee value and the total Budgetary outlay of 1987, then it would have been, perhaps, much easier to evaluate how serious we are responding to the present magnitude of the problem in comparison to 1987.

I think, I can say that across the board, virtually all the Members really spoke of the inadequacy of the assistance given by the Central Government. Here I repeat that this is not intended to be political criticism, this is intended to be constructive criticism. I think, if constructive criticism, discussing weaknesses and pointing out what we see as weaknesses is mistaken as politicising the issue, I am really sorry, I do not understand it. But we shall carry on exposing and bringing out weaknesses wherever we see them because after all this is the only way we can help each other to improve the situation in various fields. I was saying that many Members across the board have mentioned about the inadequacy of the Central assistance released so far for the States affected by drought from the National Calamity Fund. Now, this is an aspect which really needs to be looked into with some urgency. The Government says that they will release more when the reports of the Central teams have been examined. But all these formalities really should have been completed much earlier. Each day's delay naturally compounds the misery of the people. Therefore, I urge the Centre to at least now accelerate that process so that no more time is wasted.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think this debate has really placed a major responsibility on the Government. We, on our part, shall do all we can. But the major responsibility is that of the Central Government. Therefore, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I once again request the Government to urgently reach all possible help and support to the millions of people who are suffering today throughout the country on account of this drought.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I am going to put the Motion to the vote of the House.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Sir, I just forgot to mention a very important issue which the hon. Prime Minister has brought up and that is of linking river waters. We welcome this proposal and we are happy to participate in it.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the House do now adjourn"

*The motion was negatived.*

**20.05 hrs.**

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 13 and 14 shall be taken up on a later date. Item No. 15. Matters under rule 377 be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

### (i) Need to open a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Karauli District, Rajasthan

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of India had targetted to open one Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in each district of the country. There are a few districts in Rajasthan, which were created five years ago, but are still deprived of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. One of such districts is Karauli, which is in my parliamentary constituency and also the local people are demanding for long for that. The region is dacoit affected and dang area, the region lacks in education facilities and the children here are being kept deprived from the benefit of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya.

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister to give necessary orders for setting up a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Karauli district without delay.

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*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

**(ii) Need to amend forest laws to ensure all-round development of ST dominated Narmada district in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the forest laws are obstructing the development works meant for tribals living in Didiya Pada and Sagwara tehsils of Narmada district of my parliamentary constituency, Bharuch. On account of reserve forest law, dams cannot be constructed here for irrigating the fields of tribals, roads can also not be constructed nor can small channels and tanks be constructed for providing water to the animals and fields. It is an irony that forest inhabitants are suffering due to forest laws.

Through you, Sir, I would like to urge that such laws should not be so stringent and these should be amended so that the development works for the tribals can be streamlined.

**(iii) Need for early completion of construction of over-bridge on rail line at Palanpur in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the pending work of widening of over-bridge on the railway line in Palandpur, the headquarter of my parliamentary constituency, Banaskantha. The above mentioned work has not even started yet. In this connection, the Gujarat Government have already contributed its share of two-third of the total cost, that is, Rs. 1.95 crore out of Rs. 2.99 crore two years ago. Now Railway Ministry say that work could be started only when Gujarat Government contributes whole amount in advance. Even when two-thirds of the cost has already been submitted, the plan and estimate for the over-bridge are not yet ready. When a request was made to the hon'ble Minister of Railways in this regard, tender was issued in January, 2002 and the work was to be completed by November, 2002, that is in eleven months, but the railways Department are still delaying the work. Since the overbridge has not been widened, traffic jam is a daily occurrence in the heart of the city and accidents are common. The overbridge is also very old.

**(iv) Need for effective implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Madhya Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh Government have not implemented the important schemes such as, Rural development programme and Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in a phased manner due to which crores of rupees provided by the Union Government could not be spent only because of unnecessary procedural delay. The situation is particularly grim in Ratlam, Mandsaur and Neemuch district of Madhya Pradesh. The rural development is not making desired progress in these districts on account of unnecessary delay in awarding tenders after giving notice for that, lack of quality control in case of transfer of work form one contractor to another, ignoring the prescribed guidelines and non-completion of work within the prescribed time limit.

