

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 04, 2002/Agrahayana 13, 1924 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Rabies/Typhoid Vaccines

*222. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out-dated vaccines for rabies and typhoid are being used in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that chloramphenicol that had been banned in the developed countries for causing cancer is still being given to patients in the country; and

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

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

Statement

To prevent Rabies, two types of vaccines namely Neural Tissue Vaccine (NTV) and Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) are being produced in the country. In view of the WHO's recommendations to prefer the use of TCARV, a decision has been taken to phase out NTV gradually.

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

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

There is no report on banning of Chloramphenicol in developed countries. Chloramphenicol and its various dosage forms like suspension, injection, eye drops and capsules are permitted to be used in the country. The drug is also included in the Essential Drug List of the World Health Organisation.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, from the statement of the hon. Minister, it is found that Neural Tissue Vaccine (NTV) is being used for preventing Rabies. But the World Health Organisation has recommended that this medicine should not be used and instead of this medicine, Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine should be used. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a health hazard because of the use of NTV, and whether the Government is planning to ban this medicine.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1992 there was a proposal to phase out NTV as per the recommendation of the W.H.O. What he just mentioned as neural is known as sheep brain vaccine which is still being manufactured. However, this has to be phased out because cost factor is involved in it. For example, if its cost is Rs. 250, the tissue culture vaccine about which a mention has been made by the hon. Member and if it is manufactured at Konur, it would be three times costlier and if it is manufactured at Kasauli, then it would be five-six times costlier. As per an estimate the total number of animal bites in a year is nearly 2.5 million and nearly 1.4 billion cases out of them are treated. I think that it is appropriate to inform the House in this regard. Nearly 0.5 million such cases are being treated through sheep brain vaccine whereas 0.9 million cases out of 1.4 million are being treated through tissue culture vaccine. The Central Government do not supply it free of cost. This vaccine is demanded by several states, but there are certain other states which do not demand it considering its high cost. The State Governments make free supply of this medicine to the people. However, there are some States for which it is not affordable and that is why they prefer Neural culture to the tissue culture. The method of sheep brain vaccine is not very appropriate and it is less effective than tissue culture vaccine. There are 10 injections in neural culture whereas there are 5 injections in tissue culture. I think that after the arrival of intra-dominal vaccine, the existing doses would be reduced by five times. Naturally, that will be much cheaper and costwise it will be at par with the neural vaccine that is to say it would become convenient for the public when the sheep brain vaccine arrives in the market.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, from the statement of the

hon. Minister, it is found that because of the cost, this medicine is not being banned totally and the Government is phasing it out.

But I have asked the Minister whether this is damaging our health. It is not being replied.

Secondly, regarding the use of Chloramphenicol, the hon. Minister, in his statement, has said that the World Health Organisation has not banned it. But, as per our information, in the developed countries it is not being used. So, specifically I want to know from the hon. Minister how many medicines, which are being banned by the World Health Organisation (WHO), are being used in our country? I do not know whether because of the cost or because of the shortage of the medicine or some pharmaceutical factors, the Government is not in a position to supply good quality medicine. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister how many medicines, which are banned by the WHO, are being used in our country and why?

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the supplementary question of the hon. Member I would like to say that every medicine has got some side effects but this medicine has not got any strong side-effect as has been apprehended by the hon. Member. The W.H.O. has itself recommended for its phasing out. That is why the Government is phasing it out. Costwise the intra-dominal vaccine would be at par with sheep brain vaccine. Naturally, this will cause steep decline in the prices and the State Governments will be in a position to procure the vaccine. Slowly, this will be completely phased out, till then we are continuing it. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, W.H.O. does not ban any drug. He has asked about certain medicines. The first medicine as referred by him is not at all banned. I have with me the list of those drugs of the W.H.O. about which the hon. Member has mentioned and I can show it. It is clearly mentioned in it that the said medicine is not banned. So far as the names of those medicines are concerned, I do not have the details at present, but surely I can tell that there are some medicines which are banned. ...*(Interruptions)* Now the details have reached me which I would like to present before you. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not a doctor. But I am making efforts and I am collecting information.

[English]

I am one of you. Sir, I am one of them.

[Translation]

I am your brother and I am trying. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is trying. You all should cooperate with him.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The hon. Minister is not a doctor. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Athawale ji, are you a doctor? Please take your seat.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: You are all so dear to me so why should I worry? I am trying hard and getting your cooperation and blessings.

[English]

So far 74 drug formulations have been prohibited from marketing in the country. Seven drugs, which are withdrawn in some countries, have been allowed to be marketed subject to cautionary statement and contra indications being given on the label, and in some cases, on the package insert. These seven drugs are: 1) Analgin, 2) Hydroxyquinoline, 3) Nitrofurantoin, 4-5-6.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the drug 'Baralgin', a painkiller banned in the United States has been withdrawn in India.

Mr. Bill Gates has founded an organisation in Geneva, GAVI. I would like to know whether India has received financial support from GAVI, the Bill Gates Foundation. If so, I would also like to know State-wise how much money was allocated from GAVI to different parts of the country. I was told particularly that Andhra Pradesh got a heavy financial assistance from GAVI. I want to know whether the same amount as given to Andhra Pradesh has been distributed to all the States, including Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why is the hon. Member testing me. His first question was concerning Baralgin.

[English]

This brand name is not being used in U.S.A.

[English]

As far as the second Supplementary is concerned, it is not related to this Question. The hon. Member may give a separate Notice on this later because it is not related to this Question.

MR. SPEAKER: You are absolutely right.

DR. V. SAROJA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement that a decision has been taken to phase out NTV gradually considering the harmful effect of this vaccine. Will the Government come forward to stop the drug forthwith? There is an acute shortage in our country for the tissue culture anti-rabic vaccine. So, I would like to know the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Sir, so far as the tissue culture vaccine is concerned, we have already improved the situation. In terms of units, I believe it has already gone up from one lakh units to 50 lakh units.

[Translation]

So far as the issue of banning the medicine is concerned, as raised by the hon. Member, I must clarify that we are phasing it out rather than banning the same. I have clearly elaborated the reasons on the basis of which it has been done. Since 1992, it has gone up from one lakh units to 50 lakh units. In her second supplementary, the hon. Member has mentioned about sheep brain vaccine and has asked whether medicine is being administered in all the cases of animal bites. In this regard I would like to say that if sheep brain vaccine is given to all the persons then it will cost Rs.35 crore whereas if tissue culture treatment is given to them, then the cost would be Rs.250 crore. It is directly linked with economic price effect and price cost.

[English]

As far as giving a pinpointed answer to the question is concerned, we are at the moment not banning it but are phasing it out.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said in the second para of his reply to the question that the production of Whole Cell Killed Typhoid Vaccine was discontinued for sometime but the Central Research Institute has again given the permission for its production to fulfil the requirement of the same for defence personnel. Its production was stopped once and that is the indicative of the fact that it must have had some shortcoming. I would like to know as to why was its supply has been restarted or the defence personnel.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for raising this question. It is right that the production of typhoid vaccine was discontinued for sometime, the reasons are already known to you. The question

has been raised as to why it is being supplied to the defence personnel. The first thing is that its efficacy is nearly 60 per cent. When it was felt that it was not so effective and had side-effects, people were getting sick after taking it and the users also felt pain, it was banned. Our public health strategy is immunisation not through vaccination. Our strategy is to lay emphasis on hygiene and sanitation, water should be pure and clean and hands should be properly cleansed. ... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming on that line.

MR. SPEAKER: That paper has nothing to do with the business of the House. You please keep on speaking.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: This vaccine has been given to the defence personnel on their request because they have to live in very difficult conditions. Though, its efficacy is 60 per cent. This was their demand because they have to keep on moving from place to place so frequently. They are transferred on a short notice. That is why we accepted their request and are supplying the vaccine to them.

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAO: Does this medicine have no adverse effect on the defence personnel? They demanded and you supplied.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: It is not the matter of adverse impact. Its efficacy is 60 per cent. It is not that after taking the typhoid injection someone has died or has been disabled. The Armymen argue that they have to travel so frequently and have to acclimatize themselves to different environmental conditions and drink water of different areas. The said disease is, however, a water-born disease. The fact remains that the army men have to travel different places. So we made it available to them on their demand. If you have any suggestion to give, you are welcome.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are umpteen number of outdated, obsolete and banned drugs throughout the length and breadth of the country. Similarly, under other systems like, siddha, ayurveda, unani, etc., there are medicines which are detrimental and dangerous to human life and health. You have got a system that if somebody reports to you, you take cognisance and take action. This kind of a practice is in existence throughout the length and breadth of the country. Beyond this, do you have an effective and foolproof system to prevent and monitor any abuse of this kind of medicines or any use banned medicines? What is your system of monitoring to fully control this kind of an evil?

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: First of all, I would like to say that perhaps there is no method which could be really

called a foolproof method, including the security of the highest order.

[Translation]

We put our best efforts. We have our monitoring system. The first thing is that there is no foolproof method. So far as the matter of spurious and banned drugs are concerned, the Government is strongly monitoring the things. I would like to inform the House that we want to involve all the Chief Ministers and Health Ministers of the States and we also aim at strengthening our law.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: He is delivering a dialogue.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not taking his sentence on record.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Even, I am not taking him seriously for that matter. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He is speaking while sitting.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Actually, being so accustomed with dialogue, he takes everything as dialogue.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: You have to direct him.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: He is a good director.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants me to direct you to give a good dialogue! That is what he wants.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: You are a good director. You have been directing me now.

Sir, as far as drugs are concerned, they are permitted only after a thorough review.

[Translation]

To our knowledge no such drug is being used. If there is any such drug, we will enquire into it and monitor the things. The Government is taking strong action in matters of spurious drugs. I have involved all the Chief Ministers of the States in this matter and have written to them. I have also held meetings. I think if I am not able to make the system foolproof, but surely we will be able to strengthen the monitoring system which will yield positive results.

[English]

Diversion of Central Road Fund

*223. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allotted to the States out of the Central Road Fund during each of the last three years State wise;

(b) the details of the works undertaken by the State Governments from this fund, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the funds allotted to the State Governments are being diverted to construct/repair State Highways as well as major districts roads;

(d) if so, the facts thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure proper utilisation of funds and timely completion of the projects undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) State-wise accrual of funds under Central Road Fund (CRF) during the last three years and current year is given in the Annexure-I enclosed.

(b) The proposals for improvement State Highways, Major District Roads and roads of importance other than National Highways and Rural Roads are undertaken under CRF. Number of works approved and value of these works in various States out of Central Road Fund are given in the Annexure-II enclosed.

(c) Central Road Fund released to the State Governments is meant for improvement of State Highways, Major District Roads and other roads of importance. Hence, the question of diversion of funds to these categories of road does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Initially, in the year 2000-01, 1/3rd of the annual accrual under Central Road Fund was released to respective States for utilization on the approved works. State Governments are required to submit the utilization certificate

for the funds utilized along with the physical and financial progress reports. Further funds are released only on the basis of utilization certificates and progress report. This is to ensure

that funds allotted are utilized only for approved works. The matter is taken up with the State Governments time to time to expedite the completion of work in time.

Annexure-I

Accrual of Funds to States under Central Road Fund during last three years and current year

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of States/Union Territories	Year			
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	223.90	8161.00	8088.00	8145.08
2	Arunachal Pradesh	78.89	1113.00	1080.00	1086.08
3	Assam	26.52	1508.00	1473.00	1540.08
4	Bihar	0.00	2569.00	2612.00	3390.08
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00	2303.00	2256.00	1728.08
6	Goa	0.00	393.00	380.00	409.08
7	Gujarat	304.99	7008.00	6784.00	6813.08
8	Haryana	0.00	3140.00	3205.00	3575.08
9	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	1045.00	1025.00	1075.08
10	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	3084.00	2973.00	3105.08
11	Jharkhand	0.00	1822.00	1785.00	1125.08
12	Karnataka	16.01	5750.00	5550.00	5813.08
13	Kerala	12.19	2768.00	2615.00	2771.08
14	Madhya Pradesh	287.02	6251.00	6191.00	6659.08
15	Maharashtra	961.14	10880.00	10318.00	10141.08
16	Manipur	26.24	332.00	318.00	324.08
17	Meghalaya	8.11	447.00	434.00	429.08
18	Mizoram	3.94	302.00	290.00	296.08
19	Nagaland	4.92	256.00	241.00	247.00
20	Orissa	16.14	2910.00	2861.00	2982.08

1	2	3	4	5	6
21	Punjab	12.56	4299.00	4116.00	4043.08
22	Rajasthan	138.02	7582.00	7584.00	7671.08
23	Sikkim	14.56	112.00	107.00	110.00
24	Tamil Nadu	130.54	6703.00	6643.00	6722.08
25	Tripura	3.94	193.00	187.00	193.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	264.27	8795.00	8851.00	9643.06
27	Uttaranchal	0.00	1102.00	1076.00	759.08
28	West Bengal	95.10	3573.00	3627.00	3688.08
Sub-Total (A)		2629.00	94401.00	92670.00	94484.00
29	Andaman & Nicobar Administration	0.00	174.00	178.00	183.00
30	Chandigarh	0.00	301.00	238.00	221.00
31	Delhi	0.00	3189.00	2673.00	2705.00
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13.15	121.00	130.00	76.00
33	Daman & Diu	7.77	89.00	87.00	107.00
34	Lakshadweep	0.00	7.00	8.00	5.00
35	Pondicherry	105.00	218.00	219.00	219.00
Sub-Total (B)		125.92	4099.00	3533.00	3516.00
Grand Total (A+B)		2754.92	98500.00	96203.00	98000.00

Annexure-II

Details of Approved Works under Central Road Fund

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of States/ Union Territories	No. of Works	Approved Cost
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	58	25294.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13	4172.64
3	Assam	31	5309.57
4	Bihar	29	5100.00

1	2	3	4
5	Chhattisgarh	16	7539.00
6	Goa	4	761.84
7	Gujarat	342	21596.00
8	Haryana	35	7137.47
9	Himachal Pradesh	10	2673.69
10	Jammu & Kashmir	25	7837.17
11	Jharkhand	5	2675.00
12	Karnataka	201	16542.94

1	2	3	4
13	Kerala	5	3807.62
14	Madhya Pradesh	44	18914.00
15	Maharashtra	57	21679.12
16	Manipur	6	1170.16
17	Meghalaya	13	1896.16
18	Mizoram	5	2000.99
19	Nagaland	4	716.23
20	Orissa	101	9889.45
21	Punjab	76	16067.42
22	Rajasthan	188	25516.00
23	Sikkim	8	191.00
24	Tamil Nadu	255	15550.00
25	Tripura	3	496.48
26	Uttaranchal	22	2938.88
27	Uttar Pradesh	30	19622.05
28	West Bengal	8	9664.99
Sub-Total (A)		1594	256759.87
29	Andaman & Nicobar Administration	1	242.53
30	Chandigarh	4	693.48
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8	261.32
32	Daman & Diu		
33	Delhi	5	1936.17
34	Lakshadweep		
35	Pondicherry	2	469.95
Sub-Total (B)		20	3603.45
Grand Total (A+B)		1614	260363.32

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ask a question.

I have been given to understand that about 50 per cent of the funds released to States from the Central Road Fund have been utilised by the States.

Part (a) of my supplementary is that there are details of under-utilisation by various States. I would like to know the reasons thereof.

Part (b) of my first supplementary is: the Central Government allocates and releases funds to State Governments from out of the Central Road Fund. I would like to know in what manner the Central Government ensures proper utilisation of funds by States. What is the mechanism evolved by the State Governments, particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, first of all, I would like to clarify that the Central Road Fund is a big area which includes money for National Highways, money for the rural roads. The subject under discussion today is about the funding being done by the Centre for the State Highways, major district roads and other important roads other than the rural roads.

Sir, two questions have been asked. The first question is about under-utilisation. There is certainly some under-utilisation. I have details here. It is a long list. If the hon. Members wants the details about a particular State, I will give it. Now, he has asked about the State of Andhra Pradesh. There is generally under-utilisation. The reason is that in November-December, 2000, when this system was introduced by this Government, about Rs. 1,000 crore were earmarked for this purpose. During the month of November-December, we allocated one-third of this amount. The guidelines were that you start utilising this money and as and when it is utilised, we will keep reimbursing that amount. We gave a sanction for twice the amount of utilisation, that is, out of Rs. 1,000 crore, we distributed about Rs. 333 crore and gave sanction for about Rs. 666 crore to the States. Initially, the States were not geared up because for the first time it started, although earlier also there was the Central Road Fund. But that was a very minor amount. A sum of Rs. 27 crore or so per year was given earlier. Now, we are talking about Rs. 1,000 crore. Therefore, initially, the States had some problems.

The second reason why there was under-utilisation is that initially the States were not utilising this Fund because there were problems with the States finances. They were utilising for something else and then cash flow problem, was also there. Therefore, the money was not being made available for road construction. This went on for quite some time. Then, we issued guidelines, we started monitoring, we started checking and eventually things picked up.

At the moment the figures are, the total accrual, as of today, is Rs. 2927 crore under this Fund for the last three years. We have works approved for Rs. 2,600 crore, that is, just about Rs. 300 crore less works have been sanctioned and given to the States. But the States have utilised only Rs. 1,073 crore. That means out of about Rs. 3,000 crore, only about Rs. 1,000 crore have been utilised. This is the state of affairs.

Sir, as I said, there are two reasons. Some States have done very well. For example, Mizoram has done 99 per cent. There are some States who have done only about 10 per cent or 11 per cent utilisation. I have been writing to the Chief Ministers to expedite this and there has been some progress also.

As regards the State of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, they have utilised 51.64 per cent. The total accrual is Rs. 243 crore and the utilisation is about Rs. 125 crore — a percentage of about 51.64.

Secondly, he has asked about the monitoring system. We are monitoring by two methods. As I said, initially, we have allotted one-third of the fund. We allot funds for specific roads to the State Governments under the name of the road and the amount required. We released that money for that particular road. The State is bound to spend money only on that road. Thereafter, they have to inform us about the utilisation of the money sent by a responsible officer saying that this money has been utilised for this road. Then only we give them the second set of instalment and the approve second set of roads. This is the system we are following.

SHRI A. NARENDRA: Sir, my second supplementary is: a large number of major roads in the States are in a bad shape and are awaiting expansion and maintenance. But the maintenance and other works are not being taken up due to lack of funds. If it is so, I want to know whether the Central Government propose to increase the allocation to the States, at least to those States which are performing well and if not what would be the solution for improving the condition of the roads in the States. Thank you.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, firstly I would like to inform the hon. Member that this is the first time after Independence that a programme like this has been taken up. We are giving almost about Rs. 3,500 crore on State roads — Rs. 2,500 crore on the rural roads by the Ministry of Rural Development out of the Central Road Fund and over Rs. 1,000 crore for state roads from this fund. Therefore, it is only this Government which has started thinking of improving the roads in the country. We have 33 lakh kilometres of roads of various types out of which only 58,000 kilometres are the National

Highways maintained directly by the Centre and the rest are all supposed to be maintained by the States. Since the States did not have this type of funding, therefore, this, Government has taken this unprecedented step and provided over Rs. 3,500 crore per year now for the major roads in the States and the State Highways. We are allocating over Rs. 1,000 crore per year. This is the third year. We have allocated around Rs. 3,000 crore, as I told you over Rs. 2,900 crore.

Therefore, this is also a vast amount of money being given to the States considering that earlier on we were giving around Rs. 27 crore only per year to all the States for everything including rural roads. Now we are giving Rs. 3,500 crore per year. Therefore, if this money is utilised properly, over a period of time, all State roads should really be improved

As regards giving additional money, this Government has had the courage to impose cess on diesel and petrol and that is how we are getting this money. If the House wants that more funds should be generated some similar suggestion could come.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, thank you for the opportunity given. In Kerala the condition of the National Highways, especially the National Highway no. 17 is very bad. There is no proper maintenance. There is no proper developmental work. Everyday accidents occur on the National Highways because of this negligence. Yesterday one correspondent of Asianet TV, Shri Surendran Neeleswaram died due to a motor accident near my constituency. Is the hon. Minister aware of the condition of the National Highways and what steps are being taken to improve the condition of the National Highways especially the National Highway No. 17?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, the question really does not come under this. If you direct me, I will answer.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it does not come under this.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, the hon. Minister has provided and approved an amount of Rs. 165 crore for the CRF fund for Karnataka. In the last occasion, Shri Dharam Singh, the Minister of PWD of Karnataka came here and requested and represented for one important road towards Chennai National Highway No. 4. Though this is not related to the main question, this is a very serious matter. I am submitting to the hon. Minister that everyday one casualty occurs on an average on this road. Last year they have recorded 270 casualties and this year it will go to 365. We are requesting for a four-lane road. This road, the National Highway No. 4, gives connection to Chennai and Tirupati. It is a very important road. The proposal is also there.

Sir, I know that this is not related to the main question which is on CRF fund. I have already represented the matter to the hon. Minister and I have requested him that this is a very important matter and I now request through you that this requires very high priority and he may kindly take this up. This is my request.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister should take note of it. That is all.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Sir, the cost of maintaining roads, especially in the hilly regions and also the regions where there is more rainfall, is more than the cost of maintaining roads in other areas of our country. Due to this reason, the condition of roads in hilly areas of the North-East, particularly the hilly areas of Karbi Anglong and North Kacher hill, whether it is national highway, State highway or district highway, is very poor. While the funds given to these areas are also at par with other areas, because of the effect of the rain, effect of the terrain, the maintenance cost of roads is more. In view of that, I want to know, through you Sir, from the hon. Minister whether he has got some special consideration for roads in these hilly terrains where there is more rainfall, and specially for the roads of the hilly districts of Assam-Karbi Anglong and North Kacher - including National Highway No. 36 of Karbi Anglong portion.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, as regards the hilly regions, difficult regions, the Indian Road Congress has already laid down certain specifications including the costing aspect and the cost that we give per kilometre of maintenance, repair or improvement is much more. In the North-East, there are areas of the national highways for which we are giving as much as Rs. 70 lakh to Rs. 80 lakh per kilometre for improvement. Therefore, we do take care of it.

As regards special consideration, the hon. Member knows that I am also from the hilly region and I know the problems. Therefore, we do give them whatever is possible within the system. For example, under the Central Road Fund, we had given to the State Governments in the North-East additional funds, we had given them additional bank of sanctions. We do all these things and within whatever is permissible, we do take care of these difficult areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Your question has been answered.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I do want to point out initially that the Central Road Fund in itself is a very unfair Fund because those who have the traffic get the funds and others are generally starved as it is based on traffic in an

area. Added to that is the problem that there are huge unutilised funds. I want to ask the hon. Minister, therefore, whether he would reward States which use the funds fully and allocate the unutilised funds to States which are able to utilise them.

Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he will do - I have discussed this earlier also - to ensure that the road fund, within the State, is equitably distributed among all the areas. Some powerful people who are either Ministers or Chief Ministers or those who can bring pressure corner the entire road fund within the State for their own constituencies at the cost of others. I, therefore, want to ask the Minister that while utilising it, whether he has any system by which he can ensure equitable distribution of road fund within the States. A person like Shri Yerranna will get the lion share because he is the leader of the party, but others will not get the same share. This is happening everywhere. I am, therefore, asking whether the Minister has a way of ensuring equitable distribution within a State, utilisation of unutilised funds and also more equitable distribution among the States.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, first of all, I would like to comment on the last point. She has talked of Shri Yerranna. The hon. Member is also very powerful. I know personally how powerful she is. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: In spite of all the noise, I get nothing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As a matter of fact, he is appreciating.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: That is why, I am asking for protection though the Congress Government is there.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, she has raised very valid questions. I will explain to you what we are doing. She has asked two questions. The first question is whether we can take away the money from those States which are under-utilising it and give to those States which are utilising it better. Sir, in theory, it may be all right, but as I said, we are only in the third year of this experiment and let us give time to the States to catch up. Those States which are not utilising the funds properly, as it is and as I have made the system, they do not get the money. Therefore, the States are also now becoming aware that if they do not utilise this money properly, they will suffer. In the first two years, the utilisation was very low. It is only this year that some improvement has taken place. Therefore, I would submit that let us try for another year and thereafter, if required, we will make some such

provisions. This is very much under our consideration, but I want to give States adequate time to improve and catch up with the system.

The second thing she has said is of equitable distribution.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: What about her suggestion regarding States having done good performance.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: About States doing good performance, as I said, when the system is changed that you withdraw money from those States which are not utilising, naturally, it will go to the States which are utilising it better. At the moment, I do not want to do that or introduce that system. The second question she asked was, shall I say, whether there was a little bit of impartiality in allocating funds to the areas. In my first year, something happened and we were not aware of what was happening. For the last one-and-a-half years, in my office, I have a map of each State. When the recommendation comes, I plot it on the map. I have gone back to the Chief Ministers and requested them that such and such area was getting crowded or such and such district was not given anything, therefore, please revise your recommendations. There have been revisions. I am doing it, but the hon. Member must understand that I have to do it through the States. There are cases which have been rejected. I am at it, but certainly, if some Chief Minister asks me for something, a little bit of extra weightage has to be given to that.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Please send us a copy of the road-map you have prepared so that we know where it is going. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Sir, there should be a Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Sir, there should be a discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: If you can give a notice, it might be considered.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Let there be a discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: You can give a notice, and I will consider it.

Indians Missing in Saudi Arabia

*224. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians who had gone to Saudi Arabia for taking jobs have gone missing and their whereabouts are not known;

(b) if so, the number of such Indians who went missing during the last three years; and

(c) the efforts being made by our diplomatic mission in that country to trace them out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The number of persons "missing" over the last three years, as reported to the Embassy/Consulate in Saudi Arabia, is as follows:

Year	Cases Reported
2000-2001	101
2001-2002	105
2002-2003 (Upto Nov 2002)	73

(c) Our Embassy and Consulate in Saudi Arabia took up these cases with their employers and with the Saudi authorities to locate the missing Indians. In some instances, recruiting agents in India were also approached. As a result of these efforts, many of the missing persons were located and made to establish contact with their family members in India. In most cases, it is a deliberate decision on the part of the individuals not to communicate with their families for personal reasons. In several cases, the persons concerned resume contact with their relatives, but do not intimate the Embassy/Consulate.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the Minister's reply, it is evident that more than 100 persons go missing every year in Saudi Arabia. I ask a question which relates to the Indians living not only in Saudi Arabia, but also the Indians living in other Arab countries. In the year 2000-2001, the total missing cases reported were 101; in the year 2001-2002, the total missing cases reported were 105, particularly in Saudi Arabia, and in 2002-2003 (Up to November 2002), the total missing cases reported were 73. Many unemployed youth are being trapped by fake and unauthorised placement agencies. They are recruiting these people and sending them to Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, but they are not getting jobs there. These people are being cheated because they are also collecting money for recruiting them. The poor families are selling their properties and giving money. Some of these persons, who were recruited,

have reportedly committed offences in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries; some of them were killed and some others are in jails. These things are happening and they were reported in the newspapers.

This is a very serious matter which needs, to be probed. Has the Government ever enquired about these missing people? Did they enquire as to how many people are in jails, how many persons were killed, and whether their dead bodies were returned to their families or not?

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the Minister of External Affairs we are monitoring the things at our Mission Consulate General and Embassy level in Saudi Arabia. We provide assistance wherever it is required. The hon. Member has rightly said that there is unemployment in our country due to which the agents are able to allure them and taken them away where they have to face all sorts of problems. The Government is fully aware of this situation. You are also aware that 14 lakh Indians are working in Saudi Arabia they are facing these problems. So keeping in view the figures of 14 lakh people, the figures which I have presented before you are negligible. The figures of 101, 105 or 73 are not very big, but of course we are concentrating on the problem.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the figure is 101 or 105, it is not a negligible one. Even if it is the life of one person, we have to take it very seriously. Out of the 14 lakh persons working in these countries, the missing persons number may be very small, but as far as the lives of these individuals are concerned, we have to take it very seriously. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has evolved any foolproof mechanism to enquire into such things, to protect these persons from being cheated by others and so on? After this experience, has the Government evolved any mechanism to protect these persons?

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: So far as the mechanism is concerned, I would like to say that there is a direct link between the agents and the people. They levy different charges. However, our Mission has prescribed rule for care of maid servants. They are allowed to serve there under that rule.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, the maximum number of missing cases are reported from Saudi Arabia among the Gulf

countries. As per statistics, in the year 2000-01, the number of missing cases reported were 101. The number of missing cases in the year 2001-02 was 105 and the number of Missing cases so far in the year 2002-03 is 75.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not give the figures. The figures are already available.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, the statistics shows that the number of missing persons reported every year is exceeding. But it is on the increase every year. Has the Government ever examined the reasons as to why so many cases of missing persons are reported from Saudi Arabia alone? Have they come to any conclusion about the possible reasons in this regard?

Sir, the problem is that illiterate people, who does not know about the rules and regulations and the prevailing conditions in that country, are going to this country. Would the Government be pleased to take steps to make a proper publicity within the country in order to educate the people that persons with such and such qualification could go to that country and would also make people aware of the prevailing conditions of that country? The people should be aware of the reasons as to why persons go missing in that country. The hon. Minister has stated that the Ministry is aware of this problem but I do not know if our Mission in Saudi Arabia is aware of it. Our Mission there is working very badly. My question is, would the Government be kind enough to examine and probe into the reasons as to why so many cases of missing persons are reported from that country?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, persons described as missing are usually those who largely, for personal reasons particularly domestic differences, fail to maintain regular contact with their family members at home. These, so called missing persons, therefore, are not those who are suffering problems in their employment. A few persons may have deserted their original sponsor or employer and do not keep in touch with their family members since they have not yet obtained suitable alternative employment. As a result of the efforts made by the Embassy more such missing persons do agree to re-establish contact with their family members.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of persons particularly from the South Indian States go to Saudi Arabia through agents for jobs. A large number of persons among them are taken there on fake passports. A large number of women are included in it. Such women are physically exploited there. The police threaten them for possessing fake passports. They are kept inside the houses

like hostages and they are not allowed to go outside due to which they cannot even report to the police. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to inform us about the number of such unreported cases and also about the actions taken in regard to bring back those women to the country.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: So far as the number of such women in Saudi Arabia is concerned, as has been asked by the hon. Member, according to a rough estimate there are nearly ten thousand women there who work as maids in Saudi Arabia. I am not talking about such women in other countries, but the condition of these women living particularly in Saudi Arabia is good by and large we have not received any complaint from those women whose names are registered with the Government. The Government of Saudi Arabia has made arrangements in this regard. There is a Housemaid Welfare Centre in Saudi Arabia. Those women who are victims of atrocities can live there. At times, it is said that as to whether the Government of India is going to set up such a centre of its own. In this regard I would like to inform the House that we are going to create a welfare fund which will take care of these things.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question no. 225

Shri Ramjivan Singh Not present

Question no. 226

Shri Chandresh Patel Not present

Question no. 227

Yogi Aditya Nath Not present

Shri Brijlal Khabri Not present

Question no. 228

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi Not present

Question no. 229

Shri Ashok N. Mohol Not present

Shri V. Vetriselvan Not present

Question no. 230

Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar Not present

Shri Trilochan Kanungo Not present

Question no. 231

Shri Ajay Singh Chautala Not present.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, I take strong exception to this. All these are important questions and a majority of them relate to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, no hon. Member is present here to raise these questions. I think something fishy is there. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not in a position to accept your remarks.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 232, Shri Chandra Vijay Singh.

Polio Eradication

*232. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH:

SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

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

(a) the number of Polio cases detected in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the reasons for increase in the number of Polio Patients in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) whether any meeting of senior officers of Union Government and various State Governments has been held recently in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome of such meeting; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by the Government for total eradication of Polio from the country?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The number of polio cases detected in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise are given in the enclosed annexure.

(c) The reasons for increase in the number of polio cases in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, are as under:-

(1) 10 to 15% children are being missed in each round resulting in sustained transmission of Polio virus in the community.

(2) Poor coverage under routine immunization.

(d) and (e) The Government has taken due note of the polio situation in Uttar Pradesh. 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 & Family Welfare has also met Chief Minister, U.P. at Lucknow recently along with senior officers and held detailed discussions with her and the State's senior officers on polio situation. She promised to leave no stone unturned to ensure best possible implementation of the polio eradication programme in the State.

(f) 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 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.

Annexure*Polio Cases for 2000 to 2002*

(upto 29. 11.2002)

No.	Name of the State/UT	00	01	02
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4	Assam	0	1	0
5	Bihar	50	27	81
6	Chandigarh	1	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	-	0	0
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
10	Delhi	3	3	24
11	Goa	0	0	0
12	Gujarat	2	1	18
13	Haryana	4	5	12
14	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
15	Jammu & 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	11
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	0
27	Pondicherry	0	0	0
28	Punjab	0	5	0
29	Rajasthan	0	0	0
30	Sikkim			0

1	2	3	4	5
31	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
32	Tripura	0	0	0
33	Uttaranchal	-	3	11
34	Uttar Pradesh	179	216	947
35	West Bengal	8	1	33
Total		265	268	1163

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, as to how many cases have been detected particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh, regarding substandard polio vaccination administered to people. What action has he envisaged against the people responsible?

SHRI A. RAJA: We have not received any report in regard to administration of substandard drugs in the State of Uttar Pradesh. If there is any specific complaint that has been made to the Ministry, we can take action thereon.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Sir, in his answer, the hon. Minister says that local influencers, social and religious leaders are being involved for advocacy and for ensuring greater participation of the people in this programme. What particular steps has the hon. Minister taken to involve local influencers, social and religious leaders? The ground reality is that none of these people have been approached by any Government agency to help in this polio eradication programme of the Government. Will the Minister kindly tell me specifically as to who are the people targeted by the Government to interact with for advocacy of this programme?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme is a major programme launched by the Government of India. It is a matter of pride that a total of only 1,163 cases of polio are found in the country at present. Out of these, 947 cases are found in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, there is no doubt that it is a matter of serious concern and some sort of stress has to be given to Uttar Pradesh. As the hon. Member put it, I may say that it may be a dogma or guilt from the religious point of view, a section of people are thinking that taking the oral pulse polio drops is a form of sterilisation which prohibits them from having more children. Such a wrong notion, such a wrong belief, has been inculcated in the minds of a section of the people. So, they are having no option but to abstain.

Hon. Health Minister has many times interacted with the

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and we came to the conclusion that we cannot get a solution to this problem only through the Governmental mechanism. So, we solicited cooperation from religious leaders and NGOs in order to educate people, to dispel their misapprehensions, and to inculcate in their minds the feeling that there is nothing wrong with the pulse polio immunisation programme. We are on the right track. We already committed in the House as well as outside that before 2005, India will be a polio-free nation.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, the hon. Minister has answered the question on Uttar Pradesh. I would like to ask another question related to Uttar Pradesh which relates to the Ministry of Health. You are aware that in the last one month about sixty children died in Saharanpur due to some unknown disease. No medical detection of the disease has been possible. It is widely publicised in the papers.

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to that incident of death of many children at Saharanpur? What is the cause of these deaths? Has the Central Government sent a medical team there to identify and arrange for proper treatment?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, so far as this particular case is concerned, we have not received any specific complaint. But it is true that some of the allegations have been made to the Government from Uttar Pradesh and other States that after taking the oral polio vaccine, some children have died. Accordingly, we did a broad experiment, and the report says that pulse polio immunisation had nothing to do with these deaths. The cause of these deaths is due to some other reasons.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 233 - Shri Mohan Rawale.

SHRI MANSOOR ALI KHAN: Sir, I just spoke to the hon. Minister about the incident of these deaths in Saharanpur. ...*(Interruptions)* Even just now, I was discussing this matter with him.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 233 - Shri Mohan Rawale: Not present

Q. No. 234 - Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava: Not present

Shri Haribhai Chaudhary: Not present.

Q.No. 235 - Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, Shri Mohan Rawale has come. Please allow him to raise his Question No. 233.

MR. SPEAKER: He was not there when his Question was called. So, he has lost his opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

Setting up of Trauma Care Centre

*235. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide financial assistance to the Government Medical Colleges in various States for the setting up of Trauma Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount sanctioned for the purpose during the last three years till March 31, 2002. State-wise;

(d) the number of proposals for setting up of Trauma Centres pending with the Union Government for approval; and

(e) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be approved?

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

Statement

Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides financial assistance to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations under the Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways. Under the above Pilot Project, financial assistance is provided to the States/ Union Territories to the maximum of Rs. 1.50 crores or actual requirement, whichever is less, to augment the accident and emergency services, for:

- (i) Purchase of well-equipped Ambulance and basic essential equipments required for Accident and Trauma Services;
- (ii) Communication System;
- (iii) Infrastructure (Blood Bank, Examination Room, Resuscitation, ICU and Burn Bed, X-Ray Room, Reception, Control, Minor OT); and
- (iv) Beds and Equipments.

State-wise details of the amount sanctioned for the purpose during the last three years till March 31, 2002 is given in the enclosed Annexure.

Ten proposals are pending in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for which financial assistance will be released after following procedural formalities.

Annexure

The State-wise details of amount sanctioned to various States/UTs during the last three years till 31st March, 2002 under the Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways are as under:-

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Rs.59.00 lakhs for establishment of accident and emergency care service at Pasighat General Hospital, Arunachal Pradesh during the year 2000-01.
2. Rs.116.97 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Naharlagun during the year 2001-02.

Bihar

1. Rs.53.00 lakhs for modernizing and updating the Indira Gandhi Central Emergency Unit of Patna Medical College Hospital, Patna during the year 1999-2000.
2. Rs.150.00 lakhs to Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna for establishment of a Trauma Centre during the year 2001-02.
3. Rs.150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Model Bikram Referral Centre with Highway Trauma Centre at Patna during the year 2001-02.
4. Rs.62.71 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Services at Aunsi, District Madhubani during the year 2001-02.

Gujarat

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Nadiad, District Kheda during the year 2001-02

Haryana

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at General Hospital, Karnal during the year 1999-2000.

Jammu & Kashmir

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for development of emergency/trauma services on Srinagar - Leh National Highway at Margund, Kangan during the year 2001-02.

Kerala

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Ernakulam during the year 2001-02.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Rs.97.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Centre at Maharaja Yashwant Rao Hospital, Indore during the year 1999-2000.

Mizoram

1. Rs.58.30 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Civil Hospital, Lunglei, during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs.74.30 lakhs upgradation and strengthening of accident & emergency services at Civil Hospital, Aizawl during the year 2001-02.

Pondicherry

1. Rs.78.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Mahe during the year 2000-01.

Sikkim

1. Rs.70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency Care Unit at S.T.N.M. Hospital, Gangtok during the year 2000-01.

Tripura

1. Rs. 70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Tripura Sundari Hospital (South District), Udaipur during the year 2000-01.

Tamil Nadu

1. Rs. 105.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident & Emergency Services in the District Headquarters Hospital, Perambalur during the year 2001-02.

Uttar Pradesh

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at King George Medical College, Lucknow during the year 2000-01.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I am asking my Supplementary.

May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the amount of assistance going to be given by the Union Ministry to the main Government hospitals in each State for setting of Trauma Centres at their own level?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, as a matter of fact, Health is a State subject for which the Central Government is only assisting the State Governments to some extent.

We are having a pilot project for setting up of Trauma Centres of various classes by earmarking some pre-requisite conditions. For example, in case of a national highway we can classify that it is an accident-prone area.

So, with the recommendations of the State Governments we are having a pilot project about setting up of Trauma Centre there by spending Rs. 1.5 crore.

In Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Pondicherry, Sikkim, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, we have set up the Trauma Centres after getting the sanction from the concerned State Governments formally.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, many proposals sent by various State Governments regarding setting up of the Trauma Centres are pending with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. What is the reason for this indefinite delay to make it a reality, i.e., to setting up of Trauma Centre? What is the action going to be taken by the Government to speed up all these projects?

SHRI A. RAJA: As soon as we receive requisition either from the hon. Member of Parliament or from some other bodies or from some State Governments, we will set up a Committee. That Committee would go to the States to find out whether there is any essentiality to set up Trauma Care Centre or not; it will also go into the rates of accidents that had taken place during the last three years. After considering all these things, the State-level Committee will recommend the project. As soon as it comes to us, we will try to give funds periodically, subject to availability of funds. Suppose 100 proposals come to us in a year, we do not have such huge amounts. So, by ordering the proposals on priority, we are giving funds.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has approved the proposal for setting up Trauma Care Centre at the Medical College in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. May I also know the quantum of fund or aid intended to be sanctioned for that project?

SHRI A. RAJA: So far as Kerala is concerned, an amount of Rs.1.5 crore has been given for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at the General Hospital, Ernakulam. We have not received any such proposal to have that Centre at Medical College. If such a proposal comes from the State Government, we can consider it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the reply of the hon. Minister, this facility has been made available at four places in Bihar. All these places are located under the same parliamentary constituencies. I would like to know whether every Member of Parliament need to be a health Minister for selecting the places for this purpose? Through you, I would like to know as to whether the Government would consult the State Government or the concerned Member of Parliament for selecting the places. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: I do not think that there is any discrimination between one project and the other. I can say that it is up to the particular hon. Member to do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: They all are in Patna Parliamentary Constituency. As such, whether other Members of Parliament would be sitting idle. ...*(Interruptions)* When you will just be a member then you do it. ...*(Interruptions)* You are not giving attention to other places of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: With due respect to the hon. Member and to the House, I would like to say this. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, let me answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: At the outset, I can say that there is no wilful and wanton discrimination on the part of the Ministry. But at the same time, I cannot ignore the concern of the hon. Member. With all sincerity, I would say this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Sir, the hon. Minister should not mislead the House. Mahatma Gandhi said that merely telling the truth is not enough. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: With all sincerity, I would say that I cannot ignore the concern of the hon. Member. Suppose the hon. Member of Parliament is capable of and is able to get the proposal mooted out from the State Government, if it is passed by the Technical Committee and if the same is received by the Central Government, I have no option at all, but to sanction it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Listen to the reply of the hon. Minister

SHRI RAJO SINGH: The Hon. Minister should not mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have made your point.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that if he is able to get the permission from the State Government, I would be with him; let him not worry about it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government have given assistance to 13 states, but Maharashtra is not one of them. Maharashtra has a large number of medical colleges and hospitals. You are from Maharashtra and I am also from Maharashtra. Even then as per my information, the Central Government have not released funds to those states from where proposals have come. Through you, I would like to say that the hon. Minister is an actor but at the same time he is also the Health Minister. You are not a doctor, but while performing the role of a doctor in films you have gained experience. Maharashtra has been your work place.

MR. SPEAKER: You should ask the question. The time is limited.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Sir, I would like to ask as to whether the Government would release funds to those States which have not received any financial assistance.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: So far as trauma center is concerned, we have not received any proposal from Maharashtra. But

that does not mean that we have not given anything to the State. We have already given funds for strengthening the primary health centers and district level hospitals under some other head.

Joint Venture of SCI-Dabhol Project

* 236. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) is planning to exit from joint venture with Enron's Dabhol Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the SCI is participating in equity in transportation of LNG to Enron's Dabhol Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith its present status;

(e) whether two Multinational Companies propose to purchase the stake of SCI in the above LNG transport business;

(f) if so, the details together with the present status of this proposal; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) is not a share holder in Enron's Dabhol project.

(c) and (d) SCI is involved in the joint venture company named M/s Greenfield Holding Company Ltd. (GHCL) for transportation of LNG to Dabhol Power Company. At present, SCI holds 20% equity stake in the joint venture company formed for construction, operation and ownership of one LNG tanker. The joint venture company GHCL had executed a Time Charter Agreement on 18.01.1999 with Dabhol Power Company for a period of 20 years to transport 2 Million Metric Tones Per Annum of LNG from Oman LNG, Oman and Abu Dhabi Gas, UAE. This joint venture company originally had Mitsui OSK Lines (75% Share) and Atlantic Commercial Finance Inc. (ACFI, a subsidiary of Enron) (25% shares) as shareholders.

SCI joined the project on 20.01.2000 with an equity stake of 20% by buying out 5% share from ACFI and 15% shares from MOL. The current equity in the project is: Government of Sultanate of Oman (GOSO) & Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL) holding 40% each and SCI retains 20%.

(e) to (g) No, Sir. The proposal for purchase of 20% stake of SCI in the transportation joint venture has been made only by Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd. The SCI Board at its meeting held on 25.10.2002 has decided to recommend the proposal to the Government for its consideration. The proposal has been initiated.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask only one thing, that is, the details of the proposal of selling 20 per cent shares and whether the Central Government are likely to get any profit from the Shipping Corporation and at what rate the share was bought and at what rate it is proposed to be sold.

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: Sir, the manner in which the transportation of oil is increasing, I hope whatever agreement we have made 20 per cent stake is concerning the joint venture of the shipping corporation.

[English]

They will get share of the profit. As you know, freight prices keep on fluctuating in the world. In the business world nobody can say, 'yes, it will happen'. When the proceeds of profit come, we will definitely share it.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, we have been able to take up 15 Questions out of the listed 20 Questions. I must thank the hon. Members for having cooperated with the Chair!

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Privatisation of Health System

*225. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the Government run health care system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the privatisation of the Government run health care system is likely to affect the poor sections of society particularly those living in the rural areas; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. Health is a State subject. Therefore, States are free to decide on privatisation of their health care system. The National Health Policy, 2002, welcomes the participation of the private sector in all areas of health activities with suitable regulatory mechanism. This policy has taken into consideration various relevant factors including, inter-alia health care financing, equity, public health infrastructure, etc. which would have an impact on making available and improving the quality of health care services in the country. The Central Government will continue to play an important role in designing national health programmes with the active participation of the State Governments.

[Translation]

Ban on the Use of Intoxicants

*226. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several studies made in India and other countries have revealed that use of wine, marijuana and other intoxicants cause several diseases including cancer, tuberculosis etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact a law to ban the use of these intoxicants; and

(d) if so, by when the ban would be imposed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) No nation wide survey has been conducted regarding the use of wine, marijuana and other intoxicants. However, it is now fairly well established through several studies conducted in India and elsewhere that the use of several substances of abuse including alcoholic beverages, tobacco and tobacco products and opioid substances with a high risk of causing addiction and dependence causes physical, psychological, social and economic problems to the individual, family and society.

Alcohol use is often associated with development of liver, cardiac and neurological diseases and use of illicit substances including injectable drug use is associated with development of Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases. Other diseases may afflict a person due to ill health or increased vulnerability caused by alcohol, marijuana and other intoxicants (Heroin, Opium and related substances) use/abuse.

(c) and (d) From legal perspective, the substances of abuse like alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs are dealt under separate Act/Regulations by Central and State Governments.

Control over alcohol (alcohol production and sales) is primarily a State subject. Various states have attempted prohibition at various times with varying results.

Regarding illicit substances (Opium, Heroin, Marijuana and psychotropic drugs), there is a specific Act namely, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 (revised, in 1989) administered by Department of Revenue, Government of India. This deals with the control and treatment and rehabilitation related issues. Production, cultivation, distribution and transport of narcotic substances are strictly regulated under the provisions of this Act and there are legal provisions for enforcement/punishment.

As regards tobacco, a Comprehensive Bill to discourage the use of tobacco products including Gutka has been introduced in the Parliament.

Quality of Ayurvedic Medicines

*227. YOGI ADITYA NATH:

SHRI BRIJ LAL KHABRI:

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

(a) the reasons for not making provisions for displaying the expiry date on Ayurvedic medicines;

(b) whether it has resulted in deterioration in the quality of these medicines;

(c) whether any arrangements for obtaining patents of Ayurvedic medicines is being made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) There is no provision in the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules for indicating expiry date of Ayurvedic products on the labels. However, expiry date of certain groups of products has been indicated in the Ayurvedic Formulary of India.

Medicines kept beyond these prescribed periods are likely to deteriorate.

Patents are obtained by the inventors who develop the product under Patent Laws. However, Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy is establishing a

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library of about 35,000 Ayurvedic formulations which will help in preventing patent claims on such formulations by others.

[English]

European Union Perception on South Asia

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

(a) whether the European Union had differed from India publicly on the issues of Kashmir, dialogue in South Asia and Cross Border Terrorism as reported in the 'Hindu' dated October 11, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India is aware of the report in the "Hindu" dated 11th October 2002 on the India-EU Summit. The EU has been fully sensitized to our position on these issues. The Presidency's statement issued on 11.10.2002 appreciated the successful holding of elections in J&K. On South Asia it stated European Union's readiness to work with India and Pakistan to diffuse the continuing crisis between India and Pakistan and to encourage efforts to settle their differences through bilateral dialogue. Government of India was fully satisfied with the results of the 3rd India-EU Summit.

Customer Services

*229. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no improvement in customer services after corporatisation of the Telecommunications Department;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to BSNL and MTNL to improve customer services;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there has been an increase in the

number of cases about customer services in consumer courts; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this increasing trend of customers' complaints?

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

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Directions are issued to BSNL & MTNL by DOT and TRAI from time to time to improve the customer services in the changing scenario.

(e) and (f) Every effort is made to improve the customer services. Due to large number of consumer courts, the number of cases increase or decrease depending on the specific area. However, in case of MTNL there has been a decline in consumer court cases.

Malnutrition Among Children

*230. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO:

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

(a) whether M.S. Swaminathan Foundation (MSSF) and World Food Programme (W.F.P.) has brought out, recently an Atlas titled 'Food Insecurity Atlas of Urban India' mentioning therein that a large number of children in Indian cities suffer from extreme malnutrition;

(b) the names of States where incidence of malnutrition of expectant mothers/children is very high;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for such a situation;

(d) the efforts being made to meet the situation; and

(e) the funds released for the purpose, during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (e) As per publication of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and World Food Programme, which is primarily based on the report by National Family Health Survey 1998-99, in the country as a whole only

11.6% of the children less than 3 years old are severely under-weight

The States where incidence of malnutrition is high are Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar. The main factors that are responsible for severe malnutrition are combination of several factors such as inadequate food, poor socio-economic status leading to low purchasing power, high rate of population growth and low access of population to health services, non-availability of safe drinking water, female illiteracy etc.

Malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem. In this regard, the Government have, inter alia, taken various steps to improve agriculture production and the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes. It also makes available the essential food items at subsidized rates through Public Distribution System. The Government is also implementing a number of schemes like Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meal Scheme), Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana etc. for this purpose. The funds released therein during the last three years are indicated below:

1. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

Year	Amount released (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	880.97
2000-2001	1046.53
2001-2002	1223.65

2. National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day Meal Scheme)

The funds released to Food Corporation of India (FCI) towards the cost of foodgrains is supplied free of cost under this Programme. The details of expenditure are given below:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	1500.00
2000-2001	1300.00
2001-2002	1030.27

3. Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)

Funds released during 2000-01 Rs.375 crores

Funds released during 2001-02 Rs.443.76 crores

The efforts are also being supplemented through supply of foodgrains to needy States by World Food Programme (WFP), Cooperative for Assistance & Relief Everywhere (CARE) etc.

[Translation]

Eradication of Hepatitis-B

*231. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to launch an immunisation programme to eradicate Hepatitis-B disease:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) if not, the reasons therefor:

(d) the number of patients suffering from Hepatitis-B in the country as on November 30, 2002, State-wise; and

(e) the details of assistance proposed to be provided by the Government to the States in order to eradicate the said disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (e) The Government of India has launched a pilot project for introduction of Hepatitis B vaccination in the Universal Immunization Programme. Since this is a pilot activity, the programme will initially be limited to slums of 15 metropolitan cities during 2002-03 (phase I) and 32 districts in 2003-04 (phase II). The names of the cities and districts are indicated in enclosed statement-I. The expansion of the programme to additional areas of the country will be considered subsequently. Vaccine and AD syringes are being provided to the States in kind. Training has been imparted to health care personnel of the concerned States as Master Trainers who would further train other functionaries of the States with the financial and technical assistance provided by the Government of India.

As regard patients suffering from Hepatitis B in the

country, as per the Indian Council of Medical Research, the entire country is rated to come under the intermediate zone of Hepatitis B virus prevalence ranging between 2-7 per cent. The number of reported cases and deaths during 1999, 2000 and 2001 State-wise for viral Hepatitis, which includes Hepatitis A, B and C, are indicated in enclosed statement-II. No such information is available separately in Hepatitis B cases and deaths.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Name of Cities
1	Greater Mumbai
2	Kolkata
3	Chennai
4	Delhi
5	Hyderabad
6	Bangalore
7	Ahmedabad
8	Kanpur
9	Pune
10	Lucknow
11	Vadodara
12	Jaipur
13	Indore
14	Patna
15	Bhopal

Sl.No.	State	Name of Districts
1	2	3
1	Tamil Nadu	1 Madurai
		2 Nilgiri
		3 Virudhnagar
		4 Ramanathapuram
2	Kerala	5 Alapuzzha

1	2	3
		6 Ernakulam
		7 Pathamithan
3	Karnataka	8 Kodagu (Kurg)
		9 Shimoga
		10 Mysore
4	Andhra Pradesh	11 Chittoor
		12 Vijzayanagar
5	Goa	13 Goa
6	Maharashtra	14 Ratngiri
		15 Chandrapur
		16 Satara
7	Madhya Pradesh	17 Balaghat
8	Orissa	18 Sundergarh
9	Punjab	19 Ropar
		20 Hoshiarpur
10	Haryana	21 Panchkula
		22 Ambala
11	Himachal Pradesh	23 Hamirpur
		24 Solan
12	Uttaranchal	25 Nainital
13	Pondicherry	26 Pondicherry
14	Lakshadweep	27 Lakshadweep
15	Assam	28 Jorhat
		29 Sibsagar
16	Jammu and Kashmir	30 Rajouri
		31 Udhampur
17	Gujarat	32 Surat

Statement-II

Reported Cases and Deaths due to Hepatitis-B

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	36925	113	27595	114	24530	38
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	NR
3	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	NR
4	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	NR
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	NR
6	Goa	151	0	229	0	124	0
7	Gujarat	2676	9	3982	30	3462	19
8	Haryana	1733	14	1086	6	2731	10
9	Himachal Pradesh	1843	2	1464	1	1275	0
10	Jammu & Kashmir	6956	2	6171	0	4226	0
11	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	NR
12	Karnataka	9150	69	24571	91	17689	140
13	Kerala	7197	4	5521	8	3997	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	3928	44	6620	11	3267	10
15	Maharashtra	29221	297	40962	244	39911	234
16	Manipur	690	3	728	7	1558	0
17	Meghalaya	374	5	301	1	500	8
18	Mizoram	598	6	943	2	1183	11
19	Nagaland	36	0	408	0	144	0
20	Orissa	10338	146	14011	107	7334	38
21	Punjab	2347	6	1796	1	4881	19
22	Rajasthan	2559	48	1601	39	2955	89
23	Sikkim	511	2	594	5	409	1
24	Tamil Nadu	2109	28	1740	4	1632	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25	Tripura	122	0	113	8	1784	9
26	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	-	NR
27	Uttar Pradesh	2120	45	988	24	1885	14
28	West Bengal	5867	351	5831	157	6303	265
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	247	3	252	8	536	2
30	Chandigarh	234	6	219	3	310	8
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	0	-	-	-	NR
32	Daman & Diu	37	0	41	0	6	0
33	Delhi	2929	97	4077	162	3159	84
34	Lakshadweep	319	1	258	0	71	1
35	Pondicherry	578	21	932	5	654	9
Total		131798	1322	153034	1038	136516	1014

Break up is not available

NR Not reported

[English]

Vitamin-A Administration

*233. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No.1600 dated November 28, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the High Level Committee of Experts constituted to go into various programmatic and technical aspects relating to Vitamin-A Administration has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) The Committee of Experts has submitted the report. Its salient findings/ recommendations are as under:-

(i) The magnitude of Vitamin A deficiency has declined significantly, although it exists as a public health problem in some areas.

(ii) The Committee has endorsed the current policy of Vitamin A supplementation to children between 9-36 months of age at 6 monthly intervals, for the next five years. The policy should be reviewed thereafter.

(iii) The Committee has recommended the discontinuation of the campaign mode for administration of Vitamin A.

(iv) The Committee has made some technical recommendations on issues like spoon size for administering Vitamin A solution, use of Vitamin A during pregnancy and lactation; involvement of NGOs for community mobilization and increasing outreach; sensitization of district administration and media etc.

(v) The Committee has recommended "special efforts" to improve coverage with the entire package of reproductive and child health services, at periodic intervals, in districts/regions where programme performance is sub-optimal.

(vi) Regarding the incidents of child deaths in Assam allegedly caused by Vitamin A administration, the Committee, while noting that replacement of 2 ml spoon by 5 ml cups during the campaign might have led to overdosing in some cases, observed that the available evidence suggested

that majority of the children who died during and after the Vitamin A campaign, had other pre-existing illnesses of sufficient severity. The Committee further observed that the world-wide experience showed that Vitamin A administered in accordance with the WHO guidelines was not associated with risk of death.

The findings/recommendations of the Committee have been shared with the States/UTs. The Government of India has already advised all States to refrain from launching campaigns not only for Vitamin A but also for other individual interventions since campaigns have a tendency to divert the attention of the entire system from regular essential services. Other recommendations of the Committee will be implemented taking into consideration the existing constraints and resource requirements.

Delay at Ports

*234. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of grains exported through Indian ports during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been delay at ports in export of grains;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be adopted at Indian ports for the efficient handling of foodgrains meant for exports; and

(d) the machinery proposed to monitor the exports of foodgrains in time from Indian ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) to (d) The quantity of grains exported through various Major Ports during the last two years is as under:

(In 000 Tonnes)

Name of Port	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3
Kandla	1176	2567
Visakhapatnam	200	773
Tuticorin	132	331

1	2	3
Mumbai	177	111
Cochin	12	11
Kolkata	-	0.5
Total	1697	3793.5

Steps adopted for efficient handling of foodgrains include procurement of modernised handling facilities for handling grains export, providing priority berthing to grain vessels, making available night navigation facilities, construction of godowns/covered warehouses, etc. The performance of foodgrains vessels is monitored in the ports through proper planning to enhance the efficiency levels to promote exports in grains.

The efficiency of handling cargo including foodgrains have improved which is reflected in the following indicators:

Year	Pre-berthing detention to Ships on Port Account	Average Turn 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

There has been improvement in handling of foodgrains at Kandla, where most of the foodgrains are handled, as is indicated from figures given below:

S.No.	Year	Average Pre-berthing Detention on Port Account (in days)			
		Rice		Wheat	
		No. of Vessels	Average waiting time	No. of Vessels	Average waiting time
1.	2000-01	71	1.79	22	3.07
2.	2001-02	129	1.65	47	1.63
3.	2002-2003 (Upto Oct. 2002)	159	0.98	43	1.05

The steps taken/being taken which will further improve handling of foodgrains at Kandla are as follows:

(i) Night navigation has been re-started since 7.11.2001.

(ii) No vessel carrying polluting cargo such as sulphur, coal, etc. is being berthed near the berths where foodgrains are handled.

(iii) Berthing policy has been linked with productivity providing priority berthing to vessels which can achieve higher output.

(iv) Warehousing facilities are being created through private participation.

(v) In order to meet the requirement due to sudden spurt in the rice vessels and in consultation with the trade, one berth from import group has been shifted to export group.

It is the continued endeavour of the Government to provide necessary facilities to facilitate handling of foodgrains at Major Ports.

[Translation]

Telephone Services in Rural Areas

*237. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA:

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

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

(a) whether the telephone tariff and security deposit in the rural areas are now at par with those in the urban areas due to recent hike in tariffs;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to review and reverse the hike;

(c) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the telephone services in the rural areas?;

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. Telephone tariff, viz. Registration, Rental, Unit call charges, Local call charges and Security Deposit are all lower in rural areas as compared with the tariff applicable in urban areas.

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

(e) Telecom Services in rural areas are being maintained satisfactorily. However, there are certain areas where due to inadequate infrastructure, law & order problems, erratic power supply etc., some difficulties are observed. Following steps have been taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to further improve telecommunication services in rural areas:

(i) Introduction of modern technologies like Wireless in Local Loop, CDOT/PMP and satellite communication in rural areas.

(ii) All rural telephone exchanges have been converted to electronic exchanges.

(iii) For better STD services, reliable transmission media is being provided.

(iv) Regular testing of VPTs (Village Public Telephones) from telephone exchanges and the formation of core groups in each SSA (Secondary Switching Area) for prompt restoration of VPTs.

(v) Replacement in phased manner of instruments having completed their expiry period.

(vi) Provision of generator sets to take care of long duration power breakdowns.

[English]

Fake Passports

*238. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of fake passports by Indians posing problems to the authorities in Europe and America has been on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints from some countries in this regard; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Complaints received relate only to persons found without travel documents.

(d) In cases where touts or recruitment agents are found to be involved in illegal immigration rackets, the respective state governments are asked to take immediate action against these touts/agents. The affected persons are also advised to file FIRs against the touts/agents.

Fake Degrees

*239. SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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 "Become a 'doctor' for just Rs. 7,000" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 19, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of non registered "cure well medical centres" in Delhi and other States as on date;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the same;

(e) whether doctors possessing RMP/degree/diploma are more than the qualified doctors in the country; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that only qualified doctors attend to patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Health Insurance Scheme for All

*240. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Health Insurance Scheme to All in view of the high cost of medical services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a number of medical insurance policies are available in the country from the insurance companies on payment of premium ranging from Rs.201/- to Rs.16185/- per person per annum.

Activities of Cultural Centres

*241. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the activities carried out by cultural centres set up in foreign countries during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the total amount of expenditure incurred on pay, allowances, facilities and activities of these centres during the said period; and

(c) the total number of staff in these centres till March, 2002, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The primary objective of the Cultural Centres set up in foreign countries is to promote a greater awareness of India's composite cultural heritage abroad. These Centres are engaged in a wide range of activities that showcase and promote Indian culture and traditions. These activities include organisation of classes in performing arts and yoga, dance and music, concerts, lectures, seminars and film shows among others. Activities in brief carried out by each Centre during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given in the enclosed statement-I.

Rupees 12.67 crores and Rupees 12.62 crores were incurred by the Centres on pay and allowances, facilities and activities during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. Details thereof are given in the enclosed statement-II and III.

As of March 2002, 30 India-based and 74 local staff were working in the Cultural Centres. Country-wise details thereof are given in the enclosed statement-IV.

Statement-I

Activities in brief of the Indian Cultural Centers abroad during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

Indian Cultural Centre, Georgetown, Guyana: Regular classes in Kathak, Tabla and Yoga were conducted. Sanskrit classes were also held. Besides this, the Centre formed a local cultural group which has been promoting Indian culture

in different places in Guyana and the neighbouring countries. A noteworthy feature was the Yoga classes conducted in Georgetown prison. Special programmes were produced for the local Television Channel. Books and musical instruments were presented to schools, temples and other institutions.

Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname: Regular classes in Kathak, Hindustani Vocal, Tabla, Yoga and Hindi were conducted. The Centre has also started short term courses in various additional disciplines such as Information Technology and Fashion Designing. Cultural programmes in a number of cities in Suriname were also organised.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago: Regular classes in Kathak, Hindustani Vocal, Tabla and Hindi were conducted. Cultural programmes organised by the Centre were telecast live on the Television and Radio. The Centre has also started language classes in Temples and Schools. The concept of "Guru-Shishya Parampara" was inculcated among the students. A number of lectures on subjects of contemporary relevance were also organised.

Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia: Regular classes in Kathak, Tabla, Yoga and Hindi were conducted. A Cultural Group has been formed with the help of Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre's teachers, students and local artistes to perform out side Jakarta. Programmes by this group have been organised at Bali, Medan and other cities successfully on many occasions. The Centre presented a joint production alongwith local artistes called 'Sangam' based on a well known episode from Mahabharata which reflects the different styles of Indonesian and Indian dance forms.

Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Port Louis, Mauritius: The Centre organised regular activities to promote Indian culture in the form of cultural programmes by local talents, teachers and students of the centre and artistes from India. The Centre offered its premises for the activities of a number of Indo-Mauritian cultural organisations. The Centre has been conducting one year certificate, two years diploma and two years advanced diploma courses in three disciplines of Kathak, Carnatic Vocal Music and Tabla. All these courses have well established syllabus and examination schemes. Successful candidates are awarded certificates and diplomas on the basis of their performance. Presently, around 750 students are studying in these courses,

Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia: Five Centres for promoting the activities of Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre were established at Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Ufa, Vladivostok and Yakutia with the help of local authorities. The

Centre supported five Chairs at different Institutes of the Russian Federation, which made valuable policy inputs on foreign relations and other issues. The Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow has also formed cultural groups with the help of teachers and students. These groups have been presenting cultural programmes not only in Moscow but other cities as well. A Hindi-Russian dictionary and a Hindi-Russian conversation guide have been developed by the Centre to assist scholars in their work.

Indian Cultural Centre, Almaty, Kazakhstan: The Centre has organised collaborative programmes with 30 local institutions including museums, universities, institutes, schools, local Government agencies, writers union and other institutions of cultural and educational importance. The Centre also organised a series of lectures on Indian and contemporary Indian history and other subjects at Al-Frabi University, Kainar University, Abai University, Academy of Sciences and Institute of Oriental Studies. In collaboration with local universities it has also set up small units of India Study Centres imparting training in Indian performing arts and languages. The establishment of these Study Centres have been extremely successful.

Indian Cultural Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Regular classes in Kathak and Tabla were conducted. The Centre closely interacted with all institutions and organised joint cultural programmes, seminars and symposia besides conducting its own dance and yoga classes. The Centre has reactivated the Indo-Uzbek friendship society and organised refresher courses for Hindi teachers and intensive short-term courses in Hindi and Indian Studies. All cultural events are given wide coverage both in print and electronic media in Uzbekistan.

Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka: Regular classes were held in eight disciplines including Hindi, Yoga, Bharatanatyam, Hindustani and Carnatic Vocal Music, Violin, Sitar and Tabla. These classes were immensely popular among all age groups. As many as 600 students were enrolled. A large number of cultural performances by local artistes and those from India were organised by the Centre. Indian documentaries were telecast on local Television Channels. The Centre's library of 5000 books, video cassettes, CD Roms and audio-video CDs were used extensively by the scholars for their research work.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Cairo, Egypt: Regular classes in Yoga, Hindi and Urdu were conducted. Annual Glimpses of India Art Competition were organised by the Centre for Egyptian children. Cultural Weeks, Indian Days and cultural events were organised with local

talent and visiting artistes Indian films were regularly screened in "film weeks". Hindi programmes were also relayed on Cairo Radio. A number of lectures on subjects of contemporary relevance were also organised.

The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany: Regular classes in Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Violin, Yoga and Hindi were conducted. A large number of cultural performances by local artistes and those from India were organised. It also promoted exchange of views through seminars and talks on a wide range of subjects. A Book Fair with India as focus country was also organised.

Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa: The Centre has developed firm relations with the local Indian community and has targeted certain Black townships with the aim of strengthening relations with the majority community in South Africa. Centre has organised several cultural programmes in certain townships of Johannesburg and other parts of South Africa which has received overwhelming response. Since its inception, the Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg has been popularising Indian culture by means

of live cultural performances and exhibitions. Classes in Kathak Dance and Indian Instrumental Music and Yoga were conducted.

Indian Cultural Centre, Durban, South Africa: Classes in dance and music were conducted regularly at the Centre. The Centre presented 1050 books in Hindi, Urdu and English to organisations, schools and colleges. A large number of cultural performances by local artistes and those from India were organised by the Centre. The Centre has been promoting exchange of views through seminars and talks on a wide range of subjects.

The Nehru Centre, London, United Kingdom: 311 programmes were organised during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 which included book launches, lectures, panel discussions, seminars, workshops, exhibition of paintings, photographs, crafts and skills, multimedia and sculpture, screening of films, music and dance programmes. The Centre had provided its art gallery and auditorium to local organisations interested in promoting Indian culture.

Statement-II

Total expenditure incurred on Pay, Allowances, Facilities and Activities of the Centres during 2000-2001

Name of the Centre	Pay and Allowances	Facilities (Establishment Charges, medical, air fares etc.)	Activities	Total Expenditure on the Centre
1	2	3	4	5
Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia	87,41,369	65,81,332	15,38,299	1,68,61,000
Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Cairo, Egypt	43,52,129	50,34,084	11,97,787	1,05,84,000
Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Port Louis, Mauritius	52,89,816	43,32,436	10,37,748	1,06,60,000
Indian Cultural Centre, Georgetown, Guyana	35,48,217	48,48,035	5,26,748	89,23,000
Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname	49,40,528	33,90,742	2,12,730	85,44,000
Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia	43,10,823	48,11,892	1,36,285	92,59,000

1	2	3	4	5
Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	57,18,647	61,24,715	1,06,638	1,19,50,000
The Nehru Centre, London, United Kingdom	58,06,022	23,70,286	32,21,692	1,13,98,000
The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany	69,98,423	59,82,091	3,90,486	1,33,71,000
Indian Cultural Centre, Almaty, Kazakhstan	26,27,574	22,74,627	4,20,799	53,23,000
Indian Cultural Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan	53,48,529	23,56,160	1,79,311	78,84,000
Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa	7,74,620	10,89,479	21,12,901	39,77,000
Indian Cultural Centre, Durban, South Africa	1,18,148	22,75,013	9,87,841	33,81,000
Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka	3,59,302	38,55,029	4,11,669	46,26,000
Grand Total	5,89,34,145	5,63,25,921	1,24,80,934	12,67,41,000

Statement-III

Total expenditure incurred on Pay, Allowances, Facilities and Activities of the Centres during 2001-2002

Name of the Centre	Pay and Allowances	Facilities (Establishment Charges, medical, air fares etc.)	Activities	Total Expenditure on the Centre
1	2	3	4	5
Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia	77,50,318	73,64,583	23,10,375	1,74,25,276
Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Cairo, Egypt	40,67,929	42,10,615	7,03,175	89,81,719
Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Port Louis, Mauritius	55,48,316	42,23,932	10,48,248	1,08,20,496
Indian Cultural Centre, Georgetown, Guyana	36,59,313	55,32,816	5,29,070	97,21,199
Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname	45,80,822	30,79,335	2,97,517	79,57,674

1	2	3	4	5
Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia	3,401,067	3,824,449	161,066	7,386,582
Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	69,75,834	42,71,970	1,74,349	1,14,22,153
The Nehru Centre, London, United Kingdom	62,99,287	51,98,012	38,93,190	1,53,90,489
The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany	72,23,410	31,79,422	4,94,021	1,08,96,853
Indian Cultural Centre, Almaty, Kazakhstan	31,14,157	27,19,850	5,72,764	63,06,771
Indian Cultural Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan	37,35,021	21,04,763	2,54,488	60,94,272
Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa	8,04,511	9,00,340	22,73,219	39,78,070
Indian Cultural Centre, Durban, South Africa	10,52,013	19,06,782	19,13,212	48,72,007
Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka	3,41,540	41,89,655	4,38,535	49,69,730
Grand Total	5,84,53,538	5,27,06,524	1,50,63,229	12,62,23,291

Statement-IV

The number of staff working in each Cultural Centre as of March 2002

Name of the Centre	Staff Strength
1	2
Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia	India-based Staff - 4 Local Staff - 6
Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Cairo, Egypt	India-based Staff - 2 Local Staff - 4
Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, Port Louis, Mauritius	India-based Staff - 5 Local Staff - 5
Indian Cultural Centre, Georgetown, Guyana	India-based Staff - 3 Local Staff - 7
Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname	India-based Staff - 2 Local Staff - 9

1	2
Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre, Jakarta, Indonesia	India-based Staff - 4 Local Staff - 7
Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago	India-based Staff - 4 Local Staff - 5
The Nehru Centre, London, United Kingdom	India-based Staff - 2 Local Staff - 4
The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany	India-based Staff - 1 Local Staff - 5
Indian Cultural Centre, Almaty, Kazakhstan	India-based Staff - 1 Local Staff - 5
Indian Cultural Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan:	India-based Staff - 2 Local Staff - 5
Indian Cultural Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa	India-based Acting Director borne on MEA strength Local Staff - 3
Indian Cultural Centre, Durban, South Africa	India-based Acting Director borne on MEA strength Local Staff - 4
Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka	India-based Acting Director borne on MEA strength Local Staff - 5

Allocation of Funds to Madhya Pradesh

2443. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Madhya Pradesh Government by the Central Government to undertake development of roads in the State alongwith the details of the dates on which the funds were allocated;

(b) the percentage of said funds utilised by the Madhya Pradesh Government till the end of September, 2002; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the remaining unutilised funds from Madhya Pradesh Government are spent to undertake the road development work in view of the poor condition of roads ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The details of funds allocated to Madhya Pradesh Government by the Central Government for development of National Highways and expenditure and percentage of funds utilized till September, 2002 are as under:-

Year	Head	Allocation (Rs. in crs.)	Date of Release	Expenditure (Rs. in crs.) (upto September, 2002)	%age utilized
2002-	NH (Original)	20.00	9.4.2002		
2003		60.00	24.5.2002		
	Total	80.00		29.50	37%
	Maintenance	8.86	31.5.2002		
	and Repairs	8.87	20.9.2002		
	(M&R)	28.15	23.9.2002		
	Total	45.88		10.00	22%

Further, details of fund allocated and released to Madhya Pradesh Govt. by the Central Govt. for development of State

roads under Central Road Fund and expenditure, upto September, 2002 are as under:-

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Amount Released (*) (Rs. in Crore)	Date of Release	Expenditure Cumulative (Rs. in Crores)	%age utilized	
					Allocation	Released
2000-01	62.51	20.84	21.11.2000			
2001-02	61.91	9.14	31.3.2002			
2002-03	66.59	20.84	3.5.2002			
		22.33	2.8.2002			
Total	191.01	73.15		65.33 (upto September, 2002)	34%	89%

(* based on Utilization Certificates submitted by the State)

(c) Matter has been taken up with the State Government for expediting utilisation of funds.

Postal Services in Jharkhand

2444. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received regarding poor postal services in Jharkhand during the last two years alongwith the nature of complaints;

(b) whether the negligence of officers and employees has been noticed while investigating the complaints; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against those negligent officers and employees and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Number of complaints about poor postal services received in Jharkhand during the last two years are as under:-

Year	No. of complaints received
2000-2001	1612
2001-2002	1721

The complaints were mainly about delay in delivery of mails, payment of money orders, non-receipt of payee's

acknowledgements, Savings Bank/Cash Certificate Schemes and Speed Post articles.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 38 officials/officers were punished as per CCS (CCA) Rules 1965 and CCS (Conduct) Rules 1964, they were awarded with the punishments of Censure, stoppage of increments, recovery of monetary loss, removal from service and transfer of staff.

Diplomatic Status to Official Advisor

2445. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether America has rejected the request made by India to provide diplomatic status to the official advisor of Indian Embassy based in Washington;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as expressed by America; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The United States Government have stated that they have prescribed general criteria for grant of diplomatic status and that the request made by the Government of India to provide such status to Shri B. K. Agnihotri, Advisor to the Embassy of India, Washington, does not fall within the framework of these criteria.

(c) The decision of the Government of India regarding the appointment of Shri B.K. Agnihotri has been

taken in recognition of the importance of the Indian community overseas and in consonance with the need to maintain close interface with this community, recognizing their salience, in the context of the promotion of India's global interests. The Government of India continues to recognize Shri Agnihotri, who is based in New York, as Ambassador-at-Large for Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin.

Financial Assistance to J&K for Emergency Facilities

2446. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided funds to Jammu and Kashmir for upgrading facilities and providing emergency facilities in the Government hospitals during the last three years;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to provide more funds to Jammu and Kashmir for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rs.1.50 crores has been sanctioned to Government of Jammu & Kashmir during the year 2001-02 for development of emergency/trauma services on Srinagar-Leh National Highway at Margund, Kangan under the Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways.

(c) to (e) Release of more funds to Government of Jammu & Kashmir under the above Pilot Project depends upon the proposals received from State Government as per guidelines of the Project and availability of funds.

[English]

Corruption in Kendriya Bhandar

2447. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government and the Kendriya Bhandar regarding corruption, dishonesty and having property disproportionate to the known sources of income by employees of the Kendriya Bhandar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether some of those employees have been charged with the habit of creating shortages of stocks;

(e) if so, the details thereof giving the amount of shortages due from them in the last three years;

(f) whether the entire amount has been recovered from them with market rate of interest; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, 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): The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Training Camps

2448. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sports Authority of India has organized sports training camps in States;

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

(c) the number and details of such training camps organized in the country during the last three years;

(d) the total expenditure incurred by Union Government in organizing these camps, State-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHA-KIRISHNAN): (a) National Coaching Camps are organized by the Sports Authority of India for preparation of National Teams in order to prepare them for various international

competitions preferably at SAI's centres at Patiala, Bangalore, Kolkata, Gandhinagar, Chandigarh and Shillaroo.

(b) to (e) Details of expenditure incurred on National Coaching Camps organized since 1999 are furnished below:

i)	1999-2000	Rs. 3,31,55,245.87
ii)	2000-2001	Rs. 3,68,66,658.60
iii)	2001-2002	Rs. 4,07,78,103.00
iv)	2002-2003	Rs. 2,32,97,053.00 (till September, 2002)

Unions in BSNL

2449. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for its recognition and details of the unions recognized in BSNL;

(b) whether there is any proposal to recognize more unions in BSNL; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) A union which gets majority votes subject to a minimum of 15% votes in the membership verification (election), is entitled for recognition at All India/Circle/Secondary Switching Area (SSA) levels. In addition a union which gets 50% or more votes at the circle level has the right to deal with the matters of purely local interest at circle/SSA level.

In the membership verification (elections) held on 25.09.2002 through secret ballot, the National Federation of Telecom Employees BSNL has emerged as the majority union which has been duly recognized as such. In addition, the BSNL Employees Union who have got 50% or more votes in nine circles, has been given the right to deal with the matters of purely local interest in these circles at Circle/SSA level. However, the case regarding recognition of Unions in BSNL is presently sub-judice.

(b) No, Sir. However, the case is presently sub-judice.

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

Upgradation of Sports Authority of India Centre of Alleppey

2450. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to upgrade the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centre of Alleppey in Kerala as Centre of Excellence for water sports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The SAI Special Area Games Centre at Alleppey caters to the needs of training of talented youngsters and elite sports persons on systematic and scientific lines in various Water Sports disciplines such as Canoeing, Kayaking & Rowing. The scheme of Centre of Excellence as of now is operated from Regional Centres/Sub-Centres of SAI where all modern facilities for particular sports in which the Centre is to be run are available alongwith the scientific back up. The SAI Centre at Alleppy is under the SAG Scheme, which is opened with a view to scout and nurture talent for modern competitive games and sports from tribal, rural and coastal areas of the country.

The Centre is upgraded from time to time with reference to the procurement of boats/training equipment etc. A new 75 bedded Hostel with dining, kitchen facilities and conditioning hall for the trainees of the SAG Centre is being constructed and is nearing completion at Alleppey.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Post Offices in West Bengal

2451. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the post offices in West Bengal where computers have been installed and registration work is being done through computers for the last three years; and

(b) the post offices which are likely to be computerized during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Registration work is being done through computers for the last three years in 37 post offices in West Bengal. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Further computerization will depend on completion of necessary formalities and availability of funds.

Statement	
Sl. No.	Name of the Post office
1	2
1	Barsat HO
2	Beadon St. SO
3	Dum Dum SO
4	Kolkata G.P.O.
5	Park St. HO
6	Howrah HO
7	Siliguri HO
8	Alipore HO
9	Cossipore HO
10	Tollygunj HO
11	Ashoknagar SO
12	Serampore HO
13	Burdwan HO
14	Midnapore HO
15	Purulia HO
16	Barabazar HO
17	Berhampore HO
18	Asansol HO
19	Gangtok HO
20	Jalpaiguri HO
21	Maldah HO
22	Ballygunge SO
23	Belaghata HO
24	Chinsurah HO
25	Circus Avenue SO

1	2
26	Contai HO
27	Raghunathganj HO
28	Kandi HO
29	Kalyani HO
30	Ranaghat HO
31	IT Building SO
32	Governer's Camp SO
33	Chandannagar SO
34	Utarpara SO
35	Darjeeling HO
36	Coochbehar HO
37	Raiganj MDG

[English]

Role of NGOs in Tackling AIDS

2452. SHRI M. DURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government to provide/release financial assistance to Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) engaged in implementation of AIDS programmes during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Non Government Organisations engaged in implementation of AIDS programme are directly funded by State AIDS Control Societies except for proposals of Community Care Centers. From 1st April, 2001 Community Care Centers are directly sanctioned to NGOs by State AIDS Control Societies in the six high prevalence states namely Karnataka, Manipur, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Nagaland. In other states proposals are submitted by NGOs to NACO through State AIDS Control Societies for approval.

The proposals received & sanctioned by NACO during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Name of NGOs, which were sanctioned the Community Care Centers in the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of the NGO
1	Delhi	Sahara, Delhi, Chelsea
2	Karnataka	M/s Freedom Foundation, Bangalore SNEHADAAN, Bangalore Freedom Foundation Bellary
3	Manipur	SHALOM, Manipur Leprosy Patients Welfare Society, Imphal, Manipur
4	Maharashtra	Bel Air Hospital, Panchgani, Maharashtra
5	Andhra Pradesh	Freedom Foundation, Hyderabad
6	Assam	ILA Trust, Assam
7	Pondicherry	SFDRT, Pondicherry
8	Kerala	Mar Kundukulam Memorial Research & Rehabilitation Centre, Kerala

[Translation]

Public Call Offices

2453. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public call offices set up in villages of Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai districts during the last three years so far;

(b) the targeted number of public call offices were to be set up in villages during 2001-2002 and whether this target has been achieved;

(c) the targeted number of telephones to be installed during 2002-2003;

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on this project;

(e) the number of public call offices malfunctioning in villages of Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai so far during 2001-2002; and

(f) the amount spent for repairing of public telephones in villages during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) 2907 public call offices were set up in villages of Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai districts during the last three years.

(b) 25,741 Village Public Telephones were targeted to be set up in Bihar during the year 2001-2002. This target was not achieved.

(c) 2,53,800 direct exchange line (including fixed, WLL & mobile telephones) are targeted to be installed during 2002-2003 in Bihar.

(d) The expenditure to be incurred on this project has been estimated at Rs.448 crore approximately.

(e) and (f) A total of 389 MARR VPTs were malfunctioning in villages of Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai during 2001-2002 and an amount of Rs.12,992/- was spent on repairs of public telephones in villages of these four districts during 2001-2002.

[English]

All India Council of Sports

2454. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed All India Council of Sports by terminating Sports Authority of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted the All India Council of Sports (AICS) on 16.7.2002 as an advisory body but not by terminating the Sports Authority of India.

Role of the AICS is to advise the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, inter-alia, on implementation of National Sports Policy, raising of resources for sports, participation of Indian teams in international events and prevention of drug abuse etc.

The Council will consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents and other members comprising Members of Parliament, eminent sportspersons, sports administrators and industry representatives.

Regulation of Artificial Reproductive Techniques Clinics

2455. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a rise in the commercial exploitation of indigenously produced human embryos;

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to check this trend;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring a Bill for regulation of artificial reproductive technique clinics 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) to (d) Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) in the country is provided by private sector only and as such there is no data available on the commercial exploitation of human embryo in the country. Art requires enormous technical expertise and infrastructure and has a success rate of less than 30% under the best of circumstances and is very expensive and is handled in the private sectors. ART has a wide range of applications that impinge on human life, raise great public concern about their possible misuse.

The Department of Family Welfare, to address the issues of ART, has brought out through ICMR, a Draft Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India. These draft guidelines address the issues concerning malpractices including exploitation of indigenously produced human embryos, quality of ART services render by these clinics and several other ethical and legal issues and have been released for public debate with concerned peoples/professionals/scientists/organizations etc.

Opening of New CGHS Dispensary for ISM&H

2456. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the basic criteria fixed by the Government for opening of a new CGHS dispensary in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) whether the dispensaries/units of CGHS for Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) are also part of CGHS; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not implementing the same norms for opening a new dispensary/unit of CGHS for ISM&H?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the Staff Inspection Unit's (Ministry of Finance) report of November, 1999 on the Norms Study of CGHS (Allopathic) dispensaries, there should be at least 2000 cardholders (serving employees/pensioners) i.e., 10,000 beneficiaries in an area for opening a new CGHS dispensary in an existing CGHS covered city.

As regards opening of new CGHS units of ISM&H System i.e., Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic/Unani system of medicine, there are no fixed norms under the CGHS. These units are opened as per the requirements/demands of the CGHS beneficiaries based upon justification and subject to availability of manpower and resources.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Norms fixed by the SIU is for CGHS Allopathic dispensaries and therefore these cannot be applied for setting up of ISM&H dispensaries/units under CGHS.

The SIU is already conducting a study for fixing the norms for ISM&H units/dispensaries under CGHS and their report has not been received by the Government as yet.

National Drug Authority

2457. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish the National Drug Authority; 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) Drug Policy 1994 had recommended the setting up of a National Drug Authority to undertake the regulatory functions performed by the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation in addition to assuming many new responsibilities. This would inter-alia require major structural changes in the existing regulatory system, where licensing of manufacturers etc., as well as enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder, are primarily done by the State authorities. Strengthening of the existing capacity of the

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) would be necessary before undertaking the new responsibilities. There is currently no such proposal.

[Translation]

Telecommunication Network in Rajasthan

2458. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

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

(a) the amount allocated for the development of telecommunication network in Rajasthan during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the targets have been achieved in the State, particularly in Churu and Sawai Madhopur districts; and

(c) if so, the details of the amount spent in Churu and Sawai Madhopur districts during the last three years, year-wise and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The district-wise amount allocated for the development of Telecommunication network in Rajasthan during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir, the targets have been achieved in the state of Rajasthan as well as in Churu & Swaimadhopur district, but for some shortfall in TAX capacity in the year 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

Year wise details for the last three years are as under:

	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Switching Capacity	246000	257290	295800	304886	249300	274612
DELs	180000	182395	210000	216886	276100	277415
TAX Capacity	79000	65500	44500	18500	55000	56500
New Exchange	100	181	100	103	100	159

Achievement in respect of Churu & Swaimadhopur Districts are as under:-

	Churu			Swaimadhopur		
	99-2000	2000-01	2001-02	99-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Switching Capacity	11320	11308	7452	3780	6472	3448
DELs	5500	8100	13007	5493	3708	4372
TAX Capacity	-	1500	500	500	2000	2000
New Exchange	24	2	18	2	1	0

(c) The Amount spent in Churu and Swaimadhopur Districts during the last three years, yearwise & till date is as under:-

(In thousands of Rupees)

District	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Churu	165527	153113	243273	33363
SMP	107878	205021	88886	1578

Statement

*Amount allocated for the development of
Telecommunication Network in Rajasthan during
the last three years*

Yearwise Allotment (Amount in Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of Unit	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1	GMTD Alwar	256700	208308	218208
2	GMTD Ajmer	197400	280021	289930
3	PGMTD Jaipur	575600	669760	671093
4	GMTD Kota	275900	281431	272547
5	GMTD SGR	387700	387300	411978
6	GMTD Jodhpur	298600	354023	320941
7	GMTD Udaipur	353900	398214	282299
8	TDM Banswara	144000	117284	237831
9	TDM Barmer	105800	168204	212904
10	TDM Bharatpur	146100	169043	204040
11	GMT Bhilwara	168600	191072	222240
12	GMT Bikaner	161700	121065	293583
13	TDM Chittorgarh	78900	119755	230935
14	TDM Churu	131800	182147	237315
15	GMTD Jhunjhunu	192000	273740	153233
16	TDM Nagaur	169000	195015	133928
17	GMTD Pali	227000	201492	216674
18	GMTD Sikar	128100	172080	173233
19	GMTD Sirohi	147100	207583	198367
20	TDM Swaimadhopur	127700	134954	84151
21	TDM Tonk	73600	69653	82703
22	TDM Bundi	59700	94555	60174
23	TDE Jhalawar	49800	103650	99401

1	2	3	4	5
24	TDE Jaisalmer	30500	72408	114299
25	TCD SGR	54500	31878	38600
26	TCD Ajmer	97400	86089	40300
27	TCD Udaipur	45000	66400	74673
28	TCD Jodhpur	48900	73741	51322
29	TCD Jaipur-I	63900	96896	60562
30	TCD Jaipur-II	86100	67071	38399
31	TED Jaipur	91200	66800	79809
32	TED Udaipur	93300	112812	79502
33	TED Jodhpur	122500	33968	66491
34	TED SGR		47370	68390
35	TED Kota		-	13742
36	TCD Kota			38622
37	CGMT. JP		-	- 4000
Total		5190000	5855782	6076419

[English]

Medical Boards for Physically Handicapped

2459. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Medical Boards for issuing certificates to the physically handicapped persons as per the recently announced order of the Delhi High Court;

(b) if so, the number of such Boards constituted by the Government;

(c) the number of disabled persons awaiting the issue of certificates in Delhi Government Hospitals;

(d) whether any survey has been made about the number of disabled persons in Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have constituted Twenty Two Medical Boards in the Hospitals under their control for issuing Disability Certificates according to the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996.

(c) Issuance of Disability Certificate is an ongoing process. There is no report on such number at a particular point of time.

(d) and (e) No comprehensive survey has been made about the number of disabled persons in Delhi except that the Census 2001 contained a column regarding number of disabled persons in each household.

[Translation]

Complaints on Speed Post Service

2460. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints with regard to non-delivery of speed post in time and the articles getting lost;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of complaints received in connection with irregularities in speed posts during the year 2001-2002 alongwith the number of those disposed off;

(d) whether the Government propose to expand the said service in neighbouring countries viz. Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, by when the said is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sometimes, complaints are received about delay in delivery and loss of speed post articles. The reasons are mainly attributable to misconnection of transport and lapses in handling.

(c) During the year 2001-2002, 98416 complaints were received and 97274 complaints have been disposed off.

(d) and (e) India Post already has Speed Post service with neighbouring countries viz. Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh for both documents and merchandise.

[English]

Facilities for AIDS Patients in AIIMS

2461. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AIIMS has set up a Two-Bed cubicle for AIDS patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no patients have been admitted to this special ward so far; and

(d) the details of the facilities being provided to AIDS patients by AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The two bedded Special Isolation Facility (SIF) started in 1987-88. Two special beds for AIDS patients were meant to keep AIDS patients with complications for their isolation to prevent further infection to other patients. In AIIMS/ HIV infected patients are admitted in Hospital General/Private wards under the care of concerned departments/units.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Patients are regularly admitted in this facility on the recommendations of clinical units. Supportive nursing response and hospital attendants are posted round the clock. The number of patients admitted in this facility are as under:

Year	No. of Admitted Cases
2000	39
2001	35
2002	35

[Translation]

Enquiry against Hospitals under CGHS

2462. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: 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 "CGHS ki manyata panne wale aspatalon ki jaanch ki manng" appearing in the Lokmat Samachar (Hindi Nagpur) dated November 10, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have proposed any enquiry of the hospital falling under CGHS in the country; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) to (d) At present there is no proposal to conduct an inquiry into the recognition of private hospitals under CGHS as no specific instances about the hospitals not having the requisite facilities have been indicated.

[English]

Financial Assistance for C-DOT in Kerala

2463. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has given any proposal for getting financial assistance from Central Government for C-DOT in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details of the total amount of money has been sought?

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

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

Vigilance Cases against Government Officials

2464. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vigilance cases registered by Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) against senior level Government officers, during the last three years;

(b) the number of officers against whom prosecution proceedings were launched during the period;

(c) the number of officials convicted;

(d) the number of cases in which major penalty has been imposed; and

(e) the number of officials who have been acquitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) The Central Vigilance Commission has reported that it advises on references received by it from the Central Government, public sector undertakings and banks. During the year 1999, 2000 and 2001, the Commission had received 157, 153 and 181 references respectively against officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above. During the same period it had concurred to proposals for sanctioning prosecution against 4, 16 and 16 officers respectively. The Commission has further informed that major penalty has been imposed after regular departmental action on 15 officers in 1999, 10 officers in 2000 and 17 officers in 2001. During the same period, 2 officers were exonerated in 1999, 6 officers in 2000 and 3 officers in 2001.

Centralized information regarding number of officers convicted and acquitted is not available with the Commission.

Ferry Services to Colombo

2465. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state the details of the revival of Ferry Services from Tuticorin to Colombo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): A proposal to commence Ferry Services between Tuticorin Port in India and Colombo Port in Sri Lanka is under consideration of the Government.

District Telecom Offices

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

(a) whether a number of requests have been received by the Central Government from States and particularly from Karnataka for establishment of District Telecom Offices;

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

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on these requests of the State Governments?

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

(DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Only one case of sanction of Telecom District manager post for Jalore district Headquarters has been received from State Government of Rajasthan.

(c) Since Jalore revenue District is part of Sirahi secondary switching area (SSA), establishment of separate District Telecom office at Jalore is not permissible under the SSA scheme.

Progress of Nuclear Programme

2467. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that despite 40 years of Indian Nuclear Programme, it has made no steady growth as has been brought out by the Standing Committee on Energy (2001) in their 25th Report on the subject;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and has any investigation been made for the tardy growth; and

(c) the money so far spent in the Nuclear Power production and the present day nuclear power production?

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) At present the share of nuclear power in the country is about 3% of the total electricity generation. The need for self-reliance has guided our nuclear power programme from the beginning entailing time and effort. The growth of the nuclear power programme has to commensurate with the investments made in the programme over the years.

In the IX plan adequate resources were provided to achieve the target of 880 MWe capacity. This target has been achieved by completion of Kaiga 1 & 2 (2x220 MWe) and RAPP 3&4 (2x220 MWe) projects in the calendar year 2000. In addition, TAPP 3&4 (2x540 MWe), Kaiga 3&4 (2x220 MWe), Kudankulam (2x1000 MWe) and RAPP 5&6 (2x220 MWe) projects have been sanctioned. The present nuclear power generation capacity of 2720 MWe is planned to be increased to 4020 MWe by the end of X plan. Additional projects are also planned for construction progressively with a view to reach the capacity of about 10,000 MWe by end of XI plan, i.e. 31.3.2012 and about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020. The standing Committee on Energy (2001) in its report No.25 (Para

No.3.22 (Page 44 and para 3.24 (page 45)) has also commended the physical and financial performance of NPCIL.

(c) An amount of about Rs.8300 crore on the operating stations and an amount of Rs.3675 crore on the ongoing projects have been spent as on 31.3.2002. The operating stations generated about 19,400 million units (MUs) of electricity in the year 2001-02 and the ongoing projects, on completion, will progressively add a generation capacity of 3960 MWe by December 2008.

[Translation]

Vigilance Committee to Enquire into the Scandals

2468. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Vigilance Committee has been constituted to enquire into the scandals and malpractices in Post Graduate Medical Education and Research Council (PGI), Chandigarh;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the number of cases referred so far by PGI to the Vigilance Committee since its constitution; and

(d) the number of cases examined by the Vigilance Committee and number of cases still pending as at end of November, 2002 with the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) There is no Vigilance Committee in the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. However, a Vigilance Cell has been functioning at the Institute since October, 1994 and carrying out investigation of specific vigilance complaints. During the year 2001-2002, 34 cases were investigated by Vigilance Cell and 19 cases were concluded; and 15 cases remained pending. During 1.4.2002 to 30th November, 2002 two new cases were received and out of 17 cases 11 cases were concluded by Vigilance Cell after due inquiry. 6 cases were pending at the end of November, 2002.

Share in Global Bio Medicine Market

2469. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite availability of huge biological

resources in the country our share in global market of bio-medicine is quite negligible;

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

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the share of bio-medicine of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) International market of Medicinal Plant Products is about US \$ 62 billion per year, out of which Indian share is Rs.616.52 crores.

(c) The following steps have been taken to increases exports:

- (a) The Government has established National Medicinal Plant Board for integrated development of medicinal plant sector.
- (b) Department of Bio-technology has also support research and development project on medicinal and aromatic plants used in the country.
- (c) Govt. is also supporting industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products.
- (d) Labelling provisions have been relaxed.
- (e) Laboratory facilities are being expanded.
- (f) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) have been notified.
- (g) Market survey has been supported.

[English]

Cess on Petrol

2470. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released to Karnataka out of cess on petrol and diesel sold in Karnataka State during 2001-2002 and 2002-03; and

(b) the details of the road works taken up out of the above amount during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03?

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

B.C. KHANDURI): (a) During the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, the amounts of Rs.1196 lakh and Rs.2732.71 lakh respectively have been released so far to the State of Karnataka for development of State roads under Central Road Fund, created by levy of cess on petrol and diesel.

(b) Details of projects approved are as under:

Year	Number of projects	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2001-2002	106	77.53
2002-2003 (till date)	62	39.85

E-Governance in Union Territories

2471. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked Union Territory Administrations in the country to take e-governance initiatives; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Chandigarh U.T. Administrations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Government has been advising States/UTs to deploy IT/take e-Governance initiatives to bring about overall improvement in Government functioning and for delivery of its services to citizen.

(b) As per the information received from Chandigarh Administration, they have released their IT Policy in April 2000 in which main emphasis is on creating a knowledge based society using e-Governance whereby all residents of Chandigarh would be able to access the benefit of IT by the year 2005. Chandigarh Administration has been implementing various projects to achieve the above objective.

Clearance of RAPP Unit 7 and 8

2472. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Rajasthan for early clearance of RAPP units 7 & 8;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) by when the necessary clearance is likely to be given?

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 Chief Minister, Rajasthan has written to the Prime Minister in May 2002 on this subject. There is no formal proposal pending or under consideration at present with the Government of India on this subject.

(b) and (c) There are four units, Rajasthan Atomic Power Station 1-4 (100 MWe + 200 MWe + 2x220 MWe) in operation at Rawatbhata site in Rajasthan. In addition, Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP - 5&6) (2x220 MWe) are under construction. This site has additional potential to accommodate 2x700 MWe unit (RAPP - 7 & 8), for which site clearances from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board on the safety angle, and Ministry of Environment and Forest on the environmental angle, are required to be obtained after the site selection committee of the Department of Atomic Energy completes its evaluation. Thereafter the matter of setting up of two more units will be taken up, consistent with the envisaged nuclear power programme and the availability of financial resources.

Examination of Navigation Channel

2473. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the feasibility of a navigation channel through Jangipur Barrage to Bangladesh to facilitate cargo transport system between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Revamping of Inland Water Transport Corporation

2474. SHRI P.S GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revamp Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC);

(b) if so, the broad features and the capital outlay involved;

(c) whether the Government also propose to go

for a large-scale privatisation of the Inland Waterways Transport Sector; and

(d) if so, the rationale behind this plan and the type of financial incentives to be provided for procurement of modern fleets by the private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India has already approved a Re-organisation plan for Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) Limited, Kolkata in June, 2001. The broad features involved are:

- i) Focusing on streamlining the River Service Division.
- ii) Government will provide budgetary support of Rs. 76.35 Cr. for implementing the rehabilitation package.
- iii) Roll back the age of Superannuation from 60 years to 58 years.
- iv) Downsizing employee strength to 1400. The Government will provide funds to the tune of Rs.27.07 Cr. for implementing Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- v) Closure of Deep Sea Ship Repair (DSSR) Division. Disposal of Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD) with manpower. CIWTC to dispose of land and assets of RBD along with manpower.
- vi) CIWTC will enter into a back to back arrangement with road transport agencies and examine further the feasibility for such an arrangement with rail transport so as to facilitate user agencies for getting a 'one stop' service;
- vii) CIWTC and Ministry of Shipping will enter into a MOU on the revenue and expenditure projections for the four-year reorganisation period, which will be monitored by the Ministry to ensure that the projects are achieved;
- viii) Write off Government of India loan (Plan and Non-Plan) together with interest accrued thereon (amounting to Rs.425.98 crore as on 31.3.2000)

The total capital outlay for the Re-organisation Plan is Rs.139.55 crore.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved an Inland Water Transport Policy with the aim of accelerating development of inland waterways and to involve private sector

in this field. It includes some policy decisions and also fiscal concession to attract private sector in IWT so that faster development of this mode is possible.

With a view to encouraging private operators to own and operate inland vessels on National Waterways, an Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme has been approved by the Government under which 30% of the cost of a vessel would be provided as subsidy to the owner of the vessel, which should be operated on National Waterways. Other incentives related to encouraging the ownership of the IWT vessels include higher depreciation rate for Inland vessels and levying reduced custom duty for import of some equipment and machinery related to IWT sector.

Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

2475. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the amount earmarked for it;

(c) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to organise it; and

(d) if so, the names of the members of the Committee and the criteria of their selection?

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

(b) In implementation of a major recommendation of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora, a three-day convention is being organised by government in New Delhi in partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) from January 9-11, 2003. The 3-day event, proposed to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, includes plenary sessions on 9th January and in the forenoon of 10th January. Seminars on topics such as Knowledge-based Industries, Science and Technology, Health Care, Ethnic Media and the Diasporic Identity, Education, Financial Services, Voluntary Sector and Development, Culture and Tourism are planned for the afternoon of the second day. The third day is earmarked for interaction with Chief Ministers/State Governments. Cultural programmes will be held on the evenings of 9th and 10th January, 2003. The expenditure will be shared on fifty-fifty basis between the government and FICCI subject to a ceiling of Rs. 5.5 crores on the part of the government.

(c) Yes. An Organising Committee for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has been constituted by the government.

(d) The names of the members of the Organising Committee for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas are attached as statement. Members have been selected ex-officio to meet functional requirements or on the basis of their experience and knowledge about the Indian Diaspora.

Statement

List of the members of the Organising Committee of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Chairman

Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Member of Parliament

Members

1. Shri R.L. Bhatia, Member of Parliament
2. Shri J.C. Sharma, Secretary (PCD), MEA, Member Secretary
3. Shri. B.K. Agnihotri, Ambassador-at-Large for Non Resident Indians & Persons of Indian Origin, New York
4. Prof. V. S. Ramamurty, Secretary (Science & Technology)
5. Prof. S.K. Tripathi, Secretary (Education)
6. Shri Dhanendra Kumar, Secretary (Culture)
7. Shri S.K. Naik, Secretary (Health)
8. Shri Rajeeva Ratna Shah, Secretary (Information Technology)
9. Shri L.M. Mehta, Secretary (Sports)
10. Shri Pawan Chopra, Secretary (Information & Broadcasting)
11. Shri K. Roy Paul, Secretary (Civil Aviation)
12. Shri R.C.A. Jain, Special Secretary (Home)
13. Shri J. Vasudevan, Chairman India Trade Promotion Organisation
14. Shri Priyadarshi Thakur, AS (FA), Ministry of External Affairs
15. Shri R.S. Gupta, Police Commissioner Delhi,

16. Smt. S. Tripathi, DG, Indian Council for Cultural Relations
17. Smt. Rathi Vinay Jha, Secretary (Tourism)
18. Shri R. Dayakar, Joint Secretary (NRI), Ministry of External Affairs
19. Shri P. S. Sahai, IFS (Retd.)
20. Shri R.S. Lodha, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)
21. Shri A. C. Muthaiah, Vice President FICCI
22. Shri Y.K. Modi, Vice President, FICCI
23. Dr. Amit Mitra, Secretary General, FICCI
24. Shri Vivek Bharati, Adviser, FICCI

Nuclear Tests

2476. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the places in the country besides Rajasthan where nuclear tests could be carried out; and
- (b) the prerequisites for selection of sites?

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) Any site which meets the requisite criteria with respect to properties of rock strata, geohydrology, isolation of the area from populated areas etc. could be considered suitable for underground nuclear tests. The Rajasthan site met these attributes.

Software Technology Parks

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up Software Technology Parks at Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has already set up a STPI center including international Gateway at Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu. The centre is functional and provides High-Speed Data Communication (HSDC) facilities to Software export communities.

Exemption of Payment of Money Order Commission

2478. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any requests of Kerala Government for exemption from payment of Money Order Commission for the pension from the National Old Age Pensioners; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The request of the Kerala Government for exemption from payment of Money Order Commission for disbursal of pension from the National Old Age Pension Scheme could not be accepted.

[Translation]

Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty

2479. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any amendments have been made in the Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty;
- (b) if, so the details thereof;
- (c) whether the limit of duty-free import of certain products from Nepal has been fixed through these amendments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the areas in which India and Nepal are likely to be benefited by these amendments to the trade treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) The India-Nepal Trade Treaty was renewed on March 2, 2002 after

incorporating suitable modifications to the protocol to the Treaty without changing the basic spirit and framework of the Treaty. Nepal would continue to enjoy non-reciprocal duty free access for its manufactures in the Indian market.

2. A very reasonable value addition norm of 25 % in the first year and 30 % in the subsequent years for Zero duty access has now been built into the Protocol to the Treaty to ensure that the provisions of the Treaty facilitate the accrual of benefits to genuine industries of Nepal and are not used as a conduit for third country exports to the detriment of Indian Industry.

3. The 1996 Trade Treaty contained no value addition norm for duty free entry of articles manufactured in Nepal into India. This had resulted in a surge in imports of some products from Nepal with little or no value addition such as acrylic yarn, zinc oxide, vanaspati and copper products. Representations were received from Indian Industry regarding the surge in imports of these commodities from Nepal into India, and its adverse impact on our domestic industry.

4. In the revised Trade Treaty, ceilings have been fixed for duty-free import of Vanaspati, acrylic Yarn, Copper products and zinc oxide, in such a manner as to avoid disrupting Nepal's existing exports to India while simultaneously addressing the concerns of the Indian industry. There is no ceiling on exports of these commodities on MFN basis. The quota figures for the four sensitive items for duty-free import are given below:

Vegetable fats (Vanaspati)	100,000	MT Per Year
Acrylic Yarn	10,000	MT Per Year
Copper Products	7,500	MT Per year
Zinc Oxide	2,500	MT Per Year

5. Government of India has subsequently agreed to the request from Government of Nepal for increasing the quota for import of copper products from Nepal by 2500 MT per year.

6. The India-Nepal Trade Treaty remains one of the most liberal trade treaties found anywhere in the world. The modifications incorporated in the Treaty would promote the development of Nepal while safeguarding the concerns of Indian industry.

[English]

NGOs in Afghanistan

2480. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), State-wise, selected/empanelled by the Government to undertake rehabilitation and other social welfare activities in Afghanistan since the establishment of friendly relations between the two countries after the exit of Talibans;

(b) the criteria for the selection/empanelment of the NGOs; and

(c) the total financial assistance provided to each of these NGOs so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government believe that public, private and voluntary contributions to the rehabilitation and reconstruction effort in Afghanistan would be mutually complementary and synergetic. No selection, empanelment or funding has been done by the government of NGOs to undertake rehabilitation and other social welfare activities in Afghanistan.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Testing of Fake Drugs

2481. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a consumer can take a strip of medicine and get it tested in any authorized laboratory to detect a fake drug;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names and addresses of such laboratories in Delhi, Hyderabad & Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 any person or any recognized consumer association, whether such person is a member of that association or not, shall on application in the prescribed manner and on payment of the prescribed fee, be entitled to submit for test or analysis to a Government Analyst any drug or cosmetic purchased by him or it and to receive a report of such test or analysis signed by the government Analyst.

(c) The Laboratories at Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata are as under:-

(1) Combined Food and Drugs Laboratory, A-2, Lawrence Road, Delhi-35.

(2) Drugs Control Lab. Drugs Control Admn.,
Vengal Rao Nagar, Hyderabad-500 038 (AP)

(3) The Central Drugs Laboratory, 3, Kyd. Street,
Kolkata.

(4) State Drugs Control and Research Laboratory,
No.2 Convent Lane, Kolkata-700 015.

[Translation]

Invitation to visit Pakistan

2482. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Minister of Pakistan had recently invited his Indian counterpart to visit Islamabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) In March 2002, during the 2nd South Asian Association for Region Cooperation (SAARC) Information Minister's Conference held at Islamabad the Pakistani media carried a report indicating that the Pakistani Interior Minister had extended an invitation to his Indian counterpart to visit Islamabad. There was also a suggestion in these reports that the Pakistan Interior Minister proposed discussions on the issue of de-escalation tensions with India and on the list of 20 fugitives from law.

Pakistan leaders have frequently indulged in such propagandist ploy especially during international conferences in their attempt to draw international attention from Pakistan's continued sponsorship and involvement with cross border terrorism in India. Pakistan also sought to divert attention from the fact that it had not taken any action on the list of 20 fugitives from law, handed over to them on 31st December 2001.

Government have consistently stated their commitment to establishing good neighbourly ties with Pakistan, and for this purpose to resume the Composite Dialogue that seeks to build trust and confidence, establish a stable structure of cooperation and address outstanding issues. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism so that appropriate conditions for meaningful dialogue process are created.

Code of Ethics in Doctors Professions

2483. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to

the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2498 dated 5.12.2001 and state:

(a) whether the Government have since finalized the regulations on Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics for medical practitioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 have been published in the Official Gazette dated 6th April, 2002. These Regulations, inter-alia, indicates the acts of commission or omission on the part of a doctor which shall constitute professional misconduct or unethical acts rendering him/her liable for disciplinary actions. As per these Regulations, the Medical Council of India or the State Medical Councils are empowered to award such punishment as deemed necessary or even removal of the name of any registered practitioner from the Register altogether or for a specified period in respect of any act of violation of the provisions of the Regulations which may be brought before it, after conducting an enquiry.

[Translation]

Complaints Against Hospital Employees

2484. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government against the working of the Government hospitals during the last two years;

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

(c) the number of employees and officers against whom action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India information regarding complaints in respect of State hospitals is not maintained by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, the number of complaints and number of employees against

whom action have been taken during the last two years are as under:

Hospital(s)	Complaints	Action taken against No. of employees
Safdarjung	54	-
Dr. RML Hospital	151	5
LHMC & Associated hospitals	28	2

External Assistance for AIDS

2485. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any financial assistance from the various countries including USA to fight HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the manner in which this aid has been used/is proposed to be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government of India received financial assistance from the following countries to fight HIV/AIDS epidemic during the last three years:

(Rs. in crores)

Projects	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
United States Agency for International Development, (USA) assisted APAC Project in Tamilnadu.	4.385	6.611	6.396
United States Agency for International Development, (USA) assisted AVERT Project in Maharashtra.	Nil	Nil	1.460
Department for International Development, (UK) assisted Partnership for Sexual Health Project in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa and Kerala; and	6.575	10.084	6.434

The Canadian International Development Agency assisted India-Canada Collaborative HIV/AIDS Project in Karnataka and Rajasthan started in 2001 and central funds were released to implementing agencies in the financial year 2001-02. However, in the absence of statements of expenditure, no reimbursement has so far been claimed from the funding agency.

(c) These projects are implemented through Government of India budgetary resources and latter on after receipt of Statements of Expenditure from the Implementing Agencies viz. State AIDS Control Societies, reimbursement is sought from the funding agencies.

CBI Cases against Corrupt Officials

2486. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a country-wide raid has been

conducted by the CBI against corrupt Government officials and others as reported in the Hindustan Times dated November 10, 2002 for commission of different type of crimes viz. misuse of official powers cheating bank bungling and assets disproportionate to their known sources of income etc.:

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such corrupt officials were apprehended in these raids;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such corrupt officials; and

(d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to root out the corruption from Government offices in the country?

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) As per the information provided by the CBI, the raids were conducted against Government officials, private individuals, serving and retired employees of the Public Sector Undertakings and banks and private firms. As a result of raids, 25 cases have been registered by the CBI under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, Antiquities & Art Treasures Act, Passport Act and also under various sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC). Some of the cases in the aforesaid 25 cases have been registered against Government officials for misusing their official position. None of the Government officials has been apprehended.

(c) The action against the officials will be taken by the Government as per the rules and regulations and the provisions of the Acts under which cases have been registered against them.

(d) Several steps have been taken to check corruption in the Government Offices, such as formulation, monitoring and effective implementation of anti-corruption policy. To ensure greater transparency and for eliminating corruption, Information and Facilitation Counters (IFCs) have been set up in various Ministries/Departments to provide information regarding procedures and schemes of concerned organizations. The Secretary of the concerned Department, assisted by Chief Vigilance Officer (C.V.O), has also been made responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in that Department.

Conference Calls

2487. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether DoT has received any complaint from BSNL that Bharti Limited is on the use of conference facility between Bharti Limited and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the action taken/being taken on the complaint; and

(d) the stand of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) BSNL complained that Public Call Office franchisees of M/s Bharti Telenet Limited are routing the traffic through their unauthorized set up using the telephone lines/ links/resources provided by M/s Bharti Telenet Limited.

(c) and (d) Explanation of M/s Bharti Telenet was sought for violation of licence conditions and breach of security as well as raid was conducted at Gurgaon. M/s Bharti Telenet has reported to have disconnected its lines with these franchisees.

[Translation]

Customer Service Centre

2488. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI.

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) the number of telecom customer service centers working at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to open more such centers in the country, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As on 30.9.2002, a total number of 3287 Customer Service Centres are operative in different circles. Circle-wise number of Customer Service Centres opened is furnished in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is planned to open at least one Customer Service Center in each Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. In Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, more Customer Service Centre will be opened as and when required.

Statement

*SDCA-wise Customer Service Center as on
30.9.2002 in BSNL & MTNL*

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Customer Service Centre
1	2	3
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4
2	Andhra Pradesh	346
3	Assam	59
4	Bihar	94
5	Chhattisgarh	101
6	Gujarat	223
7	Haryana	57
8	Himachal Pradesh	45
9	Jammu & Kashmir	13
10	Jharkhand	33
11	Karnataka	264
12	Kerala	116
13	Madhya Pradesh	243
14	Maharashtra	420
15	North East-I	3
16	North East-II	2
17	Orissa	74
18	Punjab	110
19	Rajasthan	253
20	Tamil Nadu	157
21	Uttaranchal	42

1	2	3
22	Uttar Pradesh (East)	208
23	Uttar Pradesh (West)	84
24	West Bengal	101
25	Kolkata Telephone District	80
26	Chennai Telephone District	28
27	Delhi	49
28	Mumbai	78
Total		3287

[English]

Reduction of Registration Fee

2489. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce registration fee by 50 per cent for IT sector companies that are registered with any of the 40 STPIs in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A proposal for rationalisation of service charges under STP Scheme is under consideration of the Government.

Amount spent for SSI in Orissa

2490. SHRI BRARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Government for setting up small scale industries in rural areas of Orissa in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount proposed for the Tenth Five Year Plan 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) The setting up of small industries is an activity of the individual entrepreneur. Government, however, facilitate the development and promotion of small scale sector through various schemes/programmes which are implemented throughout the country in a unified manner for which allocation of funds is made scheme/programme-wise and not State-wise. During the Ninth Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 3662.68 crore (provisional) has been spent by the central government for implementation of various schemes/programmes for development of small scale industries in the country including Orissa.

(b) For the Tenth Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 2200.00 crore has been made for implementation of the schemes/ programmes relating to development of small scale industries in the country including Orissa.

Leprosy Eradication Centres

2491. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF:

SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether any leprosy eradication centres have been set up in the tribal, rural and backward areas of the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the amount spent by the Government to eradicate leprosy during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the number of people benefited during the said period, State-wise?

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

(c) As per details given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) As per details given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

The amount spent by the Govt. to Eradicate Leprosy during each of the last three years, State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

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

1	2	3	4	5
23	Sikkim	71.36	41.71	34.87
24	Tamil Nadu	385.79	422.74	413.04
25	Tripura	47.18	34.00	46.47
26	Uttar Pradesh	1428.10	1093.51	129.01
27	Uttaranchal	NA	NA	1282.5
28	West Bengal	841.53	784.00	574.66
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5.63	1.00	18.3

1	2	3	4	5
30	Chandigarh	13.29	3.50	5.5
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.17	8.79	6
32	Daman & Diu	9.50	14.50	18.4
33	Delhi	14.38	41.50	48.36
34	Lakshadweep	1.36	3.00	6
35	Pondicherry	2.00	7.00	2
Total		7984.62	7179.01	6774.86

NA - Not Applicable

Statement-II*National Leprosy Eradication Programme*

Statewise Information of cases detected & discharged in respect of NLEP during last 3 years (1999-2002)

S.No.	State/Sector	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Detection	Discharge	Detection	Discharge	Detection	Discharge
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	49692	47724	58122	67445	51183	54491
2	Arunachal Pradesh	180	331	128	165	119	137
3	Assam	3154	4808	1929	3283	2464	2400
4	Bihar	166877	162914	98732	132066	120005	103626
5	Goa	293	392	394	372	337	469
6	Gujarat	11758	11103	12913	13071	10949	11151
7	Haryana	679	916	917	826	766	832
8	Himachal Pradesh	480	928	330	274	263	368
9	Jammu & Kashmir	423	847	707	804	645	759
10	Karnataka	18511	17156	15830	18325	18761	17418
11	Kerala	3697	3825	3209	4225	2420	2981
12	Madhya Pradesh	44949	43475	18407	21791	18345	18693
13	Maharashtra	47659	43172	35491	40918	46371	44000
14	Manipur	207	487	206	260	160	225
15	Meghalaya	76	470	59	89	48	46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	Mizoram	31	71	21	66	24	52
17	Nagaland	68	65	63	72	73	69
18	Orissa	53963	40360	38133	52975	45065	37628
19	Punjab	1273	1610	1496	1644	1401	1368
20	Rajasthan	2689	6603	2003	3649	2012	2031
21	Sikkim	24	83	46	42	73	55
22	Tamil Nadu	30152	31606	33204	44518	32251	37756
23	Tripura	119	607	98	105	102	95
24	Uttar Pradesh	106231	82024	80443	108681	110989	97287
25	West Bengal	52888	64137	34619	54689	46214	35739
26	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	62	73	108	63	67	83
27	Chandigarh	301	566	339	373	333	271
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	273	312	217	302	331	211
29	Daman & Diu	37	40	29	45	44	38
30	Delhi	2870	695	6346	4867	5324	5614
31	Lakshadweep	0	45	22	63	7	6
32	Pondicherry	452	386	530	546	462	531
33	Jharkhand	0	0	34531	43860	45143	38905
34	Chhattisgarh	0	0	20805	23022	27470	20363
35	Uttaranchal	0	0	1829	2267	2537	2048
Total		600068	567831	502256	645763	592758	537746

Sharing of Atomic Power

2492. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of functional atomic power projects that supply/would supply power to the Southern Electricity region;

(b) the formula under which atomic power is shared among the generating and neighbouring States;

(c) whether the power sharing formula in respect

of Kudankulam Project in Tamil Nadu has been worked out; 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) At present, the nuclear power stations Madras Atomic Power Station - 1&2 (2x170 Mwe) in

Tamil Nadu and Kaiga-1&2 (2x220 Mwe) in Karnataka are under operation and supply power to the Southern Electricity Region. The nuclear power projects Kaiga-3&4 (2x220 MWe) in Karnataka and Kudankulam-1&2 (2x1000 MWe) in Tamil Nadu, which are both under construction at present, will also, on their completion, supply power to the beneficiary states in the Southern Electricity Region.

(b) The power from a central generating station, upto April 2000, was allocated by Union Ministry of Power as follows:

15%: Unallocated to be decided by the specific requirement of the states.

10%: Allocated to the state in which the plant is located.

75%: Allocated to beneficiary states of the Electricity Region based on Central Plan Assistance and energy sales for the preceding five years with equal weightage. After April 2000, Ministry of Power (MOP) has indicated that the power allocation as above is only indicative. The utility has to get the consent from different states, on the quantum of power to be supplied, in the Regional Electricity Board forum.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Probe on Illegal Indians

2493. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding probe on illegal Indians as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated November 10, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The lure of high income in western countries has attracted some Indian citizens to seek migration to these countries through illegal means.

(c) The Governments of a number of countries have taken up this matter with our diplomatic missions abroad. Whenever instances of illegal immigration rackets come to

the notice of Indian Missions/Posts abroad or, Ministry of External Affairs, the matter is immediately reported to the concerned state governments for investigation.

Relaxation in Recruitment Rules for Compassionate Appointment

2494. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether compassionate appointments to the dependents of deceased and invalid Government servants under the scheme of recruitment in relaxation of Normal Rules, now restricted to 5% of the total vacancies made by direct recruitment, is practically denied to all the applicants, in view of the ban on recruitment and the policy of down-sizing the Government, and the departments, refuse to consider the applications on flimsy or non-existent grounds;

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

(c) 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) to (c) As per the Government policy on the subject, compassionate appointments are to be made by Administrative Departments in deserving cases subject to availability of vacancies in Group 'C' & 'D' within 5% of the direct recruitment vacancies to be filled in each year and there is no ban on compassionate appointments in the Government of India.

[Translation]

Expansion of Kendriya Bhandar

2495. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to divide the Kendriya Bhandar into various categories in order to expand its outlets and improve its standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) In order to attract more customers and increase sales, Kendriya Bhandar has adopted a programme of modernizing its stores depending upon size and items sold. Recently Kendriya Bhandar has opened its first modernized store at Netaji Nagar, New Delhi. It has been decided to assess its overall performance for some time before taking up the modernization of other stores

Passport to an Aide of Mafia Don

2496. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH:

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Passport Office, Delhi, had issued a passport to an aide of Mafia Don as reported in the Hindustan Times dated June 26, 2002:

- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the outcome thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) O.P. Singh had applied for passport to Regional Passport Office Delhi on November 7, 2001. A passport was issued to him, on December 3, 2001.

(c) to (f) An inquiry within the department has been conducted which has revealed that while police records indicate that "not residing" report was sent in respect of Shri Singh the computer entry in the Passport Office showed a clear police report. The inquiry concluded that a deliberate act of feeding false entry in the computer had been made in the Passport Office. The case is being investigated by the Crime Branch, Delhi Police.

Japanese Encephalitis

2497. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the frequent out-break of Japanese encephalitis in the country particularly Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Bihar and North Eastern States, recently;
- (b) if so, the main causes of spread of the disease and the number of deaths reported;
- (c) whether any Central aid/assistance has been sought by the States in this regard;
- (d) the total amount sanctioned and spent for eradication of this disease;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action plan devised by the Government to combat this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is endemic in 11 States including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Manipur in the country. However, no incidence of the disease has been reported from Sikkim.

The main cause of spread of the disease is high vector density and presence of amplifier host such as pigs. 263 deaths due to the disease have been reported during the year 2002 (upto October, 2002).

(c) to (e) Need-based assistance is provided to the States out of the funds allocated under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP).

(f) The Control Strategies for JE include:-

- Vaccination of high risk population groups to JE.
- Vector control by undertaking two rounds of residual insecticide spraying with appropriate insecticide spraying with appropriate insecticide in animal dwellings in high risk areas and fogging with malathion for immediate killing of infected mosquitoes during outbreak for containment. Anti-larval operation wherever feasible.

- Early diagnosis and proper management of patients to reduce fatality due to JE.
- Health Education through all possible approaches.
- Isolation of pigs from human population.
- Training of Medical Personnel and professionals associated with the delivery of preventive and control activities in the field of JE.

Review of Subsidy on Postal Services

2498. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the subsidy on postal services and products;

(b) if so, whether the department has pointed out that there is no justification for subsidising services like registration, newspapers, postal orders and money orders; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) The Department is making continuous efforts to reduce budgetary support by mobilizing additional resources through premium products like Speed Post, Express Parcel Post, Business Post, Media Post etc. and generating higher revenue by containing leakage of revenue and introducing new technology viz. Electronic Franking Machine, and Value Added Services like Greeting Post, Data Post, Passport service etc. Features of different postal services are fixed keeping in view all relevant considerations including their importance as social service, and these are decided at the appropriate time.

Development of Major Ports

2499. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the funds spent on the development of major ports during the Ninth Five Year Plan, Port-wise;

(b) whether Government have identified the major ports which incurred huge losses during Ninth Plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof, Port-wise and Year-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The expenditure incurred on the development of major ports during the Ninth Five Year Plan period is Rs. 4104.42 crores. Port-wise breakup of expenditure on the schemes taken up/completed during this period is given below:-

S. No.	Name of the Port Trust	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
(i)	Kolkata	231.95
(ii)	Mumbai	521.69
(iii)	Jawaharlal Nehru	203.15
(iv)	Chennai	1080.30*
(v)	Cochin	77.31
(vi)	Vizag	354.80
(vii)	Kandla	259.15
(viii)	Mormugao	104.52
(ix)	Paradip	732.19
(x)	New Mangalore	234.86
(xi)	Tuticorin	304.50
Total		4104.42

* Includes Rs.803.08 crores on works executed for construction of Ennore Port.

(b) to (d) Kolkata Port Trust has reported net deficit of Rs. 7.53 crores in 2001-2002 on account of implementation of revised pay scales and payment of arrears and increase in expenditure on account of pensionary benefits. The Port Trust has made efforts to increase its income and economise on expenditure through cost reduction.

Cochin Port Trust has reported net deficit of Rs. 33.76 crores and Rs.35.02 crores during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. The deficit in 2000-2001 was on account of payment of arrears towards wages consequent to wage revision with retrospective effect as also arrears of pensions. Further, the Railway claims relating to previous years were settled. The deficit in 2001-2002 was on account of heavy cash outgo for payment of retirement benefits to the employees who opted for retirement under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as also superannuation in bulk of employees

as a result of roll back of retirement age. The Port Trust has taken the following steps to improve its financial position:

- (i) A proposal for revision of tariff has been taken up by the Port Trust with the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP);
- (ii) VRS has been introduced to reduce the employee strength;
- (iii) Reduction in the cost of maintenance dredging through change in the method of pricing;
- (iv) Computerisation of operational areas and implementation of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI);
- (v) Restrictions on fresh recruitments have been imposed;
- (vi) Strict administrative control is being exercised on overtime payments;
- (vii) Outsourcing of services is being resorted to in certain identified areas to reduce costs;
- (viii) Reduction has been effected in inventory holding; and
- (ix) Reduction has been effected in the strength of Central Industrial Security Force personnel.

Mumbai Port Trust has reported net deficit of Rs.474.26 crores and Rs.234.95 crores during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. The deficit is on account of declining traffic leading to decrease in income, adherence to traditionally developed systems and procedures with high labour component and low productivity and high cost of handling at the Port.

Steps have been taken by Mumbai Port Trust to improve the financial position through implementation of selected recommendations included in a Strategic Plan for restructuring and reforms to improve the working of the Port and reduce costs in various areas of operations, mainly on streamlining of systems and procedures towards simplification, interaction with trade and grant of incentives/facilities for customer satisfaction, modernization and development of facilities both by the Port and through private sector participation.

computerization and quality certification and employee reforms. Specific steps taken by the Port Trust include:-

- (i) Creation of facilities and grant of incentives for attracting more cargo;
- (ii) Streamlining of systems and procedures;
- (iii) Improvement in efficiency and productivity in cargo handling through close monitoring;
- (iv) Reduction in cost of operations through integration of cargo handling such as by taking over stevedoring;
- (v) Reduction in manpower through roll back of retirement age, VRS and ban on recruitment; and
- (vi) Monitoring of all other expenditure with a view to reduce operating expenditure.

Repair/Maintenance of National Highways in N.E. States

2500. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the fund allocated for the repair and maintenance of the National Highways in all the North Eastern States, during the last three years and as on date;
- (b) whether the annual allocation of funds have been utilised;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken for the proper utilisation of the funds allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) National Highways in North Eastern States are being developed and maintained by three agencies viz. State Public Works Departments, Border Roads Organization and National Highways Authority of India. The funds allocated and utilized for the development and maintenance of the National Highways in the North Eastern States during the last three years and for 2002-2003 are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (Up to 31-10-2002)
Funds Allocated	27811.27	30679.16	39610.27	43067.92
Funds Utilized	24738.82	28788.43	37687.12	10228.52

(c) and (d) Under-utilization of the funds is mainly due to poor fund flow through the State Governments and prevailing law and order situation. In order to expedite flow of funds, Direct Payment Procedure for development and major items under maintenance has been introduced since 2000-2001 in the States of Assam, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Matter is taken up with the State Governments for expeditious utilisation of funds.

Restructure of Department of Posts

2501. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to restructure the Department of Posts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the main points being considered in regard to restructuring of the Department of Posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) The statutory framework for the postal services provided by the Department of Posts is laid down by the Indian Post Office Act 1898 which The Indian Post Office Act Amendment Bill 2002 moved in the Lok Sabha on 17-05-2002 seeks to bring about the requisite changes in the statutory provisions in keeping with requirements of the time.

The main points of amendment proposed in the Bill are for:-

- (i) Providing statutory basis for Postal Service Board,
- (ii) Providing for introduction of new e-enabled services,
- (iii) Providing new services for generating revenue and meet social obligations, and
- (iv) Providing for registration of private couriers, safeguarding customer interests.

[English]

Cure for Infertility

2502. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) whether a new technique for curing infertility among couples named viz. ROSNI (Round Spermatid Nuclear Injection) has been developed, in the field of Test Tube Baby Technique;
- (b) if so, the details of the technique and how far it has proved to be successful; and
- (c) the steps being taken to promote the technique?

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

- (b) The details of the technique are enclosed as statement.
- (c) In the light of the available data, it is necessary to go slow in using the technique ROSNI to treat infertility.

Statement

"ROSNI" is a technique in which the testicular tissue is taken from the male partner. The round spermatids nuclei are extracted and injected into the eggs drawn from the female partner. The fertilized egg or the embryo is transferred back to the uterus. Confirmation of pregnancy is done after 15 days by a blood test.

The pregnancy rate with this technique has been reported (about 5%) very low as compared to the other conventional Test Tube Baby Technique. The reports are not encouraging and the technique has not been universally accepted. Moreover, countries such as U.K. have banned this technique.

Appointment of Assistant Professors in AIIMS

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

- (a) whether Government are aware that All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has appointed assistant professors in the past six years on an ad hoc basis;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of faculty members at present at AIIMS; and
- (d) the number of permanent and ad hoc faculties members at present at AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ad hoc appointment at the level of Assistant Professors at the Institute has been resorted to due to interim orders passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on 15.11.94 in a Civil Writ Petition filed by the Faculty of AIIMS on the issues of reservation in faculty posts. The aforesaid Writ Petition have been dismissed by the Hon'ble High Court on 26.11.2001 and consequent upon the Judgement, action have been initiated by the Institute to fill up the post of Assistant Professors on regular basis.

(c) and (d) At present the Institute has 446 Faculty members out of which 296 are regular/permanent and 150 are working on ad hoc basis.

Satellite Money Orders

2504. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Money order through Satellite System" as reported in the Navbharat Times dated September 21, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the money order sent through satellite are not reaching in right hands;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of Postal Department to ensure delivery of money orders properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The news item relates to delay to Money Orders sent through VSAT. The delay was owing to software problem. When this was brought to the notice of the Government, immediate remedial measures were taken. Further, due to fault in software, the money order data failed to reach the destination. Alternate arrangements were made to trace pending money orders and payment effected.

(d) The software is under revision to ensure proper performance. Where required, additional staffs were pressed into service to settle public complaints in this regard.

[Translation]

Software Technology Parks

2505. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of technology parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has already set up 37 centers all over the country. (List is enclosed as statement). The increase in the number of centers is based on demand as well as State Governments' willingness in providing free land, built up area, and financial support.

Statement

STPI has set-up following centers :

Sl. No.	STPI Centers	States
1	2	3
1	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
2	Bangalore	Karnataka
3	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
4	Bhilai	Chhattisgarh
5	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
6	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
7	Dehradun	Uttaranchal
8	Gandhinagar	Gujarat
9	Guwahati	Assam
10	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
11	Hubli	Karnataka

1	2	3
12	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
13	Jaipur	Rajasthan
14	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
15	Kolkatta	West Bengal
16	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
17	Mangalore	Karnataka
18	Manipal	Karnataka
19	Mohali	Punjab
20	Madurai	Tamil Nadu
21	Mysore	Karnataka
22	Nagpur	Maharashtra
23	Nasik	Maharashtra
24	Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra
25	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
26	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
27	Pune	Maharashtra
28	Rourkela	Orissa
29	Thirunavelli	Tamil Nadu
30	Thirupati	Andhra Pradesh
31	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
32	Trichy	Tamil Nadu
33	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
34	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir
35	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
36	Vizag	Andhra Pradesh
37	Warangal	Andhra Pradesh

[English]

Arrest of Fishermen by Pakistan

2506. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has arrested Indian fishermen for allegedly crossing the Indian Territorial waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes. As per available information, Pakistan has 332 Indian fishermen currently in its custody, which were apprehended by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency during this year. Government have repeatedly taken up the issue of their release with the Government of Pakistan. As a result, 281 fishermen have been granted consular access. The issue of grant of consular access to the remaining fishermen and the early release of all the fishermen is being pursued with the Government of Pakistan.

Attack on a Temple in Gujarat

2507. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether involvement of Pakistani nationals in the recent attack on a temple in Gujarat has been conveyed to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the international community thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) There have been reports of involvement of Pakistani nationals in the recent attack on the Swaminarayan Temple in Gujarat. Information regarding Pakistan sponsored terrorism and the existing terrorist infrastructure, in Pakistan and Pakistan controlled territories, for support to terrorism is appropriately shared with other countries as a part of the global effort against international terrorism. Pakistan's continued involvement with and support for cross border terrorism is widely recognised and most countries have called upon Pakistan to fulfil its commitment to end cross border infiltration and terrorism.

(c) The international community has shown

increasing understanding of India's position that terrorism must be eradicated wherever it may exist, that there can be no justification for terrorism and the battle against terrorism would have to be global and comprehensive to succeed.

Surrender of Telephones

2508. SHRI RAM RATI BIND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of subscribers of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi and Mumbai who have surrendered their telephones and took refund during April, 1, 2002 to October 31, 2002;

(b) whether subscribers have surrendered these telephones due to unsatisfactory services of MTNL and better services of private operators; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the MTNL to provide better facility to subscribers and to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The position regarding number of subscribers who have surrendered their MTNL telephones in Delhi and Mumbai is as under:-

Unit	No. of telephones Surrendered	No. of cases in which security deposit has been refunded so far	No. of cases for refund under process
Delhi	35308	22263	13045
Mumbai	73156	41768	31388

(b) There are various reasons for surrender of telephone like change over to Mobile, change of address and other operators targeting the high paying customers of MTNL. In some cases, subscriber also use the plea of unsatisfactory service for surrendering the telephone. However, this number is very small.

(c) Some of the steps being taken by MTNL to provide high quality of service to its customers have been listed in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(i) Paper core underground cables are being replaced by jelly filled cables/Optical Fibre cables in phased manner.

(ii) For higher capacity primary cables and junction cables, duct system has been introduced.

(iii) The junction network has been completely transferred to Optical Fibre Cable Links. Further improvement is being done by providing Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) systems connected on the ring architecture.

(iv) Subscriber loop length being reduced by planning more Remote Switching Units (RSUs)/Remote Line Units (RLUs).

(v) Fixed Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Digital Line Carrier (DLC) systems are being introduced in the Customer Access Network for better performance

(vi) Co-related Digital Enhanced Cordless Telephony (CORDECT) systems have been made operational in MTNL, Delhi during last year.

(vii) Faults are monitored on daily basis by Senior Officers.

(viii) Computerised fault reporting system is introduced which helps in booking, testing and sending the faults to the concerned line staff.

(ix) In addition to this, line staff is provided with pagers for easy communication and follow up with the testing staff for speedy clearance of faults.

(x) Managed Leased Data Network system has been introduced to improve the performance of the Leased circuits.

(xi) MTNL has liberalized the policy to replace all telephone instruments older than 5 years or repaired more than 2 times. This is being implemented in phases. In the first phase, instrument more than eight years old are being replaced.

Curtailment of Expenditure

2509. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conference, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISD telephone bills, electricity bills (especially the electricity bills of airconditioners and coolers) in various departments and undertakings under the Ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under above heads:

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The year-wise expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology under various heads during the last three years is as under:

(Figure in crore of Rs.)

Year	Advertisement & Publicity	Travel Expenses (including Foreign visits)
1999-2000	24.62	142.64
2000-2001	17.88	101.03
2001-2002	5.39	40.81

Separate expenditure under head hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conference, STD and ISTD telephone bills, electricity bills is not available as expenditure under these heads is clubbed with various types of other expenditures.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology scrupulously follows the economic instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance from time to time.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Delivery of Telephone Bills

2510. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSHUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Bills of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) do not reach to consumers in time particularly in rural areas:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by BSNL for timely delivery of Bills:

(c) whether the BSNL propose to switch over the

delivery of telephone bills from Department of Posts (DoP) to private courier services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, generally all the telephone bills of BSNL reach its customers in time including in rural areas. Some cases of delayed delivery do however occur due to operational problems. Whenever such instances come to BSNL's notice, immediate action is taken to rectify the same and to issue duplicate bills wherever needed.

(c) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration at BSNL head quarters.

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

(e) It is BSNL's view that the Department of Posts has the most extensive, well established and reliable delivery network throughout the country, particularly in rural areas.

Unapproved Drugs

2511. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: 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 "Drugs are crucial but illegal" appearing in 'Times of India' dated November 11, 2002;

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

(c) the action Government have taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Of the drugs appearing in news item, the drug Xeloda, Extramustin, Liposomal Amphotericin B, Alkaran, Emla and Aztreonam are approved in the country for distribution.

Some of the latest drugs which may be required in small quantities are not marketed in the country, as concerned manufacture do not apply for their approval and marketing. For such drugs Government has made provision under Drugs & Cosmetics Rules for import through personal licenses, which are issued to individual patients.

Monitoring of Sale of drugs is done by State Drugs Control Authority. The Delhi Drug Administration carried out a survey regarding the availability of imported drugs mentioned in the News item. It has been reported that premises of 27 retail chemists dealing in imported drug were checked. Only 2 items Liposomal Amphotericin B and Xeloda, which are approved drugs, were found imported through regular channel.

Budgetary Allocation to ISM&H

2512. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) the various medicine systems in vogue in the country for treatment and budgetary allocations made for these systems separately during each of the last three years; and

(b) the reasons for less amount allocated for the Indian system of medicine i.e. Ayurveda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In addition to Allopathy, Ayurveda, Sidha, Unani, Homoeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy are practiced in India. The budget allocated for Indian Systems of Medicine including Ayurveda is adequate for the present.

Budgetary allocations made for these systems during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Systems	1999-2000 Plan Allocation	2000-2001 Plan Allocation	2001-2002 Plan Allocation
1.	Allopathy*	1139.26	1277.86	1432.74
2.	ISM&H including Ayurveda	56.13	100.00	120.00
	Total	1195.39	1377.86	1552.74

* Excluding budget for Family Welfare

[English]

Bridges Over Siku and Sesiri Rivers

2513. SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a decision was taken by the Government to construct bridges over Siku and Sesiri Rivers in East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh on the national highway No. NH 52; and

(b) if so, the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bridge over Siku river is under construction, and the present progress is about 43%. As regards construction of bridge over Sesiri river, the proposal is under formulation by Border Roads Organisation.

Loss of Revenue due to Software Piracy

2514. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy loss in the revenue earnings due to software piracy; and

(b) if so, the quantum of loss during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The revenue earnings have been affected to some extent due to Software Piracy. Various measures taken by the Government to curtail software piracy are enclosed as statement.

(b) The quantum of loss as per the NASSCOM estimates in the last three years is as follows:

S.No.	Year	Revenue loss (Rs. in crores)
1.	1999-2000	900
2	2000-2001	1200
3	2001-2002	1700

Statement

Various measures taken to curtail software piracy include:

1. In India the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of software is covered under copy right law, violation of which attracts both fine and punishment.
2. Information Technology Act 2000 has been notified w.e.f. 17.10.2000. This act is expected to help in dealing with software piracy and containing the problem.
3. Government has also set-up a copy right Enforcement Advisory Council which reviews the progress of enforcement of copy right act and also advises on measures for its better enforcement.
4. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs Duty.
5. Government has been supporting Anti-Piracy Campaign of NASSCOM and instructions have also been issued to various government departments to only use legal copies of software.

Population Control Measures in States

2515. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) whether several States have announced incentives and disincentives to limit the size of the family;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that National Human Rights Commission has served notice to Andhra Pradesh for doing so;

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

(e) whether any Committee has been set up by Union Government to guide States in this regard; 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) Yes, Sir. Incentives and disincentives have been proposed in State Population Policies of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat, as per details given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) to (f) The National Human Rights Commission served a suo moto notice to the Government of Andhra Pradesh based on a newspaper report that several States, including Andhra Pradesh, are preparing to use coercive population control methods in complete violation of the National Policy. As per information received from the NHRC, the response of Government of Andhra Pradesh is still awaited in the matter. Meanwhile a National Level Resource Committee has been constituted to assist the States in formulation of Population Policies in consequence with the letter and spirit of the National Population Policy, 2000.

Details of the compensation of Committee and terms of reference is given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Incentives and Disincentives under State Population Policies

Andhra Pradesh

- Incentives will be provided in the shape of additional works, school buildings, etc. and by setting apart a portion from the overall funds available under schemes such as JRY, EAS, RWS, etc.
- Every village, which achieves the performance level, will also be selected for full coverage under schemes such as TRYSEM, low cost sanitation scheme and weaker section housing scheme.
- Performance in funding of DWCRA group
- Rolling shield at every level

Individual Level

- An award of Rs. 10,000 each to three couples per district by lucky dip
- Similar prizes with local contribution
- Preference will be given in schemes such as assignment

of land, allotment of surplus agricultural land, assignment of house sites and houses, IRDP, SC Action Plan, BC Action Plan, TRYSEM, PMRY CMYEP, etc.

Rajasthan

- Stiffer penal provisions for violation of the legal age at marriage
- Ensuring strict enforcement of Sarda Act, Pre Natal Diagnostic Technique Act, etc.
- In case of panchayati raj institutions/municipalities where the candidates having two or more children are ineligible to contest elections. The same provisions can also be considered for other elected bodies like cooperative institutions and as a service condition to state government employees.
- Provision of certificate of excellence at district level to various classes of government employees, and voluntary and social organisations for outstanding achievements.

Linking part of the sanction of various development works/schemes with the level of achievement of the population policy. A policy decision has been taken to discontinue the incentive scheme (even to service providers and sterilisation acceptors)

Uttar Pradesh

- Panchayats would be responsible for recording marriages in addition to births and deaths. This data would be shared with the grassroot level workers to help them provide RCH services, including family planning.
- Of the total financial resources allocated to PR institutions, 10% will be earmarked for performance based disbursement; particularly for performance in the areas of reproductive and child health services and female education.
- Those panchayats whose performance best meets clients RCH needs will be honoured by the Chief Minister and given special development grants for community assets.

Madhya Pradesh

- From 26th January 2001, persons marrying before legal age at marriage will not be eligible to seek government employment in MP.
- Persons having more than 2 children after 26th January 2001 would not be eligible for contesting elections for

panchayats, local bodies, mandis or cooperatives in the state.

- In case they get elected and in the mean time they have the third child, they would be disqualified for that post.
- The girl child scheme like Rajlakshmi to ensure retention of girls in schools and to prevent child marriages will be launched in the state with the help of financial institutions.
- Awards will be given in the field of community support for population stabilisation at all levels for the best performing health institutions, individuals and panchayat raj institutions every year
- Rural development schemes, particularly those dealing with infrastructure, will be linked with family planning and reproductive health performance.

Gujarat

- Encouraging local bodies including the panchayats to more purposefully get involved in health, population and development programmes by sharing resources with accountability.
- Involving Aarogya Samitis in conducting need assessment surveys, carrying out resource planning, conducting health and hygiene programmes, monitoring collection of vital data/statistics with special emphasis on infant and maternal deaths, organizing population educational information building programmes and act as pressure groups to enable mobilization of personnel.
- Involving Panchayati Raj Training institutes in capacity building of panchayat members particularly women members for management of health and population programmes.

Statement-II

No. N. 23011/23/2000-Ply
Government of India
Minister of Health & Family Welfare
Department of Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
Dated the 8th March 2002

ORDER

In order to facilitate formulation of Population Policies at the State with State specific strategies while keeping in mind the general spirit of National Population Policy, 2000.

the Government of India has decided to constitute a National Level Resource Committee comprising of the following members:-

- (i) Dr. Vimla Ramachandran, Health Watch
 - (ii) Dr. Leela Visaria, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University
 - (iii) Dr. Almas Ali, Consultant, UNFPA/MoHFW
 - (iv) Dr. Mohan Rao, Professor, JNU, New Delhi
 - (v) Dr. (Ms) Mira Shiva, VHA, New Delhi
 - (vi) Mr. Diego Palacios, Representative of UNFPA
 - (vii) Sh. S.C. Srivastava, Director (Policy), MoHFW - Convenor
2. The terms of Reference of the a "National Level Resource Committee" shall be as under:-
- To provide technical support to State Governments in formulation of State Population Policies.
 - The hold consultative workshops with the State Government officials experts and other civil society actors to assist in formulating the State Population Policy.
3. UNFPA will support the activities of the National Level Resource Committee

(R.N. Bansal)
Under Secretary (Policy)

To,

1. Dr. Vimla Ramachandran, Managing Trustee, YA 6 Sahvikas Plot No. 68. IP Extension, Delhi-92.
2. Dr. Leela Visaria, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University
3. Dr. Almas Ali, Consultant, UNFPA/MoHFW
4. Dr. Mohan Rao, Professor, JNU, New Delhi
5. Dr. (Ms) Mira Shiva, VHA, New Delhi
6. Mr. Diego Palacios, Deputy Representative of UNFPA
7. Sh. S.C. Srivastava, Director (Policy), MoHFW

Invention of Oral Insulin

2516. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

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

- (a) whether oral insulin has been invented under the supervision of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research;
- (b) whether clinical trials on humans have been conducted; and
- (c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu, a constituent unit of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has standardized the heart wood extract of plant traditionally called Vijaysar (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) for anti diabetic activity. The multi-centric clinical trials for the said extract (drug) to be taken up in capsular form by diabetic patients are in progress. The drug, would be commercialized once the clinical trials are over successfully.

Head Post Offices

2517. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have introduced a new scheme for opening of Head Post Offices at all the District Headquarters across the country;
- (b) if so, the name of District Headquarters in Parbhani District of Maharashtra which do not have a Head Post Office as on date; and
- (c) the steps taken to open Head Post Office in Parbhani District?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no such new Scheme. Government's objective continues to set up Head Post Offices at all District Headquarters in a phased manner, subject to fulfilment of norms prescribed in this regard. Meanwhile, in Districts which have no Head Office at their Headquarters, a Sub Post Office having four hands or more has been designated as Mukhya Dak Ghars w.e.f. 01-04-2002. Mukhya Dak Ghars are empowered to undertake transactions at the counter for its customers, independent of the Head office. This concept has now been extended to selected Sub Offices located in other stations which have large volumes of counter transactions.

(b) and (e) The District Headquarters of Parbhani already has a Head Post Office. In addition proposal for setting up Mukhya Dak Ghars in Pathri and Gangakhed Sub Post Offices has been approved.

Release of Assistance from CRF

2518. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals approved under Central Road Fund (CRF) in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware that Rajasthan Government permitted to construct the 10-15 km stretches of such roads on Built-Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis are levy toll tax thereon;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to stop levying of toll tax on roads under CRF; 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) 188 proposals for improvement of State roads in Rajasthan amounting to Rs. 255.16 crores have been approved so far under Central Road Fund.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The decision for levy of toll tax on State roads is taken by the concerned State Government.

ISRO

2519. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation has agreed to assist Karnataka Government in introducing tele medicine facility at all district-Hospitals in collaboration with Narayana Hrudayalaya;

(b) if so, whether ISRO has agreed to provide funds for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the amount to be provided by ISRO?

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

DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government of Karnataka in collaboration with Narayana Hrudayalaya (A unit of Asia Heart Foundation) have indicated their interest to seek assistance from ISRO in introducing telemedicine facility at all District Hospitals in Karnataka.

(b) No proposal is received by ISRO from the Government of Karnataka, requesting for funds for this purpose.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Treatment of Cancer by Molecule

2520. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

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

(a) whether scientists attached to medical sector have developed any micro molecule which can treat cancer effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above invention is likely to be put to use in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) There is an increasing availability of knowledge on the molecular biology of cellular processes in the last two decades which could be put to use in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Recently scientists in the Indian Council of Medical Research have evaluated the role of few molecules in progression of diseases such as 8Cl-c AMP (8 - Chloro - cyclic - adenosine - 3'5' - monophosphate); bcl-2, p53 Oncoproteins, interleukins (ILs), etc. These studies are still at the experimental stage.

STD/ISD/PCOs in Gujarat and Delhi

2521. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

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

(a) the number of ISD/STD/PCO functioning in Gujarat and Delhi, separately;

(b) the number of new connections provided from the year 2000 till date; and

(c) the number of new connections proposed to be provided during the year 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The total number of ISD/STD/PCOs functioning in Gujarat and Delhi as on 31.10.2002 is 43699 and 23134 respectively.

(b) 14,195 new connections (STD/ISD/PCOs) in Gujarat and 11,449 new connections (STD/ISD/PCOs) in Delhi have been provided from the year 2000 (1.4.2000) till 3rd Week of November 2002.

(c) According to the present policy PCOs are allotted to all the eligible applicants as per their registration Subject to technical feasibility. The number of booths to be installed during the year 2003 depends on the availability of eligible applicants and technical feasibility.

Economic Cooperation within SAARC Framework

2522. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress in economic cooperation within the SAARC framework has not been satisfactory for sometime; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (SAPTA) was signed way back in 1993. Till date, the full operationalisation of this Agreement is yet to take place. In addition, SAARC has missed the deadline of 2001 for drawing up a Framework Treaty for a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). The new deadline for the drafting of this Treaty is now 2002.

Funds for Development of National Waterways

2523. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Waterways developed during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the amount spent during each year of the Ninth Plan on the development of National Waterways;

(c) whether Central Assistance is being extended to State Governments for developing inland waterways;

(d) if so, the States which have been provided funds from the Centre during Ninth Plan to develop inland waterways; and

(e) the specific inland waterways developed in those States during that plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) 3 National Waterways have been declared so far namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and the West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara canals.

(b) For development of three National Waterways, amounts spent during each year of Ninth plan are given below:-

1997-98	-	Rs 17.81 Cr.
1998-99	-	Rs. 27.45 Cr.
1999-00	-	Rs. 24.03 Cr.
2000-01	-	Rs. 23.19 Cr.
2001-02	-	Rs. 26.95 Cr.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Tamil Nadu, Kerala, U.P., West Bengal and Goa were provided with funds by the Central Government for development of inland state waterways.

(e) Details of schemes for which assistance to States has been provided for development of Inland Water Transport under Centrally Sponsored Schemes is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Schemes for which assistance to States has been provided for development of IWT under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

S.No.	State	Name of the Scheme
1	2	3
1.	Goa	Capital dredging in Mandovi, Zuari & Mapusa river
2.	Kerala	Modernisation of 379 jetties

1	2	3
3.	Kerala	Modernisation of 55 jetties
4.	Kerala	Modernisation and improvement of waterway from Kotti to Kottapuram
5.	Tamil Nadu	Improvement of Buckingham Canal Central Reach
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Preparation of DPR for development of IWT in river Ghagra from Manjighat to Faizabad.
7.	West Bengal	Modernisation of jetties at Haldia, Kachuberia & Lot No.8
8.	West Bengal	Modernisation of jetties at Raichak
9.	West Bengal	Construction of 5 terminal for ferry Services across river Hooghly.

High Level Expert Group on Pension

2524. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level expert Group on pension has submitted its report to the Government recently;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Group on the pension system; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The High Level Expert Group on New Pension System submitted its report in February 2002. The Group has recommended, inter-alia, a scheme that combines contribution from employees and the Union Government on a matching basis, while committing to the employees a defined benefit as pension and a Voluntary Savings Scheme to which an employee may contribute at his option. The implications of the various recommendations are currently under examination.

India-Russia Talk

2525. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India-Russia talks have been held for co-operation in the field of Ayurvedic Research;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any joint center for Ayurvedic Research is underway; 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) It has been agreed to conduct joint clinical and para-clinical studies of preparations and methods used in Indian traditional systems of medicine, primarily in Ayurveda as well as Homoeopathy, with the view of establishing criteria for evaluation of their efficacy and their proper registration in the Russian Federation.

(c) and (d) A Memorandum of Understanding to establish Russia-India Centre for Ayurvedic Research has been concluded between Department of Science & Technology, Government of India and Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow in March 2002. The Centre is in the process of being registered as per Russian Government laws as reported by Department of Science and Technology.

Indian Council of Medical Research Unit in Kerala

2526. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Government of Kerala for setting up an ICMR field unit in Kerala;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether ICMR field units are functioning in other States; and

(d) if so, the details of the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A request was received from Government of Kerala for establishment of a field station in order to strengthen the capacity of the State to deal with the outbreak of Leptospirosis, a major health threat in the State. The Government of Kerala has been advised to explore the possibility of capacity strengthening through the Regional Medical Research Center at Port Blair which act as a National Research Center of Leptospirosis.

(c) and (d) Details are furnished in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) field units which are functioning in other States are as follows:

Field Stations of Malaria Research Center (MRC), Delhi

- Field stations of MRC, Delhi at Delhi.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), at Rourkela, district Sundergarh.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), at Andaman & Nicobar.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), at Shahjahanpur, U.P.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi) at Shankargarh (district Allahabad).
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), at (Mendla), Jabalpur.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), at Haldwani (district Nanital), Uttaranchal.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), Hardwar, Uttaranchal.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), at Bangalore, Karnataka.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), at Nadiad, Kheda district.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), at Sonapur (district Kamrup), Assam.
- Field Station of Malaria Research Center (Delhi), at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Field Station of VCRC at Malkangiri, Orissa.

Field Stations of NIE, Chennai

- Central Biostatistical Monitoring Unit for Traditional Medicine Research.

Field Stations of TRC, Chennai

- TRC Unit of Epidemiology, Thiruvellure.
- ICMR TRC TB Unit at Madurai.

Field Station of NIV, Pune

- Field station of NIV at Bangalore.

Norms for VOIP

2527. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has finalised any norms for Voice Over Internet Protocol services (VOIP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the companies which are providing VOIP services in India?

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

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

- (c) M/s DATA Access India Ltd. is deploying VOIP for providing International Long Distance (ILD) services under their ILD licence.

Statement

Quality of Service Benchmarks for International Long Distance (ILD) networks engineered by employing VOIP technology

End-to-End Quality of Service (QoS) Parameters

The ILD segment of the network will be engineered to meet the following end-to-end service quality parameters:

Toll Quality Networks:

- MOS $\geq$ 4 or R-value of 80 or higher
- One-way end-to-end delay $\leq$ 150 ms
- Packet loss not to exceed 0.1 %
- Jitter should not exceed 5 ms
- Transparency to DTMF tones
- Services covered in addition of voice to include: G3 Fax; voice-band modem @ 14.4 kbps or higher

Below Toll quality Networks:

- MOS $\geq$ 3 or R-value of 70 or higher
- One-way end-to-end delay $\leq$ 400 ms

- Packet loss not to exceed 2%
- Jitter not to exceed 10 ms

Legend:

MOS: means Mean Opinion Score, a subjective measure of speech quality as defined in ITU- T Recommendation P.800, 'Methods for Subjective Determination of Transmission Quality, August 1996'

'R- Value: is the objective measure of speech quality denoted as the resultant value of the 'Transmission Rating Factor' as defined in ITU-T Recommendations G.107, 'E-Model, Computation Model for Use in Transmission Planning, August 2001' and G.108, 'Application of the E-Model, A Planning Guide, September 1999'.

DTMF: Dual Tone Multi Frequency

Ms: milli second

[Translation]

Share of SSIs in Bihar in Industrial Production

2528. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH. Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the share of small scale industries of Bihar in total industrial production of the country;
- (b) whether any financial aid is provided by the Government to these industries;
- (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) The share of registered Small Scale Industries (SSI) of Bihar in total SSI Industrial Production as on 31.03.2002 is estimated to be 3.37%.

(b) to (d) The SSI units in the country are set up by private entrepreneurs. The Government is not providing financial assistance directly to SSI units. The Government of India and State Government of Bihar are implementing a number of developmental and promotional schemes for SSI Sector. The Central schemes/programmes are not State-

specific. An outlay of Rs. 2200.00 crore has been made for implementation of schemes/ programmes relating to development of SSIs in the country including Bihar. An outlay of Rs. 61.24 crore has been tentatively approved for the Tenth Plan under State Plan for Village & Small Industries sector of Bihar (including SSI sub-sector).

[English]

Vaccine for Cholera and T.B.

2529. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a new vaccine for Cholera and T.B. has been developed by Indian scientists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether trials of the vaccines were conducted on humans; and
- (d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) An indigenous oral recombinant vaccine for Cholera based on VA 1.3 strain of Vibrio Cholera has been developed jointly as a collaborative research effort of scientists of three institutes namely, Institute of Microbiotechnology, Chandigarh and Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata under Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata under Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The vaccine has undergone Phase-I clinical trials at three centres namely, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh; Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow and Society for Applied Studies, Kolkata. The vaccine is currently undergoing Phase-II clinical trials for efficacy.

The ICMR's scientists at Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai and South Campus, New Delhi are engaged in improving the existing BCG vaccine. Animal experiments in guinea pig model of Tuberculosis (TB) are being conducted. The development of new TB vaccine is at the research stage.

PIO Cards

2530. SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to issue cards to the 'Persons of Indian Origin' (PIO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof together with the benefits to be extended to the PIO Card holders;

(c) the details of requests received by the Government from different diplomatic Missions in this regard, country-wise;

(d) whether adequate safeguards from security angle have been taken into consideration before such cards are issued; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Card Scheme was originally introduced with effect from 30-03-1999. Based on the feedback received from the various quarters, the modified PIO Card Scheme has come into effect from 15-09-2002. Under this scheme the fee is Rs. 15,000 and the PIO Card is valid for 15 years. Benefits available to PIO Card holders are as follows:

(i) A PIO Card holder shall not require a separate visa to visit India.

(ii) A PIO Card holder will be exempt from the requirement of registration if his/her stay on any single visit in India does not exceed 180 days.

(iii) In the event of continuous stay in India of the PIO Card holder exceeding 180 days, he/she shall have to get himself / herself registered within 30 days of the expiry of 180 days with the concerned Foreigners Regional Registration Officer/Foreigners Registration Officer.

(iv) All PIO Card holders shall enjoy parity with NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) in respect of all facilities available to the latter in the economic, financial and educational fields except in matters relating to the acquisition of agricultural/ plantation properties. No parity shall be allowed in the sphere of political rights.

(c) Since the modified scheme has come into operation only with effect from 15th September, 2002, no data has yet been received.

(d) Yes.

(e) The PIO Card issuing authorities issue the PIO Card after usual security checks.

Reservation in Promotion for Physically Handicapped

2531. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sent detailed proposals to the Union Government for amending the Constitution to provide reservation to Physically Handicapped in Promotions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No detailed proposal for amending the Constitution to provide reservation to physically handicapped in promotions has been received from any State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reservation in promotion to the physically handicapped is already available when promotions are made within Group 'D', from Group 'D' to Group 'C' and within Group 'C' identified posts.

[Translation]

Primary Health Centres in Jharkhand

2532. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres functioning in Jharkhand, as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more health centers in the State, during Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are established and maintained by State Governments out of the overall funds provided by the Planning Commission under the State Health Sector Plan. PHCs are established as per population norms of 30,000 in plain areas and 20,000 in hilly/tribal areas. As per information available, 561 PHCs are actually functioning

in Jharkhand. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, it is expected that 115 PHCs will be established in accordance with the target laid down by the Planning Commission.

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

2533. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre placed supply order on an external agency for equipment instead of using available in-house fabrication facility during 1996-98 at a cost of Rs. 27-38 lakh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the matter enquired into and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that items are not imported for which indigenously produced are available?

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) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) placed an order on an external agency for fabrication of strap on adjustment systems for Geo-Synchronous Satellite launch Vehicle (GSLV) during 1996-98 at a cost of Rs. 27.38 lakhs. This work was given for external fabrication based on the estimate of work content and large volume of repetitive work, which normally is carried out making use of well qualified external fabrication facilities and also taking into account the work load on the internal fabrication facilities.

(c) A para on this subject was included in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 31, 1998. In the action Taken Note on this para, justification was given for giving this fabrication work to an external agency. Audit concurred with the Action Taken Note.

(d) As a policy, indigenous components/systems are used subject to meeting the space quality and schedule requirements.

List of Essential Drugs

2534. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a list of Essential Drugs at National level has been prepared;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether WHO's list of 260 essential drugs is sufficient to take care of the health problems in the country; and

(d) if not, the steps taken/being taken for early preparation of list of drugs and its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The National Essential Drugs List (NEDL) was published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1996 and contains 279 drugs.

(c) and (d) The Essential Drug lists including that of WHO are revised from time to time. The basic concept is that these medicines are those that satisfy the priority health care needs of the population and are intended to be available within the context of functioning health system.

The model list is meant as a guide for the development of institutional essential lists and not designed as a global standard. The listed medicine is seen as a representative example for a group of clinically equivalent medicines with wide experience of use.

ISD/STD/PCO Facilities in Rural Areas in Andhra Pradesh

2535. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISD/STD/PCO facilities have been extended to all the rural and adivasi areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when such facilities are likely to be made available;

(e) whether Union Government has received requests for providing these facilities in rural areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when whole State is likely to be provided these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of a total of 29460 villages in Andhra Pradesh, 23401 villages have been provided STD/ISD/PCO facilities by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. Telecom facilities in remaining villages are to be provided by the Private Service Provider as per licence agreement.

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

*[Translation]***Letter Boxes in Bihar**

2536. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letter boxes provided in Bihar in various districts, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the number of letter boxes in view of development of new colonies and increase in population;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The number of letter boxes provided in Bihar District-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Letter boxes are installed in new colonies and in areas with increased population based on felt needs.

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

Statement

*District-wise Number of Letter Boxes in Bihar
Circle as on 31.3.2002*

Sl.No.	District	Urban	Rural	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Araria	140	420	560
2	Arwal	10	32	42

1	2	3	4	5
3	Aurangabad	51	827	878
4	Banka	20	624	644
5	Begusarai	46	708	754
6	Bettiah (W. Champaram)	171	277	448
7	Bhagalpur	122	614	736
8	Bhojpur (Arrah)	92	870	962
9	Buxar	62	648	710
10	Darbhanga	111	731	842
11	E. Champaran (Motihari)	62	654	716
12	Gaya	104	789	893
13	Gopalganj	35	678	713
14	Jahanabad	70	372	442
15	Jamui	35	314	349
16	Kaimur (Bhabhua)	40	510	550
17	Katihar	140	454	594
18	Khagaria	26	422	448
19	Kishanganj	95	405	500
20	Lakhisarai	40	262	302
21	Madhepura	23	354	377
22	Madhubani	57	842	899
23	Munger	98	375	473
24	Muzaffarpur	75	780	855
25	Nalanda (Bihar Sharif)	114	847	961
26	Nawada	87	362	449
27	Patna	146	793	939
28	Purnea	125	415	540

	2	3	4	5
29	Rohtas (Sasaram)	50	868	918
30	Sahrsa	36	407	443
31	Samastipur	80	702	782
32	Saran (Chapra)	88	836	924
33	Shiekhpora	45	284	329
34	Sheohar	8	410	418
35	Sitamarhi	90	808	898
36	Siwan	62	759	821
37	Supaul	16	401	417
38	Vaishali (Hajipur)	45	621	666
	Total	2717	21475	24192

**BARC's Joint Project with Thane
Municipal Corporation**

2537. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether BARC has undertaken any joint project with Thane Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details about the project, proposal and the action 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) No, Sir. The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has not undertaken any joint project with Thane Municipal Corporation, Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

Polio Treatment Facilities

2538. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate facilities are available in all States to treat the polio patients:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any irregularities have come to the notice of the Government in implementing pulse polio programme such as misappropriation/under utilization of funds provided by the Union Government;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb such irregularities and to achieve the targets set for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Treatment facilities are available at tertiary level hospitals of States/UTs for treatment of Polio Patients.

The vaccine is given to the States in kind. Funds towards operational expenses for conducting Pulse Polio Immunization rounds are given to the States/UTs on the basis of approved financial norms for various Components. Whenever instances of irregularities in the implementation of Pulse Polio Immunization come to notice, the State government are advise to take necessary action in the matter. One case of alleged financial irregularity by some officials of Rajasthan government is presently under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

[Translation]

Ban on Blood Donation

2539. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court while disposing of a public interest litigation have asked the Government to reconsider the ban imposed on blood donation by various people;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the directions issued on April 5, 1999 on the issue;

(c) if so, by when the necessary notification is likely to be issued; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Delhi High Court while dismissing a public interest litigation have asked the Government to reconsider restrictions on Blood Donations by high risk groups.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Blood Donations are not accepted from known high risk groups like prison inmates, injecting drug users, etc. This is because it is an established scientific fact that these groups have higher levels of HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases and high risk behaviour than the general population. Mere testing of donated blood will not address the issue of 'window period'. To ensure that safe blood is provided to all in need, it is necessary to have strict donor selection criteria. It is for this reason that there is no proposal to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

[English]

Clinical Trials of Risyug - A Male Contraceptive

2540. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of clinical trials of male contraceptive Risyug have been carried out so far;

(b) the present status thereof;

(c) whether any side effect of the contraceptive were observed by the Indian Council of Medical Research; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Phase-I and Phase-II clinical trials with injectable male contraceptive "RISUG" have been completed.

(b) The Drug "RISUG" is presently undergoing limited phase-III clinical trial.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Out of 141 subjects enrolled, the preliminary analysis of 63 subjects reveal that 76.2% subjects had scrotal swelling, 32.3% subjects had persistent pain in scrotal region and scrotal nodules were observed in 24% of the subjects, after one month of injection. Albumin was noticed in urine in 6 subjects after six months of injection. There were method failures in 4 subjects and one pregnancy was reported.

CISF for Patrolling of National Highways

2541. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to hand over National Highways to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) for patrolling;

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

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hague Conference

2542. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government participated at Hague conference on restrictions on missiles and other weapons held recently;

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

(c) the details of the participating countries; and

(d) the expected benefits the country is likely to derive from this conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) A conference to launch an International Code of Conduct (ICOC) against Ballistic Missiles took place in the Hague on November 25-26, 2002. Invitation was extended to all countries to subscribe to the code. Participation in the conference was limited to only those subscribing to the code. India did not participate in this conference as the Government had decided not to subscribe to this Code.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

National Policy on Dissemination of Statistical Data

2543. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Policy on dissemination of statistical data has come into effect;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
(d) by when it is likely to be implemented?

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) to (d) The National Policy on Dissemination of Statistical Data came into effect in 1999. According to the policy, all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India would make available, without identification particulars, published and unpublished validated data, including unit level data, which are not sensitive in nature, to national and international users. The price of data thus supplied would include the cost of stationery, computer consumables and computer time for sorting information, but not the cost of collection and validation.

[Translation]

New Technique for Eye Surgery

2544. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

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

- (a) whether Government are aware that a new technique for eye surgery has been developed in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof including the cost of operation; and
(c) the names of Government/Private Hospitals where this technique is available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Many new technologies are now available for various eye surgeries including phaco-emulsification for cataract surgery & Lasik for correction of refractive errors.

(c) The new techniques of eye surgeries are available in some leading hospitals in Government and Private Sector in the country including Dr. R.P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, New Delhi, RIO at IGIMS, Patna, Sankare Nethralaya, Chennai, Arvind Eye Hospital, Madurai, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

[English]

Bids for Telecom Circles

2545. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telecom circles for which bids were received from the Multinational and Indian companies jointly before 1995 for installation of telephones as per provisions of National Telecom Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, before the year 1995 i.e. upto December, 1994, bids received in terms of National Telecom Policy-1994 were nil.

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

(c) In terms of National Telecom Policy-1994, bids for grant of licences for Basic Telephone Service and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service were invited from Indian registered companies. On completion of the bidding process, successful bidders were granted licenses.

Realisation of British Postal Orders

2546. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of British Postal Orders lying at various P.O's in India, which have not been sent to the respective P.A.O's for realisation of paid vouchers during the last three years;
(b) the resultant loss accrued; and
(c) the steps being taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The amount of British Postal Orders lying at various Post Offices in India, which have not been sent to the respective Postal Accounts Offices for realisation of paid vouchers during the last three years is as follows:

Fig. In lakhs Rs.

1999-2000	-	06.28
2000-2001	-	10.09
2001-2002	-	74.15

(b) There is no loss because as and when the paid British Postal Orders are sent to British Postal Administration, the same are reimbursed to India Post.

(c) The non-submission of BPOs Paid vouchers to Postal Accounts Offices by Head Post Offices is actively monitored by the Postal Directorate by issue of suitable instructions to Head of Circles for sending the wanting vouchers to Postal Accounts Offices and expeditiously deal with the matter for reimbursement from British Postal Administration.

[Translation]

Teaching of English to Afghan Diplomats

2547. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding Teaching of English to Afghan diplomats appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara dated August 4, 2002;

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

(c) reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) A professional course for Afghan diplomats, beginning 6th August 2002, has been successfully completed. NCERT was one of the agencies identified by M/s. Educational Consultants India Limited to conduct the English component but the work had to be awarded to another agency since NCERT withdrew its offer in the course of normal administrative and budgetary processing of the case.

Profit Earned by MTNL

2548. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the profit earned by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited during the last two years in Delhi and Mumbai separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): The net profit earned by MTNL Delhi and Mumbai Units during 2000-01 and 2001-02 is as under:-

Unit	2000-01	2001-02
Mumbai	Rs. 823.43 crores	Rs. 699.23 crores
Delhi	Rs. 521.53 crores	Rs. 406.55 crores

Burn Cases in LNJP Hospital

2549. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of burn cases due to faulty stoves treated at Government hospitals including the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital, Delhi during the last one year;

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to check such cases; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Lok Nayak Hospital has reported that about 717 patients of flame Burns, that pertains to malfunctioning of Kerosene pressure stove, were treated at LNJP Hospital in the year 2001.

As far as the Central Government Hospitals, viz. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital are concerned; data of burn cases due to faulty stoves is not maintained. However, the following indoor and out door patients availed treatment due to burns injury during the year 2001:-

Hospital	Indoor patients	Out door patients
Safdarjung Hospital	1581	24379
Dr. R.M.L. Hospital	606	3081

(b) and (c) It is for the local authorities of State Government to undertake the necessary checks.

[English]

Role of Indian Doctors in Health Care Services in US and Europe

2550. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian doctors formed the backbone of health care services in the United States and Europe;

(b) if so, whether a need to upgrade the medical

facilities both qualitatively and quantitatively is felt to take advantage of the existing skills in the country; and

(c) if so, the step taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) This information is not available with Government.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Health & F.W. has invited proposals from the States/UTs. to improve the Physical Infrastructure of the Government Medical Colleges and attached hospitals in the respective States/U.Ts. with World Bank assistance. Besides, State Health System Development Projects are already under implementation in six states i.e. Punjab, West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. The State Health System Development Project in Andhra Pradesh has been completed on 30.6.2002.

Indian Red Cross Society

2551. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Joint Secretary in the Indian Red Cross Society has been abolished.

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

(c) the number of foreigners deployed by the IRCS for the earth-quake relief work, particularly in Gujarat.

(d) whether the IRCS sought assistance from foreign agencies for funding of salaries:

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the administrative set up in the IRCS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) A statement enclosed containing information as received from the Indian Red Cross Society, which is an Autonomous Body, under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) The post of Joint Secretary in the Indian Red Cross Society has not been abolished.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian Red Cross Society has not deployed any foreigners for the earthquake relief work in Gujarat.

(d) and (e) The Indian Red Cross Society has not sought assistance from foreign agencies for funding of salaries as such.

(f) The Indian Red Cross Society is an Autonomous Body created under an Act of Parliament. All policy decisions regarding the administration and management of the Society are vested with the Managing Body of the Society.

Meteorological Satellite

2552. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is developing meteorological satellite for other countries also:

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

(c) the other details in this regard ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Kandla Port by Private Sector

2553. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals in regard to development of Kandla Port by the Private sector;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the amount estimated to be spent thereon and

the time likely to be taken in its completion and purposes for which it would be used;

(d) whether the Government have also received similar proposals in regard to other ports in the country;

(e) if so, the port-wise details in this regard; and

(f) the details of works executed at each port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (f): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Telephone Exchanges

2554. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in the country, State-wise, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar during the year 2002-03:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(d) by when all the old telephone exchanges are likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have proposed to set up new Telephone Exchanges in the country during the year 2002-2003. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement. New Telephone Exchanges proposed in States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are 49, 50 and 34 respectively.

(c) The estimated amount likely to be spent by BSNL and MTNL is Rupees 9788.33 Crores.

(d) All the old Telephone Exchanges have already been phased out and the network is fully digitalised.

Statement

State-wise list of no. of New Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up during 2002-2003

Name of State / Union Territory	Number of New Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up during 2002-2003
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	02
Andhra Pradesh	150
Assam	44
Bihar	34
Chhattisgarh	25
Delhi	22
Gujarat @	18
Haryana	30
Himachal Pradesh	53
Jammu & Kashmir	10
Jharkhand	17
Karnataka	34
Kerala **	40
Madhya Pradesh	49
Maharashtra *	200
North East \$	44
Orissa	40
Punjab ^	74
Rajasthan	50
Tamil Nadu #	99
Uttaranchal	49
Uttar Pradesh	76
West Bengal ***	171
Total	1331

Note: @ includes Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

** includes Lakshdweep

* includes Goa

\$ includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura

^ includes Chandigarh

includes Pondicherry

*** includes Sikkim

Shortage of Blood

2555. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have failed to meet the shortage of blood;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the annual existing demand of blood in the country and the units of blood being collected through voluntary blood donors;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether despite of Supreme Court orders, the Government failed to fix the fees to be charged for blood so far; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no overall shortage of blood in the country. However, there are occasional and seasonal shortages in a few blood banks.

(c) and (d) The demand of blood in the country is estimated to be 49 lakh units per annum against which about 45% of blood is collected through voluntary blood donations and the rest is collected through replacement donations.

(e) No, Sir. The Government have already issued guidelines for collection of service charges for processing of blood for mandatory tests before its issue.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Per-Capita Income

2556. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :

YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per-capita income in India at present, State-wise and to what extent it is comparable with the average per capita income at the national level and with other developing countries;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the per-capita income?

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) As per the latest information available from the Central Statistical Organisation, the per capita income of States for the year 2000-01 (measured in terms of per capita Net State Domestic Product at constant (1993-94) prices) and the per capita income of the nation (measured in terms of per capita Net National Product at 1993-94 prices) is given in the statement-I. The per capita income of selected developing countries, which is measured by the per capita Gross National Income for the year 2001 is given in enclosed statement-II. The per capita Net State Domestic Product is not strictly comparable across the States, since the Directorates of Economics and Statistics of different states estimate the State level income independently by using methodologies, which are necessarily uniform.

(c) Two pronged strategies of (i) achieving a higher growth rate of Gross Domestic Product and (ii) containment of population growth rate will ensure increase in the per capita income.

Statement-I

Per Capita NSDP at constant (1993-94) prices

(in Rupees)

2000-01		
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	9982
2	Arunachal Pradesh	9013
3	Assam	6157
4	Bihar	3345
5	Jharkhand*	6651

1	2	3
6	Goa	NA
7	Gujarat	12975
8	Haryana	14331
9	Himachal Pradesh	10942
10	Jammu & Kashmir*	7435
11	Karnataka	11910
12	Kerala	10712
13	Madhya Pradesh	7003
14	Chhattisgarh*	6692
15	Maharashtra	15172
16	Manipur	8745
17	Meghalaya	8460
18	Mizoram	NA
19	Nagaland*	8726
20	Orissa	5187
21	Punjab	15390
22	Rajasthan	7937
23	Sikkim*	9816
24	Tamil Nadu	12779
25	Tripura	6813
26	Uttar Pradesh	5770
27	Uttaranchal	NA
28	West Bengal	9778
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	NA
30	Chandigarh	29208
31	Delhi	24450
32	Pondicherry	18500
	All India Per Capita NNP	10254

Source: For Sl. No.1 to 32 - Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments and for all India Central Statistical Organisation

Per Capita NSDP relates to the year 1999-2000

NA Not Available

Statement-II

Per Capita Gross National Income

(in US Dollars)	
	2001
Low Income Countries	430
India	460
China	890
Sri Lanka	830
Pakistan	420
Bangladesh	370
Nepal	250

Source: World Development Report 2003

Quality of Works under MPLAD Scheme

2557. SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints from Members of Parliament that quality of works undertaken by District Heads under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme are not up to the mark;

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

(c) whether Government have sought assistance of Central Vigilance Commission in this regard;

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

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure that money released is spent for development projects of the respective areas?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments and the District Collectors have been advised from time to time to take all

possible steps to ensure the quality of works executed under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). As and when a specific complaint of poor quality of works under the Scheme is brought to the notice of the Government, the District Collector and the State Government concerned are requested to investigate and take immediate corrective measures.

(c) and (d) The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) was requested to investigate a complaint regarding poor quality of the MPLADS works in the Sheikhpura District of Bihar. As the jurisdiction of the C.V.C. does not extend to the State Governments, the C.V.C. has requested the State Government of Bihar to investigate the matter and submit a report to the Commission.

(e) The implementation of MPLAD Scheme is monitored at the District level, the State level and the Central Government level to ensure that MPLADS funds are utilised for developmental projects on the recommendations of the Hon'ble MPs and in accordance with the Guidelines on MPLADS.

Use of Aspirin

2558. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether aspirin analgesic drug has proved to be fatal;

(b) whether there is any plan of banning this drug in India from being sold; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. Aspirin (Acetyl Salicylic acid) is indicated for treatment of mild to moderate pain, inflammation, and fever. It is also used as a prophylaxis for myocardial infraction and transient ischemic episode.

Aspirin carries box warning - "not to be used in patients with platelet and bleeding disorders and children below 12 years of age."

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Youth and Sports Programmes in Orissa

2559. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the item-wise amount spent provided as grant by the Union Government under the Youth Programme and Sports in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether any sports scheme has been submitted by the State Government to the Central Government for its approval;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The amount provided as grants-in-aid by the Union Government under the Youth and Sports Programmes/ Schemes to Orissa during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Programme / Scheme	Amount provided		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Promotion of National Integration	7.63	4.30	3.04
2.	Promotion of Adventure	0.36	-	0.25
3.	National Service Scheme	111.65	149.19	55.65
4.	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan	45.33	37.55	124.24
5.	Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities and Training	4.20	5.45	2.47

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Youth Hostels	1.60	-	-
7.	Sports Authority of India	147.93	146.18	165.19
8.	Grants to Rural Schools for Development of Playfield and Purchase of Sports Equipments	2.02	11.25	15.67
9.	Promotion of Sports and Games in Universities/Colleges	40.33	13.70	40.00

(b) to (d) 30 proposals were submitted by the State Government of Orissa during the last three years for grants-in-aid under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure out of which 7 were found viable and amount sanctioned. The remaining proposals were found deficient and could not be considered for central assistance.

Inland Water Transport Development Council

2560. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and functions of the Inland Water Transport Development Council;

(b) the recommendations made by the Council so far; and

(c) the details of recommendations implemented till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The composition and functions of Inland Water Transport Development Council are as under:-

Composition

An Inland Water Transport Council for development of Inland Water Transport (IWT) under the chairmanship of Minister of Shipping wherein Ministers Incharge of Inland Water Transport of 15 States (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh) are, the members, was set up on 14.5.2001.

Functions

The functions as per the terms of. reference are as follows:-

- (i) To monitor the status/progress of overall development of Waterways and improvement in the share of IWT in cargo and passenger involvement.

(ii) To assess the future, coordinated development of waterways in the country.

(iii) To review the policy framework and recommend changes/modifications.

(iv) To examine requirement of funds for IWT development and recommend facilitative steps.

(v) To recommend measures for steady development of IWT as an integrated component of multimodal transport.

(vi) Any other issue relating to development of IWT, which is of common interest for the Centre and the States.

(b) Recommendations made by the Council in its first meetings are:

- Setting up of IWT Directorate/Divisions by each of the State Governments for focused development of IWT Programmes, for better coordination among various agencies and for implementing regulations relating to IWT.
- Preparation of status paper by each State on their Inland Waterways, evolving strategy for their development and linkage with National Waterways, where these exist and drawing up a comprehensive plan.
- Declaration of new national waterways as maybe feasible with a view to extending the coverage of IWT in the country and to avail of the advantage of such waterways.
- Provision of all necessary facilities in the existing 3 waterways within 10th Plan period i.e. dependable fairway, terminals, reliable and full time navigation together with fixed and regular cargo service schedule; the justification of these projects not to be determined by the rate of return during the

10th Plan but by the need for creating necessary infrastructure as developmental activity.

States to earmark a fixed percentage of their budget for road and tourism sectors for accelerated IWT development.

- States to empower Panchayats to undertake various supporting activities such as desilting, construction of approach roads, jetties, watch and ward activities for development and maintenance of the waterways for generation of economic activities and employment.
- The states should also dovetail approved development programmes to take care of some of the local requirement of IWT.
- Development of tourism related activities including water cruises around and between places of heritage, historical, cultural and religious importance.

In its Second Meeting held on 18.10.2002 the Council was informed by the States about the plan of action they propose during the year for development of waterway in addition to taking stock of action taken to develop national waterways.

(c) The Central Govt. has changed the pattern of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for IWT to 100% Grant Assistance for the North-Eastern States including Sikkim, and 90% Grant Assistance for other States. For better coordination between States and the IWAI regarding development of National Waterways, Coordination Committees/Task Force have been constituted in Kerala, Assam, U.P, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a firm to start river cruise service in and around Varanasi on National Waterway No.1.

Development of Inland Waterways in Karnataka

2561. SHRI. R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a move to expand the inland water transport navigation services, the State Government of Karnataka has made a proposal to the Union Government for developing seven inland waterways of about 150 to 175 kms. on various rivers;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed project;

(c) whether the Union Government has considered the State Government's proposal;

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) the financial assistance the Union Government has agreed to provide for implementing these projects?

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

(b) Proposals were received from the Govt. of Karnataka for financial assistance of 50% by way of loan under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of their six waterways system which included dredging, berthing jetties and wharf, break waters, procurement of dredgers etc.

(c) to (e) These were only preliminary proposals and were not prepared based on the guidelines for Centrally Sponsored Schemes circulated by the Government. The same have been returned to Government of Karnataka for resubmission.

Death due to High Radiation Levels

2562. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have denied reported deaths of animals in villages in and around Pokhran due to high radiation levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) There is no question of any adverse health effect on animals leave alone death due to radiation as there is no increase in background radiation levels in and around Pokhran. Also the Government has not received any report regarding the death of animals in the villages in and around Pokhran due to high radiation levels after the Pokhran nuclear tests. Further Environment Surveillance has confirmed that there is no increase in the background radiation

levels which will result in health hazard to the human and animal population in this area.

[Translation]

Community Information Centre

2563. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the Government have established Community Information Centres for expansion of information technology in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of centres established in the country till the end of March, 2002, State-wise;

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the names of the States where such centres are to be established during the year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Department of Information Technology is implementing a project for setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at 487 block headquarters in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura for promoting application of Information Technology for accelerating socio-economic development of the region. 30 centers have been established till March 2002. 445 have since been added till date.

A total of Rs. 99.35 crores (including 14 crores for pilot project) has been released so far.

The project does not envisage provision of these facilities in other states of the country.

[English]

Indo-Pak Ties

2564. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Japan have agreed to broaden their areas of cooperation in economic and other fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether our Prime Minister had met the Japanese Prime Minister during his visit to New York this year;

(d) if so, whether any delegation from Japan had visited the country to implement the decisions taken by the two Prime Ministers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) During Prime Minister's visit to Japan in December, 2001, it had been agreed to hold a regular exchange of views at high levels to facilitate the cross sectoral dialogue on bilateral, regional and international issues. Deepened economic relations are seen as an essential underpinning to strengthen the bilateral relationship. Information and communication technology are areas where there are extraordinary strong complementarities between the two countries. The comprehensive security dialogue as well as Military-to-Military consultations are to be held annually and a dialogue on counter terrorism included in the former. Prior to Prime Minister's visit, Japan had, in October 2001, unilaterally lifted the "economic measures" imposed on India in May, 1998. It was also agreed to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e) The Japanese delegations that visited India since December 2001, inter alia, include the following:

(i) Three delegations in March, September and October 2002 to study and review economic co-operation between the two countries. Fresh project proposals for Japanese assistance for development projects have been posed by Ministry of Finance.

(ii) Two Missions in March and September-October 2002 in connection with the Japanese offer of assistance for projects to clean the Ganga River. A Scope of Work for study on Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga River was signed. &

(iii) Former Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori in October 2002 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister Koizumi.

[Translation]

Implementation of Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

2565. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Health Policy implemented by the Government during the year 1993 included measures to ensure safe drinking water, sanitation, immunization and fitness health facilities;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Government have achieved success in implementing these measures;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment 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) to (d) The National Health Policy announced by the Government in 1983 focused on important inputs required for improved health care including inter-alia, water supply, sanitation and immunization. Water supply and sanitation being State subjects, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/urban local bodies to plan, formulate, execute, operate and maintain these facilities from the State Plan resources. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for providing water supply facilities, Accelerated Urban and Rural Water Supply Programmes are being implemented. A Centrally sponsored Low Cost Sanitation Scheme is also under implementation.

Under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), immunization is given for prevention of vaccine preventable childhood diseases namely Diphtheria, Pertussis, Neonatal Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Childhood Tuberculosis and Measles. With the implementation of UIP, there has been decline in Childhood diseases. Improved health care indices such as increase in life expectancy, decrease in infant mortality, birth and death rates and epidemiological shifts in terms of reduction in diseases suggests that the health care infrastructure created by the Government have served the people well.

[English]

New Hospitals in Capital

2566. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some new hospitals as an alternative to AIIMS and Dr. RML

Hospitals in the National Capital Regions during 2002-2003 and 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the places have been identified for the location of these new hospitals; and

(d) the details, facilities likely to be available in these hospitals?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Vaccine for AIDS

2567. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

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

(a) whether the scientists at the National Chemical Laboratory have developed an effective vaccine for AIDS/HIV in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Government for the above mentioned research during each of the last three years and for the current year;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the monetary allocation for such research works;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the international patent for the AIDS vaccine has since been obtained;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the action taken by the Government to expedite the process for getting the international patent for the AIDS vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (h) No, Sir. However, CSIR has informed that Scientists from National Chemical Laboratory, Pune have isolated a biologically derived molecule from an alkalothermophilic Bacillus species that inhibits HIV-1 Protease, the enzyme

responsible for the multiplication of the AIDS causing virus. It is not a vaccine but it is an inhibitor. This molecule is isolated from a robust microbe that thrives at high temperature and alkaline conditions.

The inhibitor isolated has an amino acid sequence that shows no similarity to existing peptidic inhibitors and represents an exciting new class of inhibitors. CSIR has filed Foreign Patent Applications on this invention.

CSIR has further informed that the work has been carried out at the test tube level i.e. in-vitro conditions in the laboratory. Depending upon the results, financial resources will be earmarked.

[Translation]

Child and Women Health Care Programmes

2568. SHRI Y.C. MAHAJAN:

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether number of women and children health programmes have been launched by the Government in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the amount spent by the Government in each State under these programmes;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch any scheme in this regard, during the Tenth Five Year Plan; 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) For bringing down maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, several schemes have been launched under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme such as provisioning of essential obstetric care, access to specialists care provisioning of drugs and equipments, referral transport, IEC, Training, immunisation services against 6 vaccine preventable diseases, new born care and treatment of diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infection etc. During the last 3 years, some new initiatives have been undertaken for strengthening the programme viz. training of Dais in 142 Districts of 17 States where safe delivery rates are less than 30%, conducting RCH camps in 178 under-served districts outreach services in 201 districts of low performing States; the National Maternity Benefit Scheme under which Rs. 500 is provided to pregnant women belonging to below poverty line families above the age of 19 etc. Besides a pilot project for Manual Vacuum Aspiration for Safe Abortion Services has been launched recently in 16 districts of 8 States and immunisation against Hepatitis 'B' has been taken up on a pilot basis in 15 metropolitan cities/towns. The State-wise release of funds under these initiatives for which funds have been released during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

Statement-I

State-wise release of funds for the schemes

(Amount in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Dai Training				RCH Camps				RCH Outreach Services				National Maternity Benefit Scheme		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Andhra Pradesh		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	10.56	10.56			1882.12
2	Arunachal Pradesh		33.05	0.00	33.05		10.00	18.00	28.00		0.00	5.28	5.28			21.39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
3	Assam		40.39	0.00	40.39		25.00	48.00	73.00		15.84	26.40	42.24			241.33
4	Bihar		117.50	0.00	117.50		80.00	0.00	80.00		42.24	47.52	89.76			301.74
5	Chhattisgarh		0.00	0.00	0.00		20.00	36.00	56.00		0.00	21.12	21.12			83.15
6	Goa		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	6.00	6.00		0.00	5.28	5.28			6.00
7	Gujarat		3.67	13.50	17.17		0.00	18.00	18.00		15.84	31.68	47.52			89.42
8	Haryana		0.00	0.00	0.00		20.00	36.00	56.00		0.00	10.56	10.56			32.61
9	Himachal Pradesh		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	18.00	18.00		0.00	5.28	5.28			8.40
10	Jammu & Kashmir		7.34	36.80	44.14		0.00	48.00	48.00		0.00	10.56	10.56			34.59
11	Jharkhand		0.00	0.00	0.00		30.00	66.00	96.00		0.00	21.12	21.12			154.75
12	Karnataka		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	10.56	10.56			425.11
13	Kerala		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	10.56	10.56			96.90
14	Madhya Pradesh		66.10	0.00	66.10		25.00	60.00	85.00		58.08	52.80	110.88			543.84
15	Maharashtra		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	10.56	10.56			327.56
16	Manipur		11.02	0.00	11.02		10.00	18.00	28.00		0.00	5.28	5.28			38.62
17	Meghalaya		11.02	0.00	11.02		10.00	18.00	28.00		0.00	5.28	5.28			31.92
18	Mizoram		3.67	0.00	3.67		5.00	12.00	17.00		0.00	5.28	5.28			16.88
19	Nagaland		11.02	0.00	11.02		5.00	12.00	17.00		0.00	5.28	5.28			31.51
20	Orissa		51.41	0.00	51.41		35.00	66.00	101.00		26.40	36.96	63.36			601.92
21	Punjab		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	10.56	10.56			52.52
22	Rajasthan		22.03	0.00	22.03		55.00	96.00	151.00		26.40	36.96	63.36			100.61
23	Sikkim		11.02	0.00	11.02		5.00	12.00	17.00		0.00	5.28	5.28			8.84
24	Tamil Nadu		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	15.84	15.84			843.90
25	Tripura		0.00	0.00	0.00		5.00	12.00	17.00		0.00	5.28	5.28			57.35
26	Uttaranchal		0.00	0.00	0.00		10.00	24.00	34.00		0.00	15.84	15.84			63.29
27	Uttar Pradesh		121.18	0.00	121.18		160.00	288.00	448.00		63.36	84.48	147.84			1075.35
28	West Bengal		11.02	16.86	27.88		0.00	18.00	18.00		15.84	21.12	36.96			364.75
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands		0.00	1.75	1.75		0.00	6.00	6.00		0.00	0.00	0.00			3.00
30	Chandigarh		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	6.00	6.00		0.00	0.00	0.00			3.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	6.00	6.00		0.00	0.00	0.00			3.00
32	Daman & Diu		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	6.00	6.00		0.00	0.00	0.00			6.00
33	Delhi		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	6.00	6.00		0.00	0.00	0.00			3.00
34	Lakshadweep		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	6.00	6.00		0.00	0.00	0.00			2.95
35	Pondicherry		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	6.00	6.00		0.00	0.00	0.00			2.69
Total		0.00	521.44	68.91	590.35		0.00	510.00	972.00	1482.00	0.00	264.00	533.28	797.28	0.00	7540.01

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Cities	State	Amount (in Rs)
1	Delhi	Delhi	365700
2	Lucknow	U.P.	251850
3	Pune	Maharashtra	185092
4	Hyderabad	A.P.	228390
5	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	489210
6	Bangalore	Karnataka	407100
7	Jaipur	Rajasthan	83490
8	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	187680
9	Baroda	Gujarat	73485
10	Mumbai	Maharashtra	1112625
11	Bhopal	M.P.	251850
12	Indore	M.P.	164738
13	Kolkata	West Bengal	365700
14	Patna	Bihar	251850
15	Kanpur	U.P.	191475
Total			4610235

*[English]***Indent of Medicines in CGHS**

2569. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CGHS beneficiaries are required to deposit their original hospital OPD cards for the purpose of indenting the medicine which takes three to four days;

(b) whether it is a fact that heart patients or other serious patients may require the OPD Card during this period of three to four days to visit their doctor in an emergency; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to exempt such patients from depositing their original OPD Cards as also ensure that medicines to such patients are supplied on the next day itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per the procedure in vogue, the beneficiaries are required to deposit the hospital OPD prescription for indenting the medicines.

Steps are in hand for supplying enough medicines in all the CGHS medicines which would take care of the requirement for a majority of the beneficiaries.

As regards indenting of medicines which are not available in the CGHS dispensary, the beneficiaries would not be required to deposit their OPD cards in future.

Share of Global Funds

2570. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to

(a) whether his Ministry has sought a biggest share of the global funds to fight diseases such as AIDS, Malaria and T.B.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present share of global fund received and spent for the above diseases; and

(d) the steps being taken to get more global share for India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. But we have pointed out the burden of disease in India in respect of AIDS, TB and Malaria, and sought allocations to address the unmet need in these sectors.

(c) For the first round of funding by Global Fund, India has been sanctioned a total sum of US \$ 8.783 million for TB Control Programme. Out of the total amount sanctioned, US \$ 8.59 million have been sanctioned in respect of Government of India proposal and remaining US \$ 0.193 million for an NGO viz. REACH, Chennai. Funds are still awaited.

(d) For the second round of funding by Global Fund, India has submitted Country Coordinated proposals for US \$ 253.67 million in September 2002.

[Translation]

Road Construction by Multinational Companies

2571. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether a number of foreign companies are engaged in road construction sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give some concessions to the foreign investors who are interested in investing in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the length of roads in kilometres being constructed by foreign companies in the country, State-wise;

(f) the amount allocated for this purpose;

(g) the projects which are lagging behind schedule;

(h) the reasons for delay; and

(i) the project-wise increase in cost due to delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 12 contracts are being executed by foreign companies exclusively and 35 contracts as Joint Venture partners with Indian companies, under the National Highway Development Project.

(c) and (d) Foreign investors are allowed 100% foreign direct investment in road sector.

(e) The details are in the enclosed statement.

(f) The total value of contracts for these projects is about Rs. 12505 crores.

(g) Out of 47 contracts where foreign companies are involved, 16 are lagging behind schedule.

(h) The contracts are delayed due to problems associated with land acquisition, slow mobilization, quarry problems, tree cutting, Gujarat earthquake, etc.

(i) The contracts are at various stages of completion and many of the companies are still trying to make up the delay and complete the projects in time. As such, it is too early to assess the likely increase in cost due to delay.

Statement

The State-wise length being constructed by foreign companies/Joint Ventures involving Foreign Companies.

State	Length (in kms)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	575
Bihar	106
Delhi	13
Gujarat	266
Jharkhand	79
Karnataka	298
Maharashtra	29
Orissa	221
Punjab	22

1	2
Rajasthan	98
Tamil Nadu	93
Uttar Pradesh	404
West Bengal	243

[English]

**Diversion of Funds Provided by
World Bank/ADB**

2572. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans and advances received from the World Bank/Asian Development Bank and other international financial institutions for construction and maintenance/repair of National Highways/Bridges in Gujarat during last three years;

(b) whether the total loan amount was spent for those very projects;

(c) if not, whether such loans and advances have been spent for some other purpose;

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

(e) the connective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) One loan agreement for an amount of US \$ 180 million has been signed in October 2000 with Asian Development Bank for rehabilitation and upgradation to four-lanes of Surat-Manor Section of National Highway-8 (i.e. Surat-Manor tollway Project, 118.2 km in Gujarat and 57.4 km in Maharashtra), which is under progress.

(b) Yes, Sir. The loan amount is being spent on this very project.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

New Ayurvedic Drugs

2573. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

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

(a) whether the new pharmacopoeia for Ayurvedic medicines have been approved by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trials are necessary for introduction of Ayurvedic drugs; and

(d) if so, the names of the authorities who would monitor and approve such trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Government of India have published Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India in 3 volumes covering 258 monographs on plant origin drugs.

(c) and (d) The drugs as mentioned in classical books can be introduced/manufactured without clinical trials.

Facilities for Treatment of Cancer

2574. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) the approximate number of cancer patients diagnosed every year;

(b) whether it is a fact that about three lakh cancer patients die every year;

(c) the number of Regional Cancer Centres, State-wise; and

(d) the number of Government hospitals in each State in the country where facilities for treatment of cancer are available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information on incidence rate of cancer is available through the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research. Based on the data from Population Based Cancer Registries under National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR for the entire country, the expected number of new cases were 8.06 lakhs for the year 2001. Based on the cancer mortality observed in the Mumbai Population Based Cancer Registry, the projected number of

deaths caused by cancer in the country is about 4.3 lakhs per year.

(c) This Ministry has recognized 19 Regional

Cancer Centres in different States/UTs. A list of these RCC is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) This information is not centrally maintained, however, all district hospitals are engaged in cancer control activities.

Statement

List of RCC

Kamla Nehru Memorial
Hospital, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute,
Kolkata, West Bengal

Kidwai Memorial Instt. of
Oncology, Bangalore, Karnataka.

Regional Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar,
Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre
for Cancer Research & Treatment, Cuttack,
Orissa.

Regional Cancer Control Society, Shimla,
Himachal Pradesh

Cancer Hospital & Research Centre,
Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Indian Rotary Cancer Institute. (A.I.I.M.S),
New Delhi

R.S. T. Hospital & Research Centre,
Nagpur, Maharashtra

Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur,
Chhattisgarh.

Regional Cancer Centre,
Thiruvananthapuram

Gujarat Cancer Research Institute,
Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad,
Andhra Pradesh

Pondicherry Regional Cancer Society,
JIPMER, Pondicherry

Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati,
Assam

Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai,
Maharashtra

Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical
Sciences, Patna, Bihar.

Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer Trust &
Research Institute (RCC) Bikaner,
Rajasthan

Regional Cancer Centre, Pt. B.D. Shrama
Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences,
Rohtak, Haryana.

Bridge Over Siang River

2575. SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of a bridge over Siang River at Raneghat in Pasighat (East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh) was to be completed by 1994, foundation for which was laid in 1988-89 by late Shri Rajiv Gandhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be completed?

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

B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The bridge over Siang river at Raneghat near Pasighat is being constructed by Border Roads Organisation. The length of the bridge is 703.50 m. The original date of completion of the bridge was September 1991. However, due to some serious technical problems encountered during the execution of work, its completion has been delayed. The work is in progress and is likely to be completed by March, 2005.

[Translation]

Internet Express Service Scheme

2576. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced Internet Express Service Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the salient features of the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Sir, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has started this service for Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) MTNL has launched Internet Express Service Scheme on 26th January, 2002 at Delhi and Mumbai simultaneously. Initially it was free for 100 days. The paid service with tariff of 10 paise per minute was introduced from 6th May, 2002 for both the places.

Internet Express Service is available on dial up basis. User is required to input his/ her telephone number as user - ID and any alphanumeric string as password to log on to the service.

(c) The salient features of this scheme are as under:

1. The authentication is based on Calling Line Identification (CLI) of Telephone.
2. The service is available to MTNL telephone users.
3. This is post paid service and revenue is realised through telephone bills of the subscribers.
4. Internet Express Service can be availed instantaneously from any MTNL Telephone any time.
5. The service is very convenient as it avoids registration procedure.

[English]

Modernisation of Paradeep Port

2577. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals mooted if any for the development and modernisation of Paradeep Port during Tenth Plan; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRI JKKARASAR): (a) and (b)

Development and Modernisation of Major Ports is an on-going process to cope with the demands of Maritime Trade. Towards this end proposals amounting to Rs. 222.70 crores have been projected in the 10th Five Year Plan for Paradip Port as per the following details:-

S.No.	Project	Amount (in Crores)
(i)	Mechanised Coal Handling Plant (Spillover)	8.00
(ii)	Deepening of Channel (to be financed through Grant in Aid)	99.99
(iii)	Incorporation of second stream at existing Iron Ore Handling Plant (IOHP)	10.00
(iv)	Replacement of Wharf Crane	12.00
(v)	Construction of lighthouse berth	12.00
(vi)	Extension of breakwater	20.00
(vii)	Construction of Oil Berth (Spillover)	21.96
(viii)	Upgradation of Power Distribution (Spillover)	06.50
(ix)	Construction of concrete road (Spillover)	05.37
(x)	Installation of Modern Fire Fighting System	06.00
(xi)	Others	20.88.

In addition to the above there is a proposal for construction of berths for clean cargo (Fertilizers, Food grains, Edible Oil etc.) on BOT basis to be taken up through private sector participation which envisages an estimated cost of Rs.100.00 crores.

Medical Store Depots

2578. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether Government Medical Store Depots were centralized for procurement of medical supplies for Government establishments;

(b) if so, whether the Medical Store Depots in Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai have failed to supply medicines to indentures and have resorted to local purchases;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of cases where sub-standard medicines purchased and issued to the beneficiaries by Government Medical Store Depots; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline procurement of medicines through Government Medical Store Depots?

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

(b) and (c) All Government Medical Store Depots including Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai could not supply medicine in the current year due to non finalization of rates both for Generic as well as Proprietary medicines. Government Medical Store Depots do not resort to local purchase.

(d) The question of purchasing substandard drugs by Government Medical Store Depots does not arise. Every batch of medicine is subjected to test in two Government approved laboratories and supplies are accepted only after receipt of satisfactory test report.

(e) An action plan to streamline the procurement through Medical Store Organisation (MSO) is being drawn up.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Reproductive and Child Health

2579. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank proposed to provide financial-assistance under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether population-growth has been brought under check on account of this programme; 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 World Bank funded Reproductive and Child Health Programme launched in 1997 is currently under implementation. The first phase of the programme is closing in March, 2003, which is likely to be extended upto December,

2003. The details of assistance provided by the World Bank for this Programme is as under:

Year	Funds provided (in Rs. crores)
1998-99	13.75
1999-00	171.55
2000-01	103.35
2001-02	327.26
2002-03 (till date)	110.00

Further, the World Bank has been approached to provide assistance for the successor phase of the RCH Programme during 2003-2008 period.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. As may be seen from the declining natural growth in the population over the years.

Year	Natural Growth Rate per cent
1997	1.83
1998	1.75
1999	1.74
2000	1.73

Source: Sample Registration System

[English]

Vacancies in Indian Missions

2580. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Indian Missions abroad are without regular heads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when these vacancies are existing; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No. There are six Indian Missions abroad where there are no Heads of Missions in position at present. These Indian

Missions are in Sudan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Indonesia and Suriname.

(c) The post of Head of Indian Mission in Sudan is vacant since 17th December 2001, Pakistan since 25th December 2001, Republic of Korea since 8th August 2002, Mongolia since 16th October 2002, Indonesia since 30th October 2002 and Suriname since 08th November 2002.

(d) New Heads of Mission for Sudan, Republic of Korea and Indonesia have already been nominated and will be moving very shortly after completion of certain mandatory formalities. Necessary action is in hand regarding the appointment of Heads of Missions in Mongolia and Suriname. Government had withdrawn the High Commissioner from Pakistan following the December 13 attack on our Parliament and the absence of any effective steps taken by the Government of Pakistan to put an end to cross border infiltration and terrorism.

[Translation]

Population Control

2581. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV:

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

(a) the population of the country as per the latest census report;

(b) the population of males and females, separately, State-wise; and

(c) the concrete measures being taken by the Government for population control in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per the census report 2001, the population of the country is 1027 million. The population of males and females, state-wise as per the 2001 census is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for population control are 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 stabilization, with community involvement in administering family planning services.

- National Population Policy 2000 has one of the objectives 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 (EAG) has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister for focused attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services in the demographically weaker eight states.
- No scalpel vasectomy is encouraged to have an increased male participation in the programme.

Statement

Population of India - States/Union Territories: 2001

India and States/ Union Territories	Population 2001		
	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4
India	1,027,015,247	531,277,078	495,738,169
Jammu and Kashmir	10,069,917	5,300,574	4,769,343
Himachal Pradesh	6,077,248	3,085,256	2,991,992
Punjab	24,289,296	12,963,362	11,325,934
Chandigarh*	900,914	508,224	392,690
Uttaranchal	8,479,562	4,316,401	4,163,161
Haryana	21,082,989	11,327,658	9,755,331
Delhi*	13,782,976	7,570,890	6,212,086
Rajasthan	56,473,122	29,381,657	27,091,465
Uttar Pradesh	166,052,859	87,466,301	78,586,558
Bihar	82,878,796	43,153,964	39,724,832
Sikkim	540,493	288,217	252,276
Arunachal Pradesh	1,091,117	573,951	517,166

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	1,988,636	1,041,686	946,950
Manipur	2,388,634	1,207,338	1,181,296
Mizoram	891,058	459,783	431,275
Tripura	3,191,168	1,636,138	1,555,030
Meghalaya	2,306,069	1,167,840	1,138,229
Assam	26,638,407	13,787,799	12,850,608
West Bengal	80,221,171	41,487,694	38,733,477
Jharkhand	26,909,428	13,861,277	13,048,151
Orissa	36,706,920	18,612,340	18,094,580
Chhattisgarh	20,795,956	1,452,426	10,343,530
Madhya Pradesh	60,385,118	31,456,873	28,928,245
Gujarat	50,596,992	26,344,053	24,252,939
Daman & Diu*	158,059	92,478	65,581
Dadra & Nagar Haveli*	220,451	121,731	98,720
Maharashtra	96,752,247	50,334,270	46,417,977
Andhra Pradesh	75,727,541	38,286,811	37,440,730
Karnataka	52,733,958	26,856,343	25,877,615
Goa	1,343,998	685,617	658,381
Lakshadweep*	60,595	31,118	29,477
Kerala	31,838,619	15,468,664	16,369,955
Tamil Nadu	62,110,839	31,268,654	30,842,185
Pondicherry*	973,829	486,705	487,124
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	356,265	192,985	163,280

Source: Registrar General of India, Census of India 2001 (Prov. Totals)

Use of Bharathi Docks for Exports

2582. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra

Pradesh have requested the Union Government to allow Indian exporters to use Bharathi docks at Chennai port for export purposes on a permanent basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government to make available Bharathi Docks at Chennai Port for export of barytes on a regular basis.

(b) Chennai Port Trust's berth at Bharathi Dock-II is a dedicated Iron Ore berth developed with all the infrastructure facilities required for the receipt, stacking and export of Iron Ore. The designed capacity of the plant is 6 million MTs whereas the per year throughput is in the order of 6.8 million MTs. As the berth is fully occupied by Ore vessels in view of the huge demand for export of Iron Ore, no spare capacity is available in the berth or in the stockyard to handle any other cargo on a regular basis. However, barytes is being handled at other berths in the inner harbour.

Construction of Embassy Complex in Brazil

2583. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Embassy in Brazil continues to hire accommodation to house the various functionaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) by when the Embassy Complex is likely to be constructed?

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

(b) and (c) The Government had initiated steps at various points of time for undertaking the construction project, including engagement of an architect for the conceptual layout plan and for determination of the estimated cost of construction. The economic viability of the project was not established due to very high cost of construction prevailing in Brazil as compared to the relatively lower rental structure. As the cost of construction has now come down and the project has become economically viable, the requisite planning for the project has commenced. After completion of pre-construction procedures and obtaining due administrative/financial approvals, actual construction will begin. The intention of the Government is to complete the project without delay.

Vacancies in Cultural Centres

2584. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of posts are lying vacant in cultural centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the vacancies; and
- (d) by when the vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Of the 32 India-based posts in Indian Cultural Centres abroad, three are presently vacant. These are of the Director, Indian Cultural Centre, Almaty (Kazakhstan), Kathak Dance Teacher and Tabla Teacher, Indian Cultural Centre, Tashkent (Uzbekistan).

(c) The vacancies have arisen due to the completion of the tenure of the concerned officials.

(d) The recruitment process for filling up these vacancies is in progress and is expected to be completed shortly.

Investment in I.T.

2585. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

DR. V. SAROJA:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Gates pledges Rs. 2000 crores investment" appearing in the Times of India dated November 13, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) As per the news-item, Mr. Gates has announced investment mainly in IT education,

teachers training, develop IT curricula, etc., and ties with India's top IT companies.

Department of Information Technology has received no formal proposal from Microsoft in this regard.

Recognition of Unions by Department of Posts

2586. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Unions have been given recognition by the Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Unions which have not even fulfilled the minimum criteria of 15 per cent in the matter of membership verification are also recognised as trade unions;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) whether IPSBC Staff Association is not being recognised as a trade union for the last two years despite fulfilling the minimum criteria of 15 per cent of membership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) 18 Service Associations/ Unions have been given recognition by Department of Posts in terms of Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Associations) Rules, 1993.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) The existing recognition of service Associations/ Unions in the Department of Posts is based on the membership verification process carried out in 1996-97 where the Indian Postal SBCO Staff Association failed to secure minimum 15 percent membership. The results of verification process initiated in November, 2000 are yet to be declared.

Ayurvedic Doctors in Family Planning Programme

2587. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose inclusion of services of Ayurvedic Doctors in National Family Planning Programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Efforts were made requesting seven States (Haryana, H.P., U.P., Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan) having Ayurvedic infrastructure for posting of ISM Medical Officers after proper training, in remote PHCs, which remain unfilled by allopathic medical officers to provide RCH/FW services along with regular health services.

Of the seven States, Himachal Pradesh, has favourably responded to the proposal. The State has integrated ISM from District to PHC level and has identified 661 Ayurvedic health centres to provide various health programmes including RCH/FW and have posted 80 ayurvedic doctors against vacant posts of allopathic medical officers in various PHCs of the State on a permanent basis.

[English]

Financial Assistance for Computerisation of Treasuries

2588. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether some States have sought financial assistance from the Union Government for computerisation of their treasuries and sub-treasuries connecting them to the Central Networking Communication System through V-SATs;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals received during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to release the financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PABRIAN): (a) to (c) Department of Information Technology (the then MIT) received a project proposal from Government of Karnataka in the year 2000 for financial support of Rs.47.407 crores for computerization of treasuries. Government of Karnataka was advised to reframe the proposal as per the norms existing at that time for such support. They did not come back with their revised proposal.

Ministry of Finance, on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, has released grants of Rs.200 crores to the States in respect of fiscal administration including treasuries during the years 2000-01 to 2002-03. Statewise details are given in the enclosed statement.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) of Department of Information Technology have developed computer software solutions for treasuries which they are implementing in various States. States could also make use of networking communication system of NIC for treasuries.

Statement

Upgradation and Special Problem Grants Recommended by E.F.G.

		PT in Nos. & FT in Rs. Lakhs							
S.No.	State	EFC		SLEC		Released			
		PT	FT	PT	FT	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Total
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Andhra Pradesh		1800.00		1800.00	361.98	1438.02	0.00	1800.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh		100.00		0.00	10.06	39.94	50.00	100.00
3	Assam		300.00		300.00	30.17	119.83	150.00	300.00
4	Bihar		404.00		0.00	40.62	363.38	0.00	404.00
5	Chhattisgarh		315.00		315.00	63.34	94.16	157.50	315.00

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6	Goa		100.00		100.00	20.11	79.89	0.00	100.00
7	Gujarat		1700.00		0.00	170.94	1529.06	0.00	1700.00
8	Haryana		600.00		600.00	60.33	539.67	0.00	600.00
9	Himachal Pradesh		100.00		100.00	20.12	29.88	50.00	100.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir		100.00		0.00	10.06	39.94	50.00	100.00
11	Jharkhand		196.00		0.00	19.71	78.29	98.00	196.00
12	Karnataka		1600.00		1533.00	321.76	1278.24	0.00	1600.00
13	Kerala		1100.00		800.00	110.61	989.39	0.00	1100.00
14	Madhya Pradesh		885.00		885.00	88.99	796.01	0.00	885.00
15	Maharashtra		3000.00		0.00	301.65	2698.35	0.00	3000.00
16	Manipur		100.00		0.00	10.06	39.94	50.00	100.00
17	Meghalaya		100.00		100.00	20.12	29.88	50.00	100.00
18	Mizoram		100.00		0.00	10.06	39.94	50.00	100.00
19	Nagaland		100.00		100.00	20.12	29.88	50.00	100.00
20	Orissa		400.00		400.00	40.22	359.78	0.00	400.00
21	Punjab		800.00		800.00	160.88	639.12	0.00	800.00
22	Rajasthan		900.00		746.00	181.00	719.00	0.00	900.00
23	Sikkim		100.00		0.00	10.06	39.94	50.00	100.00
24	Tamil Nadu		2000.00		0.00	201.10	1798.90	0.00	2000.00
25	Tripura		100.00		100.00	10.06	39.94	50.00	100.00
26	Uttar Pradesh		1518.00		611.00	152.64	1365.36	0.00	1518.00
27	Uttaranchal		282.00		0.00	28.36	112.64	141.00	282.00
28	West Bengal		1200.00		0.00	120.66	1079.34	0.00	1200.00
Total		0.00	20000.00	0.00	9290.00	2595.79	16407.71	996.50	20000.00

Private Companies for ILDS

dealing with International Long Distance Service at present;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to allow more number of private companies to operate International Distance Service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

2589. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the public sector and private sector companies

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) At present there are four private sector companies which are dealing with International Long Distance Service viz M/s Bharti Telesonic Limited, M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited, M/s Data Access (India) Limited and M/s Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. At present, no public sector company is dealing with International Long Distance Service.

(b) and (c) As per the guidelines for International Long Distance Service, there is no restriction on the number of players.

World Bank's Report on TRAI

2590. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the world Bank in its report has demanded for the strengthening of the TRAI;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The World Bank has granted a loan for the "Telecom Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project". One of the components of this project is for strengthening of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

This component includes technical assistance to strengthen TRAI's ability to regulate the sector through the consultative studies and trainings. The consultative studies will cover priority regulatory issues in regulatory infrastructure, sector liberalization, Licensing and interconnection issues, development networks and services, quality of service and customer satisfaction, and fostering fair competition. TRAI has already taken-up a number of consultancies and trainings under this Programme.

[Translation]

Assistance for Chhatrapathi Shahuji Medical College

2591. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have

sought assistance from the Union Government for the construction of proposed Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj Medical University in Lucknow;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the amount proposed to be given as assistance and by when the amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A request in this regard was received from the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) "Health" being a State subject, the Central Government have no scheme for setting up Medical Universities in the State sector or to provide financial assistance for setting up such Universities. The above position has been conveyed to the Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh through a D.O. letter No. U-12020/11/2002-ME (P-II) dated 08-10-2002.

[English]

Import of Flat Bottom Boats

2592. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import flat bottom boats from Belgium to promote Inland Water Transport System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether letter of intent has been signed between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on import of these boats; and

(f) by when these boats are likely to arrive?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Targets for Family Welfare Programmes

2593. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed by his Ministry for the effective implementation of the family welfare programme in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments have been successful in achieving the target;

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

(d) the funds proposed to be allocated to each State by his Ministry as loans and as grants-in-aid under the Family Welfare Programmes funds proposed to be allocated for Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) the details of the funds spent and the funds lying unutilized with each of the State Government;

(f) whether his Ministry has reviewed the causes of failure of the family welfare programme in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith reaction of the State Government on the reviews?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No targets are fixed by the Ministry since April, 1996. As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) estimates for Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR) are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) State-wise allocation are made only for the Annual Plans. State-wise allocation of grant-in-aid for cash releases for Annual Plans 2002-03 is given in the enclosed statement-II.

The grant-in-aid released to the States for the maintenance of infrastructure etc. falls short of the request of the states, and are fully utilized. State-wise release and expenditure on other programmes for the years 1999-2002 is given in enclosed statement-III.

(f) and (g) Among the major States two states have TFR less than 2.1 and 7 States have TFR in between 2.2 to 3.0 as can be seen from statement-I.

An Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister for focused attention on improving

the coverage and outreach of services in the demographically weaker eight states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Three meetings of this group have been held, so far.

Statement-I

Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) & Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	CBR 2000	IMR 2000	TFR 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	21.3	65	2.4
2	Assam	26.9	75	3.2
3	Bihar	31.9	62	4.5
4	Gujarat	25.2	62	3.0
5	Haryana	26.9	67	3.2
6	Karnataka	22.0	57	2.5
7	Kerala	17.9	14	1.8
8	Madhya Pradesh	31.4	87	3.9
9	Maharashtra	21.0	48	2.5
10	Orissa	24.3	95	2.7
11	Punjab	21.6	52	2.5
12	Rajasthan	31.4	79	4.2
13	Tamil Nadu	19.3	51	2.0
14	Uttar Pradesh	32.8	83	4.7
15	West Bengal	20.7	51	2.4
16	Arunachal Pradesh	22.3	44	NA
17	Chhattisgarh	26.7	79	NA
18	Delhi	20.3	32	NA
19	Goa	14.3	23	NA
20	Himachal Pradesh	22.1	60	2.4
21	Jammu & Kashmir	19.7	50	NA

1	2	3	4	5
22	Jharkhand	26.5	70	NA
23	Manipur	18.3	23	NA
24	Meghalaya	28.5	58	NA
25	Mizoram	16.0	21	NA
26	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA
27	Sikkim	21.8	49	NA
28	Tripura	16.5	41	NA
29	Uttaranchal	20.2	50	NA
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	19.1	23	NAL
31	Chandigarh	17.5	28	NA
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	34.9	58	NA
33	Daman & Diu	23.7	48	NA
34	Lakshadweep	26.1	27	NA
35	Pondicherry	17.8	23	NA
All India		25.8	68	3.2

Source: Sample registration system

Statement-II

Allocation of Grants-in-Aid for Maintenance of Infrastructure during 2002-2003

(Rs.in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14154.00
2.	Bihar	12124.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	4541.00
4.	Goa	260.00
5.	Gujarat	9606.00
6.	Haryana	3308.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2767.00

1	2	3
8.	Jharkhand	5420.00
9.	Karnataka	10885.00
10.	Kerala	5964.00
11.	Madhya Pradesh	11318.00
12.	Maharashtra	14659.00
13.	Orissa	6837.00
14.	Punjab	4127.00
15.	Rajasthan	12206.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	11426.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	23234.00
18.	Uttaranchal	1911.00
19.	West Bengal	10504.00
Total (Other States)		165251.00
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	2290.00
Total (Jammu & Kashmir)		2290.00
Total (States-NER)		167541.00
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	899.54
2.	Assam	14712.72
3.	Manipur	1610.06
4.	Meghalaya	1275.89
5.	Mizoram	1117.20
6.	Nagaland	1035.00
7.	Tripura	1624.90
Total (NE States)		22275.31
8.	Sikkim	567.25
Total (Sikkim)		567.25
Total (NE+Sikkim)		22842.56
Total. All States		190383.56

1	2	3	1	2	3
UTs with Legislature			3.	Chandigarh	276.14
1.	Delhi	1763.60	4.	Lakshadweep	29.98
2.	Pondicherry	536.00	5.	Daman & Diu	121.38
UTs without Legislature			Total - UTs		3210.60
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	317.06	Grand Total		193594.16
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	166.44			

Statement-III

State-wise Releases & Expenditure on other programmes (RCH, Area Project, IEC & NMBS) for the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure	Release	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	2402.51	2583.93	5747.89	3611.49	5388.93	3027.04
2	Arunachal Pradesh	169.62	254.15	192.40	141.37	177.87	176.42
3	Assam	3271.35	2700.78	2835.39	597.43	3157.98	4155.16
4	Bihar	1468.37	1093.11	2798.06	1738.16	2042.09	101.57
5	Goa	53.16	44.80	24.45	37.75	40.71	11.16
6	Gujarat	1304.61	867.70	1374.81	1349.09	7895.46	973.98
7	Haryana	953.54	687.25	1727.14	1168.95	1316.67	818.89
8	Himachal Pradesh	443.04	340.03	459.28	518.65	315.45	156.61
9	Jammu & Kashmir	367.73	941.68	579.59	196.49	398.06	375.88
10	Karnataka	1468.44	3333.47	5662.01	4034.95	6658.59	7151.12
11	Kerala	1072.51	658.04	1282.78	990.89	1326.13	1074.78
12	Madhya Pradesh	2639.83	2133.48	3791.78	1286.46	3005.87	1034.84
13	Maharashtra	1493.41	1789.59	1361.35	1164.99	3352.45	550.68
14	Manipur	512.65	212.83	438.39	265.70	721.13	103.76
15	Meghalaya	124.25	102.93	86.98	79.68	187.20	97.33
16	Mizoram	582.73	498.78	750.86	659.43	771.55	714.79
17	Nagaland	165.63	195.36	168.81	119.42	178.45	188.42
18	Orissa	2023.84	947.51	1869.88	892.42	3250.79	922.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19	Punjab	495.92	371.91	759.91	531.11	739.78	510.80
20	Rajasthan	1851.72	1692.98	4918.98	2973.57	5557.01	4513.79
21	Sikkim	63.42	59.83	56.83	35.51	83.48	28.68
22	Tamil Nadu	3621.13	3286.65	4238.56	922.73	2826.50	892.00
23	Tripura	277.29	175.75	194.02	352.55	540.59	98.30
24	Uttar Pradesh	4184.74	3000.42	5757.07	5675.09	9192.77	5139.95
25	West Bengal	1529.01	3590.03	3951.70	3506.01	4033.46	3758.23
26	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	314.10	0.00	963.43	0.00
27	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	37.00	0.00	620.43	0.00
28	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	208.59	0.00	490.38	8.77
Total (States)		32540.45	31562.99	51028.92	32849.91	65233.21	36585.55
UTs with Legislature							
1	Pondicherry	59.78	55.34	34.29	35.03	35.35	40.80
2	Delhi	1352.55	1424.41	2332.46	1920.53	1269.59	2257.88
UTs without Legislature							
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	43.69	51.97	43.16	17.34	48.96	34.65
2	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	36.86	13.86	14.31	16.64	26.43	8.14
3	Chandigarh	48.30	27.17	124.43	25.68	32.70	15.07
4	Lakshadweep	34.03	11.69	29.14	18.60	21.60	8.96
5	Daman & Diu	37.33	31.39	11.15	13.13	20.74	7.53
Total (UTs)		1612.54	1615.83	2588.94	2046.95	1455.37	2373.03
Grand Total		34152.99	33178.82	53617.86	34896.86	66688.58	38958.58

Shortage of Corneas

2594. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of corneas needed for the operation of the eyes in the country;

(b) the number of corneas available in the country at present;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet this shortage;

(d) the reasons for the shortage thereof; and

(e) the number of corneas received in donation, State-wise since the year 2000 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) About one lakh corneas are needed every year for the eye

operations in the country. Against the requirement, about 20,000 corneas are being collected every year by various eye banks in the country.

(c) Annual Eye Donation Fortnight from 25th August to 8th September and Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programmes are being organized to motivate the people for donating the eyes.

(d) The reasons for shortage of donated corneas are:

1. Inadequate number of functional eye banks
2. Low rate of donated eyes due to social reasons.
3. Need for collection of donated eyes within 6 hours of death.

(e) The State-wise details of corneas received in donation since 2000 is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Statewise details of Eye collection

S.No.	State/UT	2000	2001	2002 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	1306	1575	123
2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands			
3	Arunachal Pradesh			
4	Assam	0	12	4
5	Bihar	17	21	18
6	Chandigarh	246	264	44
7	Chhattisgarh			
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		0	
9	Daman & Diu			
10	Delhi	1040	1220	81
11	Goa			
12	Gujarat	6078	5076	415
13	Haryana	168	145	18

1	2	3	4	5
14	Himachal Pradesh			
15	Jammu & Kashmir			
16	Jharkhand			
17	Karnataka	874	1029	126
18	Kerala	264	430	291
19	Lakshadweep			
20	Madhya Pradesh	408	233	86
21	Maharashtra	3628	3962	634
22	Manipur			
23	Meghalaya			
24	Mizoram			
25	Nagaland			
26	Orissa	0	0	
27	Pondicherry	71	92	12
28	Punjab	209	280	71
29	Rajasthan	218	190	112
30	Sikkim			
31	Tamil Nadu	3359	4440	1186
32	Tripura			
33	Uttar Pradesh	224	310	18
34	Uttaranchal			
35	West Bengal	531	615	85
Total		18641	19894	3324

[English]

Telecom Project

2595. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) the number of telecom projects undertaken under Built Owned Lease Transfer (BOLT) scheme during the Ninth five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the investment made under BOLT scheme in the telecom sector during the above period;

(c) the performance of the projects undertaken under the said scheme;

(d) whether any strategy has been formulated to invite more private investment in telecom sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Sir, no project under BOLT schemes has been undertaken during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d) and (e) In order to supplement the efforts of the Government in increasing the teledensity in the country, private sector participation was allowed in the telephone services with the announcement of National Telecom Policy, 1994 (NTP 1994). New Telecom Policy, 1999 paved the way for private sector participation in all the telecom services. As per the reports of the Working Group on telecom sector, private sector investment envisaged during the 10th Five Year Plan is Rs. 46,291 crores. With the opening up of International Long Distance service to private sector w.e.f. 1st April, 2002, the private sector investment is now allowed in all the sub sectors of telecom.

Vaccinations for Adults

2596. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee has recommended vaccinations like Hepatitis B, A, Tetanus, Typhoid, Influenza, Pneumococcal, Meningococcal & Chicken Pox for adults also;

(b) whether the Government have any plan to start vaccinations programmes for adults; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephones in Rural Areas

2597. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephones installed in rural areas in the country mostly remain out of order and it takes month to repair them;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to run the telephones smoothly in rural areas?

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

[English]

US Social Security Tax

2598. SHRI K. E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed agreement of administrative protocol with the US relating to abolition of Social Security Tax on those who visit US on H-1B Visa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to become effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) We have proposed entering into a bilateral Totalisation Agreement with the United States to avoid duplication in payment of social security by Indian professionals working in the United States on temporary work visas. The draft Agreement has been shared with U.S. Government for their comments. Details of the proposed Agreement are yet to be firmed up. No date can as yet be indicated for signing the Agreement.

GDP Growth Rate in Current Fiscal

2599. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an internal assessment by the Planning commission has revealed that GDP growth projection for the current fiscal may have to be lowered to 5.5 per cent from 6.5 per cent earlier on account of the drought situation prevailing in some parts of the country;

(b) whether the Government's attention has been drawn towards news item "UN Projects lower Economic Growth for India" published in 'The Hindu' on October 10, 2002 wherein it has been stated that due to present famine like situation and tension at the border in India, the pace of economic growth during the year 2002 would be slow;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) to what extent the drought this year has affected the GDP growth; and

(f) what are the steps being considered 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) The Planning Commission does not fix annual growth rate targets:

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Sufficient details are not available to assess the basis of the projections.

(e) Sufficient information is not available to make such an assessment.

(f) Does not arise. However, a contingency plan has been prepared for regaining crops lost during the Kharif both for food and non-food crops.

[Translation]

Opening of PHCs during Tenth Plan

2601 SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

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

(a) whether only two percent of villages in the country have the facility of PHCs and hospitals;

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

(c) the details of PHCs proposed to be opened in different States and actually opened during the Ninth Plan and the PHCs likely to be opened during the Tenth Plan, State-wise;

(d) whether any scheme formulated to increase the ratio of hospitals to villages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) According to existing norms one Primary Health Centres (PHCs) is opened on a population of 30,000 in plain areas and 20,000 in hilly/tribal/desert/difficult areas. At present, on an average, one PHC cover almost 20.8 villages. Taking 2001 population and the number of PHCs available in the country, as on 31.03.2001, almost 85% of rural population is covered by PHCs.

(c) Upto Ninth Plan 22842 PHCs have been established. Of these, 709 PHCs were established during the Ninth Plan. The targets for establishment of PHCs during Tenth Plan period, are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) A target of 2573 Community Health Centres (30-bedded rural hospitals) has been kept in the Tenth Five Year Plan to increase the ratio of hospitals to villages. State-wise list of the CHCs to be opened during Tenth Plan period is also given at statement.

Statement

Targets and Achievements

Sl.No.	State/UT	9th Plan PHCs	Targets		Targets for opening PHCs in 10th Plan
			Target	Achievement	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	372	51	321	208
2	Arunachal Pradesh	*	20	*	*

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Assam	107	0	116	81
4	Bihar #	428	0	319	403
5	Chhattisgarh			159	26
6	Goa	5	2	4	1
7	Gujarat	68	58	27	15
8	Haryana	16	4	13	39
9	Himachal Pradesh	*	42	-	-
10	Jammu & Kashmir	*	2	*	*
11	Jharkhand			115	122
12	Karnataka	*	75	*	19
13	Kerala	*	6	*	75
14	Madhya Pradesh #	206	0	123	100
15	Maharashtra	61	73		88
16	Manipur	*	0	*	
17	Meghalaya	*	4	*	6
18	Mizoram	*	0	*	
19	Nagaland	21	13	8	5
20	Orissa	*	250	*	108
21	Punjab	*	0	*	14
22	Rajasthan	*	58	*	49
23	Sikkim	*	0	*	
24	Tamil Nadu	*	0	*	237
25	Tripura	40	3	38	13
26	Uttaranchal			8	36
27	Uttar Pradesh #	*	47	*	585
28	West Bengal	179	0	464	332
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands		1	*	2
30	Chandigarh	2	0	2	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	1	1
32	Daman & Diu	*	0	*	0
33	Delhi	24	0	24	8
34	Lakshadweep	*	0	*	*
35	Pondicherry	*	0	*	*
All India		1521	709	1742	2573

Figures are provisional

* = excess infrastructure

= Targets prior to reorganisation of states.

[English]

Postal Service

2601. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the expansion of postal network in the country, State-wise, particularly in Orissa during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of various expansion proposals mooted for the postal sector in Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise, particularly for Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) State-wise details of targets including those for Orissa, fixed and achievement made for opening of new post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras in the country for expanding the post network during Ninth Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed statements-I and II.

(b) The targets for expansion of postal network are fixed during the corresponding years of the Five Year Plan. State-wise details of proposal to expand postal network by way of opening of new post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras in the country including Orissa during the year 2002-2003 i.e. first year of Tenth Five Year Plan, are given in the enclosed statement-III. Opening of new post offices and Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras is subject to the fulfilment of prescribed norms of availability of requisite resources.

Statement-I

State-wise Break-up Post Offices Opened during 9th Five Year Plan

S.No.	Circles	1997-98		1997-98		1998-99		1998-99		1999-2000		1999-2000		2000-2001		2000-2001		2001-2002			
		Target	Opened	Target	Opened	Target	Opened	Target	Opened	Target	Opened	Target	Opened	Target	Opened	Target	Opened				
		BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO	BO	SO		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1	Andhra Pradesh	10	2	10	3	10	2	10	2	15	2	4	3	15	1	6	2	15	Nil	3	Nil
2	Assam	25	2	18	3	54	5	54	5	50	4	24	7	30	3	30	3	35	2	35	2
3	Bihar	40	5	31	4	72	2	72	2	50	3	51	Nil	53	1	70	1	60	Nil	38	Nil
4	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Delhi	5	2	5	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	2
6	Gujarat	25	2	18	3	31	2	31	2	30	3	28	2	20	3	8	4	20	2	18	2
7	Haryana	15	2	13	2	13	3	13	3	15	2	12	1	15	1	2	1	2	1	Nil	1
8	Himachal Pradesh	10	2	4	Nil	7	1	7	1	7	1	2	1	7	1	2	1	5	Nil	5	Nil
9	Jammu & Kashmir	15	1	11	1	23	1	23	1	15	1	14	1	5	1	5	1	13	Nil	13	Nil
10	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	1	Nil	1	15	1	Nil	1
11	Karnataka	30	5	24	5	12	4	12	4	21	3	21	3	21	2	21	2	20	2	13	2

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
12 Kerala	10	2	10	2	7	1	12	3	12	3	4	2	4	2	4	1	4	1	2	1	2	1
13 Madhya Pradesh	37	2	37	2	41	2	50	5	50	5	40	4	40	4	15	3	15	3	21	3	21	3
14 Maharashtra **	35	3	35	3	34	4	69	3	69	3	50	2	50	3	60	7	60	7	65	9	65	10
15 North East ***	25	3	25	3	18	3	54	3	54	3	40	2	19	3	40	2	3	3	35	2	13	2
16 Orissa	27	2	27	2	21	3	10	2	10	2	14	2	14	2	10	2	10	2	14	2	14	2
17 Punjab @	17	2	17	2	12	2	12	2	12	2	10	1	9	1	14	3	12	2	6	8	6	8
18 Rajasthan	33	2	33	2	33	1	30	1	30	1	27	2	24	1	20	2	20	2	20	4	20	4
19 Tamil Nadu \$	21	2	21	2	21	3	10	2	10	2	15	2	15	2	15	2	15	2	5	2	5	2
20 Uttar Pradesh	70	6	70	6	57	6	82	3	82	3	50	3	10	2	44	1	45	Nil	40	2	38	2
21 Uttaranchal															6	Nil	6	1	25	1	15	1
22 West Bengal	50	3	50	3	24	4	43	4	43	4	43	9	41	9	55	10	Nil	10	55	5	54	5
Total	500	50	500	50	402	52	598	50	598	50	500	50	386	49	500	50	363	52	500	50	405	51

* Including Daman & Diu

** Including Goa

*** Includes Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya

@ Including Chandigarh U.T.

\$ Including Pondicherry

BO: Branch Post Office

SO: Sub Post Office

Statement-II

*State-wise allotment of targets and achievements made during the 9th Five Year Plan
with regard to opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras*

S.No.	Circles	1997-98*	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
			Target	Opened	Target	Opened	Target	Opened	Target	Opened
1	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	31	31	30	30	60	60	30	30
2	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	5	40	21	135	135
3	Bihar	Nil	14	17	40	40	475	464	570	570
4	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	45	45	105	106	100	100
5	Delhi	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	-	Nil
6	Gujarat *	Nil	20	20	35	38	60	68	50	50
7	Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil	10	10	70	69	70	70
8	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	10	10	50	50	55	55
9	Jammu & Kashmir	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	12	12	12	12
10	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	4	105	77	55	72
11	Karnataka	Nil	Nil	10	30	12	35	20	15	18
12	Kerala	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	Nil	-	-	Nil
13	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	55	55	35	35	115	115	175	175
14	Maharashtra **	Nil	10	10	60	62	195	208	150	150
15	North East ***	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	5	58	47	100	118
16	Orissa	1	20	29	30	24	70	76	20	18
17	Punjab @	Nil	5	5	20	20	45	44	25	26
18	Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil	40	35	75	77	75	80
19	Tamil Nadu \$	Nil	10	12	30	30	80	80	80	80
20	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	30	30	60	62	282	284	240	240
21	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	5	5	43	44	43	43
22	West Bengal	Nil	5	5	10	10	25	6	Nil	Nil
Total		1	200	224	500	482	2000	1928	2000	2042

* Including Daman & Diu

** Including Goa

*** Includes Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya

@ Including Chandigarh UT

\$ Including Pondicherry

Statement-III

State-wise Targets for Opening of Post Offices and PSSKs for the year 2002-2003

S.No.	Circle	BOs			DSOs			PSSKs
		Normal	Tribal	Total	Normal	Tribal	Total	
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	30
2	Assam	12	3	15	1	Nil	1	95
3	Bihar	15	Nil	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	200
4	Chhattisgarh	10	7	17	Nil	1	1	100
5	Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil
6	Gujarat *	10	4	14	Nil	Nil	Nil	55
7	Haryana	Nil	Nil		1	Nil	1	55
8	Himachal Pradesh	2	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	50
9	Jammu & Kashmir	5	Nil	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	10
10	Jharkhand	5	5	10	Nil	Nil	Nil	55
11	Karnataka	5	4	9	1	Nil	1	10
12	Kerala	2	Nil	2	1	Nil	1	Nil
13	Madhya Pradesh	12	5	17	1	Nil	1	140
14	Maharashtra **	25	5	30	4	1	5	150
15	North East ***	6	3	9	1	Nil	1	50
16	Orissa	8	2	10	1	Nil	1	20
17	Punjab @	5	Nil	5	1	Nil	1	30
18	Rajasthan	14	4	18	1	1	2	75
19	Tamil Nadu \$	3	1	4	1	Nil	1	75
20	Uttar Pradesh	18	Nil	18	1	Nil	1	200
21	Uttaranchal	8	Nil	8	Nil	Nil	Nil	40
22	West Bengal	29	10	39	4	1	5	55
23	Sikkim	1		1	1		1	5
Total		196	54	250	21	4	25	1500

* Including Daman & Diu

** Including Goa

*** Includes Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya

@ Including Chandigarh UT

\$ Including Pondicherry

BO: Branch Post Offices

SOs: Sub Post Offices

PSSKs: Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras

India Post

2602. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to change the name of the Department of Posts to "India Post" under the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government will reconsider the change to retain the old name; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) There is no proposal to change the name of Department of Posts to "India Post".

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

[English]

Implementation of Central Projects

2603. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to amend the Land Acquisition Act as part of a package to expedite the implementation of Central sector projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have proposed to standardise the rehabilitation package at par throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are offering fiscal incentives for timely completion of projects;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government are also considering to set up a standing committee to resolve the bottlenecks in completion of the projects; and

(h) 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) The Ministry of Rural Development has taken steps to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 with a view to simplifying and streamlining the existing procedure, speeding up the acquisition to avoid cost escalation, providing for liberal compensation, ensuring the transparency and finality of the award and reducing litigation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has, however, done the ground work for a legislation on the Resettlement & Rehabilitation of Project Affected Persons applicable to large projects. Some of the States have their own legislation on the subject. Hence, there is no proposal to standardise the rehabilitation package.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The question does not arise.

(g) and (h) In respect of projects implemented by the Ministry departmentally, there is a system of Empowered Committees to resolve bottlenecks in completion of projects. The bottlenecks in the implementation of the projects of the Central Public Sector Enterprises are to be resolved through the mechanism of Quarterly Performance Review by the administrative Ministry.

Production of Atomic Energy

2604. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of atomic energy in the country;

(b) the manner in which it compares to the total production of conventional/non-conventional energy; and

(c) the steps taken to promote atomic energy in the country?

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 total nuclear power production in the country during the financial year 2001-02 was 19.481 Million Units (MUs).

(b) The share of nuclear energy, during the financial year 2001-02 was about 3.7% of the total electricity generated in the country.

(c) The present nuclear power generation capacity of 2720 MWe in the country is proposed to be increased to 4020 MWe by the end of IX plan by completion of Tarapur Atomic Power Plant (TAPP) 3&4 (2x540 MWe) and Kaiga-3 (220 MWe), one out of 2 units of Kaiga-3&4 projects. The total nuclear power generation capacity would increase to 6680 MWe by December 2008 by completion of Kaiga-4 (220 MWe), Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) 5&6 (2x220 MWe) and Kudankulam-1&2 (2x1000 MWe) projects. The construction work on above projects is going on in full swing. Additional projects are also proposed to be taken up for construction progressively with a view to reach the capacity of about 10,000 MWe by end of XI plan i.e. 31.3.2012 and about 20,000 MWe by the year 2020.

Export of Blood Serum

2605. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Blood Serum is being exported to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of companies who have been permitted;

(c) whether Blood Serum is exported for research purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to ensure that the benefits of research done on our specimens is not lost out?

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

(b) Export of Blood Sera is permitted for diagnosis, research and for use in diagnostic kits against licence issued by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). M/s Fairdeal Diagnostic Co., Surat and M/s Span Diagnostics Limited, Surat have been exporting HIV, HBs Ag, HCV positive sera and Blood Grouping Testing Sera.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Health, Government of India has prepared guidelines for transfer of biological material for research purposes. The biological material that is permitted to be exported is for the purposes of research, diagnosis or quality control. These permissions are given after considering issues like type of research, purpose of transfer, confidentiality,

intellectual property rights, filing of patents, arrangements for further commercial exploitation, safety, disadvantages to the population, user information and any other matter relevant to that particular exchange of material.

Iodine Deficiency Disorders

2606. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Day is observed on the 21st October;

(b) if so, the details of programmes launched to control the disease;

(c) the amount spent on National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) during each of the last three years;

(d) the amount allocated for the NIDDCP for the year 2002-2003; and

(e) the significant achievements so far?

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

(b) In order to control the Iodine deficiency Disorders, the Government is implementing the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme. The programme strategy includes survey and re - survey of Iodine Deficiency Disorder, supply of iodised salt, monitoring of iodine content of salt as well as Urinary Iodine Excretion, Health Education and Publicity to increase awareness among people.

(c) Owing the last three years, the following amount was spent under National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme :

Year	Amount (Rs in crores)
1999-2000	3.12
2000-01	4.13
2001-02	4.14

(d) An amount of Rs. 7.00 crores has been allocated for the National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme for the year 2002-03.

(e) The significant reduction in the incidence of

iodine Deficiency disorder has been noticed in resurvey conducted in the endemic districts. Through quality control it is also ensured that more than 90% of the iodated salt requirement of the country is produced and supplied.

Upgrading of Minor Ports

2607. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has submitted a proposal for upgrading some minor ports into major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Ship Building Capacity

2608. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the ship building capacities of each shipyard in the country;

(b) whether Government have a proposal for the expansion of these shipyards in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) A Statement regarding capacity of shipyards in public sector and private sector shipyards shipyard-wise is enclosed as statement-I and II.

(b) and (c) The Government does not have any proposal for the expansion of the shipyards under its administrative control except for Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Kochi. The proposal for Cochin Shipyard envisages expansion of ship repair facilities by way of 5 Nos additional berths for repair of vessels up to 120 M long by position of Ship-lift system at an estimated cost of Rs. 98.38 crore. However, the Shipyard proposes to fund the scheme from borrowings as well as its internal resources. All the three shipyards under Ministry of Defence are also undertaking modernisation and upgradation of their facilities to incorporate latest shipbuilding techniques including modular construction. As regards private sector shipyards they are not under the administrative control of the Government and they are free to expand as per their commercial viability.

Statement-I

Statement regarding Capacities of Shipyards. Shipyard wise in respect of Public Sector Shipyards

S.No.	Name of Shipyard Under Ministry of Shipping	Maximum size of vessels that can be built			
		Length/Meter	Breadth/Meter	Draft/Meter	DWT in (000)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Kochi	250	40	20	150
2.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Vishakapatnam	195	38	17	70
3.	Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd., Kolkata	80	14	5	1.0
4.	Rajabagan Dockyard, C.I.W.T.C. Ltd., Kolkata	90	14	4	3.0
Under Ministry of Defence					
5.	Mazagon Dock Ltd., Mumbai	190	26	4.2	27.0
6.	Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd., Kolkata	160	23	4.75	26.0
7.	Goa Shipyard Ltd., Goa	105	13	4.5	1.2

1	2	3	4	5	6
Under State Governments					
8.	Alcock Ashdown & Co. Ltd., Bhavnagar, Gujarat	90	16	6	5.0
9.	Shalimar Works Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal	55	12	5.5	1.1

Statement-II*Private Sector Shipyard**(Details as provided by Shipyards Association of India)*

		Maximum size of vessels that can be built			
		Length/Meter	Breadth/Meter	Draft/Meter	DWT
1.	ABG Shipyard Ltd., Magdalla, Gujarat	150.0	30.0	9.0	15000
2.	Anderson Marine (P) Ltd., Goa	110.0	20.0	6.00	7500
3.	Bharati Shipyard Ltd., Ratnagiri	125.0	2.00	5.50	10,000
4.	Chowgule & Company Ltd., Goa	100.0	18.0	3.20	3500
5.	Corporate Consultancy & Engineers P. Ltd., Kolkata	35.0	13.0	3.5	500
6.	Dempo Engineering Works Ltd., Goa	75.0	16.0	3.0	3000
7.	Good will Engineering Works, Ltd.,	55.0	20.0	3.0	700
8.	N.N. Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd., Mumbai	80.0	14.0	2.5	3000
9.	Sesa Goa Ltd., Goa	80.0	14.0	2.0	3000
10.	TEBMA Engineering Ltd., Chennai	100.0	20.0	6.0	7000
11.	Vipul, Shipyard, Surat	75.0	30.0	3.50	300

(d) the details thereof?

*[Translation]***Youth Commission**

2609. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a "Youth Commission";

(b) if so, the details of its structure and the subjects likely to be considered;

(c) the provisions proposed to be made in this commission for backward, dalit and adivasi youth of the society; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) A National Commission for Youth has already been set up by the Government under the chairmanship of Shri Balbir K. Punj, M.P. (Rajya Sabha) w.e.f. 15th March, 2002. The Commission has five Members and one Member Secretary apart from its Chairman. The terms of reference of the Commission are in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The terms of reference of the Commission are as follows:

1. To construct and recommend an action oriented strategy and approach for the development of youth and

suggest new policy measures and programmes, which are multi-dimensional and cross-cutting, after an in-depth analysis of the problems faced by them, with particular reference to the problem of youth unemployment, suggesting measures to identify, encourage and build up the capacity of talented youth in the North-Eastern region.

2. To review existing youth related schemes and programmes implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports as well as by other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India with particular reference to their potential for employment generation and to recommend measures to make them more effective and increase their outreach and coverage in line with Government thinking to cover the entire youth population with one or the other Youth Programme such as NCC, TA, NSS.

3. To conceptualise a frame-work for coordination of youth related activities of State Governments, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, NGOs and the private sector and to recommend measures for convergence.

4. To look into the recommendations of the Working Groups on Adolescents set up by the Planning Commission and suggest specific intervention strategies for catering to the needs of this group.

5. To suggest measures for the implementation of the Plan of Action of the new National Youth Policy.

6. While framing its recommendations, the Commission shall be guided by a realistic assessment of the resources that can be made available by the Government.

[English]

Travel Warning

2610. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA, UK and some other countries recently asked their citizens to avoid visiting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No country has issued travel warning to their citizens recently asking them to avoid visiting the whole of India. Some countries, viz. Australia, Denmark, Japan, Ireland, New

Zealand, Norway, Spain and the UK have advised their citizens to avoid/defer/exercise caution concerning travel to some parts of India, viz. Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and parts of North East India.

(c) Issuance/revision of travel warnings/advisories is done by different countries based on their perception of the security conditions prevailing in the specific countries/areas to be visited. These advisories are regularly reviewed/withdrawn by the countries concerned, based on their perceptions.

(d) The Government constantly interacts with the concerned Governments to convey our views/perceptions on the issue through bilateral contacts and through diplomatic channels. Indian diplomatic missions also regularly disseminate information to the decision makers and to the travelling public to project the correct picture about the conditions in India.

Cadre Change Policy

2611. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1490 dated March 13, 2002 and state:

(a) whether policy on inter-cadre transfer during 1980-1994 stipulated/allowed cadre change in public interest;

(b) if so, the details of the policy in vogue during 1980-1994;

(c) the names of those six IAS officers who were allowed cadre change in public interest during the year 1980-1994;

(d) if not, the reasons for allowing cadre change of those six IAS Officers in contravention and against the spirit of the policy of inter cadre transfer during 1980-1994; and

(e) the criteria adopted and specific factors taken into account while allowing cadre change of each of these officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) Inter-cadre transfers of I.A.S. officers are allowed by the Central Government with the concurrence of the State Governments

concerned, under Rule 5 (2) of I.A.S. (Cadre) Rules, 1954. Up to 1985, inter-cadre transfers of All India Services officers were allowed on ground of (i) public interest (ii) when two all India Service(s) officers borne on different cadres marry, and (iii) when it was established to the satisfaction of the Government that the climate of the State of allotment is definitely injurious to the health of an officer or his wife or dependent children. On 23.5.1985, the policy was revised and marriage between two All India Service(s) officers borne on different Cadres was made the only ground of cadre change with a provision that the cadre will not be changed to the home State of either of the officers. However, inter-cadre transfers were not denied if the concerned governments considered it necessary in public interest.

Shri Om Prakash Meena, IAS (RR:79), Shri Ashok Sampatram, IAS (RR:79), Shri Bhaskar Mooshahary, IAS (RR:80), Shri Brij Raj Sharma, IAS (RR:84), Shri Ramesh Inder Singh, IAS (RR:74) and Shri A.H. Samoon, IAS (RR:93) were allowed inter-cadre transfer in public interest between 1980 and 1994.

As regards the power of the Central Government to allow inter-cadre transfer in public interest, Hon'ble Supreme Court has upheld the judgement of CAT Chandigarh bench in OA No. 810/97 filed by Dr. Rajwant Singh, IPS holding that Government of India are the best judge to decide whether a particular case of cadre transfer involves public interest or not.

Review of Registration of Firms

2612. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 879 dated March 6, 2002 and state:

(a) the review of registration of the firms has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof; and

(c) 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 (c) The matter is under consideration.

[Translation]

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

2613. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Danger from both sides to Sarabhai Space Centre" appearing in the "Rashtriya Sahara" on November 19, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to beef up foolproof security of Sarabhai Space Centre?

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

Centre of Excellence in ISM&H

2614. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open one branch each of the Centre of Excellence in Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in all States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the name of the places in the country where these centers are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal. However, the Scheme for assisting ISM&H institutions to become Centre of Excellence has been included in the Tenth Plan.

Reduction in Medical Seats

2615. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to reduce the number of seats in various medical colleges and dental colleges during 2002-2003; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At the same time, it may be mentioned that permission for establishment and admission in new medical and dental college is given initially for a period of one year subject to renewal on annual basis on verification of infrastructural facilities by the concerned Professional Councils. This process of annual renewal continue till the college is recognised for award of MBBS/BDS degree. In case college fails to create facilities as per the norms of the concerned Professional Councils, the permission is not renewed and in that case the college cannot admit students.

[Translation]

IID Centres

2616. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Integrated Industrial Development (IID) Centres developed in Bihar under the Integrated Industrial Development Scheme;

(b) the locations of these centres;

(c) whether the Bihar Government has made any request to the Union Government for developing some more IID Centres in State especially in rural and backward areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There is no IID centre developed in Bihar under the IID Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Multi-Purpose Counter Machines

2617. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) the number of post Offices in respect of which target has been fixed to instal multi-purpose counter machines during the year 2001-02 and 2002-03, State-wise;

(b) the number of Post Offices in each district of Maharashtra and Karnataka where multi-purpose counter machines have been installed during the above period;

(c) the amount spent so far and the amount proposed under this head in the budget of 2002- 2003; and

(d) the average expenditure incurred on installing multi-purpose counter machine in a Post Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) One hundred post offices were targeted for installation of Multi-Purpose Counter Machine (MPCM) during 2001-2002. The State-wise details regarding target for the year 2001- 2002 are given in enclosed statement-I. As regards 2002-2003, the target would depend on completion of necessary formalities and availability of funds.

(b) District-wise details regarding installation of MPCM during 2001-2002 are indicated in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) For the year 2001-2002 approximately Rs 7.48 crores have been spent on MPCM project. The expenditure during 2002-2003 would depend on clearance of formalities and availability of funds.

(d) The average expenditure incurred in installing one MPCM in a post office is Rs. 1 lakh approximately.

Statement-I

State-wise details of No. of Post Offices targeted for installation of MPCMs during 2001-2002

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Post Offices for 2001-2002
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	8
2	Assam	4
3	Bihar	3
4	Chhattisgarh	2
5	Delhi	0
6	Goa	0
7	Gujarat	6
8	Himachal Pradesh	3
9	Haryana	2
10	Jharkhand	4
11	Jammu & Kashmir	0
12	Karnataka	9
13	Kerala	5
14	Maharashtra	5
15	Madhya Pradesh	4
16	Manipur	0
17	Meghalaya	1
18	Nagaland	0
19	Arunachal Pradesh	0
20	Tripura	1
21	Orissa	5
22	Punjab	2
23	Rajasthan	4
24	Sikkim	0

1	2	3
25	Tamil Nadu	11
26	Uttaranchal	4
27	Uttar Pradesh	10
28	West Bengal	7
Total		100

Statement-II

District-wise number of Post Offices where MPCMs have been installed during 2001-02 in Maharashtra and Karnataka

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Post Offices
Maharashtra		
1	Nasik	1
2	Kolhapur	1
3	Thane	1
4	Chandrapur	1
5	Pune	1
Karnataka		
1	Bangalore Rural	1
2	Bangalore Urban	1
3	Belgaum	1
4	Bijapur	1
5	Davangere	1
6	Gulbarga	1
7	Karwar	1
8	Mandya	1
9	Raichur	1

Investment in Telecom Sector

2618. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to boost private investment in the telecom sector in the Tenth Five Year Plan Government propose to ensure a level playing field for all telecom service operators;

(b) if so, whether a single window clearance scheme for trouble free and time-bound approval from all agencies concerned is envisaged;

(c) whether the Government has approved the Planning Commission's proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Tenth Five Year Plan has not yet been approved by the Development Council (NDC).

Accident Prone Stretches in Andhra Pradesh

2619. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified road accident prone stretches of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government have provided funds to the State Government for development of National Highways;

(d) if so, the total amount provided by Union Government to Andhra Pradesh for development of National Highways during the last three years;

(e) whether some proposals of Andhra Pradesh are pending with his Ministry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) No proposals/estimates regarding improvement of accident-prone stretches of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh have been received from the State Government. However, to prevent accidents, widening of roads and bridges, improvement to geometries, provision of signages and lane markings etc. are being taken up on National Highways in phases, with in the availability of resources.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The amounts provided to the State Government for development and maintenance of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is given as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Development		Maintenance		Total	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1999-2000	57.08	45.96	68.97	41.66	126.05	87.62
2000-2001	112.38	111.96	55.64	52.93	168.02	164.88
2001-2002	103.80	103.78	42.20	41.62	150.40	149.90

(e) and (f) 32 proposals amounting to Rs.67.26 crores have been sanctioned during 2002-03 and the balance 8 proposals are under examination in the Ministry which are likely to be finalized within this financial year.

Inspection of Burn Wards in Safdarjung Hospital

2620. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an eight-member committee of senior health ministry officials and lawyers have inspected the Burns Ward of Safdarjung Hospital recently;

(b) if so, whether the committee was shocked of the condition prevailing in Burns Department;

(c) the recommendations of the committee in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) An eight-member Committee constituted by the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi in the matter of CWP No. 2187/1996 has visited the Burns Ward of Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital, Lok Nayak Hospital and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital on 24.10.2002 and 25.10.2002 and submitted its report to the Hon'ble High Court. The matter is subjudice. The directions of the Hon'ble High Court are awaited.

Lasik Surgery

2621. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken cognizance of the reports appearing in various newspapers about experts' concern on lasik surgery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Every surgery carries risk of complications which can be minimized by proper selection of patients, training of surgeons and following standard procedure. The Directorate General of Health Services has prepared draft guidelines for eye surgeons to minimize risk of complication and unfavourable outcome following Lasik Surgery.

Visit of British Foreign Secretary

2622. SHRI. GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Foreign Secretary during his recent visit to New Delhi has raised the issue of human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) UK Secretary of State Mr. Jack Straw, in his press conference after his meeting with EAM praised India's commendable record in establishing human right machinery, while noting that UK will continue to encourage India to improve the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir including investigation and punishment

[Translation]

Setting up of National Nutrition Mission

2623. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

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

(a) the number of child deaths cases due to malnutrition in the country that have come to the notices of the Government during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to constitute, a 'National Nutrition Mission';

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the targets fixed for the mission;

(d) by when the set targets are likely to be achieved;

(e) whether the Government have also made a provision to penalize the persons who show laxity in the mission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The details of number of child deaths due to malnutrition are not being centrally maintained.

(b) to (f) The Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech on 15.8.2001 had announced that a 'National Nutrition Mission' would be launched. The composition, structure and terms of reference of the Mission are under the process of formulation in the Department of Women and Child Development in the Government of India.

[English]

Internet Connection

2624. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has fulfilled its targets to provide internet connections to its subscribers in various zones during last one year;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Due to open market conditions and also due to the fact that initial capacity needed to be expanded, no specific targets were laid down. However, BSNL has expanded its presence by opening 436 Internet nodes covering 439 revenue districts in the country.

Entry of MNCs in Transport Sector

2625. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee on the entry of multinational companies in the transport sector has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some organisations have opposed implementation to the above report; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) A "Task Force on Employment Opportunities" was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia. The Task Force has submitted its report to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 2nd July 2001. The "entry of multinational companies in the transport sector" was not one of the Terms of Reference of this Task Force.

Report on Vision 2020

2626. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Vision 2020 a document, prepared by the Planning Commission has since been presented to the Union Government;

(b) if so, what are the main features thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has decided

to work on broad areas and draw out a development map for the country for the next two decades;

(d) if so, whether the Government has accepted the report; and

(e) what are the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. It is expected to be presented by the end of 2002.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Village Public Telephones

2627. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have convene a meeting of leading operators to devise long term and sustainable formula for connecting multiple Indian telecom networks with each other;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken after the meeting to sort out the issues between private operators and BSNL outside Telecom Regulatory Authority of India; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by BSNL and private operators to linking up all unconnected Indian villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Interconnection of telecom network is a matter of mutual agreement between the concerned network operators. Further, the service providers are free to work out mutual arrangement for utilizing infrastructure of each other to link up all unconnected Indian villages.

Breast Cancer

2628. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 8 lakh women are suffering from breast cancer in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the assistance provided to the State Governments to cure this disease;
- (d) whether Government have taken any effective steps to create awareness among the rural women about the disease; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The State-wise distribution of cancer cases in India is not centrally maintained. Details regarding incidence of Breast Cancer in Delhi during the period 1988-97 collected by the National Cancer Registry Programme of the Indian Council of Medical Research are given in the enclosed statement. The rates of incidence have more or less remained the same though there is a tendency to rise and this is not statistically significant. Hence this data does not indicate any significant increase in the incidence of Breast Cancer from 1988 to 1997.

(c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme grant-in-aid is provided to the State Governments for the following schemes as and when applications for the same are received in the Ministry:

(i) An amount of Rs. 2.00 crore each for Development of Oncology Wing in Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals.

(ii) An amount of Rs. 1.50 crore & Rs. 30.00 lakhs respectively is provided for "Setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit" & "Mammography Unit" in Government Hospitals.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs is provided to the Voluntary Organisations for undertaking Health Educations and Early Detection Activities in the field of Cancer on the specific recommendations of the State Government.

Statement

Incidence of Breast Cancer in Delhi

Year	Crude Incidence Rate	Age-adjusted rate
1	2	3
1988	17.0	26.2
1989	18.3	28.3

1	2	3
1990	18.0	27.6
1991	18.4	27.9
1992	18.0	26.9
1993	19.0	28.5
1994	18.3	27.9
1995	19.9	30.1
1996	18.6	27.7
1997	19.8	29.8

Source: Reports of the National Cancer Registry Programme (ICMR)

Note 1. CIR = The crude incidence rate refers to the number of new cases of cancer that occur in the total population of that area per year per 100,000 persons

Note 2. AAR = The age adjusted incidence rate, also denoted as the age standardized incidence rate, means that the rate is adjusted to the five-year age population distribution of the world standard population

[Translation]

Mini Tool Rooms in Madhya Pradesh

2629. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent two mini tool room schemes of district Jabalpur and Gwalior with a total estimated cost of Rs. 730 lakh to the Government in September and October 1999 respectively for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) The tentative project cost of the Mini Tool Room proposed at Jabalpur was Rs. 358 lakh and for Mini Tool Room at Gwalior Rs. 354 lakh.

(c) The scheme on Mini Tool Rooms was approved and notified only on 01.03.2001. The State Government was accordingly requested on 08.03.2001 to send fresh proposals as per the guidelines of the scheme. No proposal has been received since then.

CBI Raids

2630. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI had conducted raids in several parts of the country recently and recovered wealth and precious ancient brass idols worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ancient idols were being smuggled; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty in the 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) In course of a Special Drive, carried out by the Central Bureau of Investigation on 8th November 2002, it raided a house in New Friends Colony, New Delhi and registered a case against two persons after recovering four precious bronze idols, and learning that they intended to smuggle the idols, claiming them as non-antiques.

[English]

Setting up of Sports Schools

2631. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for setting up sports schools was prepared during 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the locations identified for setting up of such schools in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the criteria adopted for the selection of the locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) to (e): No, Sir. There does not exist any scheme for setting up of sports schools. A proposal had, earlier, been mooted to formulate a scheme for setting up of sports schools, which, however, was dropped after due consideration.

Functioning of JCM

2632. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the JCM is functioning as per norms and conventions;

(b) if so, when was the last meeting of National Council held;

(c) whether according to the constitution of the JCM, National Council should meet once in four months;

(d) if so, the person responsible for not calling such meeting in time; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make functioning of JCM regular?

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, please.

(b) The last meeting of the National Council (JCM) was held on 12th January, 2002 under the Chairmanship of then Cabinet Secretary.

(c) Yes, please.

(d) and (e) As per the relevant provisions in the JCM Scheme, meetings of the National Council (JCM) may be held as often as necessary and also not less than once in 4 months. However, since the inception of the JCM Scheme meetings of the National Council (JCM) have been held as and when agenda items for such meetings are received from the Staff Side. Since the last meeting of the National Council (JCM) no such agenda item has been received from the Staff Side for convening its next meeting.

Performance Assessment of Sportsmen

2633. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have monitored/assessed the performance of the sports activities/sportsmen in terms of improvement in their medal tally, etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHA-KRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the recently concluded two major multi-disciplinary events, i.e. Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, the performance of Indian sports persons has improved. The performance of the Indian contingent in XVII Commonwealth Games, 2002 has been spectacular. India in these Games secured 4th position by winning 69 medals (30 Gold, 22 Silver and 17 Bronze). Similarly, in XIV Asian Games, 2002, Indian contingent secured 10 Gold medals against 7 in the last Asian Games, 1998 and was able to secure 8th position against 9th position in 1996 Asian Games.

(c) Does not arise.

Mismanagement of District Telecom Office

2634. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the mismanagement prevailing in District Telecom Office, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Based on the development activities carried out during 2001-2002 and the operational efficiency reflected in the operational parameters, it is concluded that there is no mismanagement of telecom services in Ahmednagar Secondary Switching Area.

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

[Translation]

CBI Raids on BSNL Officers

2635. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited against whom Vigilance and CBI enquiry has been going on during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any action against higher officers; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

Nehru Yuva Kendra in Andhra Pradesh

2636. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the activities of Nehru Yuva Kendras functioning in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Kendras imparting any computer education to the rural and urban youth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Nehru Yuva Kendras cater to the needs of non-student rural youth enrolled through village youth clubs and work in the areas covering education and training, awareness generation, skill development for self-employment, work camps, promotion of rural sports and culture etc. They also undertake implementation of the programmes being undertaken by various Ministries/Departments like Ministry of Rural Development; Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, etc. These centers also implement two other important schemes of this Ministry namely National Service Volunteers Schemes and National Reconstruction Corps Scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National Highway Protection Scheme

2637. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposal for Rs. 52 crore National Highway Protection Scheme pertaining to NH-39 to be applied from Mao to Morech passing through Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the National Highway Protection Scheme pertaining to National Highway No. 39 would be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds for National Highways

2638. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the demands received from various States for allocation of Funds for repair, maintenance of national highways, their widening and construction of additional highways for 2002-2003, State-wise, particularly from Gujarat for 2002-2003; and

(b) the funds provided to States for the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Total allocation for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country for 2002-2003 is Rs. 6628.27 crores. Allocation of funds to the various States is made on the basis of needs, length of the National Highways in the State and the overall availability of funds. The State-wise allocation of funds including the State of Gujarat during 2002-2003 is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Statement indicating allocation of funds for development and maintenance of National Highways for the year 2002-2003

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of States/ Union Territories	Development	Maintenance
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	9766.37	3961.09
2	Arunachal Pradesh	300.00	31.00
3	Assam	6574.65	2921.61
4	Bihar	6622.90	4774.83
5	Chandigarh	150.00	74.00
6	Chhattisgarh	3020.40	2529.83
7	Delhi	1000.00	40.00
8	Goa	1500.00	476.92
9	Gujarat	9670.19	2468.83
10	Haryana	5900.00	1379.87
11	Himachal Pradesh	4700.00	1514.00
12	Jammu & Kashmir	400.00	172.44
13	Jharkhand	2800.00	1746.53
14	Karnataka	7925.97	3868.45
15	Kerala	7594.63	2454.62
16	Madhya Pradesh	9310.25	6002.59
17	Maharashtra	12078.07	4796.95
18	Manipur	1401.84	572.38
19	Meghalaya	2219.98	869.91
20	Mizoram	2200.00	547.91
21	Nagaland	1500.00	276.36
22	Orissa	7732.04	4658.14

1	2	3	4
23	Pondicherry	200.00	82.00
24	Punjab	5476.01	1958.87
25	Rajasthan	10019.14	4935.86
26	Tamil Nadu	9748.18	4486.38
27	Uttar Pradesh	13730.57	6254.00
28	Uttaranchal	2078.81	838.01
29	West Bengal	12250.00	2322.61
30	Ministry	1600.00	0.00
31	BRDB	14500.00	896.00
32	NHAI	400300.00	10700.00
33	Reserve	8610.00	1335.01
Total		582880.00	79947.00

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:

- (i) S.O. 906 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 60 (Balasore to Laxmannath Section) in Balasore district in the State of Orissa.
- (ii) S.O. 907 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 60 (Laxmannath to Kharagpur Section) in Paschim Medinipur district in the State of West Bengal.
- (iii) S.O. 923 (E) published in Gazette of India

dated the 31st August, 2002 regarding appointment of competent Authority to perform the functions of such Authority in respect of acquisition of land on National Highway Nos. 5 and 60 in the State of Orissa.

- (iv) S.O. 1032 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.2 (Palsit-Dankuni Section) in the State of West Bengal.

- (v) S.O. 1033 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2002 regarding appointment of competent Authority to perform the functions of such Authority in respect of acquisition of land on National Highway No 2 in the district Hooghly in the State of West Bengal.

- (vi) S.O. 1034 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.6 (Dankuni-Kolaghat Section) in the State of West Bengal.

- (vii) S.O. 1035 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.2 (Palsit-Dankuni Section) in the State of West Bengal.

- (viii) S.O. 1053 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.2 (Lucknow-Kanpur Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (ix) S.O. 1071 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (x) S.O. 1108 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 263 (E) dated the 28th February, 2002.

- (xi) S.O. 756 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National

- Highway No.5 (Vijayawada-Bhubaneswar Section) in the district of Visakhapatnam in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xii) S.O. 758 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.5 (Vijayawada-Bhubaneswar Section) in the district of Srikakulam in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xiii) S.O. 1063 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the district of Nellore in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xiv) S.O. 1064 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in Thiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xv) S.O. 1065 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in Thiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvi) S.O. 1066 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the district of Nellore in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xvii) S.O. 1067 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the district of Nellore in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xviii) S.O. 1068 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the district of Nellore in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xix) S.O. 1158 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 76 (Mangalwar-Chittorgarh Section) and National Highway No. 79 (Bhilwara-Chittorgarh Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (xx) S.O. 1144 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the district of Nellore in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxi) S.O. 1145 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the district of Thiruvallur in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxii) S.O. 1146 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the district of Thiruvallur in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiii) S.O. 1147 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) in the district of West Godavari in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxiv) S.O. 1148 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam) and (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in the district of Visakhapatnam in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxv) S.O. 1149 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) in the district of Visakhapatnam in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxvi) S.O. 1150 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 regarding

- acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) and (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in the district of Visakhapatnam in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxvii) S.O. 1076 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.3 (Agra-Gwalior Section) between Veerai to Baraita Khurd village in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxviii) S.O. 1101 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.8 (Talasari-Manor) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxix) S.O. 1165 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 45 (Chengalipattu-Tindivanam Section) in Madurantakam taluk in the District of Kancheepuram in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxx) S.O. 1166 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 228 (E) dated the 22nd February, 2002.
- (xxxi) S.O. 1167 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th November, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 425(E) dated the 15th April, 2002.
- (xxxii) S.O. 1186 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.9 (Nandigama-Ibrahimpattam Section) in Krishna District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 854 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 194 (E) dated the 2nd March, 2001.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 1106 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 576 (E) dated the 13th July, 1999.
- (xxxv) S.O. 1107 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2002 authorising Government of Maharashtra to collect and retain fee for the use of bridge on Solapur-Hyderabad Section on National Highway No.9
- (xxxvi) S.O. 1157 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2002 authorising Sub-Divisional Officer, Ahmednagar as the competent authority for land acquisition on National Highway No. 50 in the state of Maharashtra.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (xi) and (xii) of item No. (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6208/2002]
- (3) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 891 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2002 notifying that there shall be levied and paid fees on mechanical vehicles for the use of permanent Arapuzha Bridge on National Highway No. 17 in the State of Kerala issued under Section 7 of National Highway Act, 1956.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6208A/2002]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Vasundhara Raje I beg to lay on the Table -
- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6209/2002]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room Ludhiana, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6210/2002]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Process and Product Development Centre, Agra, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6211/2002]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tool Room and Training Centre, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tool Room and Training Centre, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6212/2002]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6213/2002]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6214/2002]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6215/2002]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6216/2002]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6217/2002]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 2001-2002.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6218/2002]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Design

of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6219/2002]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6220/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the I.T.I. Limited and the Department of Telecommunications (Ministry of Communications) for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6221/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (b) of item No. (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6222/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Almora, for the year 1997-1998.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Almora, for the year 1997-1998, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6223/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Indian medicine, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by Government of the working of the Central Council for Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6224/2002]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and

English versions) of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000, along with audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6225/2002]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6226/2002]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kidwai Memorial Institute on Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001.

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6227/2002]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the R.S.T. Regional Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Nagpur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the R.S.T. Regional Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Nagpur, for the year 1999-2000.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6228/2002]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6230/2002]

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 6229/2002]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Bill, 2002, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th November, 2002."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2002 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November, 2002."

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Tenth Report

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

12.04 hrs.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE
FUNCTIONING OF WAKF BOARDS

Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (ANANTNAG): I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) the Fifth Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the functioning of Wakf Boards, on Assam Board of Wakfs.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (ROPAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given Notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: At this time you please sit down, I will call you later.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.05 hrs.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (TRANSFER
OF UNDERTAKING AND REPEAL) BILL, 2002*...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have not yet taken up 'Zero Hour'. The Minister is introducing the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY

AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to, and in, the Company to be formed and registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956 to carry on banking business and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to, and in, the Company to be formed and registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956 to carry on banking business and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964."

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is opposing the introduction of the Bill. Now, he will speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR): Sir, I have a submission to make at the introduction stage itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please Sit down. The Zero Hour has not started yet. You may raise your question during Zero Hour. Presently the introduction of Bill is being taken up. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, you please speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 72, I have given Notice that the hon'ble Minister of Finance wants to get relieved of his responsibility by forming a new company in place of IDBI and he wants to introduce a Bill in the House in this regard. I strongly oppose this Bill. IDBI is working for the promotion of Industries and to remove regional imbalances. However, it is due to the wrong policies of the Government that its condition has deteriorated. When there is a provision that the Government can improve its condition through executive order then why do you want to introduce this kind of Bill. It is not proper. The Government want to shift its responsibility by way of forming a new company though there is provision for improving it. Instead of improving its condition the Government

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section 2 dated. 4.12.2002

want to wind up this company by way of forming a new company. Once the IDBI is wound up it will be a set back to the vision and concept of industrial development. When the IDBI is performing well since its inception then why it is being wound up. NPA is increasing and the Government are not doing anything in this regard. As per the half yearly report recently submitted, the economic condition of the country is deteriorating. The Government should not be permitted to introduce this Bill. I rise to strongly oppose the Bill.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of the Industrial Development Bank (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002.

The IDBI was set up with a view to provide long term fund at a cheaper rate to enable the public sector, joint sector and big industrial houses to undertake long term projects which have long gestation period to develop the infrastructure, as also the basic and heavy engineering industries in the core sector. It was also set up with a view to generate employment and to circumvent acute recessionary conditions prevailing in the country.

The IDBI was established in 1964 under the IDBI Act with a declared objective of achieving planned and balanced growth of industrialisation and for removing regional imbalances, and backwardness. The role of IDBI in fulfilling the assigned objectives had been lauded commendably in high offices of the Government and Parliament also.

There is no valid reason to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act. Since its inception, it has been discharging its responsibilities for industrialisation in our country. I do not know why the Government is trying to introduce a Bill to repeal the IDBI Act, 1964. What is the purpose behind converting it into a commercial bank? The IDBI has different functions as compared to commercial banks.

If IDBI is corporatised and converted into a commercial bank, then the objects for which it was set up will not be fulfilled.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to be very brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There is no valid reason for bringing such a proposal. We have a number of development financial institutions.

MR. SPEAKER: You know the rules very well. You have to be very brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the necessity to repeal the IDBI Act? I feel that the existing IDBI Act should not

be repealed. IDBI should continue as a development financial institution. I oppose the move of the Government and demand that the Finance Minister, who wants to introduce the Bill today, should withdraw his intention.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am not objecting to the legislative competence of this House to introduce this Bill. Financial institutions in India were created to see that the industry, agriculture, trade and other activities develop. The banks were created to help the people in many other respects. But, now we see that these financial institutions are taking the shape of banks. So, the funds which are available in these financial institutions will not be available for the development of industry and development of such other activities.

In this case, the Government is seeking to repeal the IDBI Act to create a company to which they want to hand over this financial institution. When the Government was having this institution with itself, it was not in a position to control the NPAs. Now that it is going to a private company, NPAs are likely to increase. So, my submission is that this Bill, as it has come before the House, should not be presented to the House for consideration and passing.

As the rules provide, it should be referred to the Standing Committee to be examined very carefully and after the report of the Standing Committee comes here, the Bill should be considered. As per the rules relating to the Standing Committees, every Bill which is presented to the House has to go to the Standing Committee, if it is not of technical nature. That is what was intended at the time of framing the rules. That is the kind of decision given by the Presiding Officers also. Therefore, my submission to you is that this Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee for careful examination and after its report is given, this Bill may come before the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let the Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What is the need and necessity of introducing the Bill today? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please sit down. You have a right to vote.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I gave you permission to speak and you have expressed your views in this regard. Now the Minister will reply. Probably, you may get your reply and may support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There are broadly three issues involved here. The first objection raised by the hon. Members is to the introduction of a piece of legislation. In this case it happens to be seeking leave of the House to introduce the IDBI (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Bill, 2002. The second objection raised by both Shri Shivraj V. Patil and also Shri Basu Deb Acharia relates to development financial institution. The third relates to a proposal about referring the Bill to the Standing Committee. Very briefly, I will deal with each of these three issues.

It is an established practice, and I know that Shri Shivraj Patil knows it very well that at the stage of seeking permission to introduce a Bill, the only ground on which permission can be denied is the legislative competence of the House. This is a well-established rule and we are all aware of this. No legislative competence of the Lok Sabha is being challenged in regard to this Bill.

I believe that the other aspects of the objections raised are issues of merits and subject concerned. They can and should be discussed. Indeed, the views of all the hon. Members are taken into account. But the question of legislative competence does not simply arise. Therefore, it would be my request to the Chair to set aside that issue.

On the question of the larger issue of development finance and the need for development finance, we had an occasion to discuss this, briefly. I am ready to discuss it at some length. The ills of IDBI are not of today's making. They have not occurred suddenly. I do not wish to go into a detailed analysis on why and how the Non-Performing Assets have come up, and with whom and on whom the initiative of the NPAs of IDBI have come into existence. But if this issue is not addressed, if the ills of IDBI are not corrected, then I have to share with the House that in fact, we would be causing grievous injury to an institution and any hope of its further retrieval will be set aside. That is why, we have brought about the proposal that we have.

The third issue is regarding referring it to the Standing Committee. I am guided by the will of the House. If you wish to refer it to the Standing Committee, do refer it. But I have a request to make here regarding reference to a Standing

Committee in a matter like the IDBI. I would urge the House that everyday's delay in the reorganisation of the IDBI will cause very serious harm to the future prospects of the restoration of lasting health to the IDBI. By all means, refer it to the Standing Committee with a request to you that the Standing Committee be directed to submit its recommendations and report to the Parliament on the first day of the next Session. If that is done, there is no difficulty because it is our experience that Standing Committees have sometimes - I am sure for very good reasons - taken up to two years to consider matters dealing with finances of the country. That is the only request that I make to the House. I urge the House to grant its permission for admitting this Bill. Certainly, you may refer it to the Standing Committee. The Government would be guided by the wisdom of the Standing Committee. But it may be referred with the request that the Standing Committee returns the Bill with its recommendations on the very first day of the next Session. In this period, I will somehow manage.

The next aspect is about development finance. This is an aspect which we can discuss when the Bill would be taken up for consideration.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: My submission is that this Bill does not provide any remedy to do away with the ills with which the IDBI is suffering. It is handing over of IDBI to a company thinking that the company, a corporate body, would be in a position to do away with those ills. We do not accept this kind of a stand taken by the Government on remedying the ills with which the IDBI is suffering.

As far as referring this matter to the Standing Committee is concerned, I am one with the Minister that as soon as possible, the Bill should come back for consideration to the House with the Report of the Committee. The rules provide for it. At the time of framing the rules, it was the intention that not only the Bills which are of technical nature will go to the Standing Committee but every Bill should go to the Standing Committee.

Rulings were also given from the Chair that all Bills will go to the Standing Committees. My submission is that it should be submitted to the Standing Committee. The hon. Minister has also accepted it. I agree with him that the Report should come back as soon as possible.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill at its introduction stage. It will be referred to the Standing Committee later. If voting takes place on it then it will be decided. *..(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I must correct this misimpression. ...*(Interruptions)* IDBI is not being handed over to a private company. It is being converted into a corporate body. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is the first step towards privatisation. We are not convinced as to why IDBI is now being handed over to a company. What is the need and necessity? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No questions and answers please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Please permit me to have my say. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why is it being corporatised? What is the need and necessity? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, let the hon. Minister make his submission. How can you stop him?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: IDBI is not being privatised. It is being corporatised. We are converting it into a Corporation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It can be explained when the Bill is taken up for consideration. So far, it is being corporatised. The method for revival of IDBI has been prepared after detailed discussion, including with the RBI, and whatever we have come forward with is a fully flushed out scheme. If we do not take corrective action. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: What is the corrective action provided in this Bill? There is no corrective action. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will share the corrective action with the hon. Members. If the Bill is not taken up for consideration at the stage of introduction, you cannot say that there is no corrective action. This is a Bill to be introduced. Certainly at the stage of consideration, you can say that this is not sufficiently corrective and this is what needs to be done. At the stage of introduction, to say what is the corrective action, is, in fact, is not correct to say. You cannot say that. I urge the House to please recognise one thing that it is still possible for

us to restore IDBI to full health. Delays will cause damage. That is the only appeal I am making to the House. By all means refer it to the Standing Committee. But for reference to the Standing Committee, again you have to have the permission to admit it in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: No, it is not required.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I request that you grant permission for admitting it in the House. Thereafter, certainly refer it to the Standing Committee. But I request you that for any reference to the Standing Committee, please require that it will be returned on the first day of the next Session. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak on the same issue. If not, then you cannot speak at this time.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have gone through the Bill. There is nothing in the Bill which suggests corrective action. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I cannot permit you to speak three times in the House on the same subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why is IDBI Act being repealed? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Valid points have been made by hon. Members. The hon. Minister has also tried to satisfy the Members. I agree with Shri Shivraj Patil that normally all such Bills are sent to the Standing Committee. Fortunately, the Minister has also agreed that the Bill will go to the Standing Committee. The hon. Minister wants that the Report should be submitted on a particular day. I personally feel that such condition cannot be put. As Shri Shivraj Patil stated, we can say that it should be submitted as early as possible to the House. So, the purpose will be served.

Therefore, now, the introduction of the Bill can be done. Then, it can be sent to the Standing Committee. I cannot go away from my predecessors in giving this ruling. Now, I have to proceed with the voting on introduction of the Bill.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to, and in, the Company to be formed and registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956 to carry on banking business and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964."

I think the 'Ayes' have it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: 'Noes' have 'it. We want division. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, tomorrow, all the employees of the IDBI will go on strike against the introduction of this Bill. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, are you asking for a Division?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Lobbies be cleared —

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Lobbies have been cleared.

Hon. Members, please occupy your seats. I would request the Secretary General to read out the instructions for the convenience of Members.

SECRETARY GENERAL: Kind attention of the hon. Members is invited to the following points in the operation of the Automatic Vote Recording system:

1. Before a division starts, every hon. Member should occupy his or her own seat and operate the system from that seat only.
2. As may kindly be seen, the "red bulbs above display boards" on either side of the hon. Speaker's Chair are already glowing. This means the voting system has been activated.
3. For voting, please press the following two buttons simultaneously immediately after sounding of first gong, viz.,

- (i) One "red" button in front of the hon. Member on the head phone plate and

also

- (ii) Anyone of the following buttons fixed on the top of the desk of seats:

Ayes - Green colour

Noes - Red colour

Abstain - Yellow colour

4. It is essential to keep both the buttons pressed till the second gong sound is heard and the red bulbs are "off".

Important: The hon. Members may please note that the vote will not be registered if both the buttons are not kept pressed simultaneously till the sounding of the second gong.

5. Please do not press the amber button (P) during division.

6. Hon. Members can actually "see" their vote on display boards and on their desk unit. In case vote is not registered, they may call for voting through slips.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to, and in, the Company to be formed and registered as a Company under the Companies Act, 1956 to carry on banking business and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964."

The Lok Sabha divided:

12.35 hrs.

Division No. 4

AYES

A. Narendra, Shri

Acharya, Shri Prasanna

Alvi, Shri Rashid

Argal, Shri Ashok
 Azad, Shri Kirti Zha
 Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip
 Bose, Shrimati Krishna
 Brahmanaiah, Shri A.
 C. Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati)
 Chandra Shekhar, Shri
 Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni
 * Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal
 Choudhry, Shri Padam Sen
 Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh
 Daggubati, Shri Ramanaidu
 Deo, Shri Bikram Keshari
 * Diler, Shri Kishan Lal
 Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji
 Gadde, Shri Ram Mohan
 Gautam, Shrimati Sheela
 Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
 Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
 Giluwa, Shri Laxman
 Gudhe, Shri Anant
 Jagannath, Dr. Manda
 Jayaseelan, Dr. A.D.K.
 Jigajinagi, Shri Ramesh C.
 Kamble, Shri Shivaji Vithalrao
 Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh
 Khaire, Shri Chandrakant
 Khan, Shri Mansoor Ali
 Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar
 Khandoker, Shri Akbor Ali

Krishnan, Dr. C.
 Krishnaswamy, Shri A.
 Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya
 Kuppusami, Shri C.
 M. Master Mathan, Shri
 Mahajan, Shri Y.G.
 Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari
 Majhi, Shri Parsuram
 Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar
 Mallikarjunappa, Shri G.
 * Mane Shri, Shivaji
 Manjhi, Shri Ramjee
 Murmu, Shri Salkhan
 * Naik, Shri Ali Mohd.
 Nayak, Shri Ananta
 Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.
 Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan
 Panja, Dr. Ranjit Kumar
 Panja, Shri Ajit Kumar
 Parste, Shri Dalpat Singh
 Pasi, Shri Suresh
 Passi, Shri Raj Narain
 Paswan, Dr. Sanjay
 Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh
 Patil (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.
 Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad
 Pawaiya, Shri Jaibhan Singh
 Ponnuswamy, Shri E.
 Radhakrishnan, Shri C.P.

Ramaiah, Dr. B.B.

NOES

Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana

Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.

Reddy, Shri B.V.N.

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb

* Reddy, Shri Chada Suresh

Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.

Sahu, Shri Anadi

Athawale, Shri Ramdas

Sahu, Shri Tarachand

Banatwaila, Shri G.M.

Samantray, Shri Prabhat

Bangarappa, Shri S.

Sengupta, Dr. Nitish

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Sethi, Shri Arjun Charan

Basavaraj, Shri G.S.

Singh, Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Baxla, Shri Joachim

Singh, Shri Ramanand

Bhatia, Shri R.L.

Singh, Shri Rampal

Bhaura, Shri Bhan Singh

Somaiya, Shri Kirit

Bind, Shri Ram Rati

Srikantappa, Shri D.C.

Botcha, Shri Satyanarayana

Swami, Shri Chinmayanand

Brar, Shri J.S.

Thomas, Shri P.C.

Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy

Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand

Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh

Venkataswamy, Dr. N.

Chatterjee, Shri Somnath

Venkateshwarlu, Shri B.

Chennithala, Shri Ramesh

Venugopal, Shri D.

Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh

Verma, Shri Rajesh

Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka

Vetriselvan, Shri V.

Deepak Kumar, Shri

Vijaya Kumari, Shrimati D.M.

Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra

Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.

Dullo, Shri Shamsheer Singh

Virendra Kumar, Shri

Galib, Shri G.S.

Vukkala, Dr. Rajeswaramma

George, Shri K. Francis

Yadav, Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha

Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh

Yadav, Shri Dinesh Chandra

Gowda, Shri G. Putta Swamy

Yerrannaidu, Shri K.

Hamid, Shri Abdul

Handique, Shri Bijoy

Hassan, Shri Moinul

Jos, Shri A.C.

Kaur, Shrimati Preneet

Khan, Shri Sunil

Krishnadas, Shri N.N.

Kurup, Shri Suresh

Lahiri, Shri Samik

Lepcha, Shri S.P.

Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar

Mane, Shrimati Nivedita

Meena, Shri Bherulal

Mohan, Shri P.

Mollah, Shri Hannan

Muniappa, Shri K.H.

Muraleedharan, Shri K.

Muttemwar, Shri Vilas

Pal, Shri Rupchand

Panda, Shri Prabodh

Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas

Patil, Shri R.S.

Patil, Shri Shivraj V.

Pramanik, Prof. R.R.

Puglia, Shri Naresh

Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala

Rajendra, Shri P.

Rau, Shrimati Prabha

Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal

Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar

Sanadi, Prof. I.G.

* Sangtam, Shri K.A.

Sar, Shri Nikhilananda

Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Sayeed, Shri P.M.

** Scindia, Shri Jyotiraditya M.

Sen, Shrimati Minati

Shukla, Shri Shyamacharan

Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad

Singh, Kunwar Akhilesh

Singh, Shri Balbir

Singh, Shri Chandra Bhushan

Singh, Shri Charanjit

Singh, Shri Rajo

Singh, Shrimati Kanti

* Singh, Shrimati Shyama

Sivakumar, Shri V.S.

Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar

Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M.

Suman, Shri Ramji Lal

* Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil

Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal

Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran

Verma, Shri Ram Murti, Singh

Wangcha, Shri Rajkumar

Yadav, Shri Devendra Singh

Zahedi, Shri Mahboob

* Recorded through Slip

** Corrected through Slip

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the results. All your anxieties will be over within a minute. The result is like this. Shall I go ahead?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The result of the division is:

Ayes 91

Noes 84*

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I introduce ** the Bill.

12.47 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-ninth Report

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. There is a very short time for the 'Zero Hour' now. I would request all of you to co-operate so that we can take up maximum number of matters in the 'Zero Hour'. Let us take up the matters one by one.

I allow Shri Jaipal Reddy to raise his matter first because I have already promised him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): Sir, I have also given a notice on the same issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will be associating with him.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to you for the opportunity given to me.

I would like to draw the attention of the House and to the Home Minister through you, Sir, that police opened fire on peaceful farmers in Visakhapatnam district on 2nd December 2002. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Sir, this is a State subject. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The farmers were agitated, asking for release of water from the Revada reservoir. ... (Interruptions) The farmers were asking for water. ... (Interruptions) They could have been spoken to. As a result of this brutal police firing, two farmers were sustained bullet injuries. ... (Interruptions) 22 rounds have been opened. I may also tell you that one former Member of Lok Sabha, Shri Konathala Ramakrishna was taken into custody along with hundreds of other farmers. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, it is a State matter. Please do not allow him to raise it here. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, false cases are being foisted upon the farmers. This is the illustration of police brutality. ... (Interruptions)

The latest instance is the policy of brutal oppression pursued by the Andhra Pradesh Government against farmers. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the rules do not permit him to raise this matter here because it is a State subject. There were many precedents in this House. The Speaker's rulings were there on this. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, a few months back, the farmers were subject to a similar firing in Hyderabad city and four farmers succumbed to bullet injuries. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Without knowing the ground realities, they want to raise this issue here. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, this situation in Visakhapatnam could have been avoided if the Government had spoken to the farmers and taken them fully into confidence. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, there were several rulings of the Speaker on this. Shri Somnath Chatterjee knows. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: How can they raise this issue in the 'Zero Hour'?

*Noes : 84 - Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia = 83

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice from Shri Jaipal Reddy and the notice contains the issue of unprovoked police firing on peaceful farmers in Vishakhapatnam District on 2nd December, 2002. This is the notice received by me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): What happened in Maharashtra? ... (Interruptions) Congress Government is there in Maharashtra. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: It is a State subject. How can they raise it here? You should not allow this. You should not create a new precedent. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You can not nab Naxalites. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: You should not allow him.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am speaking with the permission. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not listening to me. Shri Yerrannaidu, you should listen to me when I stand up.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: For what you are clapping. ... (Interruptions) This Government is anti farmers. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

There were 22 rounds of firing, and tear gas was used on the farmers. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: You have no right to raise this issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The notice was received by me. Please

listen to me. This notice on firing on farmers was received by me. The notice was received in time. There is no doubt and it is generally true that we do not accept the notices of this type which are concerning the State Government.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: When there is firing on farmers you people clap. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Renuka ji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This notice was received only because in certain cases, the State matters are also taken up in the 'Zero Hour'. But I do not want this to be a precedent.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): It is the issue of the farmers of the country. It is no longer a state subject. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we can decide that no State matter, however serious it is, will be entertained in the 'Zero Hour'. I am prepared to do this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Nobody was killed. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, in future, it can be done. But in this very House, serious instances were always taken up during 'Zero Hour'.

Anyway, now you have made your point.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I was not heard.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you have said has gone on record. I would like you to complete your speech in one or two sentences.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: This situation in

Vishakhapatnam could have been avoided if the Government had spoken to the farmers and taken them into full confidence. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Vilas Paswan ji, now you may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is only two minutes that the Members take to make their speeches in the 'Zero Hour' and not more than two or three minutes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I was not heard.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, atrocities are being committed even then you do not say anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: If you allow me, I will apprise the House of the whole situation. If you are not satisfied, then please allow him to speak. Nobody was killed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: What happened in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I told you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: How can you speak on this subject here? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I do not interrupt and so I do not like to be interrupted.

I want to bring an important matter to the notice of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, please give me one minute to explain this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: If you want to speak, you have to give a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this issue cannot be raised. ...*(Interruptions)* If there has been any death or something serious, you can allow it to be raised but nothing has happened.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL): Sir, do you want to set a new precedent?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, if you allow this issue to be raised now, every Member of Parliament would raise similar issues. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Sir, is this a political platform? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: How can they use this Lok Sabha like a political platform? Please do not allow this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I will not listen to him. He will not be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Government of Andhra Pradesh is indulging in a brutal policy of oppression. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, on this issue, there is going to be no further discussion. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have already said that on this issue nothing will go on record. Now, nothing further will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, a very important issue is being raised by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. Please listen to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you that in the House the Members of all the parties including you have condemned the incidents of atrocities being committed against Dalits in the various parts of the country particularly last week incident of Jhajjar. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured in the House that he would make the Government aware about the Incident and the discussion would also be held in this regard, however, till date neither any discussion has been held on this issue nor any statement has been made by the Government in this regard. Meanwhile SC/ST Commission had visited that area and the report submitted by the Commission in this regard is extremely horrifying. The SC/ST commission has mentioned two things - First, the Dalits were killed there due to the nexus between communal forces - Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal and the police. Secondly, one person was killed due to mistaken identity as Muslim. There cannot be anything more horrifying than this that a person is killed in the country because he is Muslim. ...*(Interruptions)* For the first time I am finding that the present Government is so irresponsible and its attitude is so callous towards SCs. Such incidents happened in Bihar also however inspite of that the Government have not made any statement in the House regarding the Jhajjar incident. I feel that it is violation of your order. You are in the Chair and you may ask the Government. Where will SC/ST people of the country go? I had said on that day also that do the SC/ST people not have a right to live. Five persons were burnt alive. ...*(Interruptions)* There cannot be anything more serious than this. I have given notice for Adjournment Motion in this regard and the Adjournment Motion is not an ordinary thing. Through you, I would like to ask the Government as to why the Prime Minister or the Minister of Home Affairs is not making statement in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Sir, this is a very serious matter. We should discuss this in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice on Adjournment Motion in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and a few other hon. Members have given similar notices a few days ago. I have gone through their notices. I have directed the Government to take up this matter seriously. Also, in the

Business Advisory Committee, last time, this issue was raised. Today, again, there is a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee at 4.30 p.m.

I agree with Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and other hon. Members of Parliament. Shri Somnath Chatterjee was also there with me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is wrong with you? Such an important issue is being discussed. You should listen to it.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

So, today, again, at 4.30 p.m., there is a Business Advisory Committee meeting. I will personally initiate the matter and in some form or the other, I will request the Business Advisory Committee to take up this issue. I hope that in the next week there can be a discussion on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the Government should make a statement on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, friends from the Congress are waiting for a long time. Please speak out what do you want to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Why the Government is not making a statement on this issue? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You wanted a statement and I asked the Government to make a statement. Do you want a statement or discussion?

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (MUZAFFARNAGAR): I want both things simultaneously. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA): We want both of them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You want the Minister to make a statement. Thereafter, the discussion can take place.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I want him to do.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN Sir, thank you very much.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion will be decided by the Business Advisory Committee. I asked the Government to make a statement on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. BHATIA (AMRITSAR): Sir, the other day, we raised the matter regarding the drought relief for Punjab. There is discrimination to the State of Punjab. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured this House that he would inform the concerned Minister. However, nothing has happened as no intimation has been given to us so far.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amount which was proposed to be given for drought relief to Punjab has not yet been given whereas it has been provided to Haryana. It is discrimination against us. ... (Interruptions) Agarwal Committee visited Punjab where they made assessment on the spot. ... (Interruptions) They have recommended Rs.3,642 crore, however, not a single paisa has been given by the Government. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak while discussion will be held. You have given notice on Calling Attention that is with me. I have received the notice. I will take decision in this regard. You will be given opportunity to speak on this subject. At that time the hon'ble Minister will give reply.

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: All right.

[English]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured the House the other day. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, will the statement on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes be today or not?

MR. SPEAKER: It will not be today. The Government will tell us as to when they want to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, children are still dying due to some mysterious disease in western Uttar Pradesh and Uttranchal. More than hundred children have died in Saharanpur district alone. Bagpat, Muzaffarpur and entire western Uttar Pradesh are in the grip of this disease. Primary Health Service are in bad condition. Till date the Government did not make any effort to find out as to what type of disease it is by sending any team of medical experts.

Sir, yesterday the same question was raised in Rajya Sabha. It is expected from the Government that it should send the team to those places to identify the disease and make all possible efforts to contain the disease. Earlier when I had raised this question, the discussions were initiated on some other questions. At that time Shatrughan Sinha ji was present here. I had urged him to do something in this regard. Through you, would like to request the Government that it should send a team of medical experts to these places to identify this disease. Necessary action be immediately taken in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (VIDISHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subject which I want to raise is not the concern of a specific party but is a matter of great concern for the entire country. The incidents of atrocities against the women especially rape is taking place in incessantly. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, Hon. Minister of Health is sitting here, please give directions to the Government in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, Sir, you should pay attention to this subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, the situation is so precarious and the Government is taking no steps. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Govt. should take this issue seriously and the concerned Minister should be informed accordingly.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incidents of rape are increasing day by day and the rapists have crossed all the limits of beastly behaviour. Women of 60

years to two years and infants are being made victims of rape. Newspapers are full of the news on rapes like "Gajabad ke Mahila Se Sansad Bhavan ke Nikat dushkaram", "Do sall ki bachi ke sath Balatkar," "Char sal ki bacchi ko ootha liya etc." Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir My submission is that the rapists be given the stringent punishment. The purverted mentality behind rapes originates through television, films and internet showing the naked bodies of women and pornographic stuff. Whichever channels one may see, whether it is news channel or the other and whatever product is being advertised whether soap, women clothes or cold drinks, carries the nude pictures of women. In one of the advertisements a youth clad in woollen clothes is got hold by a young women saying "its very very hot".

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (BIKRAMGANJ): When it is your Government in power and even the concerned Minister is a woman, then why it is not being banned?

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Hon. Kantiji, it is not the issue confined to a particular party. You must extend your support on this issue at least. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the Government that such advertisements should be banned. The way in which the women's body is being exposed in films and the pornographic stuff being shown on internet should be immediately banned. The rapists should be given stringent punishment and they should be socially boycotted. Rapist, if in service be dismissed from it and if he is unemployed he should be banned from entering into the Government job. I would like to submit that such laws should be formulated and the entire House should unanimously support this move.

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (ALLEPPEY): Sir, I would like to invite the urgent attention of the government to the mounting rage and protests in Kerala against the decision of the Union Government to privatise FACT, Alwaye. Irrespective of Party or other affiliation and affinities, the people of the State are united in condemning and opposing this decision. The State Government has also written to the Centre and apprised the Centre of its objection. The decision of the Union Government cannot be justified on any count especially on the basis of the reported losses of the recent time. If at all there has been any loss, it is the result of the wrong policies of the Centre such as withdrawal of fertilizer subsidy and increase in the price of Naphtha. It is an offence against the people's interest if not a deliberate attempt to destroy the prestigious public asset.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to desist from this disastrous step and save the FACT in the interest of the country. Thank you.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Sir, it is a matter of great concern to the whole House that the Steel Authority of India is trying to hand over the Salem Steel Plant to M/s. Jindals who are the only bidder in the fray. But they failed to satisfy the qualifying conditions to be bidder for the Salem Steel Plant. Secondly, they propose the same route, same investment proposals and the same technological upgradation as the SAIL. The SAIL can do it better than Jindals.

As we all know, the Alloy Steel Plant of the Durgapur Steel Plant and the Salem Steel plant were set up as units complementary to each other. The Alloy Steel Plant has melting and casting facilities of stainless steel and the Salem Steel Plant has all the facilities of rolling them into plates and sheets. No more investment is required in the basic area of production and some problems relating to quality are there in ASP which can be cured by setting up of one AOD unit there. It will be a nominal investment of hardly Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 60 crore which will be returned to them in the next year. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a bulk order from China till the Olympics games will be held. There is also necessity of this stainless steel and its use is growing rapidly in railways, construction, storage, drug and food processing, dairy industry etc. I submit that marketing will not be a problem. ...*(Interruptions)* The freight charges of Indian railways are very high. Since the slabs from ASP are raw material for Salem Steel Plant the transportation charges should be at concessional rates for the stainless steel. This will improve the economies of both the plants.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to look into this matter and not to sell the Salem Steel Plant. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A. Krishnaswamy.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Mr. Speaker Sir, you had called me, but I did not speak about it.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Sir, I would like to associate with him because Salem Steel Plant is a matter of prestige for Tamil Nadu. Even as Minister for Heavy Industries, the hon. Speaker himself had visited Burns Standards Company in Salem. That has also been taken up for disinvestment. The Steel Authority of India's plant is running in profit, but at the same time, the Government wants to give it to a person who is already black-listed. They want to show that this is also being disinvested. Sir, Tamilian people, wherever they are living, take Salem Steel Plant as a prestige of Tamilians throughout the world. Therefore, this aspect should be appreciated by the Government and they should take it away from the list of units earmarked for

disinvestment. They should not open the tender and they should not give it to anybody. It should be run by the public sector.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri A. Krishnaswamy.

SHRI D. LIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, Salem Steel Plant will not go to the private owner. We will not allow this to happen in Tamil Nadu. Salem Steel Plant will continue to be the property of the Government.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, human rights are highly valuable and essential. There are the State Human Rights Commissions constituted for each State and there is also a National Human Rights Commission at New Delhi. It is a basic necessity that the Human Rights Commissions should function without any hindrance as day in and day out citizens bring cases of violation of human rights for immediate redressal.

Sir, the State Human Rights Commission of Tamil Nadu is functioning with only one member since neither the Chairman has been appointed after the demise of the previous one nor are appointed two members consequent to the retirement of two of its members. The effective functioning of the State Human Rights Commission of Tamil Nadu itself is in peril. You know, Sir, very well that justice delayed is justice denied. The failure to fill up the vacancies of Chairman and members of the State Human Rights Commission of Tamil Nadu itself is against human rights.

So, on behalf of the DMK party, I demand that the posts of Chairman and two members of the State Human Rights Commission of Tamil Nadu should be filled up immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vilas Muttemwar.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Mr. Speaker, you called my name but I have not spoken. I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you after him.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Today villages have turned into cities and the cities into metropolitans. People from villages have been migrating to cities in large numbers in search of employment and they settle down wherever they find shelter. Poor people start living in the vacant space along with railway tracks or in the vacant railway land in metropolitans. These people have been living there for the last 20-25 years. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might have seen this thing during his Chief Ministership of Maharashtra. You had

also taken up the matter with the Ministry of Railways. Approximately three to four lakh people live in the vacant railway land in Nagpur. Similarly people have raised their dwelling in big cities like Amravati, Chandrapur and Pune etc. Whenever the Ministry of Railways feels like, it starts the demolition exercise without giving notice. The dwellings constructed by the poor through their hard earned money are demolished and their belongings are also thrown out. On one hand the Government are adopting the policy of 'home for all' and giving considerable relaxation and soaps in the housing sector and is targetting to construct 20 lakh houses every year, on the other hand does not pay any attention towards huge Railway property. A comprehensive plan should be formulated in this regard. Those people who have been living on railway land and can afford to pay for it would certainly have to pay for it but the people who are below the poverty line should be allotted the land free of cost. It is a very important issue which is discussed everytime and the action for removing these persons is also taken frequently. Yesterday also action for removal of such persons took place in Nagpur. Two or three lakh persons were living there. I request you to pay attention in this regard and try to resolve this problem by giving instructions to the Ministry of Railways.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (BHATINDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on point of order.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in 'Zero Hour'. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no provision in the rules to raise a point of order during 'Zero Hour' because there is no such provision in 'Zero Hour' in the rules.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Why there is not any such provision you have to listen to my point of order. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I would make you understand. You come to my chamber. I would tell you how it goes.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: I come at 9 o' clock in the morning.

MR. SPEAKER: I would give you an opportunity. You please come to my chamber.

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, this issue is about the telephone system in the entire country. The rural telephone system is entirely different from the urban telephone system. Recently, BSNL issued a directive to its agencies throughout the country that the fixed telephone subscribers in areas located beyond a distance of 50 kilometres from the SSA are not going to be connected with the mobile subscribers. This difficulty in the rural areas is very much visible everywhere. The fixed phone subscribers in the rural areas, that is, for SDCAs beyond 50 kilometres from SSA headquarters, have difficulty in contacting the mobile subscribers of the same area.

Our country is divided into 322 SSAs and each SSA is divided into a number of Short Distance Charging Areas for the purposes of administration, networking and charging. My SSA, which is Tiruchirappalli, has four revenue districts. In these four revenue districts, we have 2.7 lakh telephone connections. Of these 2.7 lakh telephone connections, 40 per cent of the connections are spread over in the rural areas. Forty per cent of people can dial within the SDCA as a local call with a tariff of one unit per 180 seconds.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, please allow me to complete my statement because this is concerning the whole country.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be very brief.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: This is something about the technical work, and the BSNL managers have not given enough thought or applied their minds on this. This is going to be effective from the 10th of this month.

MR. SPEAKER: Your point is well taken.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Secondly, they can dial adjacent SDCAs and SDCAs whose SDCCs are within 50 kilometres through 91/95 access with a tariff of one unit per 180 seconds.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you pay attention towards the subject.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

Now the House shall take up Item No. 14 on today's List of Business Discussion under Rule 193. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

14.4½ hrs.

* MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for early completion of construction work of canal on the right side of Rani Awanti Bai Dam in Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (SATNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than 20 years have passed since Rani Awanti Bai (Bargi) dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh was constructed but the construction work of the canal on the right side is yet to be completed due to which the farmers in the most draught affected districts like Satna, Panna, Katani and Damoh etc. are devoid of the irrigation facilities. This region is often affected by draught and famine. An estimated cost of Rs. 1800 crore is likely to be involved in the construction of this canal. Madhya Pradesh Government has started some work but due to paucity of funds the State Government is unable to complete the construction of the right side canal.

I have also come to know that the Japan Government is ready to provide assistance for the speedy implementation of irrigation projects.

Hence, I request the Government of India to help Madhya Pradesh Government to avail the Japanese assistance for the construction of the canal on the right side of Bargi Dam (Rani Awanti Bai dam) so that the water from this dam could be supplied to the draught affected areas of Vindhya region.

- (ii) **Need to provide adequate relief to the people affected by drought in Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr.

Speaker Sir, the money provided as drought relief to the Government of Rajasthan by the Central Government should be used to provide foodgrains and drinking water to the people of the state and to open fodder centers for the cattle in every village so that one may not be compelled to take one's cattle outside the village for feeding them. At present, the state of Rajasthan is badly in the grip of drought.

I urge the Central Government to provide more relief and facilities to the people of the state and also to provide more funds for drought relief works to the state.

(iii) Need to provide compensation to the people whose land has been acquired under 'Air to Ground' project in Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (SRIGANGANAGAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Air Force had acquired 47 thousand bigha of agricultural land of villages Moter, Ghangu and Sirasar in Rawatsar tehsil of Hanumangarh district for the 'Air to Ground' Project. But no compensation has been given till date to the farmers of these three villages. All developmental activities have been put on hold by the State Government for the last 10 years. This has put thousands of artisans of this village into great hardship. After completing all the formalities relating to land acquisition by the Ministry of Defence and the State Government SDM has issued Award for compensation.

I urge upon the Central Government to provide compensation to the farmers of these villages immediately.

[English]

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Jharkhand to install big size statues of Birsa Munda and Sido Murmu in all the district headquarters and also in the capital of Jharkhand

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (MAYURBHANJ): Jharkhand State comprises the geographical territory of Chotanagpur and Santal Pargana. The names of great Adivasi Martyrs Birsa Munda and Sido Murmu are attached to these territories for their great revolts against the Britishers. The Chotanagpur and Santal Pargana Tenancy Acts are the outcome of their struggle. These two Acts for protection of Adivasi land should never be diluted. I demand through you, Sir, that the big size statues of Birsa Munda and Sido Murmu may be installed in all the district headquarters and in the capital of Jharkhand.

I request the Union Government to take initiative in this regard and release adequate funds to the Government of Jharkhand for this purpose.

(v) Need to declare Jabalpur-Patan-Bamhori-Tigadda state Highway in Madhya Pradesh as a National Highway

[Translation]

SHRI RAMNARESH TRIPATHEE (SEONI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the able leadership, of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal ji the country is moving ahead rapidly in the golden era of road development. I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards a very important road of Madhya Pradesh. The Jabalpur-Patan- Tendukheda-Jhalaun-Ratli-Bamtori- Tigadda state highway linking the national highway No.26, is highly important from the viewpoint of traffic. This is the shortest road linking Jabalpur and Sagar divisions. This road is used by the traffic going to Jabalpur (M.P.) via Jhansi (U.P.) This road may become the shortest route to the N.H. Nos. 7,12 and 12 A linking the N. H. No.26 under the north-south corridor of the National Highway Development Project. Once this road is constructed Jabalpur where two important ordnance factories and the military headquarters of three states are located and which occupies a distinguished place in the tourism and education sectors and is also a major city of Madhya Pradesh, will be linked directly to Delhi, the capital of the country. A number of tehsil level towns, other towns and villages which have remained neglected in the matter of roads since independence, will be able to develop their commerce and business by linking with a good road and thereby pave their way to prosperity.

I urge the Union Government to get a survey of this road conducted at the earliest and declare it as a national highway and also to reconstruct it.

(vi) Need to provide more financial assistance to the Government of Bihar for reconstruction of basic infrastructure in the state

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform you through this House that Bihar is the worst flood affected state of the country. More than 16 per cent of the total flood affected area of the whole country is in Bihar only. Despite about 70 percent of Bihar's area being flood prone, the state has not been able to get any special assistance from the Centre. Last year also the state suffered a damage worth Rs.1546.22 crore but only about Rs.29.00 crore was provided by the Central Government as special assistance. Even a partial compensation for the damage every year is impossible to be met out of this small fund. Due to the sanctions imposed by the Eleventh Finance Commission the State Government could not spend this small amount on the reconstruction of basic infrastructure.

Through this august House while drawing the attention of the Union Government towards this I would like to urge that in view of the special condition of this state the Central Government should consider to make necessary amendments in the directions and provide more and more funds to the state as special assistance so that the basic infrastructure of the state may be reconstructed.

[English]

(vii) Need to scrap agreements entered by the State of Mysore and British Government in 1892 and 1924 on sharing of Cauvery river water between Karnataka and the lower riparian States

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (TUMKUR): I would like to draw your attention to the agreements entered between the then State of Mysore and the British Government in 1892 and 1924 on the sharing of Cauvery river water between Karnataka and the lower riparian States.

Over the century, the weather cycle had altered, rainfall has become scanty due to diminishing forest cover and ground water levels falling too low. Karnataka has been showing utmost restraint during the recent crisis and to honour the verdict of the Apex Court to the detriment of its own people. The Government of Karnataka is in no position to extend this gesture for the sake of good neighbourly relations at the cost of legitimate aspirations of its own people.

No other river water sharing arrangement or agreements can claim the antiquity of the Cauvery agreement between the State of Mysore and the colonial government. I urge the Centre to scrap this agreement and start afresh on a friendly spirit.

(viii) Need to ensure that coal transported from Western Coalfields Limited, Chandrapur, Maharashtra reaches the actual users

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (CHANDRAPUR): In the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) area, particularly in Chandrapur Yavatmal and Nagpur districts of Maharashtra, the coal mafia, the so-called agents of the concerned user industry, after taking delivery of coal from the mines do not transport the coal to the place of the actual user, but dump it outside the mining jurisdiction area, which is very close to the mining area and sell it to private parties at much higher price. A large quantity of coal is also stolen from the mines by the coal mafia in collusion with the authorities of the WCL and mix that coal taken delivery of authority on behalf of the actual user. There are five grades of coal, i.e. A, B, C, D and E. The coal mafia makes payment for lower grades of coal and lift higher grade of coal from the mines resulting in crores of

rupees of loss to, the WCL. I request the Government to take appropriate measures to break this nexus of actual users of coal, the coal mafia and the WCL and preferably the matter should be handed over to the C.B.I. for investigation.

(ix) Need to expedite construction of 'Bulb-Line' Railway Station at Shoranur in Kerala

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (OTTAPALAM): Shoranur is an important place in the Rail Map of South India connecting the Malabar region with Southern Kerala. A Triangular Railway Station at Shoranur was a long-standing demand of the people of Kerala. After continued agitation and making many representations, the people were successful in getting some assurances from the authorities. The former Minister of State for Railways as well as a team of officials visited the area. The Department had conducted feasibility survey of the project and came up with an alternative proposals - "Bulb-Line" - in place of Triangular Railway Station. Subsequently, this project was included in the 2001-2002 Railway Budget as a Budget proposal. But, in the 2002-2003 Budget, there is no mention about the project.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take concrete steps so that the promised Bulb-Line is constructed at Shoranur at the earliest.

(x) Need to screen films on children on regular basis and provide necessary grants for this purpose

DR. RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI (BAPATLA): The weeklong First Asian Children's film festival was held successfully in Hyderabad in November, 2002. Many dignitaries besides children appreciated and enjoyed the screenings. The festival concluded with a plea for separate cinema houses to screen children's films and reduce entertainment tax for children's film. The Children's films are means of education and should be screened on a regular basis. I think such film festivals have to grow right upto the intentional level.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to look into the matter and sanction grant or subsidies for this purpose and request all States to build separate cinema houses with assistance from Union Government where children's films could be screened on a regular basis as children learn a lot and understand about races and cultures of different nations. One cannot change or teach adults but children could be definitely moulded for which assistance from Centre is needed.

(xi) Need to improve service conditions of Central Police Forces in the country

[Translation]

SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA (SHAHJAHANPUR): Mr. Speaker Sir. Central Police Forces play a vital role in ensuring internal and external security of our country and thousands of personnel of these forces have been sacrificing their lives every year for preserving the security of the country. These forces have been trained and manned in accordance with the work culture of the Indian Army but under the day-to-day changed security scenario, a number of anomalies have been seen in the matter of training, health-care, posting, discipline, welfare of Jawans, promotion, allowances and service conditions etc. of the personnel of these forces. For example, Jawans of Indo-Tibet Border Police are continuously posted in the hilly areas having such altitude where there is even lack of oxygen to breath due to which health, Training and self confidence of the Jawans gets adversely affected which ultimately would affect security forces of the country and the situation cannot be remedied under the existing policy. However if we follow the posting guidelines of the Indian Army, then we can avoid this loss. Likewise, the Government should take appropriate action without any delay to remove anomalies in the matter of training, health-care, posting, discipline, Welfare of Jawans, promotion, allowances and service conditions of the personnel of central Police forces so as to keep these forces fit and competent.

So, I would request the government that in order to make the Central Police forces more competent in the modern perspective, a judicial review of the service conditions of the central police force, should be conducted.

(xii) Need to look into the problems faced by farmers relating to irrigation of lands across the railway line in Hingoli Parliamentary constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE (HINGOLI): Mr. Speaker Sir, there are fields of the farmers on both sides of the railway lines in my parliamentary constituency, Hingoli. The farmers cannot irrigate their fields on the other side of the railway line with the irrigation facilities on the one side. When they seek permission from the railway authorities for irrigating their fields from one side to another side, the railway authorities charge thousands of rupees from them which is not proper. Railway have got a number of techniques and with the help of these techniques they can pass water from one side to another side for the purpose of irrigation and they should not charge any amount from the farmers. When the railways had acquired land of these farmers for the purpose of laying railway line, the farmers were not provided with appropriate compensation and some people were not paid compensation at all.

As such, I would request the Union Government that the railways should not charge any amount from the farmers for this purpose and help the farmers to irrigate their fields on the other side with the irrigation arrangements on the one side with the use of the modern technology.

(xiii) Need to run Chambal Express Train between Howrah and Agra daily and extend it upto Delhi.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (BANDA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chambal Express train running between Howrah and Agra via Allahabad, Manikpur, Chitrakoot, Banda, Mohaba, Jhansi, Gwalior has been running successfully for the last several years. But this long distance train runs on four-five days only in a week from both sides and due to which the general passengers find it difficult to know as to on what dates this train would run and from which railway station and to which direction it would go. If this train is run on daily basis, then the people will come to know about it in clear terms and the passengers would be able to travel easily to any specific direction from any specific railway station on any specific day and at the scheduled time and their problem would stand solved. Likewise, on some days this train goes upto Gwalior and on other days upto Agra. The passengers find it difficult even to find out as to on which days, it would go upto Gwalior and on which days it would go upto Agra. As such to solve this problem of the passengers, it is essential that this train should be run on all days of the week. Besides this train should be extended from Agra to Nizamuddin or Delhi railway Station.

(xiv) Need to release adequate funds for proper Maintenance of National Highway No.101 in Bihar.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar was hit by floods two months back and along with other districts of the state, my parliamentary constituency Maharajganj was also submerged. Roads were badly damaged due to the flood and Chhapra Mohammedpur road which is national highway No.101 was also badly affected and in the name of the road, only the remains of the road can be spotted. Chhapra-Mohammedpur road is an important link road of my parliamentary constituency which is very important from the point of view of trade as it links two national Highways. With the listing of this road as a national Highway, naturally Bihar Government is not concerned with the repair and construction works of this road and this damaged road now be constructed entirely with the grants from the Centre. I think the Ministry of road transport and Highway should take up the road construction works in the flood affected areas on priority basis.

It is well known fact that 30 to 60 kilometer road of the national Highway no. 101 has been badly damaged due to floods

I, therefore request that the Union Government should allocate funds for the repair of this road so that this work of public utility could be done at an early date.

(xv) Need to increase the allotment of number of houses in Tamil Nadu under Indira Awas Yojna

[English]

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (KARUR): Under the Indira Awas Yojana, the Central Government is constructing 33,000 houses in Tamil Nadu for the current year. The total expenditure for construction of one house under this scheme is only Rs.32,000 which is grossly insufficient in the light of the present cost of materials and labour. The amount should be raised upto Rs. 50,000/-. The Central Government is providing only Rs.15,000/- whereas the remaining amount is being shared by the State Governments.

Under the Indira Awas Yojana, for Tamil Nadu the Central Government has earmarked 33,000 houses only whereas the requirement is ten times more. The allotment be increased. In the meanwhile, the State Government are handicapped to re-allot among the districts in certain cases without exceeding the total allotment given to the States. For example, Kanyakumari District has been allotted 2000 houses whereas its present requirement is only 28 houses. Hence, I request the Central Government to issue instruction or give permission to the State Governments to directly allot the houses to the needy according to the requirements of the districts of Tamil Nadu.

In this connection, the Government of Tamil Nadu has also written a letter to the Central Government seeking the clarification and to extend the permission to the State Government to re-allot 2,000 houses already allotted to Kanyakumari district to other districts. I request the Government, through you, Sir, to permit the State Government to re-allot the 2000 houses now meant for Kanyakumari to other pressing needy districts.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House shall take up Item No. 14 on today's List of Business – Discussion under Rule 193. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

14.07 hrs.

**DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193
PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY FARMERS
IN THE COUNTRY**

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, we are once again discussing the problems being faced by millions and millions of farmers of our country.

After fifty-four years of Independence, farmers in our country are committing suicide. In the last year, more than one thousand farmers have committed suicide. This year also a large number of farmers have committed suicide. They are committing suicide because they are not getting even the price fixed by the Government for their produce.

We have opened our doors to the world. We have removed our quantitative restrictions on imports. We are allowing all agricultural commodities to be imported into our country without any restriction. Our market, particularly the agricultural market, is being grabbed by the foreign multinational companies.

We entered into WTO agreement. When the representative of Government of India signed the WTO agreement on 14th April, 1994, the Government of India did not realise what would happen to the millions and millions of our farmers. We are asking for a reduction in agricultural subsidies while the developed nations are increasing their agricultural subsidies.

Japan is providing 72.5 per cent subsidy. Columbia is providing a subsidy of 54 per cent. In South Korea, the subsidy is 61 per cent. In Europe, it is 37 per cent. In China, it is 34 per cent. Even in Pakistan it is 26 per cent. In USA, it is 28.80 per cent. However, in India it is only three per cent. Moreover, these countries are levying heavy import tariffs on import of agricultural commodities, in spite of the WTO conditionalities. This import tariff ranges from 150 per cent to 300 per cent. In America, import tariff on sugar is 244.4 per cent; on groundnut it is 173.8 per cent; on milk it is 82.6 per cent.

In Europe, import tariff on meat is 213 per cent; on wheat, it is 167.7 per cent and on sheep mutton, it is 144 per cent. In Japan, on wheat products, it is 352.7 per cent. In Canada, on butter, it is 360 per cent; on cheese, it is 289 per cent; and on egg, it is 236.3 per cent.

These developed countries are increasing their import tariff whereas we are reducing our import tariff year after year in order to have import liberalisation. After removal of quantitative restrictions, there has been a substantial increase in the import of agricultural commodities. On cereal, the

increase is 9.9 per cent of the total percentage of agricultural commodities. On pulses, it is 5.8 per cent; and on cashew nut, it is 5.5 per cent. These figures are of 1998-99. It has been increased in case of cereal to 133.6 per cent. In case of pulses, it is 63.2 per cent; in case of milk and cream, it is 22.4 per cent; and in case of sugar, it is 84.2 per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has brought all these figures from the library and he is reading out them there. For this purpose, library is there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: These are not library figures. Please listen. If you do not like to listen, then you can sit outside.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajo Singh, please. Let him continue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in all these commodities, there has been a substantial increase of import as a result of which the farmers of our country are not getting market. Market is gradually sinking and the farmers are to sell their produce below the production costs. We have seen, the plight of the cotton growers of our country only last year. We all are aware how the cotton growers of our country had to sell their cotton even below the production cost, and as a result of that, a large number of cotton growers had to commit suicide. They had taken loans from various cooperative and commercial banks for their production. After producing their produce when they did not find the market, they had to sell their commodities below the production cost, and they found no other way but to commit suicide.

Another problem which our farmers are facing is on sugarcane. We raised this issue only last week that the sugarcane growers are also not getting the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

The Government fixes the Minimum Support Price. But the farmers are not even getting that MSP. As a result of this, we have seen that sugarcane growers of UP and other States have put their sugarcane in fire. The sugarcane growers are not even getting their dues. The Government is not coming forward to save the farmers of our country.

Two years ago, the National Agricultural Policy was announced by the Government of India. That was also discussed on the floor of this very House. There are a number of good points in the Policy, but not a single point of that Policy has been implemented by the Government of India. It has

been admitted by the Government of India that because of the WTO agreement, the farmers of our country are in an adverse situation. When the Government has admitted that in the Policy, what has been done by the Government of India to save the farmers of our country? We do not find anything tangible that is being done by the Government of India. It has been stated:

"Rapid growth of agriculture is essential not only to achieve self-reliance at the national level, but also for household, food security and to bring about equity in distribution of income, wealth, resulting in rapid reduction in poverty levels.

Indian agriculture has, since Independence; made rapid strides in taking the annual foodgrains production from 51 million tonnes, of early 50s to 206 million tonnes, at the turn of the Century. It has contributed significantly in achieving self-sufficiency in food and in avoiding food shortages in our country.

The pattern of growth of agriculture has however brought in its wake, uneven development across the region and across different sections of the farming community; and it is characterised by low levels of productivity and degradation of natural resources in some areas. Capital inadequacy, lack of infrastructural support and sale of agricultural products have continued to affect economic viability of agriculture."

They have identified the areas of concern like capital inadequacy, lack of infrastructural support, storage, demand, site constraints, etc. But during these two years, what has been done to address this problem by the Government? We do not find anything tangible that the Government has done to overcome the problem being faced by the farmers of our country. What we find, Plan after Plan, is that there has been reduction in capital investment in agriculture as well as irrigation facilities.

I have with me the figures from Sixth Five Year Plan onwards. Investment in agriculture during the Sixth Five Year Plan was 6.1 per cent. In the Seventh Five Year Plan, it was reduced to 5.8 per cent. In the Eighth Five Year Plan there has been a further reduction to 5.2 per cent. In the Ninth Five Year Plan there has been still further reduction in investment in agriculture.

The same is true with irrigation. About 40 per cent of the agricultural land is still without irrigation facility. Plan after Plan there has been reduction in investment in irrigation also. As a result of this although we have achieved self-sufficiency in certain sectors, our agricultural production is getting reduced. Foodgrains production in 1999-2000 was 89.5 MT.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

It was reduced to 86.8 MT in the next year. Wheat production has gone down from 75.6 MT to 70.0 MT. Production of pulses has gone down from 13.4 MT to 12.3 MT. Total foodgrain production has gone down from 210.9 MT to 199 MT.

Growth in agriculture is now less than the population growth. There had been a negative growth in the year 2000-2001. The situation is not better the next year. Why is it happening? As a result of this reduction in growth, there has been a reduction in rural employment. The percentage of growth in the rural sector from 1982-83 to 1987-88 was 1.36 per cent. From 1987-88 to 1993-94, it was 2.03 per cent and from 1993-94 to 1999-2000 it was only 0.58 per cent. We know that millions and millions of people are in the rural sector. When there is a reduction in the employment and almost a negative growth in rural employment, we can realise the plight of the agricultural labourers.

This is also because of the impact of globalisation and the impact of World Trade Organisation conditionalities on agriculture. It has an impact on the rural employment. The situation is alarming.

Yesterday, the Finance Minister has presented the Mid-Year Review. He has stated the GDP growth to be 5 per cent to 5.5 per cent this year. In the case of agriculture, the growth will be less than what was last year. The prospect of kharif agricultural production has been affected by poor rains. The current assessment of decline in kharif production is around 21 million tonnes. In the case of cereals, pulses, and oilseeds, they are also stated to register a significant fall. The initial estimate of 13 million tonnes fall in the rice production is still somewhat tentative. So, in all respects, there will be fall in the production. This is what has been projected in the Mid-Year Review by the Ministry of Finance. The net positive growth in agriculture is stated to be one per cent during 2001-02.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, time allotted for this discussion is four hours.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You can extend it up to seven to eight hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It could be later on. Out of this, your Party gets minutes and you have already taken 25 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is not Party's time because I am initiating the discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you are not a new Member to this House. Even the time of the initiator is deducted from his Party's time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is never done.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, it is never done.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mollah, you do not try to mislead me.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, a high level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy was appointed. This Committee has submitted its report in July 2002. During Shri Shanta Kumar's tenure as Minister of Food, that Committee was appointed. I do not know whether Shri Sharad Yadav is implementing the recommendations of this Committee. This Committee had forcefully stated that FCI should continue to operate. The FCI should be strengthened and the farmers should get the Minimum Support Price. The Minimum Support Price means minimum and not maximum. I would like to know whether our farmers are getting the minimum price; whether the sugarcane growers are getting the minimum price; whether the cotton growers are getting the minimum price; and whether the jute growers are getting the minimum price. The Government of India has not revised the Minimum Support Price this year. They have retained what was announced last year, i.e., Rs.530 and Rs.560 for Grade A. I know that nowhere in our country the farmers are getting this price.

FCI has not started procuring paddy as yet. The Government of West Bengal has asked the FCI to procure four lakh tonnes of paddy because the total requirement of the State for distribution through PDS is eight lakh tonnes of rice. That is why the Government of West Bengal has asked the FCI to procure four lakh tonnes of paddy. But the FCI has said that it would not procure more than two lakh tonnes. Therefore, in order to sustain the PDS in the State, the Government has now asked the cooperative societies to procure paddy and they have started procuring the paddy. But the FCI has not started procuring four lakh tonnes of paddy that has been asked by the Government of West Bengal.

The Abhijit Sen Committee has examined in detail all aspects of procurement by the FCI and it has stated that the salient feature of India's cereal situation in most of the States is 'deficit'. India's system of grain management is in crisis and huge public stocks have been built up foregoing consumption in the past few years. Stocks are deteriorating because of shortage of storage space. But, to hold this bufferstock, the Centre is spending more than what it expends on agriculture, rural development, irrigation and flood control, all taken together. Just to hold 65 million tonnes of foodgrains in FCI godowns, this is what the Government of India is spending. You are spending thousands of crores of rupees for maintaining this bufferstock of 65 million tonnes.

First of all, why have you accumulated this kind of a huge stock in your godowns? It is because a large number of people have no purchasing power. The Government has increased the price of foodgrains distributed through the PDS. Therefore, the prices have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the people living below the poverty line. After 54 years of Independence, still 30 to 32 per cent of our population is living below the poverty line. They have no purchasing power. Because of this, there has been an adverse impact on the rural employment. More and more people living in the rural areas are becoming unemployed. Unemployment is growing both in urban and rural areas. But the situation is alarming in rural areas.

The Minister for Agriculture should clarify whether the Government of India have taken up the adverse impact with the WTO because he has also admitted that there has been an adverse impact on the farmers due to the WTO Agreement. What steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

The United States have their own legislation. They are providing 180 billion dollars for spending on farms over ten years of which 70 per cent will go towards direct support payment to commodity producers and six per cent will go towards expanding subsidy. They are increasing their subsidy whereas we are reducing our subsidy. We are closing down our urea manufacturing units and next year, what will happen to the farmers of Eastern India when the retention price will be removed and the transport subsidy will be withdrawn? Are you not withdrawing the transport subsidy next year? When the transport subsidy will be withdrawn, what will happen to the farmers of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal? Namrup unit in Assam is being revived. But what will happen to the farmers of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand? They will have to purchase urea at a higher price than the farmers of other States. They have not realised the situation after the removal of the retention price of urea and withdrawal of transport subsidy.

All these are happening because of the wrong policy being pursued by the Government of the National Democratic Alliance. It is not Democratic, it is Destructive. They are destroying everything. They are destroying the public sector undertakings, they are destroying the agricultural sector.

The Planning Commission has published a report on employment generation growth.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. There are two more speakers from your Party.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am on the last but one point and then I would conclude.

Agriculture and allied activities grew at a moderate rate of 3.1 per cent in the 1990s. It was against 2.9 per cent in the previous year. In spite of this, employment growth touched near zero in the rural sector. The number of persons employed remained static over this period although there has been more growth in the population of rural areas than the urban areas. The number of persons employed remained static over this period. This is partly due to the saving of excess labour. This is also due to a large extent of slowing down of agricultural investment and a change in the pattern of agricultural growth with comparatively lesser activities in labour-intensive and value-added areas of agriculture like watershed development, wasteland development, minor irrigation, forestry and animal husbandry. Because of the change from labour-intensive to more mechanised system, there has been slower growth in employment generation in the rural areas.

Sir, the situation is alarming in the rural areas. We have 65 million tonnes of foodgrains rotting in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India and our poor people are dying of starvation.

Everyday we are getting news from various States - I am not mentioning the name of any State - that poor people are dying of starvation. They are not getting food for even one time a day. This is the situation. The Government of India has no plans and programmes to tackle this problem. The Government does not have any plans to tackle the problem of poverty and to address the problem of unemployment. There is no plan. The Government has no plans to tackle all these problems. There is a crisis in all sectors. In the agriculture sector the problem is enormous. There the crisis is enormous.

A few days ago, two farmers tried to commit suicide in front of the residence of our Prime Minister. Why is this happening? Why are farmers of our country committing suicide? Why are they not getting even the Minimum Support Price? This is all because of the wrong policies being vigorously followed by the Government, especially in regard to liberalisation and globalisation.

I will end my speech by referring to a poem by Rabindranath Tagore. This is regarding discovery of shoe. Once a king wanted to save his feet from dust. He asked his Minister to find out a way to save his feet from dust. The Ministers discussed it among themselves and then they decided to remove dust from the streets. Then, what happened? The entire city became dark as it was covered by dust. Then a humble cobbler came. He asked the king as to why he is doing all these things. Instead, he suggested, that the king can cover his feet with a piece of leather so that the king's feet can be saved from the dust.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

This Government is responsible for unemployment in the rural sector; this Government is responsible for the starvation deaths; this Government is responsible for the crisis in the agriculture sector; and this Government is responsible for suicides of the farmers. It is because of the policies of this Government that our farmers are not getting their Minimum Support Price. Today the farmers are selling paddy for Rs. 350 or Rs. 380 per quintal. This kind of distress sale is taking place everywhere. But the Government is not coming forward to help them. This country can be saved, the farmers can be saved, and the working class can be saved only if this Government is removed.

Unless this Government is removed, we will not be able to save our people and our country. That is why, the main task is to remove this Government. Then, we will be able to save the farmers. If they continue to remain in power, more and more farmers of our country will have to commit suicide. So, in order to save our farmers, this Government should be removed.

With these words, I conclude. I thank you very much for giving me the time and opportunity to speak on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (MANDI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude towards the veteran member of this House, Shri Basu Dev Acharia for initiating such an important discussion. I would like to thank you also for giving me an opportunity to speak.

India is a land of agriculture and the farming community occupies a place of pride here. It is also true that earlier farmer used to place farming on the top of all occupations, business at the second and the job at the third place. But the farmer of the day is compelled to reverse the abovesaid order, putting the job in the best category and farming in the lowest category. The time has taken such a turn that the farmer who has been supporting the entire society, is now compelled to take a suicidal recourse. The hon. Members from the opposition benches held NDA Government responsible for all the miseries. But they forget as to who ruled the country for 45-50 years out of these 55 years? What they have been doing during all these years of their rule, what were their good policies which this Government did not follow which resulted in farmer's condition becoming miserable. Just now Shri Basu Dev Acharia was making his speech. I would like to tell him in a humble way that they too had supported a Government. Prime Minister in that Government was a poor and humble farmer and Shri Chaturanan Mishra was in-charge of Agriculture Ministry. Why didn't everything get into right prospective at that time. I do not blame him but I put the blame

on those who ruled this country for long time as compared to others. I would like to ask them as to what did they do for 45 years? And now they try to attribute every wrong they did in these 45 years to the present Government. I would like to cite an example.

In our society the household chores are the responsibility of the housewife. If she goes to pay a visit to her parents, and does not come back for some days, spider-nets appear there, and it takes some days to clean that house. So, how do you expect that this Government would be able to set right, all wrongs committed during these 45 years and resolve the grievances of farmers and remove their miseries within three years period. ...*(Interruptions)*

So far as the present Government is concerned. I would like to congratulate them as they have given charge of agriculture to the son of a farmer and he is performing his duty of doing good to the farmers in a prompt and sincere manner. I would like you to remember the time when Chaudhary Charan Singh ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, father of the hon. Minister of agriculture had even resigned from the Government of Uttar Pradesh on the issue of farmers.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am also talking about him. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh ji was the Minister in his cabinet. If anything was given attention to during his tenure, it was this fact that marketing facilities be made available for farmers produce. As a result thereof efforts were made to set-up district level committees through Marketing-Boards to pave the way for constituting mandis.

The issue of minimum support price is being raised here repeatedly. Minimum support price may be a temporary arrangement, but it cannot be adopted as a permanent solution. It is the responsibility of the Government to provide marketing facility to the farmer. The Government cannot do business directly but it can involve itself by providing facilities to the farmers. It is being stated that this Government is importing foodgrains. I would like to point out as to how it would be possible to make exports without resorting to imports? You have collected the figures of imports from the library and produced them here but where are the figures of exports of foodgrains made by the Government during its tenure. Imports are prerequisite to exports under the terms and conditions of WTO or GATT Agreement. Is it not true that the fruits, basmati-rice and foodgrains are being exported from this country? You can see the figures.

Now, I would like to say a few words about the marketing facility and the storage facility. Shri Basu Dev ji must be remembering that I belong to a state where bumper crop of

apple used to be accompanied by forceful demand for minimum support price every year. Was such demand made this year or the year before?

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): You are satisfied, it does not mean that the entire country is satisfied.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: There is a reason as to why such demand is not being made. The present Minister-in-Charge has given money liberally into this account. Prior to it Shri Nitish Kumarji allocated funds out of which mandis were constructed at many places and farmers have been provided facilities at their door steps. Even the farmer whose produce weighs 10 kg. can come and sell it in the village-vegetable market. He gets the payment at the spot. Now the supply of apple has declined in Delhi's fruit and vegetable market because he has all the facilities at his door steps. He sells his fruits and vegetable there itself. That is why the farmers in Himachal Pradesh are not raising demands of minimum support price. The Government are providing them all facilities. Himachal Pradesh Government are providing them funds despite its limited resources. They are satisfied due to the fact that they have the facility of local market where they can go and sell their fruits and vegetables. They get payment in cash. This is the achievement of this Government and I congratulate them for it. Now they are saved from the trap of the brokers from Delhi. This task has been accomplished by this Government within such a short span.

Voices are being raised about the reduced allocation of funds to the rural development. Food for work scheme is in operation. If a State Government fails to lift their quota of foodgrains, is it the fault of the Central Government? Hon. Minister has stated that if the State Governments do not have funds to lift the foodgrains, he would consider as to how they could be strengthened so as to enable them to lift the foodgrains. This issue is engaging the attention of the Government. To say that this government is not doing anything is far from truth. I would have been happy had you given some suggestions to the Government aimed at ensuring welfare of farmers. But you have not given a single suggestion. Out of 45 minutes of your speech half the time you kept on blaming the Government and insisting for its ouster. But I would like to caution you that this Government would remain in power as long as it enjoyed the mandate of the people. Simply because you want to see the back of this government. We refuse to go.

As far as the question of setting up agriculture based industries is concerned, there are several schemes about it. Presently, we are talking about food parks and promoting them. Majority of the agriculture and fruit based industries have come

up in the country. I would like the hon. Minister for Food Processing Industries to come out with the assurance of streamlining the procedure. Many people pay several visits to your office but they do not get the nod for setting up food parks. Several objections are raised one after another. This should be made time bound so that timely approval could be accorded. All facilities should be provided to the vegetable, fruit and foodgrain-based industries to enable them set up industries in time. Special attention should be paid to this point.

Hon. Shanta Kumar ji is present here. He has been the ex-Chief Minister. He has been advocating a point and I too supported him in his efforts and raised a point through a private member's resolution that it should be made mandatory for cold-drink producers to mix at least 20% fruit juice in cold drinks because today synthetic juices have prevailed over the market and the poor farmers are wandering here and there to sell their fruits. It is not worth marketing but it is fit for storage. If the fruits are processed and juice is extracted from them and mixed with the cold-drinks of all brands, it would prove to be nutritious and farmers would get money also. We should consider this point. When we are advised that mixing fruit-juice with synthetic may prove harmful for health it becomes a subject matter of research as to how much of these findings are based on facts. I would go to the extent of saying that in every Government function, or at the places for which Shatabadi train or air facility is available, it should be made mandatory that the passengers would get the pure juice of the fruits of that respective state so that the farmers could get a market for his produce. The matter should be given due attention. I would like to put forward one point for the information of the House but you would say that I am talking only about Himachal Pradesh because the state has shown the results. Last year a fruit based industry was set up in Jubbalkot-khai area of Shimla district. Industries have been set up based on the types of fruits which are not marketable. The Chairman of that company belongs to Maharashtra. It is named Chaugule company. You would be pleased to know that the hon. Speaker of the House has agreed to inaugurate another industry of this type in border area, Nagwai of Mandi district on the 15th of this month. If the Government takes up such works, farmers would get an opportunity to sell their produce. I think, West Bengal Government are setting up such industries. If Acharia ji had come out with such suggestions, we would have followed them.

SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA: Much more is happening than this.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: I do not know where it is going on you did not make a mention of it. It is a good thing. May god bestow wisdom on you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmer does not beg for the

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

charity, he wants what is due to him. He should be given that due. Instead of getting involved in bickering and criticising each other, it would be better if we come out with suggestions as to how we can put ourselves to the service of farmers in a better way so that we can reach workable solutions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are no two opinions, so far as the question of drought is concerned. On the very first day of the beginning of this session, it was asked in question number 3 as to how many states have been hit by drought and what sort of assistance was being provided by the Government. In the reply it was stated that out of 15 states 8 were in the grip of drought and the effects of the drought are so much devastating that its severe effects are being felt even in hilly areas today. In hilly areas people make stock of fodder for their livestock during summers because during winter season fodder (grass) does not grow there. Now, the old stock has exhausted. The impact of the drought is visible in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and eastern states where stock of fodder has already been exhausted. Central team visited the affected areas but the people did not get anything in the name of relief. I would like to give the example of Himachal Pradesh. The damage or loss was assessed at rupees 155.86 crore and they were expecting some assistance but only rupees 17.98 crore was released out of the common-pool and that too in the month of November instead of August.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Agriculture through you that the practice of sending central team needs to be re-considered. The team pays visit and comes back on Government expenses but the affected people do not get anything as a result, then what is the use of sending such team? If a team pays visit, some relief must come on the recommendations of the state Government. I am aware of several other scheme in place of that, such as Pradhan-Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, Sampooran Gramin Vikas Yojana, Rural Employment Scheme or food for work scheme. But it is true that the income of the State Governments is limited and they depend on the Central Government for financial support. So, it is necessary to pay special attention towards these states. I hope and believe that you would assist those states in a liberal manner.

15.00 hrs.

so that they can fight the drought situation. As I said the impact of drought would be felt during the coming months of winters with the snow falling and till March-April, these areas would remain covered with snow, we would have to arrange the fodder etc. for the livestock. Presently, the major concern of these areas is how to save their livestock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I would like to say

that so far as Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana is concerned, this is a very good scheme. But one of its provisions provides that no compensation will be paid for the land acquired for construction of road from the farmers. The Government would have to make provision to provide some employment opportunity to the farmer in lieu of his land. Farmer is sacrificing his land voluntarily. What is prompting him to give away his land is his hope that it would enable him to free himself of carrying burden on his back and his produce would be transported through the goods-carriers and tractors. But the Government must make provision for his means of livelihood.

Hon. Minister is present here and I would like to bring to his notice through you that under the practice of providing contracts, there is a condition in the guidelines that these contracts would be given only to the contractors of categories A and B. As a result thereof, these contractors bring in the entire labour force from outside and the local people are deprived of employment opportunities. So, it should be made mandatory that under the Pradhan-Mantri-Gram Sadak Yojana the local farmers, whose land is acquired for the construction of road, be given job on priority basis so that they could be absorbed as long as the construction work continues. Since crores of rupees are being spent on a single road and the farmer gets employment through it, I think, that he would come forward voluntarily and give his land for the yojana. At several places work is not being undertaken despite the availability of funds because the financial condition of the farmer is not so sound and he is unable to surrender his land free of cost. He want that the roads be constructed there but he would surrender his land free of cost only when he gets some employment. I am confident that the Government would pay attention towards it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the drinking water or irrigation schemes are concerned, it is true that whenever a natural calamity strikes, whether it is drought or floods, the present revenue manual has different provisions for different states. This poses a great problem to the farmers. Therefore, I would like that a relief manual should be devised at central level so that the farmers could get general facilities and general assistance whether they belong to Kashmir or Kanya Kumari because whenever any calamity is declared as national calamity, more funds are allocated by the central Government. But very limited funds are released to the state Government and it has to struggle to face these calamities due to its limited resources.

I have stated on earlier occasions also that a commission should be set up on the lines of Election Commission so that whenever drought strikes somewhere, this commission could swing into action because this is also true that whenever an

earthquake hits or any calamity strikes, several voluntary organisations come forward and donate funds which are not utilised properly. So, such type of commission should be set up under which all the State Governments should work in the event of any such calamity and people could get due facilities and assistance which they deserve. Today, it is necessary to make such provision because the rules under Revenue Manual vary from state to state. At some places there is a provision that if the life of a person is saved but he/she loses everything even then he/she is not entitled to get anything. But if he/she loses his/her life and his/her belongings remain saved, he/she is entitled for a sum of rupees fifty thousand. If a person is alive and he loses all of his belongings, it would become very difficult for him/her to survive. The farmers do not get a single penny even after losing everything. But if one loses life and succeeds in saving one's belongings, one would get fifty thousand rupees. When one loses his/her life, what is the use of that money. The farmer who survives the calamity should be provided some support. The Government should pay attention to it.

As far as, the scheme of water shed is concerned, central Government are allocating a huge amount of funds. But recently a letter has been circulated which restricts taking up any irrigation scheme. If we do not take up irrigation scheme which is a permanent asset under the watershed scheme, then what purpose this scheme would serve. So relaxation should be provided under it because whatever watershed areas are there, they comprise traditional sources such as bawadis and ponds etc. If sanction to undertake repairs, maintenance and cleaning under watershed scheme is accorded liberally, it would certainly provide relief to the farmers. Hon. Minister is present here. I would like to congratulate him for a letter which I received today wherein it has been stated that we would have to give only ten percent for the construction of a Jaladhara whether it is taken out of Member of Parliament local Area Development Scheme funds, or collection from a village and the remaining funds would be contributed by the Central Government.

I believe that wherever such drought prone areas are identified, they would be accorded priority so that a permanent solution to the problem of drinking water could be found.

Before resuming my seat, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and express my gratitude towards all the hon. Members, for listening to me attentively.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA (KANAKPURA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing a very important sector with which we are all concerned and you have permitted us to

have a debate on this issue, which was moved by my colleague, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, by way of a discussion under Rule 193.

Sir, there is no need to mix politics. At the outset, I would like to sincerely appeal to all sections of the House that this issue should not be debated on political considerations.

Sir, your goodself has cautioned the mover of this discussion about the time constraint. May I humbly request your goodself to extend the time, as this is one of the major issues to be debated? We have to persuade the Government to find out the necessary relief measures or the protective measures to be taken to bail out the farmers.

Every Government has tried their best to improve the living conditions of the farmers. I am not going to say that this Government or that Government has not done anything in the past. When our country got freedom, our food production was hardly about 50 million tonnes and we used to go around the world with a begging bowl to save our people. The Green Revolution was brought by the Congress Government. The credit should go to the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri C. Subramaniam, who was the Agriculture Minister.

Today, I am happy that the Prime Minister has given the responsibility of the Agriculture Ministry to a son of a farmer. When I submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister, he was also present with some of his officers. On that day, in the presence of the Prime Minister, he expressed his concern that there is no lobby for the farmers in Parliament. The next day when he went to Bangalore, while participating in some function, he said that more than 400 MPs are going to be elected from among the farmers especially from the rural areas. But there is no proper lobby in favour of the farming sector. That is why, I tried to persuade the hon. Speaker to give some time exclusively for debating agricultural sector. I am not going to say that this Government has not done anything. WTO is not the whole and sole responsibility of this Government. We are all responsible.

The situation was such that the economic condition of this country during that period was so bad. I entered the Parliament in 1991. For the sake of saving the honour of this country, the then Prime Minister took a decision to pledge the gold. Subsequently, the Congress Government, which succeeded the previous non-Congress Government, had also continued to pledge the gold to the tune of 150 tonnes. In a situation like this, we are forced to accept the multilateral trade system. We have to join the WTO. Even China today has accepted this free trade system. How are they progressing? What is their population? Today I am not going to discuss all these things by consuming the time of this august House.

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

The concept of the Economic Advisers to all the Governments is that they have always tried to prevail upon the rulers to give more emphasis on fiscal deficit. That has always been the case, whether Shri Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister, or Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister or 'X' was the Prime Minister. This was the advice we used to get.

Now, we cannot go back from the WTO. We have to improve whatever is possible within the ambit of the Central Government. You should take the House into confidence while doing so. One notion, one school of thought is that if you give more emphasis on the industrial sector, the manufacturing sector and the service sector, we will overcome the problem of unemployment; we will overcome the problem of starvation; we will overcome the problem of disparity between the rural and the urban population; and the country will flourish. This is the advice given by our economists so far as strengthening of the economy of the country is concerned. We have taken the advice of the economists with all sincerity at our command. What is the situation today? There is no need to blame each other.

Somebody is under the impression that Shri Deve Gowda is advocating only for the cause of the farmers in this House. My previous speaker was saying that I am a humble farmer. Yes, there is no doubt about it. I take pride in that. He should also take pride in that. He is the son of a farmer who fought for this unorganised sector. We have no voice. That is why, he made an appeal that at least 400 Members in this House may be elected from the farmers. Unless the agricultural sector is going to be given sufficient thrust, there will be no question of any growth in the industrial sector or in the manufacturing sector or in the service sector.

Unless money flows, all these sectors are going to fail. Only as an example, I would quote what happened to the tractor industry. Today, there is no sale there. There is no sale of power tillers; there is no sale of tractors. There is no money in the hands of farmers even for household purchases. The farmers would have to generate money; then only even merchants in cities can carry on with their businesses. I am not an economist but this is simple common sense. We may not be economists; we may not have degrees from the Harvard University. That is not required. A person with common sense who knows the rural background can realise this. All those who realise this can combine together to find a solution to this problem. This has to be pondered over.

When I met the hon. Prime Minister, he gave me, 45 minutes' time. He gave a patient hearing. The hon. Minister of Agriculture was also present there. I may take a little more

time of the House if hon. Members try to co-operate. I do not want to encroach upon the time of other hon. Members but I want some time so that we can all collectively think over these issues. The hon. Prime Minister constituted two councils - the Industrial Advisory Council and the Economic Advisory Council. He forgot the agriculture sector. I am not blaming him for that. I am not going to look at it from that angle. I only tried to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister. He gave more emphasis to the industrial sector and constituted an Industrial Advisory Council. On the economic situation, he wanted the advice of experts and so constituted an Economic Advisory Council. But he forgot the agriculture sector. He should now think over and ponder over whether such an advisory council consisting of agricultural economists and farmers is required. They may not be experts but at least they can ventilate their feelings in such an advisory body. That is all I would like to suggest.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture has said, knowing full well, how the lobby works in the industrial sector. Day in and day out, the FICCI holds several meetings, symposiums and conferences. The CII, the ASSOCHAM and other organisations always try to invite the Prime Minister, the experts, the Minister of Finance, the Commerce Minister and others and try to ventilate their problems. They try to persuade the rulers or administrators to see that their problems are solved. Where is such a lobby for the farmers? Where is such an organisation for the farmers? We are all divided. We have no such organisation. There are several farmers' organisations in this country, just as we have got several political parties in this country. There is no difference.

They are divided on the basis of caste and religion. Unfortunately, their voices are very feeble and nobody bothers about them.

Sir, in this House of 545 Members, which is the apex institution of the country, there are about 400 to 500 Members who have come from the rural areas, having rural background. You forget about politics. I do not want the Indian Government to come up tomorrow with some proposal. It is not possible for them and for me also. They have got the mandate, so, let them rule. But I would request the hon. Prime Minister, through you, that in the remaining two years, let him concentrate on this particular sector which is going to help him to regain his political ground. During the last three years he has been losing. I do not want to make any comment on that. But this is not a comment; I am just cautioning him.

Sir, in 1992, I was sitting on the last bench. When Dr. Manmohan Singh announced the economic reforms, he said - Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, you were also there in this House-

"the IMF and the World Bank are putting a lot of restrictions on the subsidies. So, in a phased programme of three years, we must remove these subsidies from the farming sector." He said this in this very august House. On that day, I sat on a *dharna*, for the first time in my 4-½ decades of public life near the Speaker's podium - Either in the Legislature or Parliament. I was sitting here only. Shri L.K. Advani, the present Deputy Prime Minister, and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the present Prime Minister, were sitting here and Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, the then Prime Minister was sitting there. Nobody bothered. My *dharna* was insignificant on that day. Today, every one of you must forget your political affiliations - realise in your heart how the rural condition is. I am not going to say that nobody is committed.

On the previous occasion, Shri Prasanna Acharia was speaking from Orissa. I was very happy. I was hearing his speech from the other side. There are several Members in this House who are concerned. But the only thing is how to find out the remedial measures, how to find out the resources and how to augment the resources. I can understand that it is a major concern because there will be so much of powerful lobby.

Why have you removed the gift tax? It is for whose benefit? Why have you removed the wealth tax? I can show that there are so many ways to raise our resources. If the hon. Prime Minister calls all of us and if we can sit across the table outside, we can formulate a working plan for the benefit of the farmers. Let us collectively approach the hon. Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister.

I went to the doors of the Deputy Prime Minister for the first time, ignoring my protocol. I am not bothered about my protocol. I went to him because he can do something to bailout the farmers. I went to his Chamber.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the House as to how the things are going on. When the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi nationalised the banks, agriculture was also one of the priority sectors. Eighteen per cent of the bank deposit was allocated for the agricultural sector. So, tell me whether any bank has fulfilled that target till today. The answer is 'no'.

When I was the Prime Minister for 10-½ months, I tried to persuade every one. I called the Governor of the Reserve Bank and the Chief Executives of almost all the nationalised and non-nationalised banks. It has not crossed more than 9, 9-½ or ten per cent. Only one or two banks have reached up to 13 per cent.

What are the total bank deposits today? They will be around Rs. 9,00,000 crore. How much are we giving for the

agricultural sector? I do not want to go into the figures. You have given the Kisan Credit Cards. Yes, you have increased or you have given more emphasis on the Kisan Credit Cards. What exactly is the amount that is being given to the farmers? Out of these total bank deposits, the commercial banks and the financial institutions are giving 60 per cent of it for the industrial sector whereas for the agriculture sector they are giving something nearing 14 per cent. It is so even today.

We are discussing about how to recover our Non-Performing Assets. Three days back a Bill was passed. We have also given certain powers to the managing committees of the banks. When the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi moved the Adjournment Motion the other day on the relief measures to be taken up in 14 States where severe drought is prevailing, I was just watching the proceedings of the House. The farmers' problem is not only confined to the 14 States where there is severe drought prevailing, it is in the entire country that the farmers are facing problem, whether it is in flood-affected or drought-affected areas or whether they are non-affected areas by floods or drought. The total farming community, as a whole, is suffering.

That is why I have made a demand that for this year, as a one-time measure, the interest and penal interest should be abolished or waived. What will be the burden? It may not be more than Rs. 4,000 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore. If penal interest is going to be waived as a one-time measure, it may not be more than this amount. If it is more than that, I am prepared to see and correct myself. You do it for one year.

Out of the total Non-Performing Assets of more than Rs. 88,000 crore, the Non-Performing Assets of the farmers are hardly about Rs. 7,800 crore. Can you not waive of that money? You open a new chapter in the history of the NDA Government. You take the credit as Shrimati Indira Gandhi had taken the credit for Green Revolution. I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister. Why is it that the interest is compounded for the farmers? If he has defaulted in one year, the next year the same farmer has to pay interest plus the principal amount together and then again interest on that. The interest will be compounded for the farmer. Can you not simplify that? Can you not put simple interest for the farmers? Is it a big issue?

It is not that the NDA Government is responsible for this. That is why, in the beginning itself, I said that it is not a question of NDA Government or the Congress Government or the United Front Government. I am not going to say it. Let us all apply our mind together. Can we not at least do some of these minor things for the sake of the farmers?

We have recently accepted the Tenth Five-year Plan.

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

The Cabinet has approved it. In my memorandum I demanded that at least 20 per cent of the total Plan allocation should go to the agricultural and rural sector.

Can you not do that? Shri Basu Deb Acharia was telling how the investment has been coming down from Sixth Plan onward. No private investment is going to the agricultural sector except from those who have got black money, who own some farmhouses around the Metropolitan cities. May be, they are converting their black money into white. Around almost all the cities, whether it is Mumbai, whether it is Delhi or whether it is Bangalore, they are building farmhouses, swimming pools and all these things. It is a different matter. I do not want to comment on that. You forget the private investment. Almost all the States are suffering from resource crunch. It is not the question of BJP Government, Congress Government or Communist Government. Almost all the States are, today, suffering so badly that they are feeling the resource crunch.

I know that 'agriculture' is there in the Concurrent List and both the Centre and the States have to take the responsibility. Of course, the major responsibility is of the Union Government. That is why, I made certain suggestions. In the Plan, which is now accepted by the Cabinet, at least 20 per cent of the total allocation should go to the rural and agricultural sector. Shri Shanta Kumar is here. My colleague, Shri Sharad Yadav is also here. I came to know of your concern for the farming sector on the day you gave reply to the discussion on problem of sugarcane growers. I can understand your concern. There are other problems also. We should all collectively fight this battle.

I tell you, one day or the other, you will have to face the problem. At that time, I had cautioned Dr. Manmohan Singh saying "You are an honest man, but your policies are based on the world pressure. You will pay the penalty for this." You can see the proceedings of the House. I told that he would have to pay the penalty. Remember these words. They have paid the penalty. Today, you are going to pay the penalty. Now, you are already ready to come here. I am prepared to sit here. Do not worry about me. If you can forget the past and rectify your mistakes in the next two years, you can revive. I have no hitch.

I have submitted this memorandum to the Prime Minister. In fact, I am very anxious to send a copy of this memorandum to all the Members of this House. There is no need to keep this memorandum for myself. They can throw light on this. What I have done is a little work, a humble work. They can throw more light on this.

WTO is not a major bottleneck to give protection to

agriculture. I am not going to agree on that. The WTO is not a major bottleneck to save the Indian agriculture. You have got all the powers. You can exercise your powers and do whatever is permissible under the WTO Agreement itself. On certain commodities, you can increase import duty up to 300 per cent, up to 100 per cent. Why do you not do that? Who is prevailing on us? Are the export and import operators prevailing on us? What exactly is the reason?

Sir, on that day, with the permission of the Chairman, I raised the issue of sericulture growers. Year before last, the duty was 40 per cent. This year it has been brought down to 30 per cent.

Sir, do not look at watch.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not looking at watch to ask you to stop. I have some other meeting.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I requested the Minister for Textiles to increase it to 40 per cent. He said that he would consider, but nothing happened.

We have demanded imposition of anti-dumping duty, but nothing has happened on that account. The next day morning, the hon. Minister called a meeting of all the officers and he made an announcement that the minimum support price, which they would like to give, would be Rs. 120, if the State Governments bear 50 per cent of the burden. However, nothing has happened, and some vested interests are involved in it. Every Government is suffering with this problem - I am not going to say that it is this Government or that Government - and there is a strong lobby behind it.

In the case of sugarcane growers, the matter was pending before the Supreme Court. I tried to collect the latest information. What is the problem of the sugarcane growers? Will Shri Sharad Yadav, who is here, tell me as to how they are going to survive? You are unnecessarily taking the blame; I am not going to say that you are concerned with it, but the situation is such that you will have to take the blame.

15.36 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

In the entire country, the sugarcane industry is suffering. If you crush one tonne of sugarcane, you will get 40-42 kilograms of molasses. If you give 25 per cent of the molasses to the sugar factories to manufacture spirit, they will overcome the burden. It is not a question of ethanol. If you allow the factories to use 25 per cent of the molasses which they are producing by crushing the sugarcane, they can then manufacture spirit and, thus, they will overcome the problem.

In addition, you should also allow export of about 20-25 lakh tonnes of sugar by giving export and transport subsidies. The Maharashtra Government has announced some package wherein they are giving Rs. 1,000 as subsidy for export. Why can you not declare the same thing?

Some people are under the wrong notion that our subsidy component is a huge burden in terms of fiscal deficit or revenue deficit. I want to say that they should not have any allergy, as far as the farming community is concerned; they should not have that type of wrong notion. For the benefit of this House, I want to quote the subsidy component which is made available in some of the countries. In Canada, they give \$ 9,000 per farmer and \$ 52 per hectare; in EC, they give \$ 17,000 per farmer and \$ 831 per hectare; in Japan, they give \$ 26,000 per person and \$ 11,792 per hectare; in USA, they give \$ 21,000 per farmer - the amount is in terms of dollars and not in terms of rupee - whereas in India, we give \$ 66 per person and \$ 53 per hectare, including all subsidies, that is, irrigation subsidy, transport subsidy, fertiliser subsidy, etc. All these subsidies put together, in India, the subsidy component comes to \$ 66 per person and \$ 53 per hectare. The Ministry of Commerce has circulated these figures. These are our own Government's figures.

Sir, we talk of fertilizer subsidy. When I was the Prime Minister, I constituted a Committee to find out whether subsidy has to be given or not since there is a retention price. That Committee gave its report in 1997, after I demitted office and recommended that vintage subsidy to the foreign factories should be discontinued. Why is it still being continued? I do not want to level any charges against anybody, but it is a burden on the State exchequer. Now, this year, the Government has made certain announcements in this regard. I do not want to go into the details as to why this was not done in the last three years. That is not my concern. We are importing raw materials for the purpose of manufacture of fertilizers. Why should we not reduce the import duty on raw materials for the manufacture of fertilizers?

Sir, some figures have been given here in regard to food subsidy. It is about Rs. 22,000 crore or something like that. But this food subsidy is not meant for the farmers. It is meant for all those people who are living in the rural and urban areas and are living below the poverty line. Some people say that Rs. 35,000 crore is the subsidy component and how could this country bear this huge burden. It is not so. I do not want to go into the details on this matter.

Sir, I would, not like to take any credit but would like to put certain facts before this august House. The United Front Government was in office for a very short period, say some ten and a half months. The GDP growth — these are figures

published in the Economic Survey that was presented to the House — in 1996-97, in one year, was 9.6 per cent. Now, compare this figure with the GDP growth rates of the previous and the subsequent years. In 1992-93, the GDP growth rate was 5.8 per cent; in 1993-94 it was 4.1 per cent; in 1994-95 it was 5 per cent; in 1995-96 it was — 0.9 per cent; in 1996-97 it was 9.6 per cent; in 1997-98 it was 2.4 per cent; in 1998-99 it was 6.2 per cent; in 1999-2000 it was 1.3 per cent; in 2000-01 it was 2 per cent and in 2001-02 it was 5.7 per cent. It was only in the year 1996-97 that we gave concessions to the tune of Rs. 1,000 per tonne for fertilizer. It is not the credit to any Party for such an achievement but it is the credit to this entire House that passed the Budget. We also gave subsidy for purchase of tractors, power tillers and pesticides. It is again not a question of giving any credit to the United Front Government for this but the credit is due to the entire House. Why not we think on these lines? Let us apply our mind. Let the hon. Prime Minister call a meeting of those people who are primarily concerned with this matter. Let him call the economists and we would show them the way as to how to find resources. This country has tonnes of money.

I heard a speech of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he was the Leader of the Opposition in this House. He said that 10,000 tonnes of gold is lying idle in this country. But I do not know what has happened to his approach and thinking after he assumed office. Now also he is being advised by economists only. But I do not want to blame the economists because they are always concerned with the revenue and fiscal deficits which is like a *suprabhat mantra* in Tirupati temple. But such a thing is not going to help matters.

Sir, I now come to the problem being faced by the sugarcane growers.

Mr. Minister, please do not crush the sugarcane farmers. Your family's name is so high. I have the highest regards for your father. I had stayed in your house during my early days. Whatever may be the burden, please do not crush the sugarcane farmers, crush the cane.

You have to recover Rs. 36,000 crore. Whose money is this? I do not want to ask whether you are going to take action against them or whether the JPC is looking into all these things. It is a different matter. On UTI, the amount due is Rs. 14,561 crore; on IFCL, it is Rs. 9,000 crore; and on IDBI, it is Rs. 12,000 crore. But whose money is this? You have bailed them out. You have to pay back the public money with interest. In this regard, we are all going to give approval in this august House and we are going to be a party in this House. I am not concerned whether you are going to take action against those people. There are so many pitfalls in this country.

[Shri H.D. Deve Gowda]

I want to tell this Government, please do not neglect the remaining two years. It is a very important period for the NDA Government to revive themselves. Otherwise they will sink and somebody else will sail.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other day I was going through an article published in *Business World*. The heading is 'Ensuring Poverty For Farmers.' I would like to quote a few lines from it. It is written:

"Despite hikes in output prices, profitability faces a squeeze due to increase in input costs. Globalisation is blamed for its insidious effects on Indian culture; agriculture is no different. But agriculture's travails have little to do with the World Trade Organisation. Sadly this misconception mars India's negotiating stance."

As I told a little while ago that on edible oil, on fruits, onions and various other horticulture produces, you can impose duty up to 300 per cent. The Kelkar Committee had recommended for 150 per cent. Where exactly is the problem?

I contacted the Finance Minister on the issue of sericulture — the silk which is going to be imported from China. I told him as to what was happening during our period. During my period, I had brought it down. There was no smuggling from the borders. But today, smuggling is taking place and 7,000 metric tonnes of raw silk is going to be imported. There they are selling it at the rate of \$14 whereas the actual cost is \$ 25. They are just trying to destroy the Indian market; to capture the market, they are destroying the Indian market. This way, the sericulture industry could be captured and monopolised by the Chinese.

Sir, one argument advanced by the present Finance Minister is, 'we have to look into the problems of the weavers'. I will bow my head if you take care of the weavers at the cost of sericulture produce. It is the master weavers who are gaining the benefit and not the common weavers. Let us go to the house of everyone and find out the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Sir, I have got just two to three points to make, then, I will conclude. I will not take much time. I am trying to ventilate my views as these are very important points. If you ask me to sit down, I will sit down.

Take the case of tobacco growers. On this particular issue, I am not going to blame the friends from Andhra Pradesh. There is no point in quarrelling with each other. We are growing such a fine quality of tobacco, which is like a hot cake. Russia was one of our main customers. But today, China wants to capture even that market.

You have permitted 43 million kgs. of tobacco which is licensed and you say that unlicensed is about 60 million kgs. Why is it so? They have to pay a penalty of Rs.12 crore for unlicensed tobacco. Why is it so? If the sugarcane growers produce more than what we require, are you going to levy penalty on them? If the paddy growers are going to grow more or surplus paddy, are you going to levy penalty on them? If the coffee growers are growing more than what the country needs, are you going to levy penalty on them? Why is it so in the case of tobacco only? It is only to destroy the tobacco growers of Karnataka. If this is the way the Tobacco Board is going to have a raw deal, then we cannot do anything. It is because Karnataka has no voice in the Tobacco Board; we are only two Members from Karnataka who are in that Board. We are not going to encroach upon the tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh. Why are you doing all these things? It is for the first time that such a heavy penalty of Rs.12 crore has been imposed on the farmers who are cultivating tobacco.

So, the entire 60 million kgs. of tobacco should be licensed; and the entire quantity, whether licensed or unlicensed — must be purchased. This is my demand. The Government should extend the auction period also. I brought it to the notice of the Prime Minister, not to start early auction. But there was no response from him. Naturally, the Prime Minister would have asked the concerned Ministry to look into it. The Chairman who is heading the Tobacco Board is from my neighbouring State, but they do not bother about it. They started early auction. They want to close the auction as early as possible to suit them. This is the trick of the trade.

Now, let us take the case of arecanut. The Prime Minister has taken a decision to allow some of these commodities without any duty from SAARC countries. Now, arecanut growers are dying. The entire farming community has been ruined; please try to set it right. You can take political mileage out of it also. One quintal of arecanut was selling for Rs.13000-Rs.14000. but today they are selling for Rs.3500-Rs.4000 a quintal.

Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar is sitting here. They have asked KAMCO to make some purchases. They have purchased only about 6000 quintals. I went there. The farmers are struggling and they are crying in his own home district. Where is Rs.13000-Rs.14000 and where is Rs.3500-Rs.4000! Why are you not going to levy customs duty? What exactly is the reason for that?

Coming to coconut growers, coconut trees are affected

by mute disease. Our so-called scientists have so many research institutes; for each commodity, there is a research institute. Were they able to find an answer to it? More than two crores of coconut trees died. The Scheduled Caste people, people living in Janata houses or in houses built with the Indira Awas Yojana who had 3-4-5 trees, had lost them due to mute disease.

I requested through a memorandum to give us a package consisting of seven years interest free-loan to those people who are suffering so that they can again re-plant them and get the yield after seven years.

I have given a number of suggestions. We are a privileged class. If the Prime Minister is suffering from any disease or if a Member of Parliament or for that matter any officer has got some health problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Still there are forty members to speak on this. Please sum up now.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: I will conclude in five minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, I shall sit till late midnight because I want to see how the entire House is going to respond to this discussion.

There is no health facility for the farmers. They are required to go to the general hospital where the doctor gives prescription to purchase the required medicines. In Karnataka, we have introduced a Help Benevolent Fund Scheme to cover major dreadly diseases. The entire cost of treating these dreaded diseases should be borne by the State Government. The money can be reimbursed to the person.

I have also made a demand to rethink about the excise duty and customs duty on some of the items, like palm oil and other food items, which we are importing. On all agro-based, food processing items, no tax should be levied. Agro-based industry must be given a 10-year tax holiday. When we are going to give IT Industry a tax holiday, for 10 years, why could not the food processing industry be given a tax holiday for 10 years? If the Government wants resources, we can show several ways to have them. As I have told you, when people who have got wealth worth Rs.30,000-40,000 crore, die, there is no wealth tax on transfer of property. No Gift Tax is levied on them. The Government has removed the Gift Tax for whose benefit? Has any farmer got such a huge wealth to gift it to his relatives? It is only those people who have got black money or illegal sources of income who can take advantage of it.

Shri Manmohan Singh has given another benefit of having one house for living. Even if that house costs Rs.10 crore no tax is imposed on it. What does it mean? We can find many such areas where the Government can levy tax. If you wish to help the farmers, resource crunch is not an issue. The Government should have the will to help the farmers. Only this could save the farmers. I appeal to all the Members of this House to collectively suggest to the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* I am ready to cooperate with you if you have the will to help the farmers. If you are going to take the advice of industrialists, FICCI and so on, you may wait for two years as people will teach you a lesson.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT): Hon. Chairman, Sir, firstly, I would like to thank my learned friend, Shri Acharia for having brought this discussion on the plight of farmers in the country, in the House. I also do feel fortunate today as our former Speaker, the late Shri Balayogi, appointed a Punjabi Interpreter in this House. Maybe, for the first time in the history of Parliament, I take the privilege of speaking in my mother tongue. I hope, you will permit me to speak, Sir.

16.00 hrs.

*Today I rise to speak as a representative of that State whose farmers were the harbingers of Green Revolution in India, whose valiant sons fought against Alexander on the banks of river Jhelum, whose farmers fought for centuries against foreign invaders and whose farmers played a major role as providers of food grains for the entire country. I am proud of this fact. I am also proud of the fact that I am speaking in a language that was very dear to late Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, a language that is spoken by 11 crore people throughout the world. I am also proud of the fact that this language has given us great poets like Bhai Vir Singh, Amrita Pritam and Shiv Kumar Batalvi. But what makes me most proud is the fact that Green Revolution started in Punjab and we all are extremely proud of this fact.

Chairman Sir, I will begin my speech from Punjab itself. There is a report of Punjab Agricultural University. This is a report of 2002 and I am referring to it. According to this report of 2002, the cultivation of paddy costs Rs. 735 per quintal and what the farmer is supposed to get is Rs. 520 and, Rs. 540 per quintal but he has to indulge in distress sale of paddy - the paddy that the farmer loves more than his son. Sir, today, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Agriculture Minister that 4 days ago, all the elected MPs of Punjab, had met you and requested you that Punjab is plagued by drought. It is said that Punjab is a very prosperous State but today the people of Punjab are reeling under the burden of debt of

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shri J. S. Brar]

Rs. 52,000 crore and people of Punjab are shouldering the burden of revenue deficit worth Rs. 32,000 crore. And the farmers of Punjab have to pay a debt of Rs. 7,000 crore. Our Government had demanded a sum of Rs. 3642 crore but not a single paisa has been granted to Punjab till now so that the hapless drought victims can be helped. Today I will request hon. Choudhary Ajit Singhji that Punjab is facing the hardships due to vagaries of Monsoon, due to excess expenditure on diesel, due to fall in water table, due to damage to crops and area left unsown, and due to drying up of wells and tube wells. So there is an urgent need to bail out Punjab from this crisis immediately. Hon. Chairman Sir, I also want to bring to the notice of hon. Agricultural Minister that in 1998, 421 farmers committed suicide in Punjab. In 1999, 463 cases of suicide of farmers came to light in Punjab. In 2000, 520 cases of farmers committing suicide in Punjab were reported. There cannot be a bigger irony for this country that in a single year, such a large number of farmers committed suicide, that too in a State that is predominantly agricultural. I agree with what my senior colleague and former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowdaji has said that this NDA Government had been asleep till now. They have done nothing but divide the people in the name of religion and caste. Drought and floods have plagued Bihar, famines have plagued Orissa and hunger pangs have plagued Maharashtra. The spice and coconut farmers of Kerala are in distress, the problems of the jute farmers of West Bengal are well known. In Andhra Pradesh, farmers had to face police firing. If this Government had taken care of agriculture and farmers for the last 3 years instead of dividing people in the name of religion, the condition of farmers in India would not have been so pitiable. So, the basic policy of the NDA Government is faulty, and they are not paying any attention towards the farmers of India. I want to level this allegation in this august House. Sir, today there is fragmentation of holding. I draw your kind attention towards this particular problem. Chaudhary Ajit Singhji may kindly note that 88% of farmers possess less than 5 acres and due to fragmentation of holding, this area is getting reduced further. As a result, farmers are suffering the most. Sir, I also want to bring to your kind notice that for 3 years during the 10th Lok Sabha, I used to sit there along with Shri Deve Gowdaji. In 1992, during the period of 10th Lok Sabha, we had discussions about the problems faced by the farmers innumerable number of times. Several times, the hon. Members expressed their anguish and pain for the farmers. A member from Bihar who empathised with the plight of the farmers used to raise this problem time and again.

Why is it that no heed is paid to the problems of the farmers? I think more than 40 hon. Members had participated in the discussion. Many members from various political parties who are present in this august House had also participated in it. But there is a saying in Punjabi that although we agree to abide by the decision of the '*panches*', the problem remains

unsolved. We may say whatever we like but the plight of the farmers remains the same. Sir, I do not blame the hon. Agriculture Minister as much as I blame those policy makers of the NDA who have totally ignored farmers and agriculture. Hon. Members from various political parties, including the BJP, Shiv Sena, BJD, Communist Party, etc., raised this issue last time. When Hon. Pandian had raised this issue, I was here. But the Government did nothing to redress the grievances of the farmers.

Chaudhary Sahib, I want to quote certain statistics. If I am wrong, I am ready to be corrected. But I stand by what I say. 32 crore farmers of India have an annual income of Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 12,000. Today, 32 crore farmers of India are leading a more miserable life than those who get the minimum wage. An Urdu poet has rightly said, "You cannot be allowed to writhe in pain, you cannot be allowed to appeal against it, the killer only wants to see you die a slow and painful death." It seems that this Government wants to bury the farmers of entire India. I will come to the Kelkar Committee Report later. The NDA Government and BJP are trying to poison the farmers by imposing taxes on them. I am sure that the farmers will punish this Government so severely that this Government will be thrown out of power with all its paraphernalia. So, proper attention needs to be given to these issues. I was reading a book titled 'Hungry for Prophet' edited by Fred McDough. He has written in this book that it is surprising that China, the most populous country in the world, produces three times more food grains than India. What are the reasons for this record production of food grains by China? I feel, if the Hon. Agriculture Minister and his Ministry gets 4% more Budget allocation, even they can do something. However, at present, their hands are tied. I want to draw the attention of the Government of India, the Hon. Prime Minister and the BJP towards this very sensitive issue. The farmers of this country were responsible for Green Revolution. They fought valiantly at the border. I am sorry to say that though the farmers and their sons fought against the enemy during the wars of 1962, 1965 and 1971 and shed their blood for the sake of the country, today, they are being ignored. *

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA): Brar Sahib you are not only the leader of Punjab. You are a national leader so you should talk about entire country. Haryana was carved out from Punjab and you should also speak about the farmer of Haryana. ... (Interruptions) You should speak about the farmers of the whole country.

* Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: "On this occasion, I am reminded of China. ..."

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: I request you to touch S.Y.L issue also.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: "... because the farmers of China have brought about a revolution. The whole world will have to accept this fact. Hon. Chairman Sir, an important incident took place during Diwali this time. Many a times, symbolic things seem too puny but they have far reaching ramifications. I got the opportunity to travel by car from Chandigarh to the Indo-Pak border and I saw that during the Diwali night, farmers, who used to earlier light their houses with candles and *diyas* (earthen lamps), had lighted their houses with rows of beautiful colourful bulbs. When I enquired of them as to how they would pay the rent of these colourful decorations, as to how they had become rich all of a sudden, I came to know that it was a Chinese product. One row of colourful bulbs cost only Rs 32. So the farmers of Punjab decorated their houses with rows of these colourful bulbs because they could purchase these bulbs cheaply. Hence, they did not have to pay the rent for hired decorations. Sir, I am reminded of a famous proverb of China. I quote, "If you want to feed a man for a day, give him fish. But if you want to feed him for life, teach him how to catch the fish.

Today, the major problem faced by us is that the dice is loaded totally against us at the international level. Statistics have been given by some hon. Members regarding the subsidies that are being provided by the developed countries. I don't want to go into these details. I have got all these statistics of Japan, Korea and other countries with me. I know how much subsidy is being provided by the USA, how much subsidy is being provided by Japan and European Union. Congress party never took the stand that we should walk out of the WTO Agreement. But Congress party is of the firm view that the case of the Indian farmers needs to be championed vigorously at meets like the Doha Summit or other future summits so that the sufferings of the Indian farmers can be mitigated. Sir, I read your statement. I had gone somewhere out of Delhi. Your statement was carried by PTI. In that statement, you yourself agreed that we are not at a level playing field. India and the developed countries do not have equal opportunities to compete. So, the Congress party wants to help you fully on this important and sensitive issue so that the plight of the Indian farmers can be ameliorated. I also want to say that as per reports, by 2025 there will be shortage of 20 crore tonnes

of food grains in India. This is a very alarming figure, hon. Chairman Sir. If I am wrong, you can correct me in your speech. Hence, we should pay attention towards this fact. Hon. Member from Bihar Rajo Singhji had stated last time that the farmers are in such a miserable condition that they find themselves unable to marry off their daughters. The same is true of the farmers in Punjab. Recently, there was a report that in Mansa District, a farmer who had 4 acres of land, could not pay off his debts. In a fit of helplessness, he strangled his 4 children and then committed suicide himself. If farmers are in such a miserable plight in the State of Punjab that pioneered the Green Revolution, then I am constrained to agree with those who say that it is a curse to be born as a child in the family of a farmer. I am reminded of Shri Karpoori Thakur, the great leader of Bihar. In this matter, we should rise above party politics. Chaudhary Devi Lal's contribution towards the interest of farmers is well known. I am also reminded of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's historic speech given at the inauguration of Bhakra Dam that these are the temples of modern India. Every child of Punjab knows about that memorable speech in which Jawaharlal Nehru said that these dams will provide employment and water for irrigation to the people. So, we are proud of these things. But the farmers of India find themselves in a miserable condition today – farmers of Punjab, Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and West Bengal. Indora Sahib, I am not limiting myself only to Punjab..."

[Translation]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: We want that you should talk about the entire country.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: You have forgotten Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: "My learned friend Acharia Sahib has initiated this discussion on the plight of the farmers everywhere, in MP, in Chhattisgarh and other States.

Sir, now I want to bring to your notice an important fact. Chowdhary Sahib, in the market places where farmers sell their food grains, they are being looted. Which member does not know about this fact? which Prime Minister is ignorant of this fact that farmers have to shell out a bribe of Rs 25/- for selling each sack of food grain? I don't want to name that organisation but it is a well known fact that a bribe of Rs 25/- per sack has to be shelled out by the poor farmer. Who will check this malpractice? We give speeches here and the matter comes to an end. Will you ask CBI or some known Central agency to look into this matter? Can some other Committee

* Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

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[Shri J. S. Brar]

do something about it? In addition, I don't want to repeat what has already been said about the subsidy. But, I do want to bring to your notice that the need of the hour is the introduction of new technology, biotechnology, in the field of agriculture.

And as regards cotton, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra and Gujarat were the worst sufferers. Our cotton producing areas, including Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, used to grow 32% of the total cotton grown in India, but now it has shrunk to 10 or 11 % only. It is a sad situation. Sir, please give us some information about Bt. Cotton. If we don't know the full details regarding this variety, how can the poor farmers be expected to know the facts about pesticides. Big landlords are giving all kinds of statements in this regard. They are saying that we will gain nothing out of it. A senior leader like George Fernandes has been opposing Pepsi and Coke for a long time. Hon. Chairman Sir, while installing its plant in Punjab, the Pepsi company had said that they had come here for the welfare of the farmers, that they wanted to improve the quality of potatoes and the tomatoes grown here, that they wanted to import new technology to the farmers of Punjab, that they would start a research laboratory in collaboration with Punjab Agriculture University. But, is the leadership of the ruling party not aware of the fact that Pepsi has only captured the Indian market of cold drinks? They have not given any proposal to Punjab Agriculture University regarding any collaborative research programme. Does this mean that the whole country will continue to be cheated by multi-national companies, that they will befool the entire country and we will remain mute spectators? This is an important and sensitive issue.

Chairman Sir, I also want to say something regarding the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The sum of money that they should have been given, the amount of autonomy that they should have been given, the rights that they should have been given, have unfortunately not been provided to them. Although, I do not want to accuse anybody, but the way in which people working in ICAR have been humiliated is well known to all...

I have spoken for 20 minutes and I am the first speaker from my party. Hon. Choudhary Sahib, last time you had mentioned about credit facility in your speech. Shri Deve Gowdaji has also raised this point. Sir, the farmers should be provided all facilities under this scheme. Now I quote Kelkar Committee's recommendation. It says:

"The task force on Indirect Taxes constituted by the Government of India with Shri K.L. Kelkar as the Chairman has presented a consultation paper on Indirect Taxes. Excise duty amounting to 8% is proposed to be levied on milk and milk products..."

He has presented a paper. I don't say that it has been implemented but in this paper, Sir, excise duty amounting to 8% is proposed to be levied on milk and milk products. Sir, those farmers who earn their livelihood from milk and milk products, will perish if this tax is imposed. Sir, I think this recommendation is like putting nails in the body of a dying man. If Kelkar Committee's recommendations are accepted, it will be disastrous. I want to refer to another report and we have something surprising here. In 1952, there were 452 animals per thousand persons. Several decades ago, the figures were as above mentioned. But today, it has come down to 232 animals per thousand persons. And if we go to 2005 and beyond, then the condition will deteriorate further. So, I don't want to go in its detail. Sir, I also want to say something about land reforms. Though it is a State subject, let me mention that in many States, there is no ceiling on business tycoons and big industrialists. This is a report published in the Indian Express 5 days ago that up to Rs. 8000 crore are yet to be paid by certain influential people. Sir, you are part of this Government. It is very unfortunate that this Government, as well as previous Governments, have done nothing towards rectifying the anomalies of Cooperative Law. On one hand, if the poor farmer is unable to repay a paltry sum of Rs. 800, he is imprisoned. On the other hand, those who have not paid Rs. 8000 crore are roaming scot-free in this country. If the poor farmer fails to repay a loan of Rs. 800, he is imprisoned and a case is initiated against him. There can be nothing more shameful than this fact. What happened to the Land Acquisition Act? Hon. Chairman Sir, a large area comprising of fertile land has been converted into cantonments in Punjab. The land available for farming has got further reduced.

Today, fragmentation of land available for cultivation has become the bane of farmers. I don't want to go further into its details. Hon. Minister Sharda Yadav was here sometime ago. Last time, members cutting across party lines had expressed the opinion that if the hon. Food Minister and related officials are not available here along with the hon. Agriculture Minister, there was no point in having discussion on the plight of farmers. I want to ask that a subsidy of Rs. 5000 crore was granted to FCI and an assurance was given that free food grains worth Rs. 5000 crore will be given to the needy. Did a single poor receive even a grain of food? What happened to this hefty sum of Rs. 5000 crore? I would like the hon. Minister to reply to my query.

Hon. Chairman Sir, I want to sum up my speech within 2 minutes. In this country, several *rath yatras* were taken out. Many of them were *rath yatras* that spread hate and were instrumental in spilling of innocent blood. Today, the need of the hour is to rise above party politics. A *rath yatra* for the farmers should be taken out from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari

by all political parties. A consensus should be evolved by all political parties. The farmers of the entire country should be enlightened towards their rights. We must save the farmers of our country because if the farmers of this country suffer, we will have a very bleak future.

Hon. Former Prime Minister Deve Gowda Ji had said that this Government remained asleep for the past 3 years. In the end, I will recite a relevant couplet. A patriot of this country, who was also in charge of construction work of the memorial built for Shaheed Bhagat Singh, once recited a couplet that shows how the leaders of this country are oblivious to the problems of the people. The Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Home Minister are oblivious to the plight of the farmers. Such is the tragedy of the farmers.

The couplet is:*

Ek Neta so Rahe the
Cheekhkar Maine Kaha
Ab to Uth Jao
Chhuri Aa Pahunchi hai Garden ke Karib
Etna Kahna tha
Gusse Mein farmane Lage
Be-adab ham log Uthte hain
Election ke wakt

[English]

* These people wake up only at the time of elections. They are dividing the people. They are not paying any attention to the plight of the farmers. I request this Government to stop creating divisions among people in the name of religion. I am reminded of one of the last poems of hon. Prime Minister published in his anthology titled *Ikyavan Kavitayen* (51 poems). It says: "We have to move ahead together."

[Translation]

We will have to tread untidily. We have to move together. But politics is being done to divide the people.

[English]

I like this poem. I love it. But today, instead of moving ahead together we are indulging in politics of fighting. People are being made to fight each other on one pretext or another. We must rise above this fighting, The need of the hour is to ameliorate the sufferings of the farmers of this country. *

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (NASIK): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me opportunity to speak.

Sir, ours is a vast country. No other country in the world has as much cultivable land as much we have. The country should be proud of it. There are several countries in the world where only one crop is grown due to extreme cold weather but in our country two crops are grown in a year. Despite all this we waste the natural resources. We can irrigate 37 million hectares of agricultural land in our country but we let the rain water flow in to the sea through rivers and nullahas. It is rather unfortunate. It causes damage to our crops and land. Besides due to non-tapping of the rain water, the water table is depleting sharply.

Through this discussion I would like to give a suggestion to the government. If we really want to have a change in our agricultural policy first of all we will have to manage water. I remember that Geete Sahib has replied that it is a state matter, not Union matter. I am aware of it. I would also like to suggest that both the Union Government and the state governments should give priority to water and agriculture. If priority is given to water management and agriculture, I am sure, that the matters relating to agricultural policy would be solved automatically. The state governments should ponder over as to how the water problems can be solved and the Union government should provide funds for this purpose. Not only this, in Maharashtra where water is available in abundance the people should come forward and ask for funds to provide water. Similarly in Vidarbha people should ask for necessary funds to provide water for the cotton crop. In Jalgaon people should come forward with such proposals to provide water for the Banana crop and all this is possible.

Sir, day before yesterday the Hon. Supreme Court has delivered a very good judgement. Since childhood I have heard and read in the books that there are several large rivers in our country like the Ganges, Yamuna, Jhelum, Kaveri and Narmada. In my state Godavari and Tapti rivers flow - why don't we link all these rivers? By linking all these rivers water will be released to those rivers which are dry. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Sir, the hon'ble member is the part and parcel of the ruling party, then why is he rising time and again to make such speeches? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Neither I want to cast any aspersions against anybody nor I am capable of doing so. I do not want to blame anyone also. I am farmer and I wish to introduce myself. My father and grand father too were farmers.

(Interruptions) I have been a Director and Chairman of a

* Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shri Uttamrao Dhikale]

District Bank for 35 years, Director and Chairman of a sugar mill for 20 years. I have been a corporator in the Municipal Corporation for 35 years and Mayor also. This is for the first time that I am expressing my views on behalf of the Shiv Sena.

...(Interruptions)

Sir, ours is an agriculture dominated country. When I was in college I was taught that seventy percent of our population live in villages and do farming. A lot has been discussed about the farmers here in the House and the State Assemblies but I don't know as to what has been the outcome of such discussions and one thing which I can say certainly that the farmers are still leading a miserable life. On the one hand we say that our country is a leading country in the matter of food grains. We are producing 601 million tonnes of food grains annually. We are producing 132 tonnes of horticulture produces which is something to be proud of. India is the largest milk producing country in the world and we top the world so far as number of cattle is concerned. We have 53 percent of buffalo and 23 per cent of sheep and goats of the world. In poultry and meat production we stand at fifth place and in the field of fisheries, we are at seventh place in the world. There is no dearth of fruit and vegetable in our country.

Mr. Chairman Sir, we must see as to where we stand in the matter of agriculture. We are lagging behind in this sector. Our main crops are wheat, rice, maize, pulses and cotton.

[English]

The average wheat yield in kilo hectares in India is 2,493 and the highest yield in kilo hectares in the world is 8,997.

[Translation]

We stand at 32nd place in the matter of wheat production. Average rice yield per kilo, per hectare in India is 2811 whereas in the world it is 7444. In the matter of production of rice, maize, pulses and cotton, our ranks is 51, 105, 118 and 57 respectively in the world. Though god has given us so much then why are we still lagging far behind? We should ask this from ourselves.

Glancing over the second chart we can see as to what is the yield of rice per kilo per hectare. It has been mentioned in the chart.

[English]

That India is richly endowed of nature for agricultural production. Her per hectare production of cereals is amongst the lowest, higher than only those of Australia and Africa, which are deserts.

[Translation]

In Europe it is 4615, in America it is 4386, in Asia it is 3156 and in India it is 2232 whereas it is 290171 in respect of the world.

In the third chart the annual growth rate of China, Vietnam, Pakistan, Nepal and India is shown as 5.18, 4.65, 4.04, 3.24 and 3.024 respectively. In the Planning Commission's report it has been stated that the Union Government and the state governments are not paying attention towards agriculture. Being an advocate I am not speaking without having proof.

In the first plan 37 percent of the total allocation was earmarked for this sector but in the ninth plan a provision of only 20 percent has been made for this sector. The amount which should have been doubled has been harved. I am pained to say that the government have ignored it.

You had introduced the Crop Insurance Scheme in 1999. The farmers have to pay insurance premium but this scheme is not beneficial to them. They do not get loan in time. There is storage problem before the farmers. They do not get quality seeds. Their children do not get good education. All the villages should be linked with pucca roads. Such roads are being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana. You have banned several agricultural products. Marketing system should be changed, warehouses should be constructed and public distribution system should be revamped. During the last three years I have demanded six times in the zero hour that ban imposed on export of onion should be lifted. I do not know as to how this comes under the essential commodities? I don't know as to what is its definition? In my Parliamentary Constituency of Nasik the farmers are selling onions for one rupee per kilogram. Same onion is sent from Mumbai to Delhi at the rate of two rupees per kilogram. On reaching Delhi its price further increase by two rupees per kilogram. Delhites get the onion at the rate of five rupees per kilogram. The onion growing farmers get one rupee per kilogram but the consumers have to pay five rupees per kilogram. There are bottle-necks in the system which have to be removed.

I would conclude after touching the sugar issue. Today sugar industry is in danger. Despite buffer stock of sugar the farmers do not get remunerative prices for the sugarcane. Due to this the banks do not get money and the sugar mills have to pay interest. The decision taken to have a buffer stock of lakh tonnes of sugar is good decision. You have done well in this regard. I have worked in a sugar mill and after winning recent elections I sought retirement from there after rendering 22 years of service. Today good and dedicated workers have no work to do. The American Government provides 65 to 75 per cent subsidy.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA): No, it is 80 per cent in America. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : I am sorry, you are correct.

How much are we giving? We are not giving anything. That is why I am making this humble request.

[Translation]

In order to boost exports, we should at least give per bag a price of rupees 200 to 300 hundred. We should produce Ethanol from sugarcane. It will help in increasing revenue and save foreign exchange for the country. Agriculture can provide food grains, raw material and employment in the country. The country can survive only if the farmers survive. Survival of the country depends on survival of the agriculture industry. This industry can provide everything to the country. We should make efforts to strengthen it. With these few words I sum up.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity for participating in the discussion on the problems of farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the statements that were made by the Government from the various fora, in regard to the position of foodgrains in the country after independence, the godowns were stated to be full with foodgrains, then why the condition of farmers is worsening, we should definitely ponder over it. Shri Sharad Yadav ji, is sitting here who had been our leader, I would like to know it from him that when women of affluent classes sleep like a log throughout the day or night in their air-conditioned houses, the daughters of farmers in the villages are preparing for the fields after giving fodder and water to their cattle in those odd hours at the break of dawn. The rice that we relish in various forms is produced after much labour by these rural women during which their feet develop footsores because of standing in water for long. After so many difficulties when our farmer produces a record yield what are we giving him in return? I am not blaming this Government alone in this regard but I would like to draw the attention towards the worsening condition of farmers in the wake of independence. Even today the farmer is not able to educate his children properly out of the income earned from agriculture, he is not able to marry away his daughter. If he is living in hutments then he cannot build a house from his agricultural income. This is his actual condition. The farmer is pressed under heavy loans.

Mr Chairman, Sir, during 1989-90 such a Government

came to power in this country, which waived off farmers' loans. But this Government, did not even think a little to waive their interests leave alone the waiving of loans. If the Government claims that foodgrain godowns are full then why the condition of farmers is so bad? Why the farmer is compelled to commit suicide be he from Punjab to Andhra Pradesh or from Uttar Pradesh to Bihar. It is definitely a question mark on our democratic system. If it is not reflected upon seriously then people would lose faith in democracy. We ratified the conditions of World Trade Organisation even in the present scenario. Owing to the adverse effects caused by the ratification of the agreement when the Government is asked to give a reply, instead of giving a clear reply, they just end up by confusing us in the cobweb of international market and competition. I would like to ask from the Government that if they knew that the price of agriculture produce was declining in the international market what the Agricultural Research Council was doing at that time. While ratifying the proposal of World Trade Organisation if we had made any assessment of their ill effects and taken any effective measures 7-8 years earlier to decrease the cost price for increasing production, then the farmers would not have had to face this miserable condition.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the condition of Uttar Pradesh is concerned I will dwell on it later on but as far as the discussion regarding the problems of farmers is going on, there are various aspects to it. I feel that immediate problem is of paddy and sugarcane farmers. The matter on their problem cannot come up for frank discussion. These points should have been discussed separately. Because the problems of drought, flood and water logging are related to it. Even after 55 years of independence the country's farmers of the present day are compelled to depend on nature for their yield. We have left them at the mercy of nature.

We have not adopted any clear policy so far to tackle the situation of flood and drought. Leave alone adopting a clear policy, we are repeatedly stressing to include water in the concurrent list of the Constitution. But so far it has not been included in the concurrent list of the constitution due to which Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are in a dispute and in days to come Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh will also be locking horns. Many other states are also likely to face the same situation. I wish to submit that owing to these disasters of drought and flood our crops worth millions of rupees are getting destroyed every year. At least make some arrangements to save the farmers' crops from destruction. As long as you shall not adopt any long term policy, you will not be able to tackle this problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Crop Insurance Scheme has been

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

implemented. How far this scheme is impracticable, I would tell you as to whether the farmers who have got their crops insured under this Crop Insurance Scheme can get any relief after a natural calamity. I can claim it on the basis of my practical experience since we belong to flood hit areas that the people belonging to drought affected areas might as well be having an idea about this situation that their interests are not protected under that Crop Insurance Scheme. Until you provide for per farmer unit under this scheme the farmers will not be accruing any benefits. You will have to make this scheme more practicable if you wish to vouch safe the farmers' crops and their cost thereon.

Hon. Minister, you have recently fixed the support price of paddy at Rs. 530 per quintal and Rs. 20 as perhaps bonus for drought relief. This way you have fixed the minimum support price of paddy at Rs.550 but left the responsibility of procuring paddy on the states. I wish to submit that have you reviewed the situation of the states upon which you have left the responsibility. Have you reviewed that how much paddy the states have procured and what sort of practical problems those states are facing, if you do not solve those problems, then I feel that no state will be capable of procuring paddy under your policy.

I have obtained the figures from my own tehsil of my Lok Sabha electoral constituency where I reside, today in the morning. According to these figures total procurement of paddy so far under the support price scheme has been 1,113 quintals in Nautanva Krishi Mandi and the procurement of 140 quintal paddy by our buy and sell committee, while its several times quantum is produced in just one village of that area. One and half month has gone since the yield and this is the total procurement of paddy. That is why I wish to submit that this scheme of yours is a flop. The farmer who produced a record yield in certain areas despite the drought and ignoring his costs incurred by him, is compelled to shed tears, today. They produced a record crop in this anticipation that various parts of the country were hit by drought and they would get good price for their crop when they would take it in the market. But what to talk of getting a good price, they are getting Rs.125 per quintal lesser than the support price fixed by you. If you go to Maharajganj, Gorakhpur and Siddarth Nagar in the districts producing paddy there the normal category paddy is being sold for Rs.375, 390 and Rs.400 receptively. If this loot is not checked, the farmers will be demoralised and it will also have an effect on the yield in the days to come.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today Uttar Pradesh is facing the problem of crushing sugarcane. Recently the sugar mill owners under a conspiracy made the price of sugar to fall by throwing their entire stock in the market. On the basis of

concrete information, I wish to submit that sugar lobby is very strong and most of the members sitting here are aware of the kind of tactics they apply to impress the Governments. Everybody is aware of this.

Today I have read a statement made by hon. Minister of Agriculture. In one of his interviews, he has said - who is responsible for the current unrest of sugar cane farmers. Upon this hon. Minister said that for this judiciary, government and mill owners, all are responsible. Though due to devaluation of the currency in Brazil the problems of millowners throughout the world have intensified. But the problems have not intensified so much that they stop procuring sugarcane at all. When the Minister of Agriculture of the country is holding the judiciary, Government and millowners responsible for this problem then it becomes the duty of the Parliament to break this trio and make a new legislation to forestall the judiciary playing with the interests of the farmers. Now, if the judiciary would decide the support price for the sugarcane farmers then I feel the set up of the country is not likely to work.

I must not comment on the judiciary but I would like to give vent to my feeling that if this kind of interference will continue and judiciary would protect the interests of the capitalists and mill owners will continue to exploit then there would be strong agitation by the farmers and then nobody will remain safe in this country.

Sir, Western Uttar Pradesh, Eastern Uttar Pradesh rather entire Uttar Pradesh is witnessing agitation by sugarcane growers. When the farmers are agitating they are being lathicharged. It has happened in Meerut. Not only this, he has nurtured sugarcane like his son, the way farmer brings up his children, he has cultivated sugarcane and paddy. Today, he is compelled to burn his sugarcane crop. We must try to understand his sentiments, the direction he is heading towards. Why he is burning his sugarcane crop, if we will not reflect over it seriously, then this non-violent agitation of farmers can definitely assume different shape which will be perilous for the entire country and democracy at large.

The Government of India have recently fixed Rs. 62 per quintal price for sugarcane and it is said after 8.5 per cent recovery the price shall be increased with the increasing recovery. In Uttar Pradesh ten per cent recovery on an average is made. Neighbouring Haryana gives Rs. 110 per quintal price for sugarcane. Upon this point I would like to tell Shri Sharad Yadav ji that sugar mill owners are saying that they are suffering loss. Saharanpur and Ambala are bordering districts. Saharanpur falls in Uttar Pradesh while Ambala is in Haryana. Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh produces better sugar cane than Ambala in Haryana. You can get its quality tested if you want.

The sugarcane growers of Saharanpur, U.P. will get Rs. 62 per quintal of sugarcane while that of Haryana will get Rs. 100 per quintal. The mill owner of Haryana after buying Rs. 110 per quintal sugarcane will not suffer loss and the sugar mill owner of Uttar Pradesh would say that they will not even give Rs. 95 per quintal price that we gave last year. Why this injustice is being done, why this dual policy is being adopted, if it is not exploitation of farmers then what else it is? Two different prices are being given in two bordering states, in Haryana Rs. 110 per quintal and Rs. 62 or Rs. 72 per quintal in Uttar Pradesh. The logic being given by sugar mill owners is baseless. I say it explicitly and in clear terms that the U.P. Government is daily taking bribes from the sugar mill owners and has given directions not to run the sugar mills till they are suffering losses. This time when we supply our sugarcane to sugarmills the recovery is low.

16.58 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

With the passage of time, the percentage of recovery will increase. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is working on daily basis to overcome the loss suffered by sugar mill owners. This unrest will be there until the Centre takes any initiative. I even wish to submit that as long as you would not announce the support price of any crop before its cycle, you will not be able to prevent this resentment amongst farmers. If sugarmill owners feel that they are suffering a loss in paying present price and they cannot run sugar mill then you should tell the farmer well in advance, before he sows the seeds. If he understands the problem he would cultivate sugarcane and if he does not then he will not cultivate. But when our crop is ready for sale, we are compelled and exploited. If we do not harvest sugarcane, it will not be procured and we will not be able to cultivate Rabi crop. And if we, shall not do so, our entire year will be wasted. The U.P. sugar mill owners are exploiting this situation.

Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the second state after Maharashtra which produces maximum sugar, which produces maximum sugarcane. Today if you become silent spectators of their resentment then I would submit it very politely that when this farmer would head towards anarchy that would definitely be a bad omen for democracy.

Today, where from do you see this big army of unemployed people coming? They come from those very family of farmers who cannot earn a livelihood from agriculture. That is why I would like to suggest that you will have to adopt long term policies to face long term challenges. I would like to

tell the ones in regime that who is responsible for the worsening condition of agriculture. I would not like to go into this discussion.

17.00 hrs.

But when you talk of WTO and World Bank then you must also talk about the subsidy being given by the USA, Europe and Japan to its farmers and how much we are giving. If you wish to take them in international competition, then you must empower them.

Unless you do so, you will find them incapable of facing the international market which will also have an effect on production.

Sir, I would like to give the example of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai ji. He was undoubtedly a very honest man. I would draw your attention towards his formula and cite it. He said "Jitne Aane Man Ganna Utne Rupeye Man Cheeni". If you would adopt this clear formula given by him, then it would permanently resolve the problem of sugarcane growers. You are not accepting his formula. But you will definitely have to resolve their problem in some way or the other.

Our hon. Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister has announced Rs. 412 crore for sugar mill owners from Sugar Development Fund and the banks have announced Rs. 378 crore loan for sugar mill owners. As per the sugarcane policy if the sugar mill owners are unable to pay the outstanding of sugarcane to farmers within 15 days then interest would be accrued to it. But you seek the figures from all over the country you will find that nowhere the sugar mill owners are paying interest on outstanding dues of the farmers. The mill owners against whom the amount is outstanding should be issued a recovery certificate, a warrant, but no state Government and not even Central Government takes the initiative to enforce this law. I am saying this because sugar mill owners are not different from you. If the Government makes use of each of its weapon, then sugar mill owners will have to kneel down before these farmers.

I wish to put it in clear terms that if you will initiate in paying lesser price than last year, for sugarcane, then the farmers will get agitated and there will be agitation which will spread in the state and this fury will even burn you to ashes.

Sir, through you, I would submit very humbly that if you wish to frame long term policy, you will have to issue new directions to Agricultural Research Council of India. Today, to face the challenges of World Trade Organisation, to reduce cost, to increase production and enhance quality we will

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

definitely have to work day and night and make best efforts. I even wish to submit that in addition to the problems of sugarcane and paddy growers, there are problems faced by cotton growers as well. The cotton farmer of Gujarat and Maharashtra is on the verge of destruction. The way China is smuggling its goods in India is a matter of concern for all of us. Today, you ask from the employees of Ministry of Finance deputed on the borders to check smuggling that whether they are fulfilling their duties.

We people represent the bordering areas of India and Nepal. Ram Pal Singh ji also belongs to that area. The markets of Nepal are swarming with silk threads from China. Whether this has come for Nepal's consumption or to enter into Indian Market. Today Chinese garlic is pouring in our markets. It is coming illegally.

You have been signatory to WTO agreements. Today you are importing sugar, grains. Just now my fellow Shri Maheshwar Singh ji said that under the terms of the WTO agreement we shall have to import goods. If it is so, then why do not you give exemption to states to abide by the WTO agreement or not. When you state that sugarcane is a state subject and it is states' duty to solve the problems, so when it is the problem of states, then states should be given exemption it should be left to the states that they abide by these terms or not, then why are you putting bans on them?

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to submit that we should not level counter allegations on each other but you should look on oneself. If necessary a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be set up to solve this problem.

Hon. Ajit Singh ji has come. I wish to submit that you are son of a great leader and if the farmers are living in most pitiable state under your leadership then his soul would definitely curse you. That is why I would urge upon you to rise above the allurements of Chair. These are my most humble submissions. I am not asking you to resign.

I am not asking you to run away from your responsibilities. Ajit Singh ji, I wish to submit that even today farmers hold Chaudhary Charan Singh in high esteem. That is why to take the farmers of Uttar Pradesh out from their miserable state you must come forward by exercising your rights.

With these words I conclude and support the proposal moved under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dhananjay Kumarji, before you start your speech I would like to apprise the House that this is a very important matter. So we will not be able to complete it today. Those who have to speak can do so later. We will take up this matter on Monday also. If possible, the hon. Minister will make a reply on Monday itself. This has been decided in the Business Advisory Committee.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Hon. Minister to keep on listening to all. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we almost exhausted ourselves in trying to find in the rule book as to how to attract the attention of the Chair, but in vain. We kept on speaking by standing on our feet but even then we could not attract your attention. Unless the Chair has the list, nobody's name is called. This is the problem. You may make two groups. Let all the VIPs speak on one day and the others like us on the second day. I have asked for only five minutes to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have divided the speakers in two groups. Today the VIPs will speak and the others will speak on Monday. Shri Dhananjay Kumarji, you are a VIP, therefore, you may speak.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Sir, please make other Members also VIPs.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, everybody is a VIP. There is your Calling Attention tomorrow. Is it convenient to you?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE): Hon. Speaker Sir, agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. As we all know, agricultural sector had been contributing 50 per cent to our GDP, but over the years, contribution from agricultural sector has been coming down and at present, the contribution from the agricultural sector to our GDP has reached to the level of only 30 per cent. This result is on account of a thorough neglect of the sector by the administration. I am not trying to put the blame on any Government but the administration as a whole. We have been thoroughly neglecting this sector.

We believe in the age-old saying: "Krishi to Nasti Durbhiksham" which means agriculturists can never starve. But today, I was thrilled to hear from all the sections of this House in one voice that we are all worried about the problems that are being faced by the agriculturists. Unless we go to the root cause of the matter to bring up the entire agricultural sector from the difficulties, probably we will not be in a position

to have an ultimate solution for this problem. The discussion initiated today under Rule 193 would be fruitful and meaningful if all of us join together in making certain suggestions to the administration to adopt a long-term policy for the agricultural sector. Unfortunately, we do not have a long-term policy at all, a comprehensive agricultural policy. We have seen that every Government has been trying to resort to cheap popularity measures. We give a bit here and a bit there and then try to take credit. I have great respect for Shri Deve Gowda and I had been listening to him patiently. The hon. former Prime Minister was trying to take credit for growth in the GDP.

He said, during his regime, the GDP growth rate was 9.5 per cent, forgetting for a moment that the GDP growth could not be achieved in such a short span of time. It was on account of the sustained continued policy that was pursued by the earlier Governments that the GDP rate grew. In fact, in the following years, we have seen the net result of that regime. In the following years, there was a negative growth. Therefore, that should not be the attitude. All of us should jointly make an effort to find out a permanent solution for the problems that are being faced by the agriculture sector.

Let us examine as to what are the requirements of the agriculture sector. First is, sustained irrigation; second is, supply of quality seeds; third is, adequate supply of fertilisers and pesticides. These are the days where we talk about the usage of the organic manures. In that respect, God has given us plenty in this country, but we have not been able to utilise it properly. Fourth, there is the problem of supply of quality power to the agriculture sector. Today, the entire country is suffering for lack of adequate power. When the question of supply of power to the agriculture sector comes, the entire blame is put on the poor farming community saying that the farming community is enjoying free supply of electricity. I am not aware that it is so and the farming community has never enjoyed that. The farmer has never been supplied with adequate power.

Then, we have the problem of storage. It is said that 25 per cent of our produce is going waste on account of eating by rats and wild animals. We are not in a position to preserve what we produce. Storage is the biggest problem. Next, there is the problem of transportation. Finally, over and above all these things, the biggest challenge before us today is that of providing marketing facilities. Though the world over the best harvesting technology is used, we are not in a position to give that benefit to our farmers. The marketing problem is glaring at us.

As we all know, agriculture is in the Concurrent List in our administrative system. Both the Central as well as the

State Governments are equally responsible. I would say that primarily, the State Governments should take up the responsibility because whatever little earning will be there to the exchequer, it will go to the coffers of the State Governments. The State Governments earn from the sale of the agricultural produce by way of sales tax. They also levy market cess. In some States, they also resort to levying of income tax on agriculture. The Government of India is not getting anything from the agriculture sector. Still, all of us are trying to make out a case that the primary responsibility is that of the Government of India. I am not just referring to the present Government; in the last 50-52 years, we have seen that Government after Government have tried their best, but still, we are not in a position to solve the problem.

Then comes the question of research and development. Our researchers have made good effort in this regard. They have come out with varied suggestions to improve the productivity and to protect our producers. But unfortunately, we are unable to transfer the technology, which we have developed in the laboratories, to the field. Until and unless that technology is transferred and it practically reaches the farmer, there will be no use. We have set up umpteen number of research stations, but unfortunately, none of the research stations is working to our satisfaction.

In fact, they are not in a position to improve the whole lot of the farming community.

We have failed in adopting the scientific method of farming. We have been talking too much about the regulations imposed by the World Trade Organisation. A reference was being made to China, forgetting for a moment that China has also become a Member of the WTO. Now, we can no more make that allegation against China because China has also become a Member of the WTO.

That being the situation today, knowing full well that the entire world has opened up, we must think about strengthening our economy. We forget the basics of our economy. Unless we bring back the agriculture sector to its original path and improve its contribution to the GDP, probably we will not be in a position to achieve the heights of the economy which we want to achieve.

Sir, there are umpteen number of schemes that are being implemented. I have a publication prepared by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The present Union Government, under the able and dynamic leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has come out with programmes numbering about 49. There are any number of programmes and schemes that are being implemented by the Government

[Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

of India. As I have said, the primary responsibility of implementing these schemes again lies with the State Governments. The Government of India is releasing the funds; the Government of India is trying to implement the schemes, but unless the implementing agency is in a position to give benefits to the concerned, probably, we will not be in a position to get the result.

There are schemes like Watershed Management Scheme, Wasteland Development Scheme, Soil Erosion Prevention Scheme, being taken up by the Union Government. Similarly, there are a number of other schemes which I can point out. But today, the ground reality is that the farmer is not in a position to take advantage or reap the benefits of these schemes. Thousands and thousands of crores of rupees are being spent by the Government of India every year. This year itself, we all know that around 56 per cent of our total budgetary allocations is earmarked for the rural development and agriculture sector. Unfortunately, a major portion out of this is being spent either in the name of rural development or poverty alleviation. Only a small amount is really being given directly to the agriculture sector.

Hon. Shri Deve Gowda was mentioning about subsidies. Nobody is against subsidies. But in reality, if you want to help the farming community, what is required is that you should create a situation wherein the farmer is able to sell his produce in the market at - I do not say competitive - a rate which will at least meet the cost of production and also provide facility of decent living to the farmer. That is all what is required.

Today, we all know that a son of a farmer takes birth under debt, lives in debt and dies in debt. This is a famous saying. We have been pleading with the Government of India to please come out with some schemes so that the farmer can feel himself free from debt. Now, this is a long storey. Whether once for all the entire debt can be wiped out, is a point for consideration by the entire House. We cannot ask only the Government to shell out the money. Unless we work out a proper mechanism as to how this money is spent and whether this will help the farmer once and for all to make him able to stand on his legs, the situation cannot be improved. All these aspects will have to be examined. But at least for the present, under the circumstances, until we are in a position to implement all these schemes and until we develop a scheme wherein a continued financial support goes to the farming community regularly, probably we will have to agree for some short-term measures.

For this, I would like to make 2-3 suggestions. I will be

very brief. I want to hear from all sections of the House; we are all equally concerned about the problems of the farmers. Can we have a mechanism by which it will become mandatory both for the Government of India and the State Governments to allocate certain percentage of their income every year to the agricultural sector? Would it be possible? Can that be a part of our Constitution? Can it happen that compulsorily every Government would allocate a definite portion of the income to the agricultural sector?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Your argument goes negative with your 56 per cent subsidy!

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Okay. 56 per cent or a major portion goes as subsidy; major portion goes as Rural Development Fund, etc. But it should directly go to the agricultural sector. Unless we are able to agree - unless the entire House agrees - it will be very difficult. The Government alone cannot take a decision. It should be implemented by all the State Governments also.

This Government at least can take the credit for having introduced a new scheme of 'Kisan Credit Card' with insurance benefits. I do not say that it has totally brought the farming community out of the debt trap.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): But that Card has not increased the volume of credit. If you are able to do it, it would be better.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: That is what I am trying to place before the House. I do not say that it is comprehensive. My only submission is that they have made a beginning; let us continue with that. That scheme will be in existence only for five years. What will happen after five years? Will 'Kisan Credit Card' Scheme go after five years? But the farming community should get an assured financial support from the Government. That is my submission.

The last point is this. We will have to strengthen our exports. Today, fortunately we have become a surplus country, so far as many of the agricultural produce are concerned. We are already exporting sugar, wheat, rice, etc., apart from other commercial crops. Usually, the export package consists of coffee, tea, rubber, tobacco, etc. Apart from that, we have been able to export staple food also. This is a good sign. What is the credit that is being given to agri-exports? May I know whether agri-exports would also get the same facilities as the industrial products? This is a point for consideration and the hon. Agriculture Minister may think about this.

Shri Deve Gowda was referring to the 'prime lending policy'. Agricultural sector has always been treated with a step-motherly attitudes and I fully agree with that view. Never ever the financial institutions have fulfilled their obligations. They have never reached the limit of 18 per cent; always they reach only 14-15 per cent, that too, with great difficulty.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: They reach only 11.2 per cent.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: They always grumble that agricultural sector is the defaulter. This attitude should change. Why is this problem there? Again, I will go back to the same point. Unless we make an arrangement to have sustainable financial support, the agriculturists cannot get out of this.

The last point is concerning my own Constituency. Shri Deve Gowda made a mention about this also. Today, the growers of all the commercial crops like coffee, tea, rubber, arecanut, coconut, rubber, cashew, etc. are in great difficulty; and they are not able to meet both ends. I suppose, everybody is supporting me; I see that Shri Radhakrishnan is also nodding his head.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Everyday, I am raising this issue.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: The Market Intervention Scheme, which is being implemented by the Government of India, is not of great help to the farming-community. As a short term measure, I would plead with the Government of India that they should continue with the Market Intervention Scheme. They should persuade the State Government to continue with this scheme and announce Support Price not only for staple food articles but also for the commercial crops so that the farmers can tide over this period of difficulty. In this way, we will be looking forward for good days.

The hon. Member has already touched upon the problems being faced by tobacco growers. ...

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Sir, the Chair has skipped our name twice. After the Congress speaker, we should have been given a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak after him.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: We have heard the slogan, 'Jai Kisan, Jai Javan and Jai Vigyan'. I think 'Jai Vigyan' should rejuvenate the *kisans*. The research undertaken in labs should be translated into the farm. Then only scientific farming

is possible and then only productivity will go up. This is the only solution. Unless we improve our productivity, unless we are able to sell our products in the market, probably the long lasting solution will never be achieved. All of us should jointly endeavour in this regard and insist on the Government to make definite allocation to the agricultural sector.

I am sure that with this discussion, the House will be in a position to evolve an everlasting solution to the problems of *kisan*.

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia has raised discussion in the House on a very important issue and I would also like to express my views in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we have been told, after independence the contribution of the agriculture sector in the GDP growth was 50 per cent, but after 50 years of independence this contribution has come down to 24-25 per cent. If we look at the other side of this coin, 75 per cent people of our country depend on agriculture. But the fact is that the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce. On the one hand the farmers are getting less and on the other hand, the consumers are forced to pay more, but the middlemen are the real gainers, earning more and more profits. This system is not good. The Government should take note of this situation and find out a solution to this problem.

The problems of the farmers vary from state to state and they are committing suicide for non-redressal of their problems. The cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh committed suicide by consuming pesticide. The sugarcane growers of Maharashtra are not getting back even their cost price and they are committing suicide. The farmers of Karnataka are also committing suicide. The farmers of Kerala are not getting money for their plantations, they too, are resorting to suicide. The farmers of Sikar in Rajasthan are not getting paid for their onions and are being forced to commit suicide.

Non payment to the sugar cane growers of Uttar Pradesh is leading them to commit suicide. The tendency among the farmers to commit suicide is growing - what is the reason behind this? This should not happen. In our country we talk a lot about the farmers, but mostly only the affluent farmers are kept in mind. Our country has 20 per cent big farmers, but 80 per cent of the farmers are medium and small farmers and agricultural labourers - they are the less talked of lot.

Sir, the Hon. Minister told us about 400 representatives, but they stand advocates to the rich farmers only. Persons

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

advocating for the poor, small and medium farmers are few in number. The facilities for the farmers - be it tractors, roads, fertilizers, bank or the export facility - are all grabbed by the 20 percent big farmers, and the 80 percent small farmers do not get any of them. The biggest misfortune of India for the last 50 years has been the fact that Government paid no attention to the land reforms. As a result, a few influential people manage to grab the lands which continue to remain in their benami possession. By doing so, they have ruined the land reforms process as also the small and medium farmers in the process. Later, when green revolution was started the whole country should have been covered under it, but this could not be done due to our faulty policies and hence this problem today. Suicides by farmers are reported from all over the country, this is a matter of concern.

Today, you have made the problems of farmers a subject of discussion - this is good. It is quite possible that with the consent of all, a solution to this may come up. Our country will be saved when the farmers are saved, and if the farmers are saved, the country will be saved - we can implement this slogan. A number of problems of the farmers have been discussed here, the farmers are facing problems in getting inputs. They do not get seeds in time. Foreign seeds are coming these days, they sow them but the results are varied. After that their expenditure shoots so much that they cannot afford it. So the incidents of suicide are increasing. Sub-standard inputs are also a cause due to which the farmers are getting ruined. There is a need to find a way out with the consent of all so that the farmers could have the guarantee for getting timely inputs like fertilizers, seeds etc.

Sir, proper marketing facility is also not available to the farmers. He produces but he has no market to sell his yield. It is difficult for him to take his produce to the Mandi (market). In the absence of market the small and medium farmers are the worst affected because they are not able to take their produce from village to the towns. So it is highly imperative to provide better marketing facility to such farmers. How can the market be strengthened? This problem can be solved to some extent by eliminating middlemen. We are buying Maharashtra's onion at the rate of Rs. six per bag instead of Rs. one per bag. The middleman is the gainer in all this. If the middleman is eliminated, this problem can be solved. But the political parties are at the back of the middleman. The middleman helps all the political parties with donations and muscle power, that is why the political parties are not ready to lay their hands on them. As a result, it is the middleman who has gained the most during the last 50 years and this is destroying and

depriving the farmer. On the other hand the middleman is looting the buyer and the consumer also. The Government should pay attention to this also as to how this problem can be removed.

Besides, there is a problem of loan. Our farmers take birth with a burden of loan over his head, live with loan and die leaving the burden of loan/debt on their sons and like this and this inheritance of loan continues from one generation to another.

Now-a-days, there are a number of institutions in the country but they do not discharge and fulfil their responsibilities. Banks do not provide loans below 11-12 per cent rate of interest and therefore it is the Government who have to come forward to fulfil this responsibility. The Government would have to see that how the financial institutions can provide soft loans to the farmers. The Government will have to strongly ensure that how financial assistance and loans can be provided to the farmers at appropriate time.

Now-a-days newer techniques are entering into the agricultural sector and hence it becomes the duty of the government officers in our extension services that they should alert the farmers and apprise them of the modern technologies and train them of their use. Earlier whatever training was imparted to the farmers, that techniques have become old and now we don't have the experts to teach and train the farmers of the use of new techniques. There is a new technique in the field of processing, there is a new technique in the field of use of fertilizers as to how fertilizers should be used and what quantity of fertilizers should be used. There is nobody to tell the farmers about all these things. There is nobody to tell the farmers that how they can obtain loan, The same old technique is still being used and extension services have not been modernised. The government should also take this responsibility that farmers are apprised of all these things.

Now-a-days, we are earmarking less funds for planning in the field of agriculture. During the Sixth Five Year Plan, 10 per cent amount was spent on the Planning and now that amount has declined to less than five per cent with the passage of time. The volume of money has increased but if we see the per capita percentage, that has deteriorated and still declining. With such an amount for planning, the purpose to save our 75 per cent farmers cannot be served. The Government should see that either this percentage be 15 or 20 but it should be made compulsory in the interest of the farmers. Today capital investment in the field of agriculture is not taking place. The government investment is declining and the private parties do not want to invest their capital in this sector. As such it is

the responsibility of the government that they should make capital investment in the agricultural sector and all the parties should jointly make efforts to formulate a scheme on this subject in the interest of the farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards minimum support price, that is not given at appropriate time. This has also aggravated problems of the farmers. A number of disappointed farmers of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are here who could not receive minimum support price at appropriate and this issue has already been discussed in this house.

Crops worth fifty thousand crore rupees get wasted in our country due to lack of proper storage facilities. The Government have not taken measures to save the perishable goods. Now, the major problem before the farmers is about maintenance of the perishable goods. The government is not taking adequate measures to save the perishable goods. The Government must address this problem.

As regards fertilizers, it has been told that fertilizer factories are being closed down whereas we need larger quantity of fertilizers for agriculture purposes. Fertilizers are being imported whereas domestic fertilizer factories are being closed. It is not a proper thing. The Government should ponder over it. The production of pulses is also not increasing and the government is importing the same. The government has to serve its own motive from import of these items. The more the things would be imported, more middlemen will come in between and those middlemen will be benefited. If we increase the production of oil seeds and pulses, our farmers can get more benefits but the Government is not paying proper attention towards it.

As regards providing subsidy, my predecessors have informed that America provides 180 billion dollar subsidy whereas we give only one billion dollar subsidy. Many countries are crying even for that. The government has failed even to raise the right issue of the farmers in the World Trade Organization. They should have raised the issue of the farmers properly so as to protect them. The government has not fulfilled its duty properly. This is also one of the problems before us. We should see the problems of the farmers in totality. Our farmers are not rich. They are middle class and poor farmers. These are 14-15 crore agricultural labourers in the country. Without them, the country cannot grow foodgrains. Now the condition of the agricultural labourers is not good. For them, neither any laws have been enacted nor any arrangements have been made for their medical treatment. It is essential to visualize their problems. If we want to save the rural economy, then the government should formulate a group insurance scheme/policy and only then the farmers can be saved. The

farmers cannot be saved with the existing policy of the government. If this thing is not properly addressed, then more and more farmers will commit suicide and a day will come when they will follow the reverse direction. The farmers who are sitting silent today, are not going to sit silent for any longer. If the farmers would die, that will give rise to agricultural revolution which may change the whole scenario in the country. The government should take a note of all these things. With these words I convey thanks and conclude my speech.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers of India have been facing problems since our country became independent.

17.42 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

The farmer of the country is considered as the backbone of India but he has not been given due attention in the last fifty years of independence. Today, the entire House is concentrating on the problems of farmers. The problems are still persisting but I would like to congratulate Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee who resolved to provide 58 per cent of budget for the farmers as soon as he resumed power. As a result, we have issued credit cards to the farmers to ameliorate their condition and crop insurance scheme has been launched. The farmers of this country faced the severe drought of the country this year, the Hon. Prime Minister came forward to their rescue. He not only gave a package of Rs.2 thousand crore for the farmers but also made a separate provision of Rs. 1186 crore for them. The Government allocated one million 36 lakh tons foodgrains worth Rs. 1500 crore to various state governments so that the problems faced by the farmers are tide over.

It appears from the economic review presented in the House yesterday, that earlier three times when the country faced situation drought, the inflation rate in the country used to touch two digits due to drought and we had to import foodgrains from abroad, not only that, when we used to import foodgrains from abroad, the other countries used to influence our internal policies. And I remember 35 years from now, in 1967-68 whenever the leaders of our country used to visit any foreign country, the cartoons of our leaders would publish in newspapers with the remarks "De, de. Allah ke nam par de de, international Fakir aye hain" They have come for money' I would like to congratulate Hon. Shri Vajpayeeji that our foreign reserves have reached 64 billion dollars during his rule of four and a half years. Not only that, our god owns are brimmed with 60 million tonnes foodgrains. Today, the inflation rate is hovering at 3 per cent or below that otherwise normally this time around the inflation rate also used to be high. I am of the

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view that the farmers should get remunerative prices for their produce but it all depends upon the leadership as to what kind of cooperation of a state Government should be with the Central Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, last years the problem cropped up in Punjab and Haryana with the paddy crop, the former Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Prakash Singh Badal and the present Chief Minister of Haryana met the Prime Minister that time and made arrangements for off taking the entire produce of paddy crop and that problem of farmers was solved. But the present Chief Minister of Punjab has not sought for relief but he has come here to sit on a dharana at the Prime Minister's house just to attract media attention. It would have been better if he had fixed appointment with the Prime Minister to call on him and get resolved the problem faced by the farmers of the paddy crops. Today our opponents are creating unnecessary hue and cry.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, the Chief Minister of Punjab had come here to request the Prime Minister to help the State for procurement. He was arrested at his residence. So, it is not a fact that he had come only for propaganda. He had come to plead the cause of the farmers of the State.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: He had come here not to plead the cause of the farmers but to earn cheap publicity. I would like to inform the House that people are dying due to starvation in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and the Congress ruled states are facing such sort of problems.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The debate is only for raising the issues for the welfare of farmers and not for raising any political issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am talking about the farmers. I would like to remind you that there was the congress government in Haryana in 1982. That time it was demanded to increase the price of sugarcane by just one rupee and the farmers of Haryana had gathered at Yamuna Nagar to press for their demand. The then government got them run over under the hoofs of horses, hot water cannons were used to disperse them but today these very people are talking about the sufferings of farmers. A long term policy is needed to be formulated to solve the basic problems of the farmers.

As far as the paddy crop is concerned, if the government of India adopts value addition system, then it can enhance the prices of paddy crop from Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 per quintal through the big producers of paddy as is done by Japan. What we want that those additional products which are value-based, the by-products which are derived after milling the paddy, we can use them for their benefit. Similarly, to stabilise the prices of wheat, we can set up food processing plants for the utilisation of its by-products.

I would like to request the hon. Minister that things which we are witnessing today, one of them is when the farmers spray insecticides on their crops, sometimes it causes their death due to inhalation of insecticides. What I want is that as a doctor is issued a licence that he should visit the villages and diagnose the diseases of people there. Similarly a person who becomes a doctor after doing research work in agriculture should also be issued a licence, he should visit the villages and start practice there and also impart training to farmers as to what amount of seeds and fertilisers they should use and also how to identify an adulterated fertiliser and what effect a particular pesticide has, so on and so forth. By giving such a permission would result not only in the reduction of unemployment but it would also alleviate the problems of the farmers to some extent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we can also develop our agriculture sector by adopting the dry land farming system on the lines of Israel. We do accept that the total irrigated area is below 40 per cent despite lapse of a period of 55 years after independence. And the Hon. Prime Minister has taken an initiative of interconnecting all the rivers of the country so that the water of these rivers is prevented from draining out into the seas and this water is made available for irrigation in the country.

The construction work of the SYL canal has not been completed in Haryana to date. I would like to inform this August House that the Supreme Court has set 15th January, 2003 as a deadline for completion of the SYL canal. But the Punjab Government has not taken any action in this regard so far. And the deadlines set by the Supreme Court is also round the corner. We want that if the Punjab Government does not come forward for completion of the SYL canal, the Government of India should intervene in the matter and get their share of water released to the farmers of Haryana.

I would like to congratulate the Government that in a short period, it made water available for irrigation for the 99 million 76 hectares of land during the Ninth Plan and initiated action on 3596 major and minor irrigation projects in the country. Still the Government wants to bring 207.77 million

hectares of land under irrigation and the government have undertaken a project worth Rs. 8480 crore the state government would be provided assistance thereunder: Under this head, rupees 2800 crore have been given to the *State Government* in the year 2002-2003 and this would help increase the irrigated area in the country.

Sir, the farmers face the problem of paddy and wheat in Punjab, Haryana and some other parts of the country. Likewise, it is the problem of jute in the West Bengal. The areas producing coffee, rubber and tea are also facing similar problems. Hon'ble Prime Minister has given a package of rupees 500 crore under the plantation scheme to solve their problems. I heartily congratulate the hon'ble Prime Minister for this.

This is the first Government after Independence which has concentrated on the development of the North-East resulting in speedy development in the agriculture sector. The militants have agreed to come to the negotiating table there.

[English]

The credit for this goes to this Government.

[Translation]

These days, a lot of hue and cry on the problems of farmers has been created by the opposition whereas the reality is just not that. Our Government is firm to safeguard the interests of the farmers. We strongly believe that farming community is the backbone of the country and if any Government or any individual attempts to weaken them then he would be damaging the country. We would never like that the farmers are treated the way they were treated in the Congress regime where their Prime Minister used to ride on the back of the elephant to visit the villages and talk about farmer and just after assuming power they would do anything to safeguard the interest of Tata, Birla, Dalmia and Mafatlal and they would forget about the farmers. But today, we have a person belonging to masses as the Prime Minister who is very concerned about the farmers and whenever there came any opportunity, he has tried to provide maximum relief to the farmers.

Not only that, this Government has made all out efforts to provide new varieties of seeds and fertilizers to the farmers in the after-math of Orissa cyclone so as to mitigate their sufferings. On 26th January, a devastating earthquake hit Bhuj, and destroyed the whole agriculture system there. Our Government constructed a new city of Bhuj and solved the problems of farmers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Chairman Sir, I am getting warmed up. Sir, I come from Haryana. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, I am just warming up. Please give me some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nine hon. Members from your party have given their names to participate in this debate. So, please conclude soon.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I will take only five minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken more time. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sir, I would like to tell those who are levelling charges against us for ignoring the interests of farmers that this has been possible in this Government's tenure only that India has become the largest producer of milk and wheat and in the field of food production, we have overtaken Brazil in this field. Today, we have procured wheat and rice for 27 thousand crores of rupees at the MSP which is a record after independence. We are trying to resolve the problems being faced by the agro-based industries and we want to boost this industry. The children of farmers should be given high quality education to make them aware of the new techniques of cultivation etc.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman but in the same way the landless labourers...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to know the sense of the House whether we can transact the business after six o' clock.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes; it should be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are 30 Members to speak. So, we extend the time up to eight o' clock.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (SALEM): Will it be extended till Monday also?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will extend it up to eight o'clock. If there is still any hon. Member wishing to participate in the discussion, it could be carried over to Monday.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sir, I shall speak on Monday.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kataria, you started at 17.42 hours. You have taken 20 minutes, kindly conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Sir, I would like to say that the Government of India articulated its issues before the world in a nice manner in the WTO conference held in Doha. I would again request the hon. Agriculture Minister to keep in mind the interests of farmers while signing the agreements with the WTO.

In the end, I would like to say that the Government of India is fully aware of the interests of the farmers and at no cost they would allow the farmers to lose anything.

[English]

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH (MACHILIPATNAM): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity that you have given to me. Even after 55 years of Independence, the agriculture sector has remained the main sector of our economy. It contributes 30 to 35 per cent to the country's economy, that is, the total GDP. Even today, 60 to 70 per cent of our population is dependent on agriculture sector and agro-based industries. In this connection, I want to quote the opinion of a great economist on Indian agriculture:

"The Indian farmer is born in debt, lives in debt and dies in debt."

Moreover, the Indian agriculture is just like gambling. Even though we have achieved very good results in information technology, yet the drought situation or cyclones prevail in our country. Our technology has not improved so far to prevent or know about the cyclones or the drought situation in our country.

As we know, nearly 14 States are facing the drought situation this year. Especially in Andhra Pradesh, out of 23 districts, 22 districts were declared drought-hit districts. Even though the farmers are producing crops like paddy, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, chillies and copra, they are not at all getting the remunerative prices. This is a major problem faced by the

Indian farmers. Several measures have been taken to provide minimum support price to the agricultural produces.

Sir, as far as the procurement policy is concerned, in the recent Budget, our Government has taken a decision that it is the duty of the State to arrange for their own procurement, distribution and storage. At this juncture, when such States are facing severe problems and economic crisis, especially in agricultural sector, this decision is not at all favourable to those States. I would request our hon. Agriculture Minister that this policy, which was introduced in the recent Budget, may be changed and some infrastructure should be developed in those States so that they have their own procurement, storage and distribution system.

As far as the inputs are concerned, subsidies have been reduced on inputs, as a result of which the prices of fertilisers and pesticides have been increased and the entire Indian farming community have to depend on foreign fertiliser companies. Therefore, we should be very cautious in protecting our domestic fertiliser industry so that the Indian farmers are not at the mercy of foreign producers.

As far as the WTO agreement is concerned, around 800 restrictions have been removed because of WTO agreement and the new economic policy. A flood of imports will invade our markets and this will adversely affect our foodgrains, oilseeds, pulses, etc. As a result of this the agriculture industry in the country and the farming community will be deprived of the protection that they need. At this juncture, the WTO member States will bring about second phase of reforms and this is the main hurdle in our progress. The Indian farmer is not in a position to compete with the farmers of American and European countries. So, this reduction in the subsidy given to the Indian farmers will adversely affect the agricultural sector.

The former Prime Minister had elaborated on these subsidies that developed countries like America, Japan and European countries, where five per cent of population is dependent on agricultural sector, are providing 60 to 70 per cent subsidy, whereas in our country it is to the tune of three per cent only on total production. It is just a negligible amount.

In USA, the total subsidy given to farmers on exports is 343 billion dollars. In this connection, I want to elaborate further the per hectare subsidy given by America is 2,000 dollars, by Japan it is 700 dollars, by European countries it is 11,000 dollars and by India it is only 17.8 dollars. This is the overall scenario. So, the agricultural sector and the farming community should be protected. Where the foreign countries today are increasing subsidies on marketing and food production, we are decreasing it here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make some important points about Andhra Pradesh. As I said earlier, out of 23 districts, 22 districts were declared as drought in Andhra Pradesh. A Central team had visited Andhra Pradesh and it had estimated the total loss as Rs. 4,000 crore. Our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu requested the Central Government to release a sum of Rs. 1020 crore as relief and also to provide 18 lakh metric tonnes of rice. This year, there is a minus rainfall of 34 cm and the crops have totally failed. Even the Krishna Delta, which is a very good Delta and where there will be assured water, because of the drought situation, has failed to get good produce.

At this juncture, our Chief Minister has requested the Chief Minister of Karnataka, hon. Shri Krishna, to release some water to protect the crops and also to provide drinking water to people who are in the remote areas but he did not give a single drop of water.

I would like to know from the hon. Agriculture Minister as to what are the guidelines that they observe while determining the relief. Only Rs. 175 crore and odd have been released to Andhra Pradesh this year. The situation is very serious. Andhra Pradesh has never faced this sort of a drought situation in the last 100 years. That is why, I am once again making a request to the Central Government to release more funds to face the situation in a prompt manner.

Another issue that I wish to bring to your knowledge - it is in general - is about the crop insurance policy. We have represented this issue a number of times in the Committee on Agriculture, to our Prime Minister and also to the Agriculture Minister. They are taking Mandal as a unit. Mandal, as a whole, may not be affected. At least, Panchayat should be taken as a unit. The concerned officials are taking three years' average or five years' average into account. It is not correct. The farmers are taking loans from the co-operative banks and the commercial banks. Nearly three per cent has been reduced under the crop insurance policy. So, my request, in this critical situation, is that the farmers in the country - in these 14 States - crop insurance should be given to the farmers, and the rules relating to crop insurance should be liberalised. Otherwise, in this critical situation, our Indian farmer would not be able to face the situation and he would not come out of the difficulty. So, this aspect should be considered.

Moreover, I would like to suggest some of the measures which have to be taken into consideration and the facilities may be provided to the farmers in the country. The first one is, introduction of innovative research in the field of agriculture, for example bio-technology and genetic seeds. This benefit

should reach the remote farmer, who is living in the rural areas. These facilities or benefits should go to the small and marginal farmers. The second one is, developing high-yielding varieties of seeds, closing down the public sector seed production agencies which are racking with corruption.

It is a well-known fact that just like food adulteration, seed adulteration is also going on. So, to protect the interests of the farmers in the country, this factor should be taken into consideration. ...*(Interruptions)* I will take only two minutes.

Another thing is that the Government should bring, changes in the statute relating to seeds and pesticides. The Government should also take steps for the establishment of farmer's clubs and societies by taking four to five villages as a unit for providing access to agricultural tools and modern farming equipment. There should be early completion of the pending irrigation projects. The Government should prepare an action plan to ensure this. This is a very, very important issue. There are a number of pending projects, especially in Andhra Pradesh, for which clearance should be given by the Central Government. For example, Pulichintala project. In view of the present scenario in Andhra Pradesh, Pulichintala Balancing Reservoir is the only source to protect the delta ryots, especially in the Krishna delta. To make the farmers to introduce changes in their cropping pattern, the Government should link this cropping pattern with the availability of water for irrigation. Also to give a go by to the single crop system, the Government should encourage inter-cropping practices by substitution.

Last but not least, the Government has to accord recognition to agriculture as an industry. This is a long pending issue. Our Government has already declared a National Agriculture Policy. But even today the agricultural sector is not declared or recognised as an industry. The Government should give freedom to the farming community to determine or to control the price structure of their produce. In the fixation of price, the middlemen should be avoided. If the Indian farmers produce sugar-cane or wheat or paddy, or tobacco or some other commercial crop or whatever it may be, the middlemen should be eliminated, and better price should be fixed in consultation with the farmers. That can help the farmers to some extent.

With these few words, I once again thank you for the opportunity you have given to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you enough opportunity because all the benches are empty. It is an important issue. All the Parties had raised this issue before the Business Advisory Committee, but a number of blocks are empty.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): There is a maximum number of Members from Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister should ensure the attendance of all the Members, at least from this block. All are interested in the farmers' issue.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: You are right.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): A number of Members are there from Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an important issue. We were all born to the farmers. The Members should not leave the House after they have made their speeches. We must sit here and hear the other Members, because when everybody is speaking, he is going out.

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT (DAUSA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving this opportunity to speak on the problem of farmers.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the problems of farmers here in the House for quite long time.

[English]

I would like to participate in this discussion because I am one of the marginal farmers. I want to give an example to the country because we, all the Members, believe in integration. I belong to Uttar Pradesh. I am a Member of Parliament from Rajasthan. I would also like to speak in Punjabi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, I would like to remind you that you have not obtained permission to speak in Punjabi and there is no translation facility.

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: Has the interpreter gone? He was available earlier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It takes about 30 minutes to arrange for translation. You should have given an advance notice.

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: It is all right. Thank you, Sir. I have to honour the Chair.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to dwell upon the problem of the farmers by referring the definition of the farmers first.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA): Sir, we would have loved to hear her Punjabi speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But it cannot be translated for the record and what is the use of speaking without going on record?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I think, the translation was there when Shri J. S. Brar spoke. He spoke in Punjabi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Each Member should give an advance notice of about half an hour.

Madam, if you want, you may speak after a few other hon. Members speak. In the meantime, we can arrange for translation.

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: Sir, I want to speak now. I can speak in Hindi. There is no problem in that. I am an Indian and I can speak in Hindi.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to start speaking on the problems of the farmers by defining the word "Kisan". The word Kisan has two parts "Ki" and "Shan" and 'Ki' stands for Key and Shan stands for pride. That is to say that Kisan is the pride of India. Prosperity of India lies in the hands of the farmers. There can be no factory, palace, shop, and no trade can flourish unless the farmers contribute their bit. No other sector can flourish unless the agriculture sector works well. We know how to handle that key but we do not do it. I have been a member of this House for the last two years and watching that there has been discussion in every session on agriculture, water and agro based industries and the hon. Members have put their views here in the House. But I regret to say that there has not been any concrete reply on policy from the government which we could implement or go to villages and tell the small and marginal farmers that your life will change now because the government have acceded to the demands which we had put in the House. When we will not realise the actual position of the farmers what we can do for the country? It is very important that most of us, the member of this House belong to the farmers community and form part of the key to success, and we are given opportunities to raise the problems of the farmers here in this House and this opportunity is not given to us only to get our points recorded. We represent a certain number of people here in the House and we let know the government the sentiments of the farmers through you. If we will keep on raising the issues relating to the farmers and if the government do not take any action

thereon it will of no use to raise them here and the purpose of this discussion will be defeated.

Therefore, through you I would like to say the Government that once upon a time our country was known as a golden bird allover the world because we were rich in resources besides having a huge gold reserve. The Hon. Member had said that the Hon. Prime Minister had informed the House that as how much tonnes of gold our country has. It means that even today our country has no dearth of resources but what is the reason due to which our farmers are in deep distress? Even after 55 years of independence our farmers do not have enough to support their families be it the farmers of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa or from any nook of North East. The condition of the farmers has worsened further and his standard of living has not improved even by one per cent.

Earlier farmers used to keep two cows or buffaloes but today after 55 years of independence he is not in a position to keep even one cow or a buffalo and the reason behind it is that he is reeling under the soaring prices. No other class in our society is reeling under the soaring prices as the farmers are reeling under it. Be it buying seeds, fertilisers or paying for water, the farmers are in tight corner. Besides he has to bear the wrath of nature. In case there is good rainfall, it causes floods which washes away his entire crops. Not only his crops but his house is also washed away in floods and the same situation is prevailing for the last so many years. It is not a new phenomenon. Despite all this, our government do nothing for them. We should find a permanent solution of this problem.

Sir, I do not want to go into figures but want to draw the attention of the Government through you to the problems of the farmers. The Hon. Minister of agriculture comes from my area and he is fully aware of the problems of the farmers. The fact is that every class in the country has made progress. Even the brokers have progressed a lot but the farmer community has not progressed at all. Their standard of living has deteriorated. The farmers, who have taken agriculture as an industry have made a little progress but the number of such farmers is not more than one per cent. Besides this I would like to say that in helplessness the farmers take loan from the moneylenders but can not repay it. It would have been better that the government should provide loan facility to the farmers. The government have provided for loan facility to the farmers from the banks but the process of getting the loan sanctioned from banks has been made so complicated that the farmers have to face a lot of difficulties in getting loan. The Government say that loan will be provided to the farmers at the interest rate of nine per cent but can anybody say that any Ramu, Syamu or a pottor have got any loan at the said

rate of interest. There is even not a single instance of this in the country and if it is there at all, I am not aware of it. Provision of loan facility is made through the Reserve Bank of India but the farmers do not get loan directly from the Reserve Bank of India. Loan is sanctioned through other banks and they provide loan to the farmers after putting in their component of profit. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister that the procedure of providing loan to the farmers should be simplified and such rural banks should be set up through which the farmers could get loan directly.

Sir, I would like to say one thing about the credit cards issued to the farmers. It is being said with zest that provision has been made for issuing of credit cards to the farmers and the credit cards will be issued to the farmers in all the states and the farmers will get loan at the rate of nine per cent interest but it is not so. If it is so there will definitely some improvement in the condition of the farmers. Otherwise the farmers will have to reel under the wreath of natural calamity. When there is excess rainfall, there is a flood and the farmers suffer a lot due to floods. Not only this he sees his pet animals dying at his doorsteps. In case there is no rainfall, there is famine and he sees haplessly his livestock dying at his doorstep. I would like to remind one thing more to the hon. Minister of agriculture as he had said about linking the rivers of north and south.

He has said that there will be no dearth of funds for this. I would like to say one thing about linking of the rivers of North and South. In 1975-76, Shri K.L. Rao, the then Minister of Agriculture sought a report from the scientists to this effect as to whether it will be possible to link the rivers of North and South? But the report was negative and this idea was shun. As the river water is fresh and if it will not go into sea the entire sea water will become brackish which will have adverse impact on marine life and there will be hue and cry everywhere. Recently a scientist was invited in the sitting of the Standing Committee on Agriculture to express his views on this matter. He was of the view that it is not possible because it will require a huge amount of funds. Hence this dream cannot be realised ever.

Sir, our farmers are very unhappy with the decision of the Government to sign the WTO agreement. Suppose the cost of an agricultural product of an Indian farmer comes to Rs.10 while such item from abroad is available in Indian markets at Rs.5 only, who will then buy the Indian product at Rs.10? For example, if the price of imported apple is Rs.20 per kilo while the cost of growing domestic apple produced by Indian farmer comes to Rs.40 per kilo, then neither I nor any businessman or any other common man would like to buy the Indian apple. This way the farmers are hit hard. The Government must pay attention to it. It needs to be balanced.

[Shrimati Rama Pilot]

Either, there should be a heavy duty on the import so that the imported items are costlier than the domestic ones and domestic farmers may be able to get more than the cost of their produce. This will provide some relief to our farmers. The Government may also think on some other alternative.

Sir, we are promoting multinational companies but we are not promoting our agro-based industries. While leading the freedom struggle, Gandhiji gave a call not to wear the coat, pants and he himself wore half dhoti, abandoned leather shoes and put on 'kharaun' (wooden slippers). He preferred dhoti because dhoti is a domestic product. Now what are the constraints before the Government, why the domestic fabrics and other indigenously manufactured goods cannot be used. We too can set up such industries that are based on indigenous raw materials and agricultural products. Women farmers can lend their support in this regard. Such products would be cheaper in our market and that would be beneficial to the public. There are farmers who do not have houses to live in. They have to wander in search of fodder for their cattle. They keep moving from Kashmir to U.P. and from U.P. to Bihar, so on and so forth and that way they sustain themselves and lead their lives. The Government should make available the unutilised land to them so that those people may be able to construct houses for themselves. Theirs is a very good occupation. They rear sheep and goats which give milk. Cooperatives can be formed. Sheep wool can be used in a number of wool-industries. People can get employment. Moreover, it will also facilitate the shelterless people who keep wandering from place to place.

The tourism has improved in our country so much that people from abroad are very much interested in visiting our country. The foreigners who visit our country when they become aware of this plight of farmers, then what impression would they carry. We must think of image they would be forming. Similarly, if the Government takes a bit more care of irrigation sector, the condition of farmers would improve. The worst thing is that whenever the Government set up any industries, farmers become the sufferers. Particularly when the multinational companies acquire the land of farmers, the process of giving compensation to them is very complicated due to which it is the farmer who has to suffer ultimately. The land is either acquired in advance and the compensation is given after one or two years and in many cases compensation, is very meagre. Moreover, many middlemen come in who acquire the farmer's land on cheaper prices and finally sell it to the multinational companies on higher prices. That way the middlemen are gainer and farmers are losers.

NOIDA and Greater NOIDA give maximum revenue to Uttar Pradesh. The Hon. Minister is well aware of this fact.

But the Government discriminates in fixation of land rate while acquiring the land. Hon. Rajesh ji had fought over this issue in the House while being a part of the Government. After so much efforts the land rate was increased by Rs.110 per metre. The existing rate of land in NOIDA is Rs.362 per metre whereas the rate in Greater NOIDA is Rs.280 per metre. Such kind of discriminatory treatment should not be meted out to the farmers. A farmer has 10 bigha of land in NOIDA and the same farmer has another 10 bigha of land in Greater Noida. There is uniform rain on all the land. At present, canals are devoid of water with only the grass and mud allover.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Hon. Member minds the ringing of the bell or takes sense of the bell.

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: Sir, I am sorry.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, she is wife of a former leader.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why, I gave her premium.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: I would like to request the Hon. Minister to do something so that water of rivers including that of Uttaranchal reaches to the canals and electricity problem is solved to some extent. There should be arrangement of water for canals when there is no electricity. The canals belonging to the constituency of the Hon. Minister are also without water and they are dry. Water stops at Bagpat and does not go beyond that. Water should be made to proceed beyond that point.

With these words I conclude and hope that the Hon. Minister would pay attention to the two or three points raised by me so that the general public may get some relief.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): I thank you very much, Mr. Chairman Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in this important discussion regarding the problems of farmers.

At this juncture, I would like to say that without water, mankind cannot exist and without water, foodgrains cannot be produced. There is a famous Tamil proverb *Neerillamal Amaiyadhu Ulaghu* which means that in the world, water is the most important commodity. There is one great Tamil song:

*"Enna valam illai indha thirunaattil,
Ean kaiyai Eandhavendum velinaattil
Ozhungai paadupadu vayalkaattil
Panjam endrum illai indha thirunaattif"*

It means that when we have all resources, why should we beg from the foreign countries? We should work hard in the agricultural land and there will not be poverty in our country. Such a good sector is agriculture.

18.39 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhi Shankar, you should have informed that you were to speak in Tamil.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE): Sir, I am speaking in English only. I was just quoting a Tamil proverb and a Tamil song. That is an important Tamil song. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, I want to know who sang the song, in which film and who acted. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: When his leader late M.G. Ramachandran was in DMK, he acted in that film and this song. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Shri M.G. Ramachandran was also a fast friend of Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: What is the name of the film?

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: The name of the film is Vivasayi which means 'agriculturist'. When Shri M.G. Ramachandran was in DMK, he had acted in that film. Another thing is that Shri M.G. Ramachandran was a very close friend of our leader. ...(Interruptions) During the period our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he introduced several schemes.

He has given free electricity to the farmers, created farmers' market, popularly known as 'Uzhavar Sandhai', and introduced several schemes for the poor agricultural labourers; he started the Agricultural Labourers' Welfare Board.

The Indian sub-continent is so vast that natural calamities in various forms affect the country one and at the same time. Droughts and floods have become recurrent

features. If one part of the country is hit by floods, another part of the country is hit by droughts. It is 55 years since we have attained freedom. The successive Governments have failed over the years. India assumes the top position in foodgrains production. That is our mainstay. In a thickly populated country like ours, food production must be given topmost priority. Even when we rank first in foodgrains production, people below poverty line are on the increase. Our efforts must be on to overcome this situation. There must not be any let up. At the same time, care must be taken to ensure that neither droughts nor floods affect our target for food production. This can be achieved only with a vision, dedication and political will. The overall growth of the country must be ensured by the Centre. National Democratic Alliance or for that reason any future Government would depend on the coming together of regional parties. So, it is the bounden duty of the Union Government to ensure national disaster management effectively in all the regions.

Short-term relief measures like doling out two to five kilograms of rice or food-for-work schemes cannot be a lasting solution. That is why, we have a cycle of bad monsoon and badly affected food production as recurring events.

Shri K.L. Rao, the then Irrigation Minister in the Government of India, chalked out a plan to link river Ganga with river Cauvery. Had it been put through, we would have wiped out drought in many parts of the Central India and Southern India.

Popularly known Cholamandalam, comprising of Thanjavur, Thiruvavur and Nagapattinam, used to remain the rice granary of Tamil Nadu. Now, the people with parched throats look for the trickling water in Cauvery. Even drinking water is a problem there now, leave alone water for irrigation. Agricultural labourers are in a pathetic condition. Some of them are forced to eat rats and die.

My appeal to the hon. Minister is that he should see that the right man is in the right position. Now, we are in the computer age. We have enough water, but we are unable to conserve water or we are not able to distribute water properly. We are not able to protect water properly. As far as agriculture is concerned, in some parts of India, they depend on rain-water, and in other parts, they depend on rivers like Cauvery and Tambraparni. The Cauvery river water problem is well-known to everybody.

Regarding crop insurance, the crop insurance scheme was not implemented properly in many parts of our Tamil Nadu. Even in my district also, the crop insurance scheme was not properly implemented. Our farmers are not getting the minimum support price for paddy. Until the farmers are saved, we cannot save our country.

[Shri Adhi Sankar]

There has been such serious shortfall with regard to integrated wasteland development programme, with regard to watershed approach to the DPAP and to the DDP that the Prime Minister himself has to do something about these enormous physical shortfalls in all the programmes of the Rural Development Department. Twenty-five per cent of our agricultural products are getting wasted due to shortage of storage facilities. Due to shortage of cold storage facilities, nearly 30 per cent of vegetables and 30 per cent of floriculture are wasted.

The sugarcane growers are not getting their outstanding dues. The Government has not come forward to solve the problems of the sugarcane growers. I would like to request the Government to solve the problems being faced by the sugarcane growers. In the State of Tamil Nadu, particularly in my Parliamentary constituency, there are three sugarcane mills. They are not getting the orders to cut the sugarcane at the proper time.

Sir, the tea and coconut growers in Tamil Nadu are also facing a lot of problems. Till this time the Central Government has not taken any steps to solve their problems. Seventy per cent of our population is dependent on agriculture but the conditions of the farmers are pitiable and the Central Government has not done enough to solve their problems.

Sir, in regard to the Cauvery water dispute, I would like to submit that despite the direction of the Supreme Court to Karnataka to release water, the Government of Karnataka has not taken any steps to implement the order of the Supreme Court. The hon. Minister of Water Resources also has not taken any steps to release water from Cauvery. So, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Agriculture Minister and also the hon. Minister for Water Resources to solve this Cauvery water dispute. Due to non-availability of water and failure of monsoon, the farmers in the Cauvery delta region are in pitiable condition and the 'kuruva' crops also has got spoiled. The other crops also are drying up. ...*(Interruptions)* In Tamil Nadu, districts like Thiruvavur, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Villupuram have not been declared as drought affected areas. So, these places are being deprived of the benefits of relief measures. The Central Government schemes, in these areas, also are not being properly implemented.

Sir, our country ranks first in production of milk in the world. Our country also ranks first in poultry production. But in the field of fisheries, our country ranks seventh and importantly in the fields of rice and wheat production, the position of our country in the world is not so good.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government to come up with immediate relief measures to tackle the situation by way of short-term schemes and long-term plans. Credit loans must be waived. The interest burden must be curtailed and subsidies must be ensured in case of failure of nature and also an effective water management policy must be evolved to link the rivers of Northern India with the rivers of Southern India.

Sir, with these words, I conclude.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important issue.

Shri Pandian is sitting here and I hope he will continue to sit here. He should not leave this place after the DMK Members have finished their speeches.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: We would be here till you complete your speech.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, we have taken up a very important subject for discussion, namely the problems being faced by the farmers of our country. Today I can say if the farmers are left with anything, then it is only problems. There is no other problem for them except problem itself. We say so many things about them but nobody comes forward to solve their problems. It is the farmers who came forward to rescue the nation when this country was faced with shortage of foodgrains. The farmers have worked relentlessly to grow more food for the country to meet the demands but they have never been rewarded for what they have given to this country, except of course a few slogans, like Shri Dhananjay Kumar was saying, 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan', 'Annadata' etc. All that they have been given is empty slogans.

I do not know whether the present Minister of Agriculture can say, "this is the particular welfare scheme that we have done to the farmers." It is not at all there.

This is the only community which is not being cared by the Government in regard to giving of any welfare scheme. This is mainly because over the years, the budget on agriculture is going down. Though in percentage terms it is high, but quantum-wise it has got reduced. The Ministry of Agriculture which was an important Ministry after the Ministry of Finance at the Centre has been truncated successfully. I saw the Minister of Agriculture here; I saw the Minister of Rural Development here who is sharing the budget; I even saw the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies here; and I saw the Minister of Fertilisers here. This is the truncated Ministry which my

friend Shri Ajit Singh is holding. So, he has got a truncated interest in the matter.

Sir, while presenting the Budget, the Finance Minister said that 54 per cent of the Budget is on the farmers which is the highest. But out of this, 60 per cent has gone to the rural development. So, it is an empty bowl that is given to the Minister of Agriculture. The problems of the farmers are manifold. I need not tell them as every Member has repeated them whether it is the problem of their State or of the country. But we have created slogans; we have got workshops; we have got seminars; we have got high-sounding worded projects; we have created credit systems; we have got research institutions; we have got seed production units; we have got model farms; we have got mechanisation; we have got technology; we have got biotechnology; we have got storage and processing marketing aspects. We have got so many things. But the main problem of the farmer has not been looked into.

In spite of all these high-sounding names that are being introduced, there has been no major achievement. We have got 100,000 strong extension workers working in the country in the field of agriculture. The Chairman of the Agriculture Committee is here. A lady went to him and told that 'a bottle of Bisleri water is being sold at Rs. 16 but my cow milk, which I produce, is not getting even Rs. 10 a kilo.' That is the situation in our country.

We have got 100 strong ICAR institutions; we have got 500 to 600 KVKs - farmers training centres. There is no dearth of research institutions. But the problems of the farmers are never looked into. I do agree that to some extent these research institutions have contributed but the major problem of the farmer in the present situation has not been answered.

Sir, out of the inputs that are required for the agriculture, credit loan is the main aspect. From the rural area, the contribution to the deposits of the commercial banks is 72 per cent to 78 per cent whereas in the field of credit, the rural area is getting only 11.2 per cent. The major chunk of it is going to the industry and business.

The contribution of agricultural sector to GDP this year is six per cent, according to the latest survey which the Government of India has supplied to us. The RBI and the Government of India has given directions to the commercial banks as a target, that they should give agricultural advance up to 18 per cent. But what have the commercial banks done? It is surprising to see that the cars, motorbikes, tractors purchased by the farmers have been included in 'agriculture and allied things' and even after including them, they were not able to reach the targeted 18 per cent. When we look at

the agricultural lending up to March 2002, it comes to Rs.44,909 crore, which constitutes only 11.3 per cent as against the 18 per cent that was given as direction by the Government. But even then, the RBI and the Government are not taking any action against them and so, the problem still remains.

There is an institution called NABARD, created mainly to look after the agricultural community. But unfortunately, it is not under the Agriculture Minister; it is with the Finance Minister. The Housing Minister has got HUDCO with him, which is a financial institution. IREDA, a big institution to produce non-conventional energy is under the Energy Minister and not with the Non-Conventional Energy Minister. So, NABARD is not with the Agriculture Minister; I do not know the reason why it is like that.

During the time of Smt. Indira Gandhi, when Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the Finance Minister, I happen to remember this, Regional Rural Banks were created, with the main aim of improving the rural economy or agricultural lending. But they are not anyway now serving the purpose for which they were created. They are doing the same job like any other bank.

NABARD is lending to State cooperatives at the rate of six per cent; the State cooperatives, in turn, lend to district cooperatives; the district cooperatives, in turn, lend to primary cooperatives; the primary cooperatives, in turn, lend to farmers. In this process, the rate begins at six per cent and at the farmers' end, it becomes 16-18 per cent. Unnecessarily overhead and other charges are added to it. Why should NABARD not be connected to the rural banks and give loans at the rate of only six per cent, and increase the quantum of loans? The repayment of advances given to agriculture is up to 95 per cent, whereas it is not the case with industries and other businesses.

When that is the situation, we are going on encouraging other sectors, but not agriculture which is the primary sector; it is because there is no organised forum for agriculturists. There is no one to fight. We are all children, coming from agricultural families. We argue here and we forget about everything. Our Agriculture Minister is also a son of an agriculturist and a sympathiser of agriculturists. I hope he is also having sympathy for agriculturists. But what is it that he can do? The Finance portfolio is not with him.

Coming back to that point, the purpose for which the Regional Rural Banks were created, was totally defeated.

[Shri N. Janardhana Reddy]

19.00 hrs.

The work culture of banks towards the farmers has to change. Unless that happens, the farmers will be running around the bank while the bank will be running to the industrialists. That is the treatment which the farmers are getting. Unless the banks change their outlook towards the agriculturists, we are not going to help the farmers. We cannot wish the farmers to remain quiet. The rural economy is in trouble and hence farmers are in trouble. Like in other countries, a day will come when they will revolt against the Government. They will not keep quiet. Let us not wait for that day. Let us do something for the farmers.

There are marginal farmers as also farmers who have small land holdings. There is a third category which takes land on legal tenancy and cultivates it. We also have a fourth category of Oral Tenancy. We had land reforms in the country after which no land-owner is allowed to give land to the landless poor on lease deal. He gives the land on oral order and takes back it whenever he wants. This category accounts for nearly 50 per cent of the farmers and they are the ones who are suffering because they cannot get any loan. If at all loan is given, it is given to the owner of the land. If they want any financial help, they will have to go to the bank with things like jewellery. I am surprised to see that nowadays some banks do not give the nomination facility to those farmers who pledge gold for taking loan. If something happens to him, neither his wife nor his son will be allowed to be nominated on his behalf. It has never happened in the history of banking. I find that such a ban is being imposed on them. This is the situation the farmers are facing.

Spurious things are happening in four fields of manure, pesticides, financial credit flow and seeds. Never in the past such things were happening. I would suggest that the highest punishment of hanging should be awarded to these persons. The other day, the Deputy-Prime Minister was saying that he is prepared to give the highest punishment of hanging to the person who commits rape. This crime is worse than that. The present laws are not self-sufficient or stringent enough to take action against such culprits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Please allow me to speak for a few minutes.

Recently, in my own district, a huge quantity of urea, sulphate, and manure was found which contained 50 per cent sand, salt, and calcium. It was being sold in the market and

the Government is yet to take action. What action can they take? It is because they will send the samples to the laboratory which can be managed, and they would get a good certificate.

The lendings of the cooperative and the commercial banks have covered only 35 per cent of the farmers. The rest of the 65 per cent farmers have to depend on private people who are lending at their own rates of interest.

The final aspect is regarding natural calamities. My friend was just now telling about natural calamities. I will give you a small example. If the farmers take loan, they have to shell out 23 per cent - premium is 15 per cent and eight per cent is interest - of their produce compulsorily. With the result, they do not take loan. There are so many problems in that. They have to change the unit for the crop-cutting pattern from *mandals* to villages.

We have got the Minimum Support Price but it is not implemented as the procurement is not there. The present Mid-Year Review says that even the procurement of rice and wheat should be stopped. But that Committee has not recommended an easy way of killing the farmers. They have only said that there should be no procurement. They have not suggested what to do. This kind of *ad hoc* decision is going to bring the farmers into problems. They are responsible for solving the problems. Instead of that, they are creating the problems. My friend was just now telling that the higher production is the only answer to that. They have not been able to purchase the present production and the market facilities are not there. Bio-technology production requires more investment but nobody is there to purchase it.

So, the problems are being created by the Government instead of solving them. They are responsible even for kidney selling by the farmers. The farmers are selling away their children and they are even stooping to their killings. I squarely hold the Government responsible for the present condition of the farmers of this country. They have to think about it and come up with some solutions.

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (SAMASTPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to participate in the discussion relating to the problems being faced by the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* I would especially like to thank the hon. Chairman for allowing a discussion on the subject.

India is predominantly an agricultural country and is largely a country of villages. That is to say, India is a country of farmers. If the farmers are prosperous, the country will be prosperous and on the contrary if the farmers are distressed,

country will be distressed. If the villages disintegrate the entire country will disintegrate. And that is exactly what is happening. Villages are disintegrating. Farmers of the country are hapless and distressed even after 55 years of independence. Farmers are ruined and their grievances are not being heard anywhere. This is because they have no organisation and no genuine platform where their grievances could have been redressed. Revered Swami Sahjanand Saraswati had formed a farmers' organisation to facilitate the farmers of the entire country to raise their voice. I was also a volunteer in the farmers movement launched during the British period. When Swamiji ascended on the dais the volunteers used to sing a song. I won't recite, but I must quote.

"Dhanva, Tora Loote Luteru,

Baten Na Mane Kisanama,

Sarkar Loote, Jamindar Loote,

Aur Loote Mahjanawa" ...*(Interruptions)* Swamiji used to recite these lines. Farmers are in a very poor condition even after 55 years of independence. Farmers are being looted and the most convenient method to loot them is to effect price rise. Dr. Lohia used to say:

"Pet Hai Khali Mare Bhookh,

Band Karo Damon Ki Loot"

Now farmers are hard pressed under price hike. When the farmers produce something be they small or big farmers, they have to sell their produce at cheap rates to buy essential commodities. When the same goods are bought back after six months through middlemen, it costs two three times more. That is why Dr. Lohia used to say:

"Anna Dam Ka Ghatna - Badhna".

SHRI RAJO SINGH: They were fillers of land.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak, Rajo Singhji. You should address the Chair.

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Lohiaji did not used to plough the field. But I am a farmer, my forefathers were farmers and I shall remain a farmer. That is why I take up the issue of farmers. Lohiaji was a leader. He showed us the path.

"Pet Hai Khali, Mare Bhookh,

Band Karo Damo Ki Loot."

Prices are skyrocketing. At the time of determining the prices of wheat and paddy, the representatives of farmers are

never called. The big men do not know what is hunger. And they are the people who determine the prices. That is why I would like to say that the representatives of farmers must be called at the time when prices are being determined. Their views must be taken into consideration.

Similarly, there is no parity and balance between the prices of farmers produce and the products of factories. In this regard he rightly said:

"Ann Dam ka Ghatna Badhna,

Ane Ser Ke Bhitre Ho,

Karkhaniya Mal ka Dam Lagat Kharch Se Dyodha Ho."

The cost of the goods produced in factories should not be more than one and a half times. However, a thing which is produced at the cost of Rs. 1 in a factory is sold in the market at Rs. 7. So there is no parity between the cost of agriculture goods and industrial goods. The pace of price rise of agricultural goods is slow whereas the pace of price rise of industrial goods is very fast, that is why farmers are the worst affected. Farmers have to buy everything i.e. fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, water and electricity at higher costs and on the contrary they have to sell their produce at a very lower price because the prices of agricultural goods are not determined.

Scientists opine that if proper irrigation facility is made available in the country, the agricultural production will automatically be doubled. The fact remain that even after 55 years of independence we have not been able to provide irrigation facility for more than 80 percent of agricultural land. Ours is a predominantly agricultural country. Majority of our population are engaged in farming, but they have to look towards the sky for rain. There is no certainty about nature. We have at times flood and at times drought. Farming is a gambling in India. If the season is favourable you will get good crops and the Government takes all the credit and claims that production has been raised. When the season is not favourable the Government expresses helplessness. When the crops are destroyed, the Government says that the climate is responsible for that. If the farmers are not credited for producing good crops than I think it is quite unfair.

In our country water is available in abundance but its management is not proper. Water management should be our first priority. There is a proposal of Shri K.L. Rao in this regard and the hon. Prime Minister has also said that big and small rivers should be linked to ensure water management.

We have crop insurance scheme in our country. But it is implemented at Tehsil level. For example, in my area, the water

[Shri Manjay Lal]

coming from the rivers of Nepal cause flood. In this half of the area is hit by flood and the rest half is hit by drought. However, no money is given for drought because crop insurance is determined at Tehsil level or at the district level. I would like to say that the crop insurance scheme should be implemented on the basis of profit and loss to the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Manjay Lalji, now please conclude.

SHRI MANJAY LAL: I shall finish in two minutes. There is Kisan credit card scheme. Earlier, there used to be Commercial Banks in the country. Now for the welfare of farmers, Rural Development Banks have also been opened. Farmers money is being deposited in these regional Rural Banks. I would like to suggest that those Banks should function like Commercial Banks for the welfare of farmers. However, it is seen that the money of these Banks is being utilised to provide benefit to the factories of major cities like Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The funds of villages must be spent only in villages. On the one hand, we talk of solving the problem of farmers while on the other hand the Government is closing the urea factory at Barauni which is a very, big factory. Similarly, the fertilizer factory at Sindri is also closed. We talk of importing fertilizers, but the exporting countries may stop the export, anytime. That will further compound the problem of farmers. I would like to submit that the Government should take up these closed factories and modernise them by investing capital. This way these factories can be revived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now two minutes have passed now you should conclude because several other members have yet to speak

SHRI MANJAY LAL: I never speak and I am the only speaker from our party Janta Dal (U). I would like to give one more suggestion to the Government a vast area of land in our country is barren and waste. The Government should make a force of unemployed youths and farming should be done on the said barren and waste-land with the help of that force using Government money.

[English]

* SHRI S. MURUGESAN (TENKASI): Hon. Chairman Sir, let me begin with a thanks for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion to highlight the problems faced by the farmers. Almost every session we the members bring to fore the problems of the farmers but they have not got redressed as yet. They have not got rid of their problems which are one too many. We witness allover India the rampant problem of debt burden that crushes the farmers. Hon. Member

Shri Janardhan Reddy who spoke ahead of me also pointed out that a target has been fixed by the Reserve Bank in the distribution of loans extended by the nationalised banks through the various schemes meant for the agricultural sector. About 18% has been earmarked for agricultural sector in the total amount set apart by the nationalised banks to be distributed as loan to various sectors under Central schemes. If you cull out the truth from the statistical figures available not even 10% of it is distributed to the needy farmers and agriculturists and poor agricultural labourers in the rural areas. Even this amount is diverted through NABARD. Even the loans distributed through NABARD are not reaching the needy and agriculturists in a proper way. The remaining 8% is routed through NABARD by the nationalised banks if only to ensure their interest earnings defeating the purpose of distributing it to the agriculturists. I understand that nationalised banks are interested in ensuring easy methods of earning interest on loan amount they extend. The loan schemes meant for the needy farmers must be properly distributed through NABARD. I urge upon the Union Agriculture Minister to ensure that they are distributed properly at a time when they are required so that it may be of help to improve our agro economy and the status of the farmers. My demand is that farmers must get direct loan facilities as and when they need to carry out their agricultural activities. There are several term loans available from the nationalised banks. The loan amount has to be repaid within a certain stipulated time. At times when havoc are caused by natural calamities the farmers do not get proper cover in time and their problems grow manifold with the increase of debt burden. Even small loans to the tune of about Rs 5,000 or 10,000 obtained through cooperative banks add up to the woes of farmers when they face huge problems due to natural disasters. The Governmental authorities are very stern in getting back the loan amount and even resort to methods like taking away the household material from hapless small farmers. At the same time we find there are many people not returning huge amounts of loans they have taken from the nationalised banks. These people from the other sectors have taken crores of rupees from nationalised banks and have rendered them as Non Performing Assets. They are not bothered to pay back in time. Instead they are treated with leniency. Why should there be such a discrimination only against the poor farmers who contribute a lot to our agro economy? I feel it is my bounden duty to bring to the notice of this august House the sorry plight of poor farmers suffering due to debt burden and remain a lot discriminated against. About 70 lakh metric tonnes of food grains are lying unused in our godowns. I would like to put forth the demand that those food grains should reach the needy poor farmers in the rural areas. We find food grain storage warehouses in almost every district headquarters. We find smaller godowns at Panchayat Union level and even village level. I would like to urge upon

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

the Union Agriculture Minister to set up monitoring committees involving people's representatives like MPs/MLAs to oversee whether such stored food grains reach the needy people in the rural areas in a systematic way.

One of my esteemed colleagues brought to the notice of the House the plight of Cauvery Delta farmers as a result of the stalemate in Cauvery river water sharing dispute. Water scarcity affects farmers in many parts of the country due to drought but the problems faced by the Cauvery delta farmers are man-made and it is of an unprecedented dimension this year. The poor agricultural labourers in the Cauvery delta region were left high and dry. Seeing their plight our revolutionary leader the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalitha announced a scheme for about Rs. 21 crore distributing it as a relief to all the hard hit farmers as a Deepawali bonus. During Deepawali every farmer in the Cauvery delta region was extended with this benefit. I would like to record in this august House our leader's humanitarian gesture towards farmers.

I would like to welcome the recent announcement made by the Government to go in for Ganga Cauvery link canal scheme and the proposal to nationalise all the major rivers of the country. Today the Supreme Court has also reiterated that. I would like to point out that this was raised in the Upper House some years back when our leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalitha was a member of Rajya Sabha. My humble suggestion to this Government would be that you must take all possible steps to ensure that the benefits of all the schemes reach the poor farmers directly.

I would like to bring to your notice the plight of tea growers also. Our tea market especially Indian production is hard hit by the import policy of this Government. Tea is freely imported from the neighbouring countries and it drastically affects the interests of our domestic tea growers. Without import duty the foreign tea flood our market. This affects thousands of our agricultural labour in our tea plantations. Taking into consideration the ground reality prevailing, our leader the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, took efforts to sell tea through cooperatives so that there could be procurement of tea and thereby a great relief to small tea growers in particular. That pragmatic effort of our leader to ensure marketing distribution of tea has started yielding results benefiting farmers. It was pointed out by an hon. Member in the House that farmers in Tamil Nadu are forced to eat rats and die. I would like to refute it and I would like to point out that it is nothing but an exaggerated statement. It is also an insult hurled at the farmers and it is also demeaning. Such a situation is not there in Tamil Nadu at least for now.

We must come forward to do our best to improve the lot of our agriculturists. Only when farmers live, we can sustain ourselves and hope for prosperity. Hence I urge upon the Government to attend to the problems of the farmers.

With this, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (BIKRAMGANJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, honourable member Shri Basu Deb Acharia has raised discussion in the House on the problems being faced by the farmers of the country under rule 193. He has raised the problems of eighty percent farmers of this country in this House and for that I would like to thank him.

Sir, the speakers who spoke before me, have expressed their views about the problems of the farmers in the country. Be they the farmers growing sugarcane or paddy or coconut or some other crop, the House has been apprised of their problems as to how the farmers are in distress. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government that it is not the only Minister of Agriculture who is required to be present in this discussion, the minister of food and public distribution are also required to be present alongwith the Minister of Agriculture. It is only then that problems of the farmers could be solved. If only one Minister would reply about solving the problems of the farmers, then problems are not going to be solved. In fact, we have discussed the problems of the farmers in this house on a number of occasions. But even today, the condition of the farmers has not improved even a bit. The most unfortunate situation is created when members sitting on that side start criticising the Congress while talking about the farmers and when honourable members from this side are on their legs, they criticise the N.D.A. Government but it is the responsibility of the present Government that they should provide more and more relief to the farmers. The irony is that we go on levelling charges - counter charges and the farmers of our country go on suffering. We do not succeed in wiping the tears of the farmers. We deliver speeches only and do nothing more than that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to say that it is a problem of the farmers throughout the country in general and of the farmers of Bihar, a region of Jharkhand state, in particular after its separation from Bihar. The financial condition of Jharkhand is not hidden from anyone. Bihar is rich of resources and if you promote agriculture and set up agro based industries there, only then the condition of farmers of Bihar would improve.

Last time, we had discussed here many problems of

[Shrimati Kanti Singh]

the farmers. As regards opening of procurement centres through F.C.I. procurement centres were opened even on last occasion and Government of Bihar made arrangements for purchase of foodgrains through F.C.I. Our poor farmers sold their paddy through such centres but the situation took such a shape that when paddy was being procured, there was some delay in the process of production of paddy due to which the farmers are on the verge of starvation and poverty even today. Their children get deprived of education even today and they are facing problems in the marriages of their daughters.

Sir, all the honourable members of Bihar legislature had talked to Sharad Yadav ji in this regard but the situation remains the same even today. The farmers have not been paid for the paddy purchased from them. The situation has not improved due to this reason. The Minister had stated that 60 procurement centres would be opened there but not even a single Purchase Centre has been opened till date to enable the farmers sell their paddy in those centres. I hail from Rohtas which is called Shahbad. That is also known as a bowl of paddy. If proper irrigation facility is provided there, then I think that our farmers would be able to feed the entire Bihar even in the absence of any other work. But the farmers are dying there and there is none to purchase their paddy. F.C.I. opens procurement centres but middlemen come in between and they interfere in the purchase by the mill owners. That is why the poor farmers are in distress. The farmers are facing difficulty in cultivating their lands. On the other hand prices of fertilizers and diesel are being hiked. The farmers have to purchase diesel due to non-availability of power and in this way they irrigate their fields.

Sir, the Minister of Agriculture is sitting here. We have been requesting him quite frequently. Though you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the problems of farmers would be solved. Would their problems be solved after they leave this world or their children face starvation and get deprived of education. With a heavy heart I want to tell the hon. Minister that condition of the farmers has become miserable and as such it is the duty of the Government to think about them. Will the Union Government go on blaming the Bihar Government or any other Governments which have been ruling there in the past. In this Government firm on resolving the problems of the farmers and has got the will power? Can problems of the farmers be solved by sitting in air conditioned offices and formulating agricultural policy for the farmers sitting amidst the bureaucrats.

Sir, whenever agricultural policy is formulated, representatives of the farmers should be involved in that process so that attention of the Government could be invited

towards the problems faced by the farmers and those problems could be addressed. I thank you very much for providing me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (CHIMUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the problems being faced by the farmers. I extend my felicitations to the Government for the relief given by it to three crore farmers through credit card. This is a great achievement of the Government. Prior to that the farmer had to go from pillar to post to get money and was victimised by the money lenders on account of the loan taken from the latter. I would like to greet the Government for its decision to announce the minimum support price in the months of June and July and when crops are still there on the farmer's land. Prior to this, the Government used to announce the minimum support price during October-November, benefits of which used to go to the traders. But now the farmers are getting the benefits of the minimum-support-prices. The Agriculture Commission which has been established by the Government, is a major achievement of the government what I would like to demand is that the peak season crop insurance should be applied to individual farmer because at times the entire block comes in the grip of drought. I would also like to thank the government for waiving of the interest on loans upto the limit of fifty thousand rupees. The decision regarding writing off fifty thousand rupees during peak-season is a step in the right direction but the Government should also come forward to waive off the loans upto rupees fifty-thousand.

The cost of cultivation being borne by the farmer is seven thousand rupees per acre. But the income being earned by the farmer has been worked out at five thousand rupees per acre. The farmers incur losses worth two thousand rupees per acre. The farmer is destined to undergo suffering both in the form of natural calamities and man-made problems. Sometimes he has to face excess rain falls and at other time drought situation. He has to face the problems created by the man also because he has to pay a heavy amount in the form of interest on loans taken by him from the banks for purchasing engine or farming purposes. On the other hand, his crops get destroyed for want of water due to non-availability of power or load-shedding. In this manner the farmer faces problems on both ways.

125 projects are pending in our Vidarbha region due to the forest conservation Act. If they are exempted from the sections under the Forest conservation Act, water may be made available to facilitate farming. There is a very big project namely Gausikhur in our constituency. Hon. Rajiv Gandhi inaugurated the project. At that time, its cost was worked out at about rupees 750 crores. Now the cost of the project is

being worked out at about rupees four thousand crore. The longer time, it will take, the larger the cost likely to be involved therein. The Central Government had accorded sanction to it. I would like to request the Central Government that it should not leave it to the State Government to bear the entire cost rather it should finance it. Earlier to the present one, I had demanded rupees 500 crore for Ghosi-Khurd Project, but nothing has been released till now. The farmer works hard but he is unaware of certain things. In absence of proper training, he gets be fooled, Blockwise training centre should be opened to train him. There should be agriculture colleges in every district so that the farmers could be trained. All facilities like fertilizers, and irrigation facilities should be provided to the farmers subsidy should also be provided to him. There are provisions for subsidies on other items but farmers are not given subsidies despite the country being predominantly an agricultural country. This poses a big question.

I have got an important point. During the span of last fifty years, several thousand crores rupees of arrears outstanding against 49 factory-owners have been waived off in the name of poverty-alleviation programme. Loans worth one lakh and fifty thousand crore rupees have been stopped. I have not received the names of such companies and factory owners as yet as to which companies and factory owners were given loans? When it is possible to waive off the loans worth rupees one lakh and fifty thousand crore, how it would be an impossible task to waive-off loans worth 50 thousand crore rupees. There are arrears worth rupees twenty eight thousand crore against 373 factory owners in Maharashtra. The recovery of these loans has not been made. Why the Government have to consider too much to waive off the loans worth fifty thousand rupees? This is not proper. My suggestion is that the loans at least upto fifty thousand rupees against farmers should be waived-off. FCI should procure the food grains stock. Several mistakes are committed there. Why the financial condition of the farmer is so bad at present? When we pay visit to rural area, such type of inscriptions found place on the walls, "this is not the bane showered by any deity, or the result of the wrongs committed in the previous life, but it is the outcome of the creatures. So, this is not the result of any misdeeds or gods, curses of previous lives but this is the direct result of the wrong policies followed by the Congress during the last fifty years. Poor farmers should be provided all facilities. I have to say this much only.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank you. There is a maxim, better late than never. When the crops of the farmer is ripe his expectations for the bright future tend to grow. He makes arrangements for the marriage of his daughter but when he returns, he is shocked to find out that his crops are drawing

due to excessive rains. So, there is gap between cup and lips.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Minister for Agriculture is a man of talent and an engineer by profession. I have read his statement published in the newspapers, wherein he had stated that half of the land of our country has lost its' productivity. We know their compulsions. I am aware of their pains and problems. When they live among their own relatives or no more in Government service only then they mention the actual position of our country on agriculture front. What more they can do. The production of foodgrains has risen by twenty crore tonnes in the country but the credit has not been given to the Minister of Agriculture because the farmer works hard to produce wheat, rice and other foodgrains. He does not have anything, except his own body. He is not in charge of department of irrigation. It is possible to arrange for irrigation in absence of water. He is not in charge of department of fertilizers. Another person is for that purpose. Another Minister is there to look after the financial matters. If you want to distribute money or fix the prices of agriculture product, I.A.S. officers are there. Where from these officers derived powers to fix the prices of these products?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall be thankful to you if you could ask the Minister of Agriculture to direct the officers under his Ministry to put on shoes and take a round of agriculture fields because it would enable their officers to make the agriculture policy, a success. Ultimately, it is the farmer, who suffers, whether it is floods, drought situation or the matter of paying off the loans is concerned. The Government have granted loans to big traders but the Minister of Finance is not making recovery from them. If a farmer has been granted loans worth rupees 10-15 thousand, his oxen are taken away to recover the loans outstanding against him. If he is arrested, he is put behind the bars. The food served to him is not supplied by the jail authorities. The Government does not provide him any food. Warrants are issued for the arrears against him and his property is attached, the entire money is recovered by adding the annual interest thereon.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what steps the Minister of Agriculture wants to take. I have got sympathy with him. Hon. Members here touched upon all points. Those include businessmen, agricultural labourers.

While endorsing the views expressed by all colleagues, I would like to request you to kindly pay attention towards Bihar. In Bihar ten lakh hectare area of land has submerged. In low lying areas one cannot take crops in time. There is no arrangement for drainage of the stagnant water. The upper part of the Ganga plain is affected by waterlogging. The farmers have to pay land revenue. The revenue department

[Shri Rajo Singh]

is not with the Minister of Agriculture. The Government have fixed a ceiling. The poor farmer who has 2, 3 or 5 acre of land, cannot buy woollens. He has no quilt. He passes his nights by burning paddy straw to keep himself warm but in the morning he starts his routine work and feed his cattle.

Will you take this thing in to account that if the subsidy that you were providing till now is withdrawn how dearly it will to the farmers. Hon'ble Minister sir as you know that due to withdrawal of subsidy one will have to pay rupees twelve more for Urea, rupees twenty two more for D.A.P. and rupees ten more for potash. You have closed down the Barauni fertilizers plant and you are saying that we will import fertilizers. I ask you one thing that whether our farmers are in a position to buy the imported costly fertilizers. You are not providing for loans. Shri Janardhan Reddy is the former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh and he has said that 'NABARD' is not under your control. It is under Shri Jaswant Singh. There was a co-operative society in Bihar which used to provide fertilizers to the farmers at block level. You have not made efforts to revive it either.

I would like to request you that when you happen to be this side you get ample time but when you cross over to that side you tend to looking down upon us. It is an irony. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that in order to improve the condition you should create the agriculture relief fund. The recovery of loans from the small and marginal farmers should be postponed for the time being. The small farmers against when loans are outstanding, recovery of such loans should be postponed. There should be a check on advancement of loans by moneylenders so that the farmers could be saved from their clutches. In reply to a question the hon'ble Finance Minister has said that the small farmers against whom a loan of Rs. 25,000 or 50,000 is outstanding, if they are unable to repay their loan in a year up to March the period will be extended. Hon'ble Minister Sir, you are an engineer also. An amount of Rs. 50,000 is a meager amount. One has to pay huge amount to buy a pair of bullock. The largest cattle fair of the country is organised at sonpur in Bihar. In that fair recently a pair of bullock was sold at a price of Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 40,000. You can imagine how much the farmer who is cultivating on an area of seven acre can save from the yield he has taken in a year. He cannot buy even a Sari for his wife. He can not marry off his daughter and cannot buy woollens, blanket or quilt to protect himself and his family from cold.

The people sitting on treasury benches say that we people merely deliver speeches. We all know that you were also in power. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you also said that while

discussing agriculture. We do not indulge in politics. Can the people who had been elected to this House do without indulging in politics. Politics is involved in everything be it agricultural policy, industrial policy because politics is our profession. We people have to write our profession on several papers. What should we write. If we write our profession as householder we will be termed a village simpleton. If we write professor we will be considered a person belonging to the middle class. But if we write our profession as businessman we will be regarded highly and offered a chair and asked about our annual turnover in terms of crores of rupees.

Today what is the plight of the farmers at your hands. The farmers produce foodgrains for all. Have you ever seen any big businessman building a house of currency notes? Have you ever seen anyone eating gold or silver? Every human being eat foodgrains. Now-a-days people have given up eating rice owing to diabetes. They say they need wheat but where the wheat will come from? Who will produce it? You are not giving remunerative price for our produce. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Sir, you are not even giving us as much as the cost of our production. Sir, I thank you for this. You are the son of a worthy leader. Hon'ble Chaudhary Charan Singh was regarded as the leader of the farmers. But you are not yet being regarded as the leader of the farmers. You must think about the problems and the sufferings of the farmers and listen to your inner voice. You should express feelings in regard to sufferings of the farmer. Who has been worshipped in India in the past. We worship Lord Shiva, goddess Bhagwati and other deities. Why is it so? It is because we worship those who struggle for the society. That has been in our culture. Being a son of a farmer and a representative of the farmers I will start worshipping you, provided you listen and realise about the sufferings of the farmers.

Sir, hon'ble Minister of power has just arrived. I would like to tell Shri Geeteji that he has opted the Ministry of Power and given the Ministry of Industries to another colleague. You want to make industries progress through electricity, but you do not want to give electricity to the farmers rather you want to restrict supply of electricity to the farmers. You said it is the Prime Minister's scheme. You should provide electricity to the farmers so that agricultural yield could be increased. We are not getting diesel and without diesel how we can carry out agricultural operations? The farmers do not have bullocks. You can yourself see even today one side of the yoke a Bull is put and on the other side the wife of the farmer pulls the plough through the fields on her shoulders. You should at least try to understand his sufferings. Vote is game of numbers, if you get 51 votes you will enjoy the power and if you get 49 votes you will sit in opposition. This is what we call democracy. I am not going into details of its merits and demerits. We the farmers

are facing difficulties. You should try to remove the miseries of farmers on account of drought and floods in Bihar. On Monday you will reply to this debate. You will be speaking for 45 minutes and we will listen to you. I am not worried about it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNAACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): Sir, there are only three minutes left for eight. I cannot conclude my speech within three minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can extend the time of the House by half an hour to accommodate three or four more hon. Members. How much time would you take?

SHRI PRASANNAACHARYA: I will need a minimum of ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: He can be allowed to complete his speech.

SHRI PRASANNAACHARYA: Than: you, Sir.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, actually, we have been discussing the problems of farmers and I do not understand from which point to start.

As you know, the farmers of this country are facing thousands of problems. They are not facing just one or two problems; they are faced with multifarious problems.

I do not know whether I should start from a remote Juang tribal village named Kuladera under Ghatagaon block in the tribal dominated Mayurbhanj district of Orissa where only 30 families live and a few of them are landless farmers who have sent an SOS to the hon. Chief Justice, of the Supreme Court of India, urging him to intervene and to save their lives because their children are dying of starvation, or, should I start from a letter written by a poor widow to the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa, a copy of which has been forwarded to me as the local representative, where she has described her plight. Her husband, a small farmer, had to commit suicide in front of the Collectorate at the district headquarters because that poor farmer could not sell his paddy on time and therefore could not purchase some medicines for his ailing daughter, who died without medicines. From which point should I start on the plight of the farmers of this country?

As I said, on the one hand, the farmer who is trying to feed this country, who never goes on strike, is dying of starvation; and on the other hand, the same farmer who is

producing a lot is committing suicide. This is because he is unable to sell his produce in the market. There is nobody to purchase it. This is the very peculiar situation pertaining to farmers prevailing in this country.

Many hon. Members in this House were today referring to the food procurement policy of the Government. I am sorry that the hon. Minister of Food is not present here. During the last week, when we were discussing about the drought situation, many hon. Members, including me, referred to this problem. The Food Corporation of India, a Government of India undertaking is totally keeping silent and is not touched by the plight of the farmers. Today, their produce is not being sold in the market.

20.00 hrs.

I give the example of my own State. Though there is a drought situation, still there are pockets where there is plenty of paddy produced by the farmers.

After much persuasion by my State Government, the Food Corporation of India has agreed to open only 20 procurement centres. The Government of Orissa has to procure ten lakh metric tonnes of paddy. So, this is the position there.

A peculiar situation has arisen pertaining to the farmers. I think, it is one of the major problems being faced by the farmers so far as the food procurement is concerned. The Food Corporation of India has come up with a terminology 'F.A.Q.' - Fair, Average and Quality. When they go to the farmer, they reject all the paddy of the farmer on the plea that it does not satisfy FA Quality. But on the other hand from the same market, the private millers, the traders procure the same paddy at a much lesser price from the farmer. They convert it into rice after milling and the same rice is procured by the Food Corporation of India from the same rice miller. At that time, they forget about FA Quality. So, this is the behaviour related out to the poor farmer of this country. This is one example I want to cite here.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here. Many hon. Members have pointed out that foodgrains worth more than Rs. 50,000 crore in this country are being spoiled every year because there is no adequate storage facility. This is a peculiar problem faced by this country. State Government after State Government have been appealing to the Food Corporation of India, the Ministry of Food and the Government of India to open up new storage facilities and to go in for new godowns system in this country, but I do not know why the Food Corporation of India, the Ministry of Food and the Government of India is showing a very lukewarm attitude towards this problem.

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

So far as my State is concerned, I would like to say that recently the Food Corporation of India has come up with a new policy that private parties, individuals or private companies can construct godowns. In some States, the Food Corporation of India has come out with a scheme that they will give seven years' guarantee for occupation of godown. But I feel that the Food Corporation of India and the Ministry of Food are making discrimination between States and States where one or two States - I do not want to mention their names here - are provided with this facility of seven-year guarantee scheme and seven-year guarantee occupation. I would like to know as to why my State would not be given that facility. On many occasions, the Government of India and different Ministries of the Government of India have meter out step-motherly attitude to many of the backward States in the country and particularly to the Eastern States - not only my State of Orissa but many Eastern States - which are developing States, which are poor States, which are reeling under drought and flood and which are facing financial crunch. They are being discriminated upon by different Ministries of the Government of India.

One more point I want to cite here. This year, as one hon. Member from West Bengal was correctly saying in the afternoon, there is no upward revision in the Minimum Support Price of paddy. I think, the same price which was prevailing last year, the same price, is prevailing now. There is only Rs. 20 extra relief being provided for the drought situation and that relief has been extended up to 31st of December, this year. After this month that system will be over and in many of the States, particularly in my State because of late starting of the cultivation, full yield has not yet been made and the farmers will not be able to sell their paddy by 31st of December. So, many State Governments have been appealing to the Government of India for extension of this facility.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here. Through him I would like to urge upon the Government of India to take an early action in this regard. But I do not know whether it comes under his Ministry or the Ministry of Food. So, I demand that there should be an extension of this facility so that the farmers will be able to sell their paddy at a remunerative price.

Sir, there are one or two problems which I want to mention here. We are talking of solving the problems of farmers. How much percentage of the cultivable land in this country have we been able to provide with irrigation facilities? I think it is hardly 34 to 37 per cent. In my own State, it is a poor 27 per cent, much below the national average. I know many of the medium irrigation projects and many of the major irrigation projects are pending since Fifth Five - Year Plan. I

would like to cite only one example and that is unfortunately in my own constituency. That is the Aung dam project. You might have heard the name of the great engineer, late Shri Ayodhya Nath Khosla who was Governor for some time in a few States including in my own State. It was his brainwork to construct a dam for irrigation purpose on the river Aung which is flowing from Madhya Pradesh, now Chhattisgarh, to Orissa. This project is pending since Fifth Five-Year Plan. I do not understand the reason. It is impossible on the part of the State Governments like that of Orissa, Chhattisgarh or Madhya Pradesh to go in for such big projects with their own resources. The Government of India is constantly refusing to take up such projects.

On the one hand we are talking of development of the farmers and solving the problems of the farmers and on the other this is what is happening. Unless we are able to increase the irrigation potentiality in the country, how do you contemplate to solve the problem of the farmers? How do you propose to increase our productivity in the country? Do you propose to strengthen our agricultural economy? I urge upon the Government that at least such old projects which are lying with you since decades should be taken up by the Government and financial assistance should be given by the Government.

I want to mention one more point here. Many projects are taken up. Many big dam projects are taken up and the farmers are losing their land. Their lands are being acquired by the Government. For many mines, for coal and other mines also, the Government is acquiring the land of the farmers and for decades together compensations are not paid to the farmers. The farmers are facing acute problem because of this. I think you might have heard the name of Hirakud dam project. I think that was one of the first multi-purpose projects constructed immediately after Independence, started by our former Prime Minister late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. It was his vision. After 45 years of completion, of that project, still there are families and still there are farmers who have not yet been able to get their compensation. This is the plight of the farmers. This is the attitude of not one Government but of Governments after Governments. This is the plight and distress condition of the farmers.

I would like to conclude by saying that in every Session, in every year and in every Parliament we have been deliberating upon the problems of the farmers, but no permanent and long-lasting solution has been found so far.

I want to just mention one last sentence here about the deliberation made today by the hon. former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda. I appreciate his sentiments. Let us

rise above our political considerations. Let us at least keep this problem above politics in this country. Just now my predecessor Shri Rajo Singh was also telling it. Every time - we are all politicians present here - whatever we talk, politics comes in. But, at least, this problem of farmers in this country, we should consider beyond politics, cutting across party lines. This Parliament and this Government should find out a long-term action plan to solve the various problems faced by the farmers of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member Shri Ram Murti Singh Verma wants to speak for five minutes because he will not be able to come on Monday. He may speak for five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM MURTI SINGH VERMA (SHAJAHANPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji has initiated a discussion under rule 193 regarding the problems being faced by the farmers in the country.

It is almost 55 years since India became Independent but the condition of the farmers and agricultural labourers is the same as it was before the Independence. The farmers of this country equally contributed their might for the liberation of this country during the Independence struggle but a few people got benefited after Independence. The reason being as soon as the country got Independence, those who were informers and sycophant of the Britishers during their regime cornered the top posts. Besides, the persons who were holding high posts in the Government machinery they were least bothered about the problems of farmers as they were not at all aware how the farming is undertaken and farmers are plagued and how the paddy is sown.

This has been the fate of the farmer and it is 54-55 years since Independence. If anyone who raised the problems of the farmers or talked about the development of the farmers, it was the former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh. The farmers regarded him as God. Today, his worthy son Ajit Singh ji is the Agriculture Minister. But the drought which we are witnessing today, the entire country is reeling under severe drought, tall claims are made on papers but in the name of drought we have seen that only 10 kgs. of foodgrains are

provided to a farmers in Uttar Pradesh having half an acre of land and a farmer having more than that was to be provided 20 kgs of foodgrains. And that too all farmers are not getting since the Government machinery there is beset with middlemen.

I would like to request the Central Government and Hon. Ajit Singh ji to kindly make proper arrangements for the distribution of relief whatever has been provided for Uttar Pradesh. On earlier occasions also in 1977 and 1978-79 when there was drought, the Government of India had launched a scheme under the foodgrain scheme to tackle the drought so that the farmers and agricultural labourers could be saved from starvation. Ponds and canals were constructed under the food for work scheme. Today, the farmers are dying of starvation and the Government godowns are full of foodgrains but this Government is not making foodgrains available to these farmers from its godowns.

Similarly, the influential people and industrialists are also playing with the interests of the farmers by acquiring their land for farm houses. I want to request the Government and the Hon. Agriculture Minister to waive off tax and recovery of loan taken this year by the farmers for purchasing fertilizers in view of the drought condition and an announcement to this effect should be made by him. Besides, there is no proper arrangement of water in Uttar Pradesh. To bring about improvement in this regard, camps should be organised for allotment of connections for tubewells so that the fields are easily irrigated. The farmers have not sown their wheat crop so far.

The Government should pay attention towards this problem. The Uttar Pradesh Government is making announcement only on papers that it is ensuring that the water reaches upto the tail of canals but that is not true. And nothing is being done for the digging work. Therefore, I request that tap water should be provided in the areas where the water table has fallen considerably.

20.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Thursday, December 5, 2002/Agrahayana 14, 1924 (Saka)

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