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Wednesday, December 18, 2002
Agrahayana 27, 1924 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 18, 2002/Agrahayana 27, 1924 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The name of the Member will now be called by the Secretary-General for the purpose of taking oath or making and subscribing the affirmation.

MEMBER SWORN

Dr. Mahendra Singh Pal (Nainital)

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Progress Made by BIMARU States

+

*402. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan Governments have submitted any specific proposals to extricate the States out of the BIMARU category;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Central aid sought for implementation thereof;

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh has lately earned appreciation of the Planning Commission with marked improvement in respect of various social indications like literacy, health, maternal mortality and school enrolments; and

(d) if so, the details of the social indicators taken note of by the Planning Commission, indicating the achievements made by the State in respect of the different indicators?

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 Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In the meeting between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh held on 27.2.2002 for finalization of Annual Plan 2002-03 of Madhya Pradesh, the State Government was appreciated for Padhana-Badhana Andolan, Education Guarantee Scheme and other related measures taken by them, which led to improvement in literacy rate from 44.2 in 1991 to 64 in 2001. However, attention of the State Government was drawn towards low rural female literacy rate, specifically of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population as well as disparity among different districts over the literacy status.

As the decadal growth rate of population in reorganized Madhya Pradesh at 23.34 during 1991-2000 was still higher than the All India average of 21.34 and the health and demographic indices of the State, such as birth rate, death rate and infant mortality were still above the National Level, the State Govt. was impressed upon to bring about improvement in quality, content and coverage of health care facilities.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is on account of the 'Padhana-Badhana Andoalan' and the Education Guarantee Scheme that the literacy rate in Madhya Pradesh has gone up from 44 in 1991 to 64 at present. In some states, education, health and growth in population have become serious problems. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what measures have been taken by the Central Government for the implementation and promotion of the schemes in these areas. My second question is that a scheme amounting to Rs. 80-90 crore was prepared for reproductive child health care. A provision of Rs. 25 crore was made for my Parliamentary constituency. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, the time by which the said amount will be provided by the Central Government to Madhya

Pradesh, because two years have already elapsed since then and the said amount has not yet been provided to the State.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, as far as the literacy situation in Madhya Pradesh is concerned, yes, the figures show an improvement in the literacy rate from 44.2 per cent in 1991 to 64 per cent in 2001. However, it is true still that the rural female literacy disparity is basically at the heart of the literacy problem in Madhya Pradesh and more than 75 per cent of its districts come under 40 per cent literacy rate category. Nearly half of the Madhya Pradesh's total districts have rural female literacy below 30 per cent and the State still have a backlog to cover some 20 lakh illiterates. This requires a continued literacy programme.

I will say over here that there are certain areas of the country that continue to lag behind in the process of development because of some historic and geographic factors. But it is the prime responsibility of the State to create right development conditions and the State Government has to ensure balance socio-economic development.

Basically, the allocation of these funds, which are sanctioned for the State in the Annual Plan is entirely the prerogative of the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: I would like to ask that for forty years BIMARU. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She has not finished her reply.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Now, the funds for the Annual Plan are allocated to the State. In the mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Plan, it has been highlighted that the root-cause of underdevelopment is not the paucity of funds alone but the efficiency and efficacy of the delivery mechanism and the systems of Government. Owing to the financial problems of the State, Plan funds are very after diverted to non-Plan purposes, and Central assistance remains unutilised because of lack of counterpart funding. Basically there are some allocations which have not been utilised to their maximum. So, the State requires a certain amount of transparency and also they need to upgrade their capacity to deliver their services.

I just like to point out over here that in the health and education sector in the overall Ninth Five Year Plan, the State of Madhya Pradesh was able to spend only 87 per cent of its Ninth Plan outlay of approximately Rs. 20,000 crore. By just improving the internal performance, the State could have gained access to another Rs. 2,500 crore which could have been utilised usefully.

As far as the second part of his question is concerned, that would need to be directed to the Ministry concerned because we are only involved with the allocation of funds through the Planning Commission. The basic routing of funds is done by the Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: The Central assistance is provided to the States on the basis of Gadgil formula under which seventy percent amount is given as loan. The State Governments have demanded to reduce it to fifty percent. I would like to know the reaction of the Government in this regard. The (b) part of the question is whether the government propose to provide a special package to these states as is provided to North Eastern States and tribal areas?

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, here I would just like to say that for all the non-special category States, normal Central assistance is distributed as 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant. It is only in the case of the special category States and the North-eastern States like Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, that funds are given at the rate of 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan.

The allocation of normal Central assistance for the Annual Plan of the State is actually, just as you said, based on the Gadgil formula. This was approved by the National Development Council in December, 1991. But the States have sought a revision of this formula. Accordingly, the Planning Commission has received suggestions from various State Governments as to how this should be done. But there is such a wide divergence of views over here in this regard among the States. The states that are advanced want a higher weightage for their performance, and the less advanced States have sought a higher weightage for their backwardness. The Planning Commission, in its meeting held on the 27th and 29th of June, 2001, have discussed this issue of the revision of the Gadgil formula for the location of funds to the States. In view of the divergence of views and sensitivity of the issue, it was decided that there would be more discussion and a consensus would need to be

evolved before the alternatives were actually considered by the National Development Council, where all the Chief Ministers are involved.

As far as the North-Eastern States in their development are concerned, this is also in the purview of a very Special Ministry, that is, the Ministry for the North-Eastern States, and I can pass that on to them.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are BIMARU States. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He does not mean to say that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: It is like this. In 1980-82, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan were names BIMARU as they were the states below poverty line. There, literacy and poverty alleviation programmes are required to be implemented and special attention is required to be paid to the welfare of SCs and STs people of the states. I am sorry to say that though these schemes were implemented in these four states in 1982, yet there is no satisfactory improvement in this regard. Whichever party may be in power in those states, it is the responsibility of the Planning Commission to work towards the development of the country. Just now it has been told that the Madhya Pradesh Government has not utilised the allocated funds. Only 87 percent has been spent. I would like to know as to who is responsible for exercising monitor over these funds? I feel that it is the responsibility of the Planning Commission in regard to these States as also for the development of North Eastern states. It should be ensured whether or not financial expenditure is made in every states. The performance budget should be sought from the States. I am fully confident that the hon'ble Minister will certainly act according to her reply.

Sir, the per capita income of Bihar is Rs. 1245. It is the worst state in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I want to know as to how it is so.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I mean to say that it is an economically weaker state. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Please do not call it a worst state. It is the wrong selection of words ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: When it comes to an individual, then it would be so ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am ready to accept it a backward State, but please do not call it the worst ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: I am calling it worst because despite so many Ministers representing that state here, there is no development. There is another implication of my submission. Now, Shri Shatrughan Sinha has entered in the House at right time, so I would like to bring this fact to his notice as well ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : At present, he has nothing to do with it.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): Hon'ble Laloo Prasad is also there in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: My submission is that all the States in the country have a special status and the Governments of these four states should see how they could act in the direction of poverty alleviation. I would like to bring one thing to the notice of the hon'ble Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, there is drought situation in Rajasthan and the financial assistance is being demanded time and again by the State Government. I would like to know as to how much amount has been given by the Central Government to the State. As per the figures, two lakh metric tons of foodgrains have been given to Rajasthan, while Andhra Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*. They should tell whatever they intend to say ...*(Interruptions)* 30 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been given to Andhra Pradesh. I am not giving figures pertaining to Bihar. Everybody knows about the performance in Rajasthan. We are sceptical that it may be because the Congress is in power there. However, I would like to know the reason for this discrepancy.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I just like to say here that the Central Government is not a mute spectator in the helping of development processes in the State. We provide a very active shoulder and supplement the efforts of the State Government in the development of the backward areas through various means. We are as concerned as the hon. Member, and we appreciate his concern for the SCs and STs and the more backward people of the State.

I would like to say over here that while approving the Bihar Reorganisation Bill of 1998, the Cabinet decided

that a dedicated Cell under the Planning Commission, in direct charge of the Deputy Chairman would be set up to deal exclusively with Bihar, considering the problem that you have just highlighted. A Bihar Cell has been set up in May, 2000 in the Planning Commission with a mandate to ensure multi-faceted development of the State, especially with respect to core infrastructure, through better financial management, and adequate devolution of the fund in the State so that the upliftment of the strata of the people that we are talking about can actually take place.

So, wide consultations have been held now with the State Government, people's representatives, officials and other interest groups. It was decided that a Special Central Assistance would be provided to the *Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yojana* for critical schemes. The main strategy is to use a need-based projectiled approach and also to professionalise the implementing agencies which adopt transparent and responsive systems to ensure that field-level results are visible in a time-bound manner. The funds will be released directly to the implementing agencies, based on their performance.

A Special Plan for Bihar was approved in principle by the High-Level Committee on the development and reform facility in its meeting on the 28th of August 2002. The Plan includes schemes for improvement in the availability of electricity by strengthening the sub-transmission systems, improving of rural conductivity, harnessing of ground water resources, watershed development, horticulture, dairy development, and any other schemes which come under this.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has stated that the literary rate among rural women, especially those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribles, in Madhya Pradesh is very low. Besides this, the Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate in Madhya Pradesh is also very high in comparison to the national average. The number of children suffering from malnutrition is highest in Madhya Pradesh. Few days back, 72 persons, mostly children died due to hunger and malnutrition in Madhya Pradesh. Sir, the hon'ble Minister in her reply only stated that they have instructed the Madhya Pradesh Government to introduce qualitative and quantitative improvement in health facilities in the State because the existing facilities are not enough. The Public Distribution System in the State has collapsed. The nutritions foods that should have been given to children through 'Anganwadi' scheme are not being given to them and the mid-day meal is also not properly distributed. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any special efforts will be made and proper monitoring system will be put in place to ensure that the Central assistance given especially for the welfare of children reach them or the government will leave the people at the mercy of Madhya Pradesh Government to die as the assistance given by the Government is not reaching them. What measures will be taken by the Central Government to ensure that food assistance reaches the needy children.?

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I can understand perfectly the concern of the hon. Member. But, as you will appreciate, Sir, that it is not possible for the Centre to implement at the State level. The funding is passed on. There are no special schemes from the Planning Commission towards the State itself. But there are Centrally-sponsored Schemes which are additionally funded by us, which go to the State also. Then within the Plan itself, there is a certain amount which is being directed through the Planning Commission.

Now, the point is that, there is a certain amount of money available in your Plans. The States will have to gear up its implementation Programmes so that money, which is available, can reach the people of the State.

One hon. Member asked about the PDS, and also asked about the educational facilities that can be provided.

I am afraid, Sir, these will have to be addressed to the Ministries concerned because the Planning Commission is not involved with that.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have so many esteemed Ministers and especially stalwarts like Shri Yashwant Sinha, sitting in the Treasury Benches, to take care of the State of Bihar. Yet Bihar is economically the most backward, the highest populated, the worst economically affected area in this country. It is a sad reflection on our Minister.

Sir, could I now request the hon. Prime Minister—for we did not have hopes in the Finance Minister—if he could make a package for Bihar which could be completed in a specific time frame? It is because time is the most valuable thing, Sir, for the present considering that the rise of population is very high in Bihar and the Prime Minister is, especially, very anxious about the growth of the population in our country. Could some steps be taken on that front?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I have said that the concern of the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the

Government as well as, I think, from all the Members of Parliament involved with the State, has been duly brought out in the fact that we have produced a special package for Bihar, I think after a great deal of discussion and in consultation with the MPs, the MLAs and the State Government. This package is being unveiled very shortly on the 28th. Very shortly this is going to be discussed, and taken out. When it starts to operate, the funding have to go down, the implementation at the State level, I hope, will be improved so that the money reaches the areas. They are doing it on the request of the State. We are, now, going to give direct funding through the implementing agencies so that this position can now be improved.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members took part in discussion on Bihar and they expressed their concern over illiteracy, malnutrition and also the low standard of basic facilities which have been announced by the hon. Prime Minister. As told by the hon. Minister that per capita income is rupees 1245/-. Whenever there is discussion on Bihar no serious decision is taken over it. Hon. Minister has told that a 'Bihar Cell' has been constituted which is going to be announced by the hon. Minister very soon. The provision of a package was there since the division of Bihar State. A delegation of MPs. from Bihar under the leadership of hon. Nitish Kumar ji also met the hon. Prime Minister and that core-committee also made demand from the hon. Prime Minister for giving package on schemes. I would like to ask that if the Government are serious, can they give any date by which it will provide package to Bihar so that the growth rate of Bihar could be increased.

In part 'B' of my question, I would like to ask that during the last year the funds viz Rs. 750 crore for Rural Development department, including more than Rs. 60 crore of the N.H. as also funds for education, Health etc. released by the Union Government are not spent by the State Government and these funds ultimately get lapsed. The Planning Commission should also do monitoring in this regard. We need your ruling in this regard so that the funds released by the Central could be appropriated well in time and we could get rid of the problems like malnutrition etc. and literacy rate and growth rate could also increase. I wish to ask whether the Government are serious to make some arrangements in this regard or not.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I would like to say that the Government are very serious. It has been seriously discussed over in the House as hon. MPs, MLAs and the State Government as also the common people have raised this point and it has also been raised through 'Calling Attention Motion' in the Parliament. Subsequently, a meeting of all the MPs was held with the Planning Commission. At the time of forwarding Bihar Re-organisation Bill, 1998 to the Union Cabinet, it was decided that a cell would be constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and this cell has been constituted in May, 2000. Subsequently, a special Central Assistance, National Labour Development Scheme, which is for the critical scheme, has also been arranged for. A special plan has also been approved. The meeting of High Level Committee Development on Reform Facilities has been held on 28th August, 2002 and they have taken decision with regard to improve the system. I have told here also with regard to rural conductivity, power and ground water and have also mentioned this in the Calling Attention Motion.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister is present here. The point is with regard to providing package to Bihar. All MPs from Bihar had collectively given a memorandum to him *...(Interruptions)*. Hon. Prime Minister may kindly reply in this regard *...(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: If you wish, you can rise this question in the House under some other rule. We cannot give much time to this in the 'Question Hour'. Hon. Minister has given the answer. And so I will raise the other question.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as said by the hon. Minister that Bihar is economically backward but Bihar has not been given anything so far. Every year rivers flowing from Nepal cause severe floods in Bihar which incur a huge loss *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That question is already complete. Ramsheth Thankur ji please ask your question No. 404.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Raghunath Jha ji, you, very well know that there are certain procedures in the House. Things cannot go like this. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Prime Minister is present here, he may speak something on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Prime Minister is sitting here. If he wishes, he can rise anytime and speak. If he does not want, I cannot force him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramsheth Thakur ji please ask question.

[English]

Please sit down now. This is more than enough.

[Translation]

Hon. Minister may kindly answer.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No other Member's statement would go on record. Only Shri Ramsheth Thakur's statement would go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I request please do not act like this. Hon. Prime Minister is present here. It is own wish to answer or not. I cannot force him.

...(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Sir, at the time of Bihar's re-organisation, it was decided that Bihar would be given special consideration. And we are abiding by that decision. That is another thing if he is not satisfied with it, but of course a Committee has been constituted in the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. It has taken many decisions and many more decisions are required to be taken in the future too. The cell that has been constituted would take its own decision. I feel that it would be better if the members from Bihar meet the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission and put their difficulties before him. We would extend our help to them, but only to the extent, the Centre can do so. The Government do not have any ill feeling towards Bihar, certainly not.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister has expressed his views at your request only. At least respect the hon. Prime Minister. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister has put his views at your instance. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot go on like this. Hon. Prime Minister has given the desired answer. He has respected you. Would you not respect him? The procedure of the House is that one should not rise after the Prime Minister has given reply. He should not rise after the Prime Minister has given reply. He should be respected. Please sit down. There is a limit to everything. Please try to maintain etiquettes.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

Regulatory Commission

+

*404. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

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

(a) whether there is nay proposal to enact a separate legislation to create a dedicated fund for the development of highways so that the outflow of funds therefrom be kept outside the purview of Parliament and Public Investment Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the ASSOCHAM's proposal to set up a Regulatory Commission for roads on the lines of the regulatory bodies set up for Telecom and power sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal has been received.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that there is no such provision to enact a separate legislation to create a fund for the development of highways. Central Government have received a demand of more than 1 lakh 65 thousand crore rupees from the State Government and its officials. Hon'ble Minister is of the opinion that the people in rural areas should not inhabit beyond 50 kms from the highways. It means highways should be developed to facilitate the smooth running of traffic and development

*Not recorded.

of the area. However, it is not possible till a separate regulatory commission is set up in this regard. A discussion on highways control (land and transport) Bill 2002 has been discussed in Parliament on 13th and 16th.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the direct question. I do not understand why you give such a long speech.