Therefore, I demand that Union Government should form a monitoring committee for the purpose. Besides, a parliamentary committee should also be formed to monitor the quality, parameters and procedure of such works.

**(v) Need for effective implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Madhya Pradesh for providing relief to the people affected by drought in the State**

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several districts of Madhya Pradesh are suffering from drought and famine. In the most severely drought affected districts of the State, such as, Satna, Rewa, Sidhi, Shahdol, Katni and Panna, more than 90 percent Kharif crop has dried. The rabi crop will take six months in coming. State Government is not providing any relief to the rural people. People are migrating in search of work. Food for work programme is being implemented nowhere. Similar is the condition of Antyodaya Yojana and Annapurna scheme of Union Government. The situation of Vindhya region, the most severely drought affected area, is horrible. In such a scenario, the rural people of hilly areas are on verge of death.

Therefore, Union Government are requested to take necessary steps for tackling drought and famine and also

review the implementation of Central Government schemes in the State.

*[English]*

**(vi) Need to clear the proposals of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Governments for declaring certain districts as "special status districts"**

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga) : The Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka State Governments have urged the Union Government that four Hyderabad-Karnataka districts of Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur and Koppal should be declared "Special Status Districts" under Article 371 of the Constitution.

The Union Home Minister had agreed to the demand made by the State Governments. The State Governments had written to the Centre in September 2001 itself over which the Centre had sought and obtained some clarifications. The State Governments had stated that the special status tag would help the local people in getting employment and admissions to educational institutions. The status meant that the locals need not compete with others at the State level for employment opportunities and administrations.

Sir, as the matter is still pending, I urge the Union Government to kindly consider the demand favourably and issue necessary instructions including any legislation, if needed, to declare the above districts as "special status" under Article 371 of the Constitution.

**(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of U.P. for implementation of town Development Schemes in Pratapgarh Parliamentary Constituency**

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no scheme of small and medium town development scheme has been implemented in my parliamentary constituency Pratapgarh during the last eleven years since 1991. There are several such town in my parliamentary constituency that fulfil the criteria for being taken up under the town development schemes, whereas much smaller towns of Uttar Pradesh have been brought under the town development schemes during the last ten years. Several types of diseases are spreading in my parliamentary constituency in the absence of sewerage and proper supply of drinking water. On the one hand while the sewage is polluting the area and on the other hand the disease like malaria occur every year.

Through the House, I would like to urge the Central Government to hold inquiry in this regard and issue instructions to the State Government and district administration to implement small and medium town development schemes in my parliamentary constituency and also release funds for the said schemes.

*[English]*

**(viii) Need to declare Parwa-Bori-Sindola-Chandrapur-Gadchiroli-Dhanora-Durg road as National Highway**

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : After the creation of Chhattisgarh State, there has been a demand for the improvement of Parwa-Bori-Sindola-Chandrapur-Gadchiroli-Dhanora-Durg Road. This particular road is at present upto Sawargaon which is the last border road of Maharashtra in Gadchiroli District. From Sawargaon to Dhanora, the Chhattisgarh Road is in very bad shape. There is a single lane road from Sawargaon to Dhanora. Before Dhanora, there is a 5.5 mtr. road. On this road, there is heavy traffic due to Bhilai Steel Plant and other Ferro Manganese Steel Plant of Chhattisgarh. If the above road is constructed, then the distance will be reduced by 120 Kms. Thus, this will be a national saving in the form of time and fuel. This road will be useful not only for the State of Chhattisgarh but also other States like Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and people of South India. I, therefore, request that the Union Government should take necessary steps for the conversion of this road into National Highway due to its importance.

**(ix) Need to restore the status of Oodalbari Railway Station, West Bengal**

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri) : Oodalbari Railway Station created during the British regime is very important link between North and North East. It is

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surrounded by tea, timber and natural beauties. The Central Government started conversion of metre-gauge line of station to a broad-gauge one to facilitate smooth flow of traffic in the area. Bhuttan and Bangladesh being either side of the station, sand, stone and stone chips are being transported to Bangladesh through this way. The tourists used this station to visit the natural spot in the area.

So, I urge upon the Railway Minister to restore the station to its old status.

**(x) Need to protect the interests of handloom industry in Andhra Pradesh**

PROF. UMMAREDDY VANKATESHWARLU (Tenali) : The handloom industry and the plight of the handloom workers in Andhra Pradesh in general and in my constituency, Tenali in particular is in a deplorable stage. Cloth produced in places like Mangalagiri, Bhattiprolu, Cherukupali, Repalle, Ghantasala etc. in my constituency have piled up unsold in huge quantities worth more than Rs. 20.00 crores. The matter was raised earlier on several occasions in Parliament to arrange for purchase of the stock and to save the industry.

Added to this, in the recent past an additional excise duty of 9.2% was levied on yankey yarn.

Under the circumstances, while arranging for immediate purchase of the total handloom stocks in the State, I urge upon the Government to constitute a high-level Committee to go into the details of the plight of the Handloom Industry and workers in the country and to suggest suitable measures for bailing them out of the crisis as otherwise the whole handloom sector itself is likely to perish and vanish gradually in course of time.

**(xi) Need to open a Central school in Sant Kabir Nagar District, U.P.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV (Khalilabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, District Sant Kabir Nagar is a newly carved out district in my parliamentary constituency and is extremely backward in the field of education. Neither there is any facility to provide higher education in this district nor there is any Central School where boys and girls of this region may get higher education.

So, I urge upon the Government to set up Central School in my parliamentary constituency so that boys and girls of that area may get opportunity to get higher education.

**(xii) Need to release adequate funds to the Government of Bihar for Development of Tourist Centres in Monghyr Parliamentary Constituency**

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rishi Kund, Shakti Peeth Ma Chandika Sthan, Sita Kund Kashtharni Ghat, Shringi Rishi Ashram, Ghora Khur, Bhim Bandh, Sita Charan and Fort of Mir Kashmri and several other cultural and ancient and mediral historical heritage are located in my parliamentary constituency Monghyr. However, these places have not been developed as tourist spots. I had also written a letter to the Union Minister of Tourism to this effect but nothing has been done in this regard.

So I would like to request hon'ble Minister of Tourism to declare all these places as tourist sports of international level and financial assistance should be provided to these places so that grandure of these places may be restored and tourist premises, swimming pools and other facilities may be provided to the tourists in these places.

**(xiii) Need to start construction work of building for Adarsh Navodaya Vidyalaya at Village Shergarh, Dabwali Tehsil, Haryana**

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, ambitious scheme regarding the education in the country has been announced by the Government. The scheme announced so far is necessary as well as useful for the country. I feel that concrete steps will have to be taken for the implementation of this scheme. The responsible and active administration will only be able to successfully implement this scheme. However, presently I am witnessing serious defects in administrative system. There is a village named Shergarh in Dabwali Tehsil of my parliamentary constituency. The Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development had laid foundation stone

of an Adarsh Navodaya Vidyalaya in the village on 27 July, 2001. The people were hopeful that this school would meet the requirement of education in this area to some extent. While the previous academic session is over but the construction work of this project is as yet to start. Land for the project has been provided by the State Government but construction works has not started on the land.

Through you, I urge upon the Government that this project should be completed before the coming academic session so that academic activities may start there.

*[English]*

**(xiv) Need to launch a special employment drive for the youth of Kashmir**

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the agonizing situation of the unemployed boys and girls of Kashmir, especially from the areas of Tithwal, Tangdhar, Nachain, Gabra, Karin Machil, Gurej, Tuleil, Dawer, Purnana Tuleil and upper areas of Uri Tehsil. Keeping in view the disturbing security scenario of Kashmir, immediate steps should be taken to launch a special employment programme for the eligible persons of Kashmir. This gesture will help the distressed youth of the State.

I request the Union Government to take immediate measures and announce a special package for the rehabilitation of SSI sector and the traders concerned with tourism industry with a view to generate more employment.

**(xv) Need to expedite completion of work of doubling of rail line at Sealdah section of South Eastern Railway**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : The doubling of rail line works in Sealdah section of South Eastern Railway is moving at a very slow pace. If this continues at present rate, it will take another five years. As a result the travellers are facing enormous difficulties. Doubling of rail line from Sanarpur to Canning has not been taken up so far.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately ask the authorities concerned to complete the works as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 21st November, 2002 at 11 a.m.

**20.07 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, November 21, 2002/ Kartika 30, 1924 (Saka)*

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