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, service road is essential for highways. In view of the increased traffic, whether the hon'ble Minister would pay attention towards the service roads and the roads connecting cities, if not creating a separate funds for the development of highways. Is any arrangement being made in this regard?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member has raised a question whether a fund would be created for the development of roads which would be kept outside the purview of Parliament and P.I.B. I would like to tell the hon'ble member that there is no such proposal in this regard. Hon'ble member repeated his question that such an arrangement should be made to collect money. I think this arrangement is inappropriate and impossible also. However, the present Government have taken unprecedented decisions regarding development of roads which have not been taken pre or post independence time. We have taken some hard decisions also to improve the situation. We imposed cess on diesel and petrol thereby collecting 6 thousand crore rupees every year. These funds are being utilised properly. Hence, the Government have taken unique decision to collect funds. A separate Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna has also been formulated in this regard. Rs. 58 thousand crores is being spent on National Highways Development Project. The entire country and the hon'ble members are aware of it. The project is going on. Rs. 60 thousands have been earmarked for Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojna. More than Rs. one thousand crore has been allocated during each of the last three years for repairing roads in rural areas. Hence, lakhs and crore of rupees are being spent in this regard. This scheme is improving the condition of roads in the country. All states are involved in this work.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member has further asked about the arrangements to be made by the Government if a fund outside the purview of Parliament and PIB is not created. I would like to tell the hon'ble member that Government are making arrangements through the present method. So far as service roads are concerned, arrangements are being made in this regard at the places where it is possible to construct them. 14 thousand km. Road has been covered under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yoijna.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think you have made it quite clear. I do not think there is any supplementary question now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last meeting, hon'ble minister had mentioned that a demand of Rs. 62 thousand crore for the roads. I agree that hon'ble Minister is doing follow up properly but problems arise on the part of the officials while taking decisions regarding quadrangular corridor east-west scheme. That's why the progress of the roads connectivity work as endeavoured by the hon'ble Minister is very slow. People are facing problems due to increased traffic. I request that Government should pay attention towards parking area and service road and make arrangements in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not your question, you are only requesting.

Growth Rate In Tenth Plan

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*405. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the requirement of total foreign capital investment to achieve the target of eight per cent annual economic growth rate during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the total annual foreign capital investment required to achieve the said target;

(c) the annual average rate of foreign capital investment in the country during the Ninth Plan, year-wise; and

(d) the foreign capital investment required in agriculture, industry and service sector to achieve the target of growth set for the Tenth Five Year Plan?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a), (b) and (d) The Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council (NDC).

(c) The Total foreign investment inflow during the Ninth Plan is as follows:

Year	Total Foreign Investment (US$ million)
1997-98	5385
1998-99	2401
1999-00	5181
2000-01	5099
2001-02	5925

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the details given by the hon'ble Minister. Therefore, I need your protection. Government agree to discuss the 10th Five Year Plan in Rajya Sabha but not in Lok Sabha. A question regarding the growth rate target fixed for 10th Five Year Plan was raised for Labour ministry in Rajya Sabha on 28th November. At that time Hon'ble Labour Minister has informed that 50 thousand million new employment opportunities would be generated out of which 60 lakh and 1 crore employment opportunities would be generated in small scale industries and Agriculture sector respectively. Hence the information regarding 490 crore employment opportunities under various heads was given in Rajya Sabha on 28th November. However, I am surprised to know that it is yet to be approved by National Development Council though Planning Commission and Cabinet has already approved it. The House should be apprised in this regard so that we and the entire country could be aware of the target fixed for foreign (direct) investment to achieve the targeted growth rate of 8% as fixed by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you giving a lengthy speech, please ask the direct question. Hon'ble Minister will given the direct reply, otherwise how can the second question be raised.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Through you, I would like to know that whether as per the study of 8% growth rate would be achieved with the investment of 25 billion foreign capital every year. I would like to know Government's views in this regard. What is the annual target fixed for foreign direct investment in the country and how the foreign capital investment would be invited in the country to achieve the growth rate in agriculture and small scale industry.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, the position is that unless the NDC gives the approval for the Tenth Five-Year Plan, it is impossible to discuss that document. The hon. Member is asking about two sectors, agriculture as well as SSI. It is very difficult for me to say anything about that till the NDC has been through with this and has given its approval.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already expressed my concern regarding the reply given to question no. 993 raised in Rajya Sabha on 28th November, 2002, now it is up to you to decide whether the reply should be revealed in Lok Sabha or not. Through you, I would like to know from the Government regarding the approach paper sent from the departments. Hon'ble Minister herself looks after the works relating to small scale industries, and in the upper House it was stated that about 60 lakh people would be provided jobs in small scale sector. Small scale sector is extensive. I would like to know about this sector and targets, in this regard likely to be fixed in the approach paper. In this regard, she proposes to create one crore jobs in agriculture sector. Now will food processing be included in that? All the incentives given in this sector, go only to industrialists. Therefore, I would like to know what targets have been fixed for agricultural production in the proposal.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, this Question deals entirely with foreign direct investment; so, it does not deal with agriculture, but I would be happy to inform the hon. Member about FDI levels in SSI. Basically, corporate investments are not permitted in the sectors that are reserved for SSI but the policy provides for a minor shareholding of up to 24 per cent of foreign direct investment in small-scale companies.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, it is seen that most of the FDI coming to our country so far is utilised either for merging with or acquisition of existing establishments. This means only a change of ownership without starting any new venture. If FDI is mostly used for acquisitions and mergers, what is the meaning of talking about a new growth? So, may I know from the hon. Minister, through you, what is the response of the Government to this?

SHRI VASUNDHARA RAJE: What was it? Is it acquisition or merger? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N.N. Krishnadas, you please repeat the question. I will ask him to repeat the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Mostly the FDI is coming to our country. So far it has been made use for either acquiring an existing company or merging with an existing company. I will put may question. Is it merger or acquisition? It means purchasing an existing company and not starting a new venture. So, without starting a new venture, how will the expected growth come out? What is the response of the hon. Minister in this regard?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I believe if mergers or acquisitions in any way improve the efficiency, then they should be welcomed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: He wants to know whether the foreign direct investment has been utilised for the merger of two industrial units or that of establishment of new separate units. That is what the hon. Minister was asking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister! I think, he is also more confused.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: This is what I heard and what my friend Shri Krishnadas also put in his Supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I did not get the answer so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please make the question very simple.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, I can repeat the question. ...*(Interruptions)* I have already put my Supplementary. It was a very clear-cut question. It was a categorical question. I did not get the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can write to her and she will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: No Sir. It is my privilege to get the answer on the floor of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: If he would remain within the purview of the Planning Commission, I would be happy to answer his question. But if he goes out of the purview of the Planning Commission, it would be difficult for me to answer.

MR. SPEAKER: I know. It does not directly arise from the question and, therefore, whatever reply has been given is perfectly all right.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: The question is related to the growth rate in the Tenth Plan and regarding the FDI. In the reply it has been mentioned that the Tenth Plan is yet to be approved by the NDC. When the Tenth Plan was being discussed, the hon. Prime Minister—he is sitting in the house—told that the growth rate of the country through the Tenth Plan would be eight per cent. So, I suppose, it is a very good apprehension to think about eight per cent growth rate for an economy like India's.

When the growth rate of industry is about five per cent, when the growth rate of agriculture is less than two per cent, when the domestic savings are not in a better position; when the investment is not in a better position as per the mid-year review, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister, through you, in which perspective he is apprehending or announcing the growth rate of eight per cent.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: It is very important that a target is set. We will be working towards that target because we think that is important. ...*(Interruptions)* But if you are asking me about agriculture, industry or anything else that is being dealt with by other Ministries, it will be difficult for me to be able to tell you about that. This Question deals entirely with the Foreign Direct Investment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, my question is to the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have targeted eight percent growth rate in the Five Year Plan and as the hon'ble Member said, it seems difficult to achieves this target, But we have to strive towards that target and we would like the country to adopt a homogenous attitude in

his regard. It is possible only if we have adequate support from all sectors. Out agriculture is progressing and it can go further. Out economy is improving. The country has to make a united effort. If we have sufficient will, even this ambitious target can be achieved.

Facilities by Nehru Yuvak Kendras

*407. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased state:

(a) the services and facilities being provided to the youth in various States through Nehru Yuvak Kendras (NYKs), State-wise; and

(b) the names of the places where Nehru Yuvak Kendras are proposed to be opened during the current financial year?

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

Statement

(a) The Nehru Yuva Kendras (NYKs) cater to the personality development needs of the non-student rural youth enrolled through village level Youth Clubs/Mahila Mandals. In fact, the NYKs mobilize the rural youth and motivate them to organize themselves into Youth Clubs and Mahila Mandals. Through this process and by involving the rural youth in various activities, such as, education and training, awareness generation, skill development for self-employment, work camps, promotion of rural sports and culture, etc., these Kendras help build their capacities to equip them to become productive members of the society. The NYKs also undertake schemes/programmes of various Ministries of the Government of India and the State Governments for implementation by involving the rural youth therein. In addition, the NYKs provide avenues to the rural youth to enroll themselves as Volunteers under two important schemes of this Ministry, namely, the National Service Volunteers and the National Reconstruction Corps. The services rendered by the NYKs to the youth in different states are, by and large, the same.

(b) There is no proposal with the Government to open new Kendras during the current Financial Year.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the funds spent on the functioning of Nehru Yuva Kendras and the proportion of the same given to N.G.Os.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statewise allotments are not kept in record as allotments are not made according to states. Allotment is made by the Union on the basis of formulated plans and programmes.

As far as N.G.Os. are concerned, Nehru Yuva Kendra is in itself a large N.G.O. and it implements the schemes allocated to it through its state level organisations. The N.G.O.s which come for participation in National Integration camps or in other programmes, are permitted only after proper verification. It is not possible here to provide the state-wise details of all such NGOs. This information may be sent to the hon'ble Member, if he so desires.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the quota of SCs/STs and OBCs for the posts of coordinators has been filled or vacancies still remain. If there are vacancies, how long are these proposed to be filled and appointments made.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the posts of district coordinators are already filled and no fresh appointments have been made. We have not made new appointments as appointments are frozen, but whenever new appointments will be made, advertisements will be published in accordance with reservation rules and quota.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked the number of vacant posts of district coordinators belonging to the categories of SCs/STs and OBCs and whether reservation rules are there in this regard or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it was your question.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Do reservation rules exist there or not?

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question only asks whether new Nehru Yuvak Kendras are proposed to be set up during the current financial year. Naturally, we will follow all the rules while opening new Kendras.

As for the existing number of posts, reservations there and the number of vacancies, we need separate information as ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: I am only asking whether provision for reservation exists or not.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can look at parts (a) and (b) of the question. The question relates to provision of services to states and to opening of new Nehru Yuva Kendras. The question is about the opening of new kendras.

MR. SPEAKER: If you wish to ask about reservation, you will have to ask a different question to which, the Minister will respond.

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: I would have answered throughly, if I have been given proper notice.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Thank you, Sir. The Nehru Yuvak Kendras are very much used for the purpose of developing the youth power in national integration and also skill development. But, at the same time, I want to know whether the posts vacant at the district level are going to be filled up or not and if so, whether any specific amount is going to be allotted for every place in every district or not. I also want to know whether the proposals which are sent from the district Kendras will be fulfilled or not.

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said, the allotment is not done statewise but on the basis of districts. Funds are already allotted for our schemes. The programmes and activities to be undertaken by a Nehru Yuva Kendra in a particular district are pre-decided. Funds for individual programmes in a district are pre-fixed and they have to follow that. They have to undertake nine types of programmes and funds are fixed for each type and the allotment is made on the basis only. Thus district-wise and centre-wise a certain amount is allotted each year and on that basis the programmes are implemented.

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL: Sir, the concept of Nehru Yuvak Kendras was mooted to motivate rural youth and *mahilas* specially. Specially as Members of Parliament, we are unable to know what type of works they are taking up, though standard procedure is there and the Central Government has also given district-wise guidelines. I know that, but actually, we are unable to know with respect to most of the national youth *kendras* what is the guideline as to the requirement of nomination that is going on.

Has at any time the Ministry reviewed what type of enrolment they have made so far, especially in the National Service Volunteers and National Restructuring Corporation? What is their role?

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the basic task of Nehru Yuvak Kendras is to include non-student rural youth in their activities. He asked about National Service Scheme and the method of recruitment therein. There are different schemes of different levels. Youth clubs are formed and the motivators visit every village to nominate Members as motivators of Nehru Yuva Kendra so that they can participate in rural sector scheme.

As for the N.S.S., graduation is mandatory. Such persons upto the are to 25 years who have passed graduation and wish to devote at least two year to social service, are nominated under the schemes. They are then made partners in rural sector programmes. Thus it is a method to associate them.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply to the question, the basic aim of Nehru Yuva Kendra is defined as personality development of rural youth and women. It means it is the main theme and in 'B' part of the question is given that

[English]

There is no proposal with the Government to open new kendras during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Sir, it implies that the personality of rural youth and women has been fully developed. I can't understand any other reason. Though I do not have the data for the last 10 years with me, as I was not sure that this question would come up so soon, I can say on the basis of that data, that all the Minister of Sports have established at least one Nehru Yuvak Kendra in their constituencies. Thus my question is whether hon'ble Minister would verify the genuineness of my information and submit a report accordingly to the House?

SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not true that all the sport ministers have established Nehru Yuvak Kendras in their constituencies. Nehru Yuvak Kendras scheme is very old. It was launched in 1972 and at that time only 80 districts of the country were earmarked for the scheme. The allocations under the scheme are made on the basis of district and not states. Thereafter the number of such district was increased and at present 500 district of various states and Union territories are covered. It is also the fact that the number of revenue districts has increased. At present there are 600 districts in the country. There may be more than 100 such districts where Nehru Yuvak Kendras have not

been established. We will be able to open new centres only if we get approval in the tenth plan. These centres are running in about 500 districts. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: The centres he had set up ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, Please sit down.

[English]

SC's Directive on Medical Negligence

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed the Medical Council of India to submit an affidavit, on the cases of medical negligence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the cases of medical negligence and procedure for punishing the erring doctors;

(d) whether the Government have set up any Standing Committee to go into the above after the directives of Supreme Court;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Statement

(a) to (f) A Public Interest Litigation is pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 317/2000-Malay Gangulay Vs. Medical Council of India and Others. In this the petitioner has prayed to the Court to conduct a review of the functioning of the Medical Council of India and other State Medical Councils as far as it relates to performance of their statutory duties with regard to the complaints received by them against doctors. As directed by the Supreme Court, vide its interim order dated 27.9.2002, the Medical Council of India has filed an affidavit furnishing the various details called for by the Court with regard to processing of complaints received against doctors.

As informed by Medical Council of India, 125 and 110 cases of complaints relating to medical negligence have been received by them in the years 2000-01 and 2001-2002 respectively. While the complaints received against doctors registered directly with itself are dealt with by the MCI, the complaints received against doctors registered with the State Medical Councils are forwarded to the respective State Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, complaints with regard to professional misconduct can be brought before the Medical Council of India or the concerned State Medical Council, as the case may be, for disciplinary action. Upon receipt of any complaint of professional misconduct, the appropriate Medical Council would hold an enquiry and give opportunity to the Registered Medical Practitioner to be heard in person or by pleader. If the Medical practitioner is found to be guilty of professional misconduct the appropriate Medical Council may award such punishment as deemed necessary or may direct the removal altogether or for a specified period from the register of the name of the delinquent Registered Medical Practitioner. These Regulations further stipulate that the decision on the complaints received shall be taken by the appropriate Medical Council within a period of six months.

The Central Government has not received any directive from the Supreme Court for setting up a Standing Committee to go into the above matter. However, an Ethical Committee consisting of six members exists in the Medical Council of India to deal with the complaints received by them. In pursuance of the interim directions of the Supreme Court, the Council is also finalizing the detailed guidelines and the procedure to be followed for conducting an enquiry in an alleged complaint to decide whether the doctor concerned is guilty of misconduct in a professional respect.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: As per the statement of the hon. Minister, the complaints received by the Medical Council of India (MCI) and the State Medical Councils are dealt with separately. As per his statement, the Medical Council of India received 125 and 110 cases of complaints in the years 2000-01 and 2001-02. What action has been initiated against the doctors?

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has asked about the action taken. In fact, for the action MCI recommends back to the state. About 235 cases have come up in last two financial years. Out of these, Shri Malai Ganguly has filed a public interest litigation. Therefore, I won't be able to tell much in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence; let me listen to the question.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: The hon. Minister says that the matter is *sub judice*. So, there is no point in asking him the second supplementary because I will get the same answer that the matter is *sub judice*.

Now, the hon. Minister says that they have not received any directive from the Supreme Court for setting up a Standing Committee. However, there is an Ethical Committee consisting of six members which exists in the Medical Council of India. The Minister says that the Medical Council is finalising the guidelines now. What was the Council doing all these years? If they are finalising the guidelines now, how will they punish the doctors who have committed mistakes four or five years ago? My question is, if the guidelines are being formulated now, how you are going to punish them and when you are going to punish them.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Hon'ble Member has asked about the ethical committee. It has six members. Supreme Court sought to know whether there can be any time frame to take action against those. It is under consideration. That proposal would come to the Government. It would come perhaps after four to six weeks. Only then action would be taken. I do not have any concrete information in this regard, as the proposal has not yet been received.

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: What were the previous guidelines that were formulated by the Council?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The Minister has already replied to your question.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: It is not satisfactory.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, whether it is *sub judice* or not, it is a known fact that the Medical Council of India has the power to take action, when a case of negligence is brought to their notice. However, there is another facet to this question. The doctors are now trying to start a defensive practice fearing a reaction from the patients who are coming to the hospitals.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please put the question? Otherwise, you will not get the reply.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: On the one hand, you have to take action against the erring doctors and, on the other hand, the patients should get justice. What is the balance which you are going to strike in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member talked of balance. We all are concerned about the complaints of misbehaviour, misconduct, issuing of fake certificates, of touts and incorrect operations. Action needs to be taken against them. For now, as I have said, there is an *ad hoc* committee. To discourage the possibility of disruption in day to day functioning of Supreme Court, a committee of four responsible doctors has been constituted to look after these things until a regular body is formed following the order of Supreme Court.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

National Helath Policy, 2002

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated a New Health Policy, 2002;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any targets under National Health Policy, 2002;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the points emphasised in the above policy for promoting Indian System of Medicine in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Health Policy-2002 was announced by Government during April, 2002. The main objective of the new policy is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country. The approach would be to increase access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions. The new policy covers all aspects of health care such as financial resources; equity; delivery of national public health programmes; health infrastructure; role of private sector, local self-government institutions and NGOs; health education and manpower; health research; quality control of drugs and food; disease surveillance, impact of globalization on the health sector, etc. The Policy prescription are at statement-I.

(c) and (d): Details of the targets under National Health Policy are at Statement-II.

(e) Although the main components of NHP-2002 apply equally to the alternative systems of medicines, a separate National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy has been announced by the Government to provide focused emphasis on this system.

Statement-I

Policy Prescriptions at Glance NHP-2002

Financial Resources

- Increase health sector expenditure from 5.2% as at present to 6% of GDP with the Govt. contribution increasing from 0.9% as at present to 2% by 2010.
- Increase health sector expenditure by States from 5.5% to 7% of their budget by 2005 and further to 8% by 2010.
- Increase Central Govt. contribution to health from 15% to 25% by 2010.

Equity

- Increase sectoral outlay in the primary health sectors
  - 55%—Primary
  - 35%—Secondary
  - 10%—Tertiary

Delivery of National Public Health Programmes

- Key role of the Central Govt. in
  - Designing national programmes
  - Providing financial resources
  - Providing technical support
  - Monitoring and evaluation
- Ownership of the programmes by State Govts.
- Gradual merge all health programmes under a single field administration; However, vertical programmes for control of major diseases like TB, Malaria, HIV/AIDS as also RCH and Universal Immunization Programme to continue till moderate levels of prevalence are reached.
- Programme implementation to be done by autonomous state and district level bodies for greater flexibility.

The State of Public Health Infrastructure

- Revive primary health system by providing essential drugs under Central Govt. funding through decentralized system.
- Have frequent in-service training of public health medical personnel to update them on recent advancements in science.
- Need for levying user charges for certain secondary and tertiary public health care services for those who can afford to pay.

Extending Public Health Services

- Expand the pool of medical practitioners
- Examine increasing the scope of use of paramedical manpower of allopathic disciplines after adequate training and subject to monitoring of performance.
- Simplify state recruitment procedures and rules for contract employment.

Role of Local Self-Govt. Institutions

- Decentralize implementation of various programmes to local self Government institutions by 2005.
- To achieve this financial incentives to be provided by the Centre.

Norms for Health Care Personnel

- Introduce minimum statutory norms for deployment of doctors and nurses under the purview of Indian Medical Council and Indian Nursing Council acts respectively
- Progressively review the norms to make them more stringent as the capacity of medical institutions improve.

Education of Health Care Professionals

- Set up a Medical Grants Commission for funding new and upgrading existing Govt. Medical and Dental Colleges.
- Modify existing curriculum to make it need based and skill oriented.
- Expose UG students to geriatrics, frontier disciplines of medical research; create additional seats for deficient specialties.

Need for specialists in "Public Health" and "Family Medicine"

- Progressively raise the proportion of PG seats in "public health" and "family medicine" disciplines to reach 1/4th of the total seats.
- Encourage specialisation in public health both for medical doctors and non-medical graduates from allied fields.

Nursing Personnel

- Improve the ratio of nurses vis-a-vis doctors/ beds.
- Improve the skill level of nurses and increase the ratio of degree holding nurses vis-a-vis diploma holding nurses.
- Central Govt. to subsidize the setting up and the running of, training facility for nurses on a decentralized basis.
- Establish training courses for super-specialty nurses required for tertiary care institutions.

Use of Generic Drugs and Vaccines

- For cost effective public health care treatment regimes to be normally based on a limited number of essential drugs which would need a periodic review.
- In the interest of long term national health security, not less than 50% of the requirement of vaccines/sera should be met from public sector institutions.

Urban Health

- Set up an organised two-tiered urban primary health care structure with appropriate population norms.
- Funding for the urban Primary Health Care system to be jointly borne by local self-Govt. institutions, State and Central Govts.
- Establish fully equipped, trauma-care network in large urban settings.

Mental Health

- Establish a network of decentralised mental health services for taking care of common mental dis-orders.
- Upgrade physical infrastructure of mental institutes at Central Govt. expense.

Information, Education and Communication

- Disseminate information through specific modules to those population groups which cannot be effectively reached through the mass-media only.
- Set specific targets for association of PRIs/ NGOs/Trusts in such activities and evaluate their performance.
- Evolve specially designed modules in the curriculum of schools and colleges to disseminate 'health' and 'family life' information.

Health Research

- Increase Govt. expenditure on medical research to a level of 1% of total health spending by 2005 and thereafter to 2% by 2010.
- Encourage private entrepreneurship in this field for developing new molecules

Role of the private sector

- Welcomes participation of private sector in all areas of health activities-primary, secondary or tertiary.
- Enact suitable legislation for regulating minimum infrastructure and quality standards by 2003 in clinical/medical institutions.
- Develop statutory guidelines for the conduct of clinical practice and delivery of medical services.
- Set up private insurance instruments for increasing coverage under secondary and tertiary sectors.
- Introduce a pilot scheme of social health insurance in a few representative districts to determine the requirements of resources both physical and financial. Success stories could be replicated.

Role of the civil society

- Earmark not less than 10% of the budget of various disease control programmes to be implemented through NGOs and other institutions of civil societies.

National Disease Surveillance Network

- Fully operationalise an integrated decease control network from the lowest level of administration to the Central Government by 2005.
- Install data based handling hardware, have IT inter-conductivity between tiers and in house training for data collection and interpretation.

Health Statistics

- Complete base-line estimates for the incidence of common diseases by 2005; periodically update these estimates, using appropriate statistical methodology.
- In the long run, establish base-line estimates for non-communicable diseases and other communicable diseases.
- Establish national health accounts to enable policy makers to focus on relative priorities.

Women's Health

- Identify specific programmes targeted at women's health to facilitate increased access of women to basic health care. Highest priority to be given by Central Govt. to the funding of such programmes.
- Review the staffing norms of public health administration to meet the specific requirements of this group.

Medical Ethics

- Notify code of ethics to be rigorously implemented by Medical Council of India to ensure that the common patient is not exploited.
- Keep a vigilant watch on the clinical trials of gene manipulation and stem cell research and develop appropriate guidelines and statutory provisions when necessary.

Enforcement of quality standards for food and drugs

- Strengthen food and drug administration, both in terms of laboratory facilities and technical expertise.
- Progressively tighten standards of food items in order to have necessary technology upgradation required in the competitive environment.
- Ensure that food standards are close to Codex specification and drug standards at par with those adopted world wide.

Regulation of standards in para-medical disciplines

- Establish statutory professional councils for para medical disciplines to register practitioners, maintain standards of training and monitor performance.

Environmental and occupational health

- Reduce health risk to the citizens by smoothly interfacing the polices of the environment related sectors with those of the health sector.
- Have periodic screening of health conditions of workers, particularly those in high risk industries.

Provide medical facilities to users from over-seas.

- Provide health services on commercial basis to over-seas patients.
- Encourage service providers by providing fiscal incentives to all their earnings in foreign exchange.

Impact of globalization on the health sector

- Protect the citizens from the possible threat to health security in the post TRIPS era, arising as a result of sharp increase in prices of drugs and vaccines.
- Establish a national patent regime which enables affordable access to the latest medical and therapeutic discoveries.
- Govt. to secure commitments world-wide to tone down the restrictive features of TRIPS in its application to the health care sector.

Statement-II

Goals to be achieved by 2000-2015

* Eradicate Polio and Yaws	2005
* Eliminate Leprosy	2005
* Eliminate Kala Azar	2010
* Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis	2015
* Achieve Zero level growth of HIV/AIDS	2007
* Reduce Mortality by 50% on account of TB, Malaria and Other Vector and Water Borne diseases	2010

* Reduce Prevalence of Blindness to 0.5%	2010
* Reduce IMR to 30/1000 And MMR to 100/Lakh	2010
* Increase utilization of public health facilities from current Level of <20 to >75%	2010
* Establish an integrated system of surveillance, National Health Accounts and Health Statistics.	2005
* Increase health expenditure by Government as a % of GDP from the existing 0.9% to 2.0%	2010
* Increase share of Central grants to Constitute at least 25% of total health spending	2010
* Increase State Sector Health spending from 5.5% to 7% of the budget	2005
Further increase to 8%	2010

[English]

Occupational Hazards

*406. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the conference organised by the Indian Association of Occupational health, the foreign experts have warned about the professional dangers lurking on India on the lines of industrialised countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive law and also to start a National Programme based on the deliberations of the said conference;

(d) if so, by when the policy is likely to be formulated and the programme implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (e) The Indian Association of Occupational Health (IAOH) is a professional body consisting of representatives of medical personnel working in industries and research scientists. Every year, a conference is held by the association to exchange their experience as regards occupational health hazards in the industries. According to the General Secretary of the association no warning has been given by the foreign experts about the professional dangers lurking on India on the lines of industrialized countries.

The Government of India has already enacted laws to protect the health of workers in various fields. The most important legislations of relevance are of the Factories Amendments Act 1987, the Mines Act 1952, Dock Workers Act 1986, Plantation Labour Act 1951 and Workmen Compensation Act.

A programme for control and treatment of occupational diseases was also initiated in the 9th Five Year Plan which is being continued in the 10th Plan by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Review of Rural/Urban Classification for Telephone Services

*409. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has decided to revise the rural/urban classification for extending confessional tariff for telephone subscribers in accordance with the latest Census Report-2001;

(b) if so, the number of villages classified as urban, on the basis of Census Report 2001, in Kerala;

(c) whether the location Code Map of the Census Report-2001 has been received from the Census Commission for the rural/urban classification;

(d) If so, the date on which it was received by the Corporate Office of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(e) whether criteria of classifying an area into urban/ rural, used for census purpose can be used for the purpose of extending concessional tariff for telephone subscribers; and

(f) if not, whether the Bharat Sanchar Nagam Limited will revise the classification?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (f) The Census of India identifies all areas into urban and rural based on which Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) applies urban and concessional rural tariff to its subscribers as the case may be. Instructions have already been issued in April, 2002 to the field units to apply urban and rural tariff, as the case

may be, in terms of classification given in Census report 2001. Areas are not classified as urban or rural by the BSNL on any other consideration.

In Kerala, 263 villages, out of a total of 1627 villages, have been classified as fully urban and 76 villages have been classified as party urban and party rural.

Corporation office of BSNL has recently purchased a soft copy of the Census report 2001. This report gives the details of urban and rural classification of areas.

Cash Awards to Medal Winners

*410. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Government to give cash awards to medal winners in various international sports events;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as a part of this policy the Prime Minister has announced grant/cash awards of Rs. 5,00,000 to Gold Medal Winners, Rs. 3,00,000 to Silver Medal Winners and Rs. 2,00,000 to Bronze Medal Winners of Busan 2002; and

(d) the details of the other incentives being thought of by the Government to encourage talented sports persons?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government gives cash awards to medal winners in various International sports events. Medal winners in Olympic Games, Official World Championships, Asian/ Commonwealth Games and Official Asian/Commonwealth Championships are given such awards under the scheme of Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches.

(c) The medal winners of the Far East and South Pacific (FESPIC) Games-2002, held from the 26th October to the 1st November, 2002 at Busan in South Korea, called on the Prime Minister on 21.11.2002. During his interaction with the disabled sports persons, the Hon'ble Prime Minister, announced Cash Award of Rs. 5 lakh, Rs. 3 lakh and Rs. 2 lakh, each, for the winners of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals respectively at these Games. The existing scheme, however, does not contain any provision to give awards to winners of FESPIC Games.

(d) The details of various incentives, given by the Government, to encourage talented sportspersons are as under:-

(i) Under the scheme of Assisting Promising Sportspersons and Supporting Personnel, elite sportspersons are being provided a financial assistance of upto Rs. 5 lakhs, per annum, for undergoing advanced training, within the country and abroad.

(ii) Under the scheme of national sports Development Fund, sportspersons are being provided financial assistance for their advance training.

(iii) Under the scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons, Government provides life pension @ Rs. 2,500/- p.m. for winning medal in Olympics and gold medals in World Cup/World Championships and @ Rs. 2,000/-p.m. for winning Silver and Bronze medals in World Cup/World Championship and gold medals in Asian and Commonwealth Games.

(iv) Under the scheme of National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons, pension of upto Rs. 2,500/- for medical treatment are provided to outstanding sportspersons, placed under indigent circumstances.

(v) Awards are given to sportspersons under the following schemes also:

1. Arjuna Award, carrying a cash award of Rs. 3 lakh.
2. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, carrying a cash award of Rs. 5 lakhs
3. Dhyan Chand Awards for life-time achievements, carrying a cash award of Rs. 1.50 lakhs.

(vi) Besides to above, the Ministry of Railways issues First Class/AC-II tier Railway Complimentary Passes to the Arjuna Awardees/Olympic medallists/Gold medallists of Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Similarly, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas allots 2% dealerships/distributorships of Petroleum Products to (a) Arjuna Awardees; (b) Winners of Medals at Olympics/Asian/Commonwealth Games and recognized World Cup/World Championships; and (c) The National Champions under the recognized National Championships. also, five percent of vacancies in Group 'C' & 'D' posts, in various Government Departments/Ministries/ Undertakings, are filled by meritorious sportspersons, by relaxing the rules.

Additional Cess on Petrol/Diesel

*411. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has proposed to levy an additional cess on petrol and diesel to bridge the shortfall in funding the National Highways Development Project (NHDP);

(b) if so, the total shortfall reported in the funding of NHDP during the last three years; and

(c) the details of revenue earned as cess during the last three years and investments made during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has proposed to levy an additional cess of 30 paise per litre on petrol and diesel for funding of second phase of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

(b) There has not been any shortfall in the funding for implementation of NHDP Phase-I during the last three years.

(c) As per information received from Ministry of Finance a total amount of Rs. 13,789.8 crores was collected as cess during the last three years upto November, 2001. The investment made from cess, during the same period for development of National Highways and State roads (other than rural roads) are as below:—

Sl. No.	Year	Investments (Rs. In crores)	
		National Highways	State Roads
1.	1999-2000	1900	—
2.	2000-2001	1800	990
3.	2001-2002	2100	1062

International Driving Licences

*412. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding problems likely to be faced by the persons holding international driving licences issued in India, as reported in the Economic Times dated November 8, 2002.

(b) if so, whether some European Nations have raised doubts about the genuineness of the international driving licences issued in India;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the doubts of international community in this regard?

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

(b) No reference has been received from any country in this Ministry raising doubts about the genuineness of the international driving licences issued in India.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Bar on Indian Students

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

(a) whether the United State Educational Testing Service (USETS) has barred Indian students from taking the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) computer science test during this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Indian students to be affected by the decision of USETS; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The United State Educational Testing Service (USETS), an independent and private educational testing organisation in the United States, announced in August 2002 that on the basis of an investigation revealing improper sharing of questions from the GRE Computer Science subject test by students in China, including Hong Kong, and India, it had cancelled the test in these countries.

(c) According to the USETS, 388 students in India were registered for the GRE Computer Science subject test in 2002.

(d) Government is concerned about the legitimate educational aspirations of Indian students. Government

has noted that USETS has indicated that it will resume computer science test in the affected countries in the second half of 2003 and that the schedule in 2002 and 2003 for the other tests administered by it remains unaffected.

New Policy for National Highways

*414. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved recently a new policy for National Highway development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the priorities of the Government in the development of National Highways;

(d) whether any areas have been identified for private investment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) The policy objectives for National Highways for the 10th Five Year Plan period mainly envisages the following:

(i) capacity augmentation.

(ii) enhancement of mobility, safety and conductivity.

(iii) phased removal of deficiencies in existing network.

(iv) preservation of existing assets.

(v) Encouragement of private sector participation in road construction and maintenance.

(c) The priorities of the Government are 4/6 laning of certain National Highway under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Port Connectivity and improvement of riding quality of non-NHDP section of National Highways.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details are enclosed as statement.

Statement

List of Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Projects

S.No.	Project Name	NH No.	State	Length in KM	Cost Rs. Cr.	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ministry						
Toll Based Projects						
1.	Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass	3	Maharashtra	24	103	Completed
2.	Nardhana ROB	3	Maharashtra	13	34.21	Completed
3.	Hubli-Dharwar Bypass	4	Karnataka	30.35	68	Completed
4.	Construction of additional 2-lane	4	Maharashtra	8	37.8	Completed
5.	Construction of six bridges	5	Andhra Pradesh	6 Nos. Bridges	50	Completed
6.	Kosasthalyar Bridge	5	Tamil Nadu		30	Completed
7.	Nasirabad ROB	6	Maharashtra	30m	10.45	Completed
8.	Wainganga Bridge	6	Maharashtra	530m	32.6	Completed
9.	Udaipur Bypass	8	Rajashtan	11	24	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Mahi Bridge	8	Gujarat		42	Completed
11.	Bridge across river Watrak	8	Gujarat		48.2	Completed
12.	Chalthan Road Over Bridge	8	Gujarat	4-lane ROB	10	Completed
13.	Narmada bridge	8	Gujarat	6	113	Completed
14.	Patalganga Bridge & ROB	17	Maharashtra	1 No.	33.3	Completed
15.	ROB at Derabassi	22	Punjab		31.48	Completed
16.	Coimbatore Bypass	47	Tamil Nadu	33	90	Completed
17.	Katni Bypass	7	Madhya Pradesh	17.5	42.00	In progress
18.	Guna Bypass on NH 3	3	Madhya Pradesh	18	30.00	In-principal approval given
19.	4-Laning of Gonde-Nasik-Pimplegaon road including Dwarka fly over from 380/00 to 440/00 on NH 3	3	Maharashtra	60	246.00	Technical Proposal approved
20.	Construction of Bridge across Pinglai river in km 113/800 on NH 6	6	Maharashtra		8.20	Prequalification done. Bids to be invited
21.	Construction of Akola bypass on	6	Maharashtra		45.00	Prequalification done. Bids to be invited
22.	Construction of ROB in Km 399/0 near Fekri on NH 6	6	Maharashtra		11.80	Technical Proposal approved
23.	4-Lanning of Raipur-Durg section of NH-6	6	Chhattisgarh	26.6	48.00	Award under finalisation
24.	4-Laning of Pune-Sholapur road Km. 14/00 to 40/00 of NH 9	9	Maharashtra	26	88.00	Prequalification done. Bids to be invited
25.	4-Laning of Pune-Sholapur road from Km. 210/00 to 241/00 of NH 9	9	Maharashtra	31	62.00	Technical Proposal approved
26.	Construction of ROB & its approaches near Sendra (Km 12) of NH 14	14	Rajasthan		10.00	In-principle approval given.
27.	4-Laning of NH 50 from km 12/190 to 40/00	50	Maharashtra	27.81	105.00	Technical Proposal approved
28.	4-Laning of Nasik Sinnar road on NH 50 from 180/00 to 208/640	50	Maharashtra	28.64	76.00	Technical Proposal approved

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.	Meerut-Muzaffarnagar section of NH 58	58	Uttar Pradesh	63	23.00	Prequalification done
National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)						
Toll Based Project						
1.	Durg Bypass	6	Madhya Pradesh	18.4	68	Completed
2.	ROB at Kishanagarh Bypass	8	Rajasthan	1	16.66	Completed
3.	4-laning of Satara-Kagal Section	4	Maharashtra	133	600.00	In progress
4.	4-lanning of Tumkur-Neelmangala (km 29.5 to km 62.0 of NH-4)	4	Karnataka	32.5	155	In progress
5.	4-laning of Tada (km. 52.8) to Nellore (km. 163.6)	5	Andhra Pradesh	110.52	621.4	In progress
6.	Delhi-Gurgaon Section	8	Haryana	27.7	555.00	In progress
7.	Nandigama-Vijayawada	9	Andhra Pradesh	35	138.65	In progress
8.	Vivekananda Bridge and approach	2	West Bengal	6	600.00	Approved for award
9.	Mahapura (near Jaipur)-Kishangarh Km. 273.5-Km. 363.885	8	Rajasthan	90.38	644.00	Awarded
Annuity based Projects						
1.	4-laning of Panagarh-Palsit	2	West Bengal	64.457	350	In Progress
2.	4-laning of Palsit-Dankuni Section (Durgapur Expressway)	2	West Bengal	65	432.40	In Progress
3.	4-laning of Maharashtra Border-Belgaum Section	4	Karnataka	77	332	In Progress
4.	4-laning of Anakapalli-Tuni Section	5	Andhra Pradesh	58.947	283.2	In Progress
5.	4-laning of Tuni-Dharmavaram Section	5	Andhra Pradesh	47	232	In Progress
6.	4-laning of Dharmavaram-Rajamundry Section	5	Andhra Pradesh	53	206	In Progress
7.	Nellore bypass	5	Andhra Pradesh	17.2	143.20	In Progress
8.	4-laning of Tambaram-Tindivanam Section.	45	Tamilnadu	93	375	In Progress

[Translation]

Village Public Telephones by Private Companies

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

(a) the details of guidelines, if any issued to private companies by the Government for providing basic telephone services in villages;

(b) whether these companies are not following the guidelines issued by his Ministry for providing village public telephones (VPTs) and are putting pressure to get the existing telephone policy changed for their benefit;

(c) if so, the number of VPTs installed by all the private companies providing basic telephone services till 31 October, 2002;

(d) the names of the companies which have not achieved their targets; and

(e) the action being taken to ensure that these companies fulfill their commitment?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) (i) For six licences issued in 1997-98 for Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab service areas, a weightwage of 15% was given to the number of VPTs voluntarily committed to be provided by the private companies during the first three year from effective date of the licence. In the event of villages still remaining uncovered on completion of the said three years period, the licence stipulated an obligation on the part of the Licensee to maintain or exceed its committed rate till all villages get covered with VPTs.

(ii) For licences issued in 2001, the conditions stipulate coverage of all categories Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs which are typically Tehsils) viz., urban, semi-urban and rural SDCAs in equal proportion during each phase of the roll out obligation at the end of 2,3,5 and 7 years from the effective date of the licence.

(b) No Sir. However they have expressed difficulties in meeting the obligations.

(c) The private companies reported to have provided 4252 VPTs till 31 October, 2002.

(d) M/s Tata Teleservices (in Andhra Pradesh), M/s Hughes Telecom (in Maharashtra), M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. (in Madhya Pradesh), M/s Reliance Telecom (in Gujarat), M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. (in Rajasthan) and M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. (in Punjab) have not been able to fulfil their committed performance obligations.

(e) They have consistently been insisted upon by the Government to complete their unfulfilled performance obligations either by themselves or by working out arrangements to utilize the infrastructure of other service providers in their service area.

Ineffective Polio Drops

*416. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are three types of the polio viruses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the polio drops being administered to children at present in the country are not proving to be effective against all these viruses; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to tackle this situation effectively?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) There are three types of Polio Viruses namely P1, P2 and P3. Of the type P2 has been eradicated from the World.

The Oral Polio Vaccine, is procured by Government of India and UNICEF and supplied to the States, is of international quality. The manufacturers from whom the vaccine is procured are being accredited by WHO from time to time. The bulk vaccine is procured by the manufacturers from WHO approved sources. The Oral Polio Vaccine is fully effective against all three types of polio viruses. Each batch of vaccine is tested and certified by the Central Drug Research Laboratory, Kasauli for potency and efficacy before the same is released for use in the field.

[English]

Inland Waterways Development

*417. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India has worked out a model agreement for inviting private

participation in making river waters a more developed mode of transport;

(b) if so, the salient features of this model agreement;

(c) whether any discussions took place with the private sector before formulating this model agreement;

(d) if so, the major hurdles, if any, being faced in enlisting private participation in inland waterways development; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure practical kind of policy for inland waterways development?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In this sector while the Government of India are committed to the creation of a facultative environment in which greater movement of cargo and passengers can take place on National Waterways, State Governments are encouraged to assist in this task and to ensure greater popularity of this mode of transportation. A revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme in which larger amounts of Central assistance flow to the States has, recently been put in place. In order to encourage greater involvement of private sector in this area, the following package of measures has been approved:

- Formation of Joint ventures with private sector for inland Water projects;
- Equity participation upto maximum of 40% by Government in BOT projects.
- Enhancement in depreciation rate for inland vessels at par with the rate applicable to ocean-going vessels;
- Vessel Building Subsidy of 30% for ship owners for inland vessels built in Indian Shipyard; and
- Levying minimum customs duty on imported equipment and machinery for the development for the development of inland waterways.

[Translation]

Doctor-Patient Ratio

*418. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is huge gap in the doctor-patient ratio in the urban and rural areas of the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to narrow this gap at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Medical Council of India has informed that the doctor population ratio at present works out to approximately 1:1800. Apart from this, there are 6,18,124 registered medical practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

As per Medical Council of India, there are sufficient number of doctors to take care of health care services all over the country including rural areas. The problem is one of mal-distribution. Since, health is a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the respective States to take corrective measures in this regard. However, the Central Government has advised the State Governments from time to time to take the following steps to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas:-

- To resort to decentralized recruitment of doctors.
- To appoint doctors on contract basis, wherever feasible.
- To improve infrastructure facilities for doctors and remove their hardships.
- To take steps to fill up vacancies of Specialists in CHCs and Medical Officers in PHCs by making rural services obligatory for 3 years.
- To reserve 25% of postgraduate seats in Medical Colleges, for in-service candidates who have worked in rural areas for at least three years with a bond that they will serve the Government for at least five years.

[English]

Representation from Doctors

*419. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various associations of Doctors who have obtained degrees from medical colleges in the

erstwhile USSR have represented to the Medical Council of India (MCI) against unfavourable treatment being meted out to them;

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

(c) the Government's reaction on such representations?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Some of the Indian students who have obtained their primary medical degree from the medical institutions in the erstwhile USSR have individually and through their associations represented to the Central Government requesting for exemption from the requirement of qualifying the Screening test from the purpose of grant of registration to them to practice medicine in India. It has not been possible for the Government to agree to the request made by the students as the requirement of qualifying the Screening test is as per the provisions of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2001 and the Screening test Regulations, 2002 framed thereunder. As per these Regulations, any Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India, who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with Medical Council of India or any State Medical Councils on or after 15th March 2002 shall have to qualify the Screening test conducted by the prescribed authority for that purpose. The primary medical qualification possessed by the Indian students must be a recognised medical qualification for enrolment as medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated and which is equivalent to MBBS in India.

National Small Scale Industries Corporation

*420. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the National Small Scale Industries Corporation (NSSIC) have drawn up schemes to restructure small and medium enterprises in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the small and medium enterprises in the country are not being properly encouraged resulting in adverse impact on growth of such units; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and concrete steps taken to encourage small and medium enterprises 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 National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) has drawn up many schemes to promote, aid & foster the growth of small scale industries in the country.

(b) To cater to the new requirements of SSIs new schemes are formulated from time to time. Some of the new scheme drawn up by NSIC to enable SSIs to be competitive in the globalized economy are "Mentoring Services", "Credit Rating of SSIs" etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Medical Wastes

*421. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that hospitals in the country do not dispose of medical wastes properly resulting in pollution as well as diseases;

(b) if so, whether the scientists have developed plasma incinerators to instantly vaporize hazardous medical wastes;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to install incinerators compulsory in all the Government hospitals; and

(d) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 have already been notified by the Government of India under Sections 6, 8 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) for safe disposal of bio-medical wastes through incinerators and other technologies such as autoclaving, micro waving etc., without causing any adverse effect to human health and environment. Under the said rules, State Pollution Control

Boards and Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories have been designated as 'Prescribed Authorities' for effective implementation of these Rules in the States/Union Territories. It has been reported that Gujarat Plasma Research Institute under the aegis of Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has developed a Plasma Technology for treatment of bio-medical waste. But, the same has not yet emerged for commercial use in India to treat bio-medical wastes.

Market Borrowings by BSNL

4413. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is trying to resort to market borrowings to mop-up nearly Rs. 1000 crore to pay wage arrears to its Group "C" and "D" employees;

(b) whether the company is finding it difficult to raise resources from the market; and

(c) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. BSNL is not resorting to market borrowings for the above purpose.

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

[Translation]

Attacks on People of Indian Origin in South Africa

4414. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the people of Indian origin in South Africa have, of late, been the victims of brutal attacks and that a number of persons of Indian origin have been killed during the past few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the issue with the Government of South Africa; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) There have some reported attacks on South Africans of Indian origin in the Kwazula-Natal province of South Africa. The crime situation in South Africa is affecting the whole of South African society. Therefore, there has been no specific or exclusive targeting of South African persons of Indian origin. This is an internal matter of South African persons of Indian origin. This is an internal matter of South Africa and is being dealt with by the South African Government.

[English]

Bofors Pay-Off

4415. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Court passed severe strictures against CBI for having delayed the registration of FIR in the Bofors pay-off case;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Hon'ble Court also observed that there was massive cover-up operation at the Government level to bury the truth; 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) to (c) While disposing of the petitions filed by the accused for dismissal of the charge-sheet on 29.8.2002, and issuing order on charge on 14.11.20902, the Court of Special Judge, New Delhi has, *inter-alia* said that CBI delayed the registration of FIR for a considerable period, between April 1988 and January 1990. About the role of the then Government, the Court has commented that, "... ... ... there was a massive cover-up operation at the Government level so that the truth about the pay-offs/ bribes is not revealed. CBI also seems to be utilized for the purpose."

(d) Following the directions of the Supreme Court issued on 18.12.97 in Vineet Narain's case, for ensuring that the CBI functions effectively and efficiently and is viewed as a non-partisan agency, the Central Government has;

(i) Constituted a Selection Board headed by the Central Vigilance Commissioner to recommend senior level appointments for the Bureau;

(ii) Entrusted the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to periodically review the performance of CBI;

(iii) Introduced in the Parliament the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999, which provides for assigning the superintendence by CVC of the working of CBI for ensuring visible objectivity in its functioning.

(iv) In exercise of its powers under Section 3(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, set up A Special Court on 8.2.2002 for holding day-to day trial of the Bofors case.

Provision of Divider on National Highway No. 58

4416. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents are increasing on National Highway No. 58 because of non-existence of divider thereon;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide divider on the said National Highway on priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) No data on accidents caused due to absence of divider have been collected.

(b) to (d) Dividers are provided on highways having atleast 4 lanes width or more. Wherever NH-58 is 4/6 lane, dividers have already been provided.

Construction of Quarters at Parbhani

4417. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct quarters for postal staff working at Parbhani and Nanded (Maharashtra) in view of availability of ample area in the post complex;

(b) if so, by when work on the project is likely to be taken up; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

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

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

(c) In view of non-availability of sufficient funds, it is not proposed to take up construction of staff quarters at Nanded and Parbhani.

Appointments

4418. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has appointed some people with political affiliations to a particular party as part-time Directors on the MTNL Board with certain facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines were framed or laid down for the appointment of part-time Directors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to scrap those appointments and to select the people on the basis of laid down guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, besides two part time Government Directors following four persons have been appointed based on their qualifications subject to the approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

1. Mrs. Monika
2. Mr. Adhik Shirodkar
3. Mr. Shwin Somnath Vyas
4. Dr. Jagdish Shettigar

(c) and (d) The Department of the Public Enterprises has farmed guidelines and yardsticks for appointment of non-official part-time Directors.

(e) No, Sir.

Internet Usage

4419. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there has been an increase in the use of the Internet in the country to access Government services or products available online;

(b) if so, whether there is an increase in perception of safety by Internet in disclosing their personal information while using on line Government services; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to encourage increased use of the Internet and computers for work concerning the Government like tracing records, filling up forms, paying bills etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) In the last two years there has been considerable increase in the use of Internet to access Government Information. More and more Government Departments/Ministries at the Centre and the State level are publishing information on the web. Interactive services like downloadable forms, online feedback, public grievance submission and other similar services are being made available through the Internet. As per the information available from National Informatics Centre (NIC) who are providing these Services, have observed on an average, 40% 50% growth in usage of Internet in the Government sector.

(b) Presently, most of the on-line Government services provided over Internet are related to dissemination of Information such as Public Exam Results, Government forms, tender notices, Information about Government Departments, etc. This does not require any personal information from users to access these sites. However, with the coming of transaction based Government services in a year or two safety/security aspect will be an important concern with in the purview of IT Act 2000.

(c) Government of India has taken up several measures to promote e-Governance and use of Information Technology in the Central and State Governments. The Planning Commission constituted a Working Group on Convergence and e-Governance for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007).

Minimum Agenda for e-Governance in the Ministries/ Departments of the Central Governments has been prepared and is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Minimum Agenda for E-Governance in the Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government

- Each Ministry/Department must set up Local Area Networks (LANs) and provide Personal Computers (PCs) with necessary software up the Section Officer level.
- 100% training of all staff who have access to an need to use computers for their office work should be ensured.
- Each Ministry/Department would start using the Office Procedure Automation software developed by NIC with a view to keeping a record of receipt of dak, issue of letters, as well as movement of files in the department.
- Pay roll accounting and other house-keeping software should be put to use in day-to-day operations.
- Notices for internal meeting should be sent by email to the officers and also put up on online notice boards of the Ministry/Department.
- Ministries/Departments should use the Web-enabled Grievance.
- Redress Software developed by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances.
- Each Ministry/Departments should have its own website.
- All Acts, Rules, Circulars should be converted into electronic form and, along with other published material of interest or relevance to the public, should be made available on the internet and be accessible from the Information and Facilitation Counter.
- The websites of Ministries/Departments/ Organisations should specifically contain a section in which various forms to be used by citizens/customers are available. The forms should be available for being printed out or for being completed on the computer itself and then printed out for submission. Attempts should also be made to enable completion and submission of forms online.

- The Hindi version of the content of the websites should be developed simultaneously, as far as possible.
- Each Ministry/Department would also make efforts to develop packages so as to begin electronic delivery of services to the public.
- Each Ministry/Department should have an overall IT version or strategy for a five year period, within which it could do detail specific action plans and targets (including the minimum agenda) to be implemented within one year.

[Translation]

Digging of Telephone Lines

4420. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines, if any, laid down in regard to digging up to a certain depth while laying telephone cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the same are not being followed while laying telephone cables in Churu district during the last three years;

(d) if so, the location-wise details of digging undertaken for laying telephone cable during the last three years;

(e) whether complaints have been received to the effect that the payment has already been made by some officials as per the rule in cases where the guidelines were violated; and

(f) the action taken on such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the existing guidelines telephone cables are to be normally laid at a depth of one meter.

(c) No, Sir. The Guidelines on telephone cable laying are being strictly followed everywhere except one complaint which had been received in this regard.

(d) Location-wise details of digging in Churu District.

(i) Sujangarh (Town)—24.556 Kms

(ii) Bhimsar-Khadaya—14.884 Kms

(iii) Kalhasar-Lalpur

(iv) Bimsar (Exch Area)-4.107 Kms

(v) Salasar (Town)—5.584 Kms

(vi) Chariya Village—8.486 Kms

Total—57.617 Kms

(e) Yes, Sir. One such complaint had been received.

(f) Disciplinary action against the suspected official has been initiated and action regarding recovery of overpayment against the contractor is in process.

[English]

Indian Hockey Team

4421. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Hockey Team was denied entry to the men's hockey event in the Commonwealth Games held at Manchester;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the hockey teams from countries not forming part of the Commonwealth have been allowed participation in the games;

(d) if so, the basis for this participation in the said games;

(e) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the organisers of Commonwealth Games; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) As per the Federation International De Hockey (FIH) laid down criteria for qualification, the highest ranked Asian Nation in the recent world and/or Continental competition form the Asian region qualified for the event in Manchester. Indian team did not meet this criterion.

(c) No, sir.

(d) to (f) In view of reply given at (c), do not arise.

Linux on Schools

4422. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the Free Operating System called LINUX in Schools 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Difference between Dispensaries and Units of CGHS

4423. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any difference between the functioning of Dispensaries and Units of CGHS for ISM&H (Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy) in respect of medicines and nature of work of staff as well as duty timings;

(b) if so, the reasons for not maintaining the uniform staffing pattern in Dispensaries and Units;

(c) whether there was any proposal to upgrade these Units as Dispensaries; and

(d) if so, by when these are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) No, Sir. There is no difference in respect of medicines, duty timings and nature of work between an ISM&H dispensary and an ISM&H Unit.

(b) to (d) 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.

Mobile Dispensary

4424. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal/demand for creating mobile dispensary at Mulshi Taluka, Pune for backward and other classes for the project of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Medical Trust;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Grant-in-aid was available to Voluntary Organisatations/ NGOs under the following schemes:-

(i) Special Health Scheme for Rural Areas: Financial assistance under this Scheme was provided to Voluntary Organisations/NGOs for setting up of new hospitals in rural areas. The scheme has been discontinued from the financial year 2001-02.

(iii) Scheme for Improvement of Medical Services: Financial assistance under this scheme was available to Voluntary Organisations/NGOs running hospitals in rural areas or catering to urban slums for expansion of hospital building/ purchase of equipment. This scheme has been discontinued from the current financial year 2002-03.

No proposal/demand for financial assistance for creation of mobile dispensary at Mulshi Taluka, Pune for the project of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Medical Trust was received under the aforesaid two schemes.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Post Offices

4425. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices in Gujarat in which computers have been installed and registration through computers has been started during the last three years;

(b) the names of the computerised post Offices, district-wise; and

(c) the Post Offices in which the Government propose to computerise and start registration through computers during current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) During the last three years, 139 Post Offices in Gujarat have been computerized and registration through computers has been started.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

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

Statement

District-wise List of OST Offices Computerised in Gujarat during last three years

S.No.	District	Name of Post Office
1	2	3
1.	**Ahmedabad**	Ahmedabad GPO
2.		Navrangpura HO
3.		Navijivan
4.		N.C. Market
5.		Gandhi Road
6.		Paldi
7.		Manek Chowk
8.		Maninagar
9.		Ambawadi Vistar
10.		District Court
11.		Civil Hospital
12.		Railwaypura
13.		R.U. Vistar
14.		Ellisbridge
15.		Shahibang
16.		Ghatlodiya
17.		Sabarmati
18.		Narodoa IE
19.		Revdi Bazar HO
20.		N.P. Vistar
21.	**Anand**	Anand HO
22.		V.V. Nagar
23.		Dakor
24.	**Kheda**	Kheda HO
25.		Nadiad HO
26.	**Valsad**	Valsad HO
27.		Vapi I.E.
28.		Vapi
29.	**Bharuch**	Bharuch
30.		Ankleshwar
31.		Ankleshwar IE
32.		Jambusar
33.	**Narmada Dist**	Rajpipla
34.	**Surat**	Bardoli HO
35.		Sardarbag
36.		Vyara
37.		Ahwa Dang
38.		Chalthan
39.		Udhna
40.		Sachin
41.		Surat HO
42.		Nanpura HO
43.		Havyug College
44.		Surat Textile Market
45.		Surat RS
46.		S.V.R. College
47.		Bhagal
48.	**Dahod**	Dahod HO
49.	**Godhra**	Godhra HO

1	2	3
50.		Lunawada
51.	**Vadodara**	Vadodara HO
52.		Dabhoi HO
53.		Ajwa Road
54.		Fatepura
55.		Karelibag
56.		Pratapnagar
57.		ONGC PO
58.		Mandvi
59.		Wadi S.N. Road
60.		MI Estate
61.		Fateganj HO
62.		Race Course
63.		Sayaji HO
64.		Chemical IE
65.		VN Colony
66.		Jawaharnagar
67.		Fartilizer Nagar
68.		Petro Chemical
69.		Miyagam Karjan
70.		Padra
71.	**Navsari Distt.**	Navsari HO
72.		Bilimora HO
73.		Gandevi
74.		Chikhli
75.		Malesar
76.		Vansda
77.		Maroli Bazar
78.		Amalsad
79.		Eru AC PO
80.	**Banaskantha**	Palampur HO
81.		Disa HO
82.		Tharad
83.	**Patan**	Patan HO
84.		Chanasma
85.		Radhanpur
86.	**Sabarkantha**	Himatnagar HO
87.		Modasa
88.		Idar
89.		Talod
90.	**Gandhinagar**	Gandhinagar HO
91.		Vatva IE
92.		Gjuarat High Court
93.		Odhav IE
94.		Sanand
95.		New Sachivalaya Complex
96.		Sector 28 PO
97.		Sector 16 PO
98.		Viramgan
99.		Dholka HO
100.		Kalol
101.		Mansa
102.	**Mahesana**	Mahesana HO
103.		Unjha
104.		Vijapur
105.		Visnagar

1	2	3
106.	**Amreli**	Amreli HO
107.		Savarkundla
108.		Rajula
109.	**Bhavnagar**	Bhavnagar HO
110.		Botad
111.		Mahuwa SO
112.		Alang Shipping Break Yard
113.	**Bhuj**	Bhuj HO
114.		Anjar
115.		Adipur
116.		Gandhidham
117.		Mandvi HO
118.	**Junagadh**	Junagadh HO
119.		Azadchowk
120.		Veraval
121.		Keshod
122.		Una
123.	**Porbandar**	Porbandar
124.	**Surendranagar**	Surendranagar HO
125.		Dhrangadhra HO
126.	**Rajkot**	Rajkot HO
127.		Bhaktinagar
128.		Bedipara
129.		Rajkot City
130.		Rajkot P.A. Chowk
131.		Morbi
132.		Gondle HO
133.		Jetpur
134.		Dhoraji
135.		Business Centre
136.		Jamnagar HO
137.		Khambhalia HO
138.		Dwarka
139.		Digvijay Plot Jamnagar

[English]

Space constraints in Indian Embassy in Qatar

4426. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Embassy in Qatar is facing many problems on account of lack of space;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to tide over the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) No Sir. The presently rented premises of the Indian Embassy in Doha, which have been occupied since 1987, provide sufficient space for the current staff strength of the Embassy. No problems have been faced in regard to office space of the Embassy for day-to-day functioning. Some space constraint has been faced in regard to the Consular Hall of the Embassy on days when they have a large number of visitors in connection with passport, consular, labour and visa work. To address such issues, the Government have approved construction of a new Embassy building, which has been designed keeping in mind our total requirements.

Bridge Over Jiabharali

4427. SHRI M.K. SUBBBA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to

the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1084 on December 6, 1999 and state:

(a) the progress so far made in construction of the over-bridge over the river Jiabharali at Chowkighat, flanked with guide bunds and approaches including realignment of NH-52 from NH-37A to Jamuguri via Chowkighat;

(b) the total estimated cost of the project, and the amount sanctioned therefor, indicating item-wise details thereof and the details of the construction schedule; and

(c) how far the project is behind schedule and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) In December 2001, this Ministry had returned the proposal of Model study to Assam State PWD stating that NH 52 has been transferred to Border Roads Organization (BRO). State PWD have not sent the above proposal to Border Roads Organization so far.

(b) It is too early to give these details at this state.

(c) Does not arise.

Units of ISM&H

4428. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy for setting up more units of Indian Medicine System by public sector for their employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) details of the units of Indian Medicine System functioning at present in various PSUs in comparison to allopathy system; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase use of Indian System of Medicine at various levels?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) This Department is not aware of any such policy.

(c) Such data is not available with the Department. However, at present, 349 ISM dispensaries are functioning under Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Coal, for their employees and employees of organizations under them.

(d) To promote and popularise the Indian System of Medicines, this Department has taken steps to (i) Strengthen Undergraduate and Post-graduate Educational Institutes in the Systems, (ii) Strengthen State Pharmacies and Laboratories, (iii) Standardise Pharmacopoeia (iv) encourage Intra-mural and extra-mural research, (v) extend assistance for holding Conferences and Seminars and (vi) Information Education & Communication (IEC) activities etc.

National Highways in Kerala

4429. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the State of Kerala regarding development of National Highways in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Request for construction of Bypasses, Road Over Bridges and realignment of certain stretches of National Highways passing through Kerala were received.

(c) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. Ministry has recently sanctioned 4 development works in Kerala regarding realignment and Road Over Bridge on NH-17 at a total cost of Rs. 3559.58 Lakhs. Some of these works are currently in progress. At present the emphasis is on improvement of the existing sections of National Highways. Other proposals received from the State shall be taken up in future depending upon the availability of funds and inter se priority of works.

Medical College/Hospital at Bodoland Territory

4430. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Medical College and a branch of AIIMS at Kokrajhar and

renovation and improvement of the existing infrastructure in the Bodoland Territory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Central Government.

[Translation]

Post Offices

4431. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether local telephone facility has been provided in all the post offices and sub-post offices of Bihar;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken to provide this facility in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Telephone facility has been provided in 648 departmental Post offices out of 1041 departmental post offices in the State of Bihar. Postal Division-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Directions have been issued to provide telephone connections to all the departmental post offices. However, connections are provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited subject to availability of resources.

Statement

Number of Post Offices in Bihar Circle and P.O.s having telephone facilities

Sl. No.	Name of Dn.	Total no. of departmental P.O.s			Departmental P.O.s where telephone facilities available		
		H.O.s	S.O.s	Total	H.O.s	S.O.s	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Aurangabad	1	34	35	1	21	22
2.	Bhagalpur	2	51	53	2	43	45
3.	Bhojpur	2	71	72	2	58	60
4.	Gaya	2	51	53	2	34	36
5.	Munger	2	43	46	2	32	34
6.	Patna	1	94	95	1	36	37
7.	Patna GPO	1	0	1	1	0	1
8.	Nalanda	1	41	42	1	31	32
9.	Rohtas	1	47	48	1	26	27
10.	Vaishali	1	29	30	1	21	22
11.	Begusarai	1	42	43	1	34	35
12.	Darbhanga	2	43	45	2	29	31
13.	Motihari	1	44	45	1	26	27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Madhubani	1	39	40	1	29	30
15.	Muzzffarpur	1	54	55	1	26	27
16.	Purnea	2	61	63	2	25	27
17.	Saharsa	1	48	49	1	29	30
18.	Samastipur	1	28	29	1	10	11
19.	Sitamarhi	1	40	41	1	19	20
20.	Saran	2	52	54	2	34	36
21.	Siwan	2	54	56	2	26	28
22.	Betiah	1	22	23	1	19	20
23.	Nawadah	1	23	24	1	9	10
	Total	31	1010	1041	31	617	648

Supply of Medicines and Equipment to J&K

4432. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medicines and medical equipment are in short supply in Government hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the demand and supply of these items during the last three years; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure adequate supply of medicines and medical equipments in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to provide medical facilities to the people according to their need and resource available with them. Therefore, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not maintain such information.

NHDP

4433. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount proposed to be spent on National Highways Development Project during 2002-2003;

(b) the work done under this project upto October, 2002;

(c) the amount spent so far on this project; and

(d) the number of metropolises likely to be connected under the first phase (Swarn Chaturbhuj) of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI]: (a) An amount of Rs. 10,585 crores is expected to be spent on NHDP Phase-I during the year 2002-2003.

(b) Status of NHDP as on 30th October, 2002, is as under:

(i) Golden Quadrilateral Project

Total Length	:	5846 km.
Completed/4-laned	:	1159 km.
Under Implementation	:	4551 km.
To be awarded	:	136 km.
Date of substantial completion	:	December, 2003.

(ii) North-South & East-West Corridor Project

Total Length	:	7300 km.
Completed/4-laned	:	817 km.

Under Implementation	:	671 km.
To be awarded		5812 km.
Date of completion		December, 2007

(c) An amount of Rs. 10,158.01 crores has been spent upto October, 2002.

(d) Four metropolitan cities namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata will be connected under the first phase (Swarn Chaturbhuj) of this project.

[English]

Maintenance of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

4434. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the allocation made to Andhra Pradesh for development, maintenance and repair of National Highways in the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 so far;

(b) the number of bridges constructed, during the last three years, under construction at present and pending for finalization;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to delay completion of these projects, estimated cost has increased; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by Government to ensure that cost do not escalate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD). B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Allocation made to Andhra Pradesh for development, maintenance and repair of National Highways in the year 2001-02 and 2002-03 is given as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Plan (for development)	Non-Plan (for maintenance & repair)	Total
2001-2002	103.80	42.20	146.00
2002-2003	88.00	33.37	121.37

(b) No. bridges constructed during last three years (from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002) — 25 Nos.

No. of bridges under construction as on date — 05 Nos

No. of bridge proposals pending for finalization — 02 Nos

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Test Tube Baby Clinics

4435. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted by the Government regarding functioning of the Test Tube Body Clinics particularly in big cities like Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore and the Capitals of the States;

(b) whether Government have proposed guidelines for the regulation of these clinics; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Council of Medical Research along-with National Academy of Medical Sciences has drafted the National Guidelines for Accreditation, supervision and regulation of ART Clinics (Test Tube Baby Clinics) in India. The draft guidelines have been released for public debate to obtain the view of other concerned professionals/Scientists/Organisations/people, etc.

IT Export to Japan

4436. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IT Industry is facing any hurdles in IT exports to Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to remove the hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 1. Charging of 20% withholding tax on payment against export of Software and Services from India by interpreting the same as Technical Services.

2. Language problems.

(c): 1. The issue of charging of 20% withholding tax was taken up by the Indian competent Authority with their counterpart Japanese Competent Authority and their Tax Policy Division in a recent visit to Japan. However, the issue has not yet been resolved as it involves interpretation of Indo-Japan Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and reaching a mutually acceptable understanding.

2. Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India is supplementing the efforts of Indian IT Industry through a Scheme "Language Related Market Access Facilitation Initiative" (LRMAFI) to help exporters learn Japanese language. Under the Scheme, 75% of the tuition fee is reimbursed.

Medicines in CGHS

4437. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have stopped the practice of indenting medicines for the CGHS patients due to which CGHS beneficiaries are in great difficulty for the last one month or so;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is sharp decrease in the patients approaching the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi as a result of the above;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the quantum of amount saved by the Government during the period compared to previously; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The authorised local chemists appointed under CGHS Delhi have gone on strike from 1.11.2002 to till date due to withholding of 10% amount from their bills on account of Sales Tax and delayed payment of their pending bills by the CGHS. The issue is under reference to the C&AG.

At present, the availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries is not adequate. Due to the ongoing strike of the authorised local chemists of CGHS Delhi, the beneficiaries have been allowed to purchase the medicines from open market and get reimbursement of the expenses incurred on this account from the Govt. Arrangements have also been made for making reimbursement to CGHS pensioner beneficiaries in the concerned CGHS dispensary itself.

In the present context, steps have been taken to procure generic as well as proprietary medicines through the Hospital Services Constancy Corporation (India) Limited. The supplies have already started arriving in CGHS Delhi.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. The dispensary-wise attendance of patients under CGHS Delhi during the month of November, 2002 (when the authorised local chemists of CGHS Delhi have gone on strike) as compared to the attendance figures of November, 2001 is given in the enclosed statement.

The financial loss or savings cannot be quantified since the reimbursement claims of CGHS beneficiaries for purchasing medicines from the open market during the period of the chemists strike is preferred by the serving employees in the office where they are working whereas in the case of pensioners, the claims are preferred with the CGHS. Further, the details of the clumps preferred by the saving employees with the concerned Deptts. are not maintained by the CGHS.

In addition to the steps taken by the Govt. mentioned in the reply to part (a) & (b) above, an additional amount of Rs. 8.00 crore was allocated on 5.11.2002 and the bills of the authorised local chemists of CGHS, Delhi which were received in the CGHS (HQ) up to 30.9.2002 have been cleared for payment.

Statement

The comparative statement of patients attendance in CGHS dispensaries Delhi during November 2001 and November 2002.

S.No.	Name of dispensary	November, 2001	November, 2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Andrews Ganj	3568	2988
2.	Dakshinpuri	9810	7223
3.	Hauz Khas	6858	4234
4.	Jangpura	2222	1801
5.	Kalkaji. I	5875	3323
6.	Kalkaji. II	3489	2315
7.	Kasturba Nagar. I	5398	6252
8.	Kasturba Nagar. II	4098	3894
9.	Kidwai Nagar	11891	4682
10.	Laxmibai Nagar	9727	2160
11.	Lajpat Nagar	4343	4580
12.	Moti Bagh	4580	3072
13.	Munirka	3556	2643
14.	M.B. Road	10320	10445
15.	Malviya Nagar	3728	2910
16.	Nanakpura	8204	2983
17.	Netaji Nagar	5397	2632
18.	Nauroji Nagar	5948	2544
19.	R.K. Puram. I	8278	6627
20.	R.K. Puram. II	6485	5462
21.	R.K. Puram. III	7304	4118
22.	R.K. Puram. IV	6372	3641
23.	R.K. Puram. V	7492	4248
24.	R.K. Puram. VI	4160	3000
25.	Sorojini Nagar. I	5269	2804
26.	Sarojini Nagar II	3884	5285
27.	Sarojini Nagar Mkt.	4654	2841
28.	Sadiq Nagar	9365	6500
29.	Srinivaspuri	7716	5285
30.	Aliganj	6559	3393
31.	Chankyapuri	2089	1346
32.	Chitragupta Road	6514	2371
33.	Constitution House	3150	2940
34.	Gole Market	7228	7172
35.	Kali Bari	6236	2609
36.	Lodi Road	7590	3722
37.	Minto Road	5717	2946
38.	North Avenue	5907	1615
39.	Paharganj	5746	3352
40.	Pandara Road	5422	1880
41.	Pragati Vihar	3588	1976
42.	President Estate	2603	1077
43.	South Avenue	4790	2015
44.	Telegraph Lane	1849	1596
45.	Dr. Z.H. Road	4477	1870
46.	Faridabad	9749	6469
47.	Ghaziabad	11668	5880
48.	Gurgaon	9286	5315
49.	Noida	11760	8660
50.	Laxmi Nagar	12456	5455
51.	Rajpur Road	1801	1077
52.	Subzi Mandi	4721	3850
53.	Kingsway Camp	19401	14573
54.	Naveen Shahdara	8672	6500
55.	Vivek Vihar	5612	3709
56.	Timarpur	9283	4636
57.	Chandni Chowk	3020	746
58.	G.K.G.	8724	7428

1	2	3	4
59.	Dilshad Garden	5650	3700
60.	Mayur Vihar	15098	10113
61.	Pul Bangash	2760	1375
62.	Yamuna Vihar	8037	4691
63.	Darya Ganj	3400	1050
64.	Ashok Vihar	6792	4250
65.	Delhi Cantt.	5436	3116
66.	Dev Nagar	4315	2467
67.	Hari Nagar	9365	7228
68.	Inder Puri	5267	3750
69.	Janak Puri-I	16466	12404
70.	Janak Puri-II	10686	9550
71.	Karol Bagh	2215	1132
72.	Nariana Vihar	3418	2375
73.	New Rajinder Nagar	5491	4150
74.	East Patel Nagar	5943	2302
75.	West Patel Nagar	8272	6860
76.	Nangal Raya	10700	6286
77.	Pusa Road	2178	1465
78.	Palam Colony	11589	7847
79.	Rajouri Garden	8489	6090
80.	Pitam Pura	10013	9650
81.	Rohini	6845	4514
82.	Paschim Vihar	8648	6925
83.	Shakur Basti	5793	3556
84.	Sunder Vihar	5302	3471
85.	Tilak Nagar	13622	9025
86.	Tri Nagar	3675	3040

Establishment of Consulate Services by Malaysia

4438. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Malaysia proposes to start its consulate services in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(d) the manner in which the consulate services are likely to benefit both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The High Commission of Malaysia in New Delhi already provides consular services on an ad-hoc basis as and when required, in Bangalaore, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

(d) Apart from providing consular assistance to Malaysian nationals based in the above mentioned cities, such services promote greater people to people contact by easing travel between the people of the two countries.

Petrol/Diesel Cess Collections of Mumbai

4439. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to petrol-diesel cess collected from Mumbai during last two years;

(b) is it true that Mumbai does not have major highways;

(c) what is the amount of such cess collected for Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral Project from Mumbai during last two years:

(d) the amount that has been spent on Mumbai from such cess;

(e) what are the guidelines in this regard;

(f) whether special guidelines, relaxation of norms for a city like Mumbai are being considered;

(g) whether any requests were received from MPs; and

(h) the details thereof and the response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) As per information received

from Ministry of Finance the Cess collection by Mumbai Commissionerate during 2000-2001 was Rs. 245.49 crore and during 2001-2002 (upto November 2001) is Rs. 147.22 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) As per CRF Act 2000, 57.5% of the total amount accrued from 50% of total cess on diesel and 100% cess on petrol is allocated for development and maintenance of National Highways. This amount is generally allocated by the Ministry for National Highways Development Project (NHDP). As per guidelines for CRF, the amount received from cess is not required to be earmarked for region from where it is collected. Amounts received from cess for NHDP during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are Rs. 2100 crore and Rs. 2000 crore respectively.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. Request from one Member of Parliament for considering approval of 3 works on eastern Expressway on Mumbai, as a special case under Central Road Fund (CRF) has been received. The guidelines of CRF for improvement of State roads provides approval of schemes for improvement of roads in urban areas like Mumbai city if recommended by the State Government concerned. These three proposals for Mumbai city recommended by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament have not been recommended by the State Government of Maharashtra. State Government has been requested to consider these proposals for recommendations appropriately. However, four works in Mumbai city on Eastern and Western Expressway aggregating to an amount of Rs. 7.11 crore have already been approved.

[Translation]

Medicine for Snake Bite

4440. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the scientists at the V.M. Scientific Research Foundation, Bangalore have developed a special kind of hen (Golden hen) whose egg would be helpful in producing medicine for snake-bite; and.

(b) if so, the viewpoint of the Government with regard to the aforesaid experiment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) according to Indian Council of Medical Research, V.M. Scientific Research Foundation Bangalore is reported to have successfully developed Anti-Snake Venom in chicken egg immunizing Leghorn Birds with Sub lethal doses of each type of snake venom. The research is reported to have reached a fairly advanced stage and the anti snake venom extracted from the eggs is being tested for its purity, efficacy and safety before it could be submitted for clinical trials.

[English]

VSAT in Tamilnadu

4441. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) at Tenkari in Tamilnadu to enable growth of industries in nearby areas;

(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) VSAT service in the country is provided by VSAT Service Providers and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to potential user/customer who wants to avail of the VSAT service. As per VSAT Services Association of India (VSAI) and BSNL, there is no proposal to set up a VSAT in Tenkasi in Tamilnadu as there is no requirement for the same.

Stagnation in CSS

4442. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inter-ministerial Committee of the Senior Officers was constituted by the Union Government to address the problem of stagnation faced by the CSS Officers;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee;

(c) whether the recommendations made by the Committee have been examined by the Government;

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

(e) the action taken/proposed to be 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 (e) A Committee of Senior Officers was constituted for the cadre restructuring of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) in February 2001. This Committee has submitted its report in February 2002. A Statement indicating the salient features of its main recommendations is enclosed. No final decision has been taken on these recommendations.

Statement

Salient features of the main recommendations of the Committee of Senior Officers on Cadre Restructuring of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) are as under:

1. Restructured cadre strength of CSS to comprise 110 posts in Senior Selection Grade to be designated as Director, 330 posts in Selection Grade (Deputy Secretary), 1400 posts in Grade I (Under Secretary), 3000 posts in Section Officers' Grade and 5500 posts in Assistants' Grade.

2. Stoppage of Direct Recruitment in Section Officers' Grade.

3. Introduction of a non-functional scale of Rs. 8000-13500 for Section Officers.

4. Centralization of the cadre management of the grades of Assistant and Section Officer with DOP&T for the purpose of seniority, promotion and inter-cadre transfer and the cadre management of the CSS to be entrusted with the CS Division of DOP&T.

5. The future promotions to be vacancy based and no further *in situ* upgradations.

6. Stoppage of entry of Stenographers Grade 'C' through Limited Departmental Competitive Examination for the post of Section Officer and that of private Secretary to the Grade of Under Secretary in the matter of promotion.

7. The issue of application of DOP&T OM dated 28.3.1988 regarding delinking for confirmation from availability of permanent posts with retrospective effect in CSS to be processed on file.

8. Revision of pay scale of Section Officers retrospectively w.e.f. 01.01.1986 not recommended.

9. Granting of Group 'A' status to Section Officers and earmarking of posts in the grades of SAG and above for CSS not recommended.

10. The Central Secretariat Clerical Service (CSCS) to be restructured and the number of posts in the Grade of Lower Division Clerk (LDC) and Upper Division Clerk (UDC) to be 15% (809) and 10% (538) of the existing posts respectively. As a one time exception, all additional posts in the grade of Assistant, as a result of cadre restructuring, to be filled by promotion of eligible UDCs.

Separate Cadre for Medical Teachers

4443. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:
SHRI PADMANAVA BEHERA:

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

(a) whether there is a separate full cadre of medical teachers posted in various Central Government run medical colleges like Lady Hardinge Medical College, JIPMER and Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to form a full cadre of such medical teachers?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) The Central Health Service comprises four sub cadres. Teaching sub cadre is one of them. The officers of this sub cadre are posted in the Central Government run medical colleges like Lady Hardinge Medical College, JIPMER and Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College. No decision to form a separate cadre of medical teachers out of Central Health Service has been taken.

Mechanised Coal Handling Facilities

4444. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided mechanised coal handling facilities in Paradip Port during Ninth Plan;

(b) whether the work related to the coal handling facilities have since been completed;

(c) if so, the amount spent thereon;

(d) whether Government have a proposal for the installation of additional cargo handling facilities in that port; and

(e) if so, the funds earmarked therefor during Tenth Plan?

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

(c) The total expenditure till date on the project is approximately Rs. 799.52 crores.

(d) and (e) Development of the port and creation of additional cargo handling facilities is an ongoing process keeping in view the maritime traffic. However, an outlay of Rs. 222.70 crores has been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan for spill over, ongoing and new schemes of Paradip Port which is mainly for facilitating cargo handling.

Hepatitis-B Vaccine

4445. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not procuring Hepatitis-B Vaccine from available sources within the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are procuring Hepatitis-B Vaccine under the GAVI programme from UNICEF at exorbitant prices;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the names of manufacturers of Hepatitis-B Vaccine in India as approved by World Health Organisation (WHO);

(f) whether Government would procure this Vaccine from them thus saving huge foreign exchange; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (g) For the pilot project of introduction of Hepatities B Vaccine in slums of selected cities and districts during 2002-04, vaccine is being provided as commodity assistance free by Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization (GAVI). UNICEF is the designated agency for procurement and supply of vaccine to the Government of India. As per information received from UNICEF, (i) the vaccine is bought by UNICEF through international bidding process, (ii) the suppliers recommended are a group of more than eight from different countries approved by WHO, in a defined qualification process known to all domestic Hepatitis B Vaccine manufacturers (iii) the international process of Hepatitis B Vaccine are as low as $ 0.32 per dose which compare very favorably with the rate of domestic manufacturers. M/S Shantha Bio-tech, Hyderabad is the only Indian manufacturer of Hepatitis B vaccine approved by W.H.O. The Government of India does not procure Hep. B Vaccine for any other programme.

Maintenance of Pune-Bangalore National Highway

4446. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of repairs and maintenance of Pune-Bangalore National Highway was taken over from the State Highway Development Corporation to the National Highway Development Corporation;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the very precarious condition of the Pune-Bangalore National Highway resulting into lot of accidents;

(c) whether Government propose to revert the work of repair and maintenance of this National Highway to State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Yes, Sir. This work has been entrusted to National Highways Authority of India.

(b) At present, as a part of the National Highway Development Project, the Pune-Bangalore section of National Highway-4 is being widened to 4-lanes. This stretch is being maintained by the civil works contractors, who have been entrusted the task of 4-laning this stretch. Some part of the National Highways got damaged during monsoon period. Now it has been repaired. At present, Pune-Bangalore section of National Highway-4 is in fairly good condition.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Categorization of Exchanges

4447. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether categorization of telephone exchanges into urban and rural exchanges was completed by BSNL throughout the country;

(b) if not, the States/UTs where categorization is yet to be completed;

(c) by when the categorization is likely to be completed;

(d) whether new rental and new call rates have been implemented retrospectively from May, 2002 in rural exchanges; 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) No, Sir. Presently, there is no policy to categorise the telephone exchanges into urban and rural exchanges. However, the subscribers are categorised as urban or rural subscribers based on urban or rural areas as per Census Report.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The rentals and call rates have been implemented for rural subscribers w.e.f. May, 2002. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

	Urban	Rural
1. Rental Charges (Monthly) (Exchange systems capacity)*		
(i) Exchange system capacity of less 1000 Lines.	Rs. 120/-	Rs. 50/-
(ii) Exchange system capacity of less 1000 Lines & above but below 30,000 Lines:	Rs. 120/-	Rs. 110/-
(iii) Exchange system capacity of 30,000 Lines and above but below 1,00,000 Lines:	Rs. 180/-	Rs. 150/-
(iv) Exchange system capacity of 1,00,000 Lines and above:	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 210/-
2. Call Charges and Free Calls (Monthly)		
(i) Number of calls from 0 to 75	Free	Free
(ii) Number of calls from 76 to 125	Rs. 0.80	Free
(iii) Number of call from 126 to 200	Rs. 0.80	Rs. 0.60
(iv) Number of calls from 201 to 225	Rs. 1.00	Rs. 0.80
(v) Number of calls from 226 to 250	Rs. 1.00	Rs. 0.80
(vi) Number of calls from 251 to 500	Rs. 1.00	Rs. 1.00
(vii) Number of calls more than 500	Rs. 1.20	Rs. 1.20.

*Exchange system capacity is the combined equipped capacity of all the exchanges of the SDCA in which the telephone is located except for the rural subscribers the relevant exchange system capacity is the one that exist prior to 15.8.1998 (i.e. before the local area became co-terminus with the Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) for purpose of local calls alongwith augmentation thereafter).

Backlog in Assured Carrier Progression of CSS Officers

4448. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs in their 83rd Report recommended that the entry of Stenographers presently is allowed in the Grades of Section Officers and Under Secretaries of the CSS is causing blockage in career

progression of CSS Officers and accordingly be discontinued to remove stagnation in the CSS;

(b) if so, the facts thereof, alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this direction so far; and

(c) by when the corrective steps are likely to be taken by the Government in implementation of the Recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee?

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 its 83rd Report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs had recommended that provisions which allow the Stenographers Grade 'C' to compete in the Limited Departmental Competitive Examination for promotion to Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Section Officer may be deleted from the Rules. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, a Committee of Senior Officers on Cadre Restructuring of Central Secretariat Service was constituted in February, 2001, and this Committee submitted its report on 28.02.2002. This Committee's Service (CSSS) officers at the level of Section Officer and Under Secretary of CSS. No time frame can be specified for taking a final decision on these recommendations.

[Translation]

GSLV Mark-3

4449. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had developed the designing of the GSLV Mark-3;

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) by when it is likely to be ready alongwith the details thereof?

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

(b) The sanctioned cost of the GSLV Mark-3 Project is Rs. 2498 Crores.

(c) The first development launch of GSLV Mark-3 is planned during 2007-08 time frame. GSLV Mark-3 is designed to launch a 4 tonne class communication satellite into Geo-Synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

[English]

Exchange of Reservation between SCs and STs

4450. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in case of promotion by selection from Group 'B' to the lowest rung of Group 'A', vacancies are to be exchanged between Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the same year as per instructions issued by DoP&T;

(b) if so, the reasons for which these instructions have not been complied with while finalizing/preparing the Panels for Grade-I of CSS for the years 1991 to 1994;

(c) whether the vacancies meant for SC officers by way of exchange of reservation, have been utilized by promoting General Category Officers against these;

(d) if so, whether this has been done by ignoring the Government's Instructions on the subject; and

(e) if so, the steps Government have taken/propose to take to immediately include the names of 33 more SC Officers in the Select List for the year 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Select Lists for Grade I of CSS for the years 1987 to 1994 have been prepared keeping in view the instructions contained in DoP&T's O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) Dated 2.7.1997.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Sickle Cell Disease

4451. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the prevalence of Sickle Cell disease in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which are affected by this Sickle Cell disease;

(d) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has made a survey on prevalence of Sickle Cell disease and submitted any report to the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the measures taken by the Government for control and cure of this disease;

(g) whether some voluntary organizations are working on the project to control Sickle Cell disease; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance provided by the Government to them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (f) Sickle Cell anemia is a genetic disease and is prevalent in different parts of the country. The frequency distribution of sickle cell gene varies from 0-44% in the country. The States affected by this disease are Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh Assam and Bihar. A multi centric study in four States of the country, namely; Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa & Tamil Nadu and Primitive Tribal population has been taken up by ICMR where folic acid, multi-vitamin and deforming tablets are being provided to the affected children. Also genetic counseling is being provided to young couples, unmarried sickle cell carriers and married couples who are sickle cell carriers.

(g) and (h) Number of Voluntary agencies like Valsad Raktdan Kendra, Gujarat, Nilgiri Adivasi association Kotagiri and Sickle Cell Society of India, Nagpur are working in different States. ICMR has released an amount of Rs. 16,51,400/- to the Nilgiri Adiwasi Association Kotagiri and an amount of Rs. 17,19,500/-to the Vulsad Raktdan Kendra, Vulsad for conducting research under the multicentric study.

Refund of Interest on Security Deposit

4452. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for refund of interest amount of security deposit for telephone connections in Punjab particularly in Fazilka and since when each application has been pending;

(b) the details of cases in which interest amount has been refunded during last two years, separately in each case and on what grounds;

(c) the reasons for different approach, if any, for refund in above cases; and

(d) by when the interest amount would be refunded in the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Nil as no interest is payable on security deposit for telephone connections.

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

Nursing Services in UT of Daman & Diu

4453. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from the Union Territory of Daman & Diu for strengthening of Nursing Services;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on the proposal; and

(c) the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Translation of TKDL

4454. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy is funding Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL);

(b) whether TKDL will be made available in five international languages—French, German, Japanese, Spanish and English besides Hindi;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken for above and fund allotted for translation;

(d) whether INSDOC an establishment of CSIR is having facility for translation to international languages;

(e) whether any plans to utilize facilities of INSDOC for translation of TKDL;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) TKDL conversion from Sanskrit and Hindi is based on locally developed abstracting tool, which works on the concept of Metadata Directory. Fund allocated for translation is Rs. 7.5. lakhs.

(d) INSDOC has in-house translation facilities from foreign languages i.e., Spanish, French & Japanese to English.

(e) and (f) INSDOC does not have expertise to translate Hindi and Sanskrit to foreign languages.

Terrorist Lists

4455. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. had in August 2002 placed six more Pakistanis in its list of individuals and groups suspected of intentional terrorist activities besides including Pak-based militant-outfits in the list of designated individuals and outfits, whose property was blocked world-wide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of individuals and outfits which are common in both the U.S. and Indian list which was handed over to Pakistan in December 2001; and

(d) the criteria followed by the Government in drawing the list handed over to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No. However, since September 2001, the United States has periodically reviewed and updated its lists of terrorist organisations and individuals. A number of Pakistan-based organisations and individuals have been placed on these lists.

(c) The list handed over by India to Pakistan in December 2001 included individuals wanted for specific terrorist activities in India. The U.S. lists contains a number of terrorist organisations of concern to India and listed under Prevention of Terrorist Act, such as Lashkar-e Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Babbar Khalsa International and International Sikh Youth Federation. The U.S. laws and regulations also apply to the individual members of these organisations.

(d) The list handed over to Pakistan, *inter alia*, included individuals who were involved in Bombay serial bomb blasts in 1993, the hijacking of IC 814 in December 1999 and other terrorist acts directed against India and were known to be present in Pakistan.

Complaints against Indian Mission in Rome

4456. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received against corruption and inefficiency prevailing in the Indian Mission in Rome;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Some complaints of inefficiency and corruption in the Indian Mission in Rome have been received.

(b) The complaints related to the desire of a large number of persons who wanted to be immediately provided with duplicate passports in lieu of passports they had claimed to have lost before Italy announced an amnesty for illegal residents. There were also allegations of corruption in this regard.

(c) The complaints were thoroughly investigated. It was found that the complaints were not based on actual facts. Hence, no action against any official was found necessary.

Harassment of Immigrant Indians

4457. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether immigrant Indian in Italy are being harassed by the Indian Foreign Office by not assisting them in filing police report on the loss of their passports; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bail out such persons?

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

(b) Our Embassy and Consulate in Italy have dispensed with the requirement of registering of police reports for lost passports and are issuing Authority Letters to the applicants on the same say. As soon as their passport particulars are confirmed from the Passport Issuing Offices, duplicate passports are also issued on the same day.

[Translation]

BAMS Degree

4458. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether the BAMS degree is awarded to the Indian students after completing four and a half year course, whereas the same is being provided after only one and a half year to the foreign nationals;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for such discrimination;

(c) whether it is also fact that the British Ayurvedic Council has also opposed to this policy of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicines and Surgery (BAMS) is not being awarded to foreign national undergoing one and a half years Course.

The British Government proposes to regulate herbal teaching and practice in their country, which will include Ayurvedic teaching in addition to other herbal medicines. The Government of India prepared Core Curriculum on Ayurveda, which would be considered by them for inclusion in the proposed herbal medicines Course.

The British Ayurvedic Council is opposed to this Course on the ground that this Short Course is being equated with $5^1/_2$ years of BAMS Course in India.

The assumption of the Council is not correct. No BAMS medical qualification will be awarded to those who undergo this Course.

Pulling up of Indian Ambassador

4459. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item regarding the pulling up of an Indian Ambassador appearing in Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated August 28, 2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Government have seen the news item which appeared in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated August 28, 2002 regarding an interaction of the Director General of the Russian company "Rosoboronexport" with a group of Indian journalists in Moscow.

(b) The Director General of the Russian company "Rosoboronexport" made a number of comments at this press interaction described in the news report. The comment of the Director General of "Rosoboronexport" referred to specifically in the news item was in reply to clarifications by an Indian diplomat who was also present at this press interaction and not in reply to an Indian Ambassador. The specific comment made by the Director General of "Rosoboronexport" and reported in the Hindi daily is not based on facts. This has been brought to the notice of the Russian authorities.

Pension to Group C & D Employees

4460. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders to give pension to Group C and D employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited from the Government funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to give pension to all employees of the MTNL or to only those employees who had filled the form for DOT/Government pension; and

(d) the details of steps taken to remove the apprehension of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d): It has been agreed in principle that those Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited absorbers who have opted for Government scheme of pension shall be paid pension by Government. Exact modalities in this regard are being worked out by Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare.

Regarding issue of payment of pro-rata pension to those MTNL absorbers who have opted for pro-rata pensionery benefits for the period of their service under the Central Government, it has been clarified by department of Telecom, to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in consultation with Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare that Government employees on absorption in a PSU as a result of conversion of a Government Department prior to 30.09.02, may opt for separate pro-rata pension for the period of service under Government till the date immediately preceding their date of absorption. Such pro-rata pension would be payable by the Government like any other normal Government pensioners.

[English]

Capacity Utilisation in Shipyards

4461. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity utilisation of various shipyards in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that these shipyards have been facing the problem of under utilisation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete efforts made by the Government to fully utilise the capacities of these shipyards and modernisation of these shipyards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) the Indian Shipyards operate at 30-45 percent of their total capacity.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The main reasons are lack of continuous order, low labour productivity, working capital problems, indirect effect of under quoting of prices by major shipbuilding countries like Japan, Korea etc. to secure shipbuilding orders, unremunerative prices, heavy incidence of local taxes such as sales tax, excise duty, octroi etc.

(d) The Shipyards being commercial organizations are expected to operate on commercial lines and accordingly, utilize their capacities optimally. However, the Government can only provide policy support, guidelines which it has been doing. The Government has been operating a Shipbuilding Subsidy Scheme to Central Public Sector Shipyards to provide a level playing field to enable them to face international competition in obtaining shipbuilding orders. The scheme has been extended with certain modifications to all Shipyards including Private Sector Shipyards for another five years. Instructions/guidelines have also been issued by this Ministry to the major Port Trusts and Shipping organizations to examine the possibility of placing orders on Central Public Sector Shipyards on nomination basis. Moreover, the Government has been providing Plan assistance to the Public Sector Shipyards for augmentation, renewal and replacement of shipbuilding and shiprepair facilities to improve their productivity and capacity utilization.

Direction of Supreme Court against Spurious Drugs

4462. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to take action against the dealers of spurious drugs;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government on the ruling of the Supreme Court; and

(c) the details of the strategy proposed to combat the menace of spurious drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Government is not aware of any such directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is mainly a clandestine activity, State Drug Control Organisations are responsible to enforce the provisions of Drug & Cosmetic Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare had written on October 8th, 2002 to all the chief Ministers seeking their personal intervention to ensure that adequate measures are taken in each State to vigorously pursue the strategies needed to preclude any possibility of menace of spurious products.

Union Minister of Health & F.W. also called a meeting of the Health Ministers and senior officials of 13 major States of the country on 12.11.2002 to discuss measures to ensure concerted action required to check movement of spurious drugs in the country and to involve all stakeholders, including pharma industry, to curb menace of manufacture and marketing of spurious/fake medicines.

Based on the deliberations held, the meeting recommended certain guidelines needed to be adopted by the State Govts. for focused strategies to curb the menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. These strategies included: (1) improving uniformity in implementing various regulatory requirements by the State enforcing authorities. (2) Making stricter provisions under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1945 for offences as non-bailable and cognizable. (3) State Governments may consider an enactment like "the Gujarat Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act, 1985" made by the state of Gujarat which provides for preventive detention of drug offenders for anti-social and dangerous activities prejudicial to the maintenance of public order. (4) Augmentation of drug testing facilities in the States for speedy analysis of drug samples with a view to bring down testing time of samples of drugs. (5) Efficient communication networking through computerization for efficient information exchange. (6) Surveillance over distribution of drugs through medical practitioners (7) Improvement of regulatory infrastructure (8) The pharma industry to take initiatives to detect counterfeiting/imitation of their product and proper coordination with drug regulatory agencies (9) Speedy trial by identified or designated courts for deciding spurious drug cases (10) To provide toll free number so that consumers or doctors can easily make their complaints. (11) Establishment of intelligence-cum-legal cell and anti-spurious squad to detect and unearth spurious drugs cases (12) To set up/reactivate state drugs advisory committee in which all stakeholders are partners. (13) Undertaking surveillance of suspected dealers through decoy customers/watchers (14) Training programmes for officers of drugs control administration in matters concerning development of intelligence, detection, investigation, preparing and filing complaints, court procedures etc.

[Translation]

VPT Connection in UP

4463. SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Gram Sabhas and Majras in Uttar pradesh especially in Bulandshahar where VPT telephone connections have been provided;

(b) the number of development blocks in Bulandshahar where cyber cafe connections have been provided;

(c) whether VPT telephone connections and cyber cafe connections have been provided to the employees of the Department of Telecommunication and other Government employees;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether any proposal to withdraw the above facility from the Government employees is under consideration of the Government;

(e) the action being taken by the Govemmewnt to ensure that above facilities are not provided to the Government employees and employees of depatment of Telecommunication in the future; and

(f) by when VPT telephone connections are likely to be provided in all the villages and Majras of Bulandshar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 64,093 Gram Sabhas in Uttar Pradesh including 1134 Gram Sabhas in Bulandshahar have already been provided with telecom facility.

(b) No cyber cafe connections have been provided in development blocks in Bulandshahar.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of to (c) above.

(f) All the revenue villages in Bulandshhar have already been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs.)

[English]

Criteria for providing Telecom Facility

4464. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the town falling within a distance of 200 kms is the criteria for providing certain telecommunication facilities;

(b) if so, whether Kosi and Mathura towns fall within the specified range of 200 kms from Delhi and are eligible for such facilities;

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing Delhi-Kosi-Muthrua telecommunications link; and

(d) by when this facility is likely to be provided to these towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The only facility provided for towns falling within a distance of 200 Km. is that subscribers not having STD facility can dial on level 95 provided the towns are within the same administrative area i.e. Telecom Circle or the boundaries of the Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) are touching.

(b) and (c) Though Kosi and Mathura and within the specified range of 200 Km. from Delhi, they are in U.P. (West) Telecom Circle and their boundaries are not touching with Delhi/National Capital Region. Therefore, they are not eligible for such facilities.

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

International Sports Competitions

4465. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:

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

(a) whether some Indian players and teams have been taken part in Asian Games, World Cup or other International Sports Competitions since 1998, till date, at their own cost with/without the permission of the Government;

(b) if so, the basis on which the said players/teams have taken part alongwith the sport-wise details of the said players;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the players taking part in International Sports Competitions without permision of the Government; and

(d) if not, whether the Government are contemplating to take any action against the said players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) The decision about participation of Indian team in International competitions is taken by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is case of multi-disciplinary sports events and the concerned National Sports Federations (NSFs) in case of international events of that sports discipline. Government clearance is sought by IOA or concerned National Sports federations mainly for seeking financial assistance and the proposals are approved at Government cost or at no cost to the Government in accordance with provisions of the 'Guidelines for Assistance to National Sports Federations'. These guidelines also provide that for proposals at 'No cost to Government', the concerned NSF will not be required to obtain prior approval of the Government. As such, the question of taking action against NSFs or sports teams individuals for taking part in international competitions at their own cost, without permission of the Government, does not arise. The details of visits of sports teams/sports persons at their own cost with/without permission of the Government, are being collected from IOA & NSFs and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cop Leaves Winter Athlete in the Cold

4466. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

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

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cop leaves winter athlete in the cold" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated August 8, 2002:

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The news-item captioned "Cop leaves winter athlete in the cold" appeared in the "Hindustan Times" on 31st August, 2002 and not on 8th August, 2002.

(b) and (c) The Indian Olmpic Association, an apex body of National Sports Federations has informed that they had received an amount of USD 12,000/- from the IOC Solidarity Funds for the training and preparation of Shri Shiva Keshavan for the Winter Olympic Games held at Salt Lake City. This amount was paid to the Indian Amateur Luge Association (IALA) for onward transmission to Shri Shiva Keshavan for the training of Shri Keshavan. However, this amount was not paid to the athlete by IALA. On receipt of a request from Shri Keshavan, IOA

paid Rs. 1,61,594.35 to him on 7th January, 2002 on account of his training and preparation for Winter Olympic Games. IOA has also informed that they have taken up the matter with IALA. IOA has further indicated that they have adopted a policy of transmitting such funds in future directly to sportspersons and not through the Federations.

Complaints against Indian Embassies/High Commissions

4467. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints against our Embassies/High Commissions abroad alleging refusal to issue visas to Indian green card holders and indulging in corrupt practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty officials and to simplify/streamline the procedure for the issuance of visas to Indian green card holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No. Indian green card holders are also holders of Indian passports and, hence, do not need visas to visit India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Corruption Cases

4468. SHRI RAM RATI BIND:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

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

(a) the number of cases of corruption detected against officers/employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited working in Delhi and Mumbai from November 1, 1998 to October 31, 2002;

(b) the details of each case and the action taken so far in each case;

(c) whether no action has been taken on the complaints received from representatives of unions and Members of Parliament during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which action would be taken against guilty personnels after investigating the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 94 cases.

(b) Details of each case and details of action taken are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir. Action has been taken/initiated on the complaints received during the said period from the Union representatives and the Members of Parliament.

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

(e) Guilty officers/officials have been punished in 29 cases. In 21 cases, allegations could not be established. For remaining disciplinary, prosecution cases, it is not possible to give specific time frame for their finalization as investigation/inquirty is done as per prescribed procedure in consultation with various authorities like Central Vigilance Commission & Union Public Service Commission etc.

Statement

Sl. No.	Detail of cases	No. of Officer/officials involved	Action taken
1	2	3	4
1.	Misappropriation of Govt. money in execution of cable fault detection and mainteance work during monsoon 98 in South-I area, MTNL Delhi.	27 officers/officials (8 JTOs, 8 SDEs, 1 AO, 1 JAO, 6 DEs, 2 DGMs & 1 GM)	major penalty chargesheet issued to 8 JTOs; Minor penalty chargesheet issued to 8 SDEs, 1 AO & 1 JAO; Recordable warning issued to 6 DEs and administrative warning issued to 2 DGMs and 1 GM.

1	2	3	4
2.	Hiring of privately owned vehicles in MTNL, Delhi	2 officers (1 AGM & 1 AO)	Recordable warning issued.
3.	Shortage of store at Rohini Sector-9, MTNL, Delhi.	2 officers (1 AGM & 1 SDE)	Minor penalty chargesheet issued to SDE and recordable warning issued to AGM.
4.	Tender for procurement of Mini-pillar DPs in MTNL, Delhi—complaint regarding.	2 officers (1 AGM & 1 DGM)	Recordable warning issued to AGM and oral warning issued to DGM.
5.	Misappropriation of public money in the work of erection of boundary walls in Sector-6, R.K. Puram, MTNL, Delhi	3 officers (1 JE, 1 AE & 1 EE)	Major penalty chargesheet issued to JE and recordable warning issued to AE & EE.
6.	CBI case RC No. DAI-1999-A0004-irregularities in tender for civil work in MTNL, Delhi.	6 officers (2 JEs, 1, AE, 1 AO & 2 EEs	Prosecution sanction issued in respect of JEs, AE & EEs and minor penalty chargesheet initiated against the AO.
7.	Complaint regarding sanction of DED, EPABS on out of turn basis in MTNL, Delhi.	3 officer (1 SDE, 1 AGM & 1 DGM)	Recordable warning issued to SDE & AGM and administrative warning issued to DGM.
8.	CBI case RC No. DAT-2001-A-0070-DLI-irregularities in purchase of staff uniform and leather shoes for Gr. C&D employees in MTNL, Delhi.	5 officers (1 SS, 3 DGMs & 1GM)	All these officers have since been suspended. Case under investigation by CBI.
9.	Irregular provision of STD/ISD on barred telephone numbers-CBI case RC No. 18-A-99/DLI	3 officers (2 JTOs & 1 DE)	Major penalty has been imposed on JTOs and minor has been imposed on DE.
10.	Demand of bribe by one SDE.	1 officer (SDE)	Major penalty has been imposed on the SDE.
11.	Demand of bribe-CBI trap case-RC No. DAI-2000-A-0067	2 officers (DGMs)	Prosecution sanction issued.
12.	Missing of GD tubes with holders (1600 pieces) from Tehkhand store, MTNL Delhi.	2 officers (1 JTO & 1 SDE)	Inquiry for major penalty in progress.
13.	Bogus payment made to M/s Mactronic constructions in MTNL, Delhi.	4 officers (1 SDE, 1 COC, 1 DE & 1 DGM)	Major penalty has been imposed on SDE, COC & DE and minor penalty has been imposed on DGM.
14.	Complaint regarding use of inferior quality materials in MTNL, Delhi.	2 officers (1 AE & 1 EE)	Major penalty has been imposed on both the officers.
15.	Complaint regarding demand of bribe for installation of telephone in MTNL Delhi.	1 officer (JTO)	Minor penalty has been imposed on.

1	2	3	4
16.	Demand of bribe for shifting of telephone in MTNL, Delhi.	2 officers (1 JTO & 1 SDO)	Recordable warning issued.
17.	Demand of bribe for PCO sanction in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (SDO)	Allegations not proved.
18.	Non installation of telephone leased line ISDN in Okhla Phase-I in MTNL Delhi.	1 officer (JTO)	Allegations not proved.
19.	Non-shifting of telephone in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (JTO)	Allegations not proved.
20.	CBI trap case in Tehkhand Telephone exchange in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (JTO)	Officer has since been suspended.
21.	Non installation of telephone in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (JTO)	Allegations not proved.
22.	Non installation of telephone and demand of money in MTNL, Delh.	2 officer (1 JTO & 1 SDE).	Minor penalty has been imposed on JTO & recordable warning issued to SDE.
23.	Harassment in providing telephone connections in MTNL, Delhi	1 officer (JTO)	Minor penalty has been imposed on JTO.
24.	CBI trap case for demand of bribe in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (DGM)	Case under investigation by CBI.
25.	CBI trap case in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (JTO)	Major penalty has been imposed on JTO.
26.	Demand of bribe in MTNL, Delhi	1 offcer (SDO)	No irregularity observed.
27.	Misappropriation of Govt. money in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (DGM)	Minor penalty has been imposed on DGM.
28.	Demand of money for sanctioning of PCO in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (SDE)	Allegation not proved.
29.	Irregularities in purchase of stationary.	1 officer (SDE)	No irregularity observed.
30.	Cable theft case in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (SDE)	Warning issued.
31.	Demand of moeny in installation of PCO in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (SDO)	Minor penalty has been imposed.
32.	Providing unauthorised STD calls from switch room in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (SDE)	No irregularity observed.
33.	Harassment in installation of telephone in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (JTO)	No irregularity observed.
34.	Delay in reviewing DNP cases in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (AO)	No irregularity observed.
35.	Delay in reviewing DNP cases in MTNL, Delhi.	1 officer (AO)	No irregularity observed.

1	2	3	4
36.	Possession of disproportionate assets. RC No. 43/98 dated 30.12.1998 in MTNL, Mumbai.	1 officer (GM)	Pending for trial.
37.	Acceptance of illegal gratification. RC No. 4/99 dated 29.1.1999 in MTNL, Mumbai.	1 officer (JTO)	-do-
38.	Acceptance of illegal gratification. RC No. 42/2000 dated 18.9.2000 in MTNL, Mumbai.	1 officer (JTO)	-do-
39.	Criminal conspiracy in reinstatement work. RC No. 20/2000 dated 13.6.2000 in MTNL, Mumbai.	1 officer (SDE)	Prosecution sanction issued.
40.	Criminal conspiracy in reinstatement work. RC No. 29.2000 dated 27.7.2000 in MTNL, Mumbai	1 officer (SDE)	Chargesheet filed on 30.9.2002.
41.	Criminal conspiracy in reinstatement work. RC No. 30/2000 dated 27.7.2000 in MTNL Mumbai.	1 officer (SDE)	Prosecution sanctioned issued.
42.	Criminal conspiracy in reinstatement wrok. RC No. 31/2000 dated 27.7.2000 in MTNL Mumbai	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation.
43.	Criminal conspiracy in reinstatement work. RC No. 32/2000 dated 27.7.2000 in MTNL Mumbai	1 officer (SDE)	Prosecution sanctioned issued.
44.	Criminal conspiracy in reinstatement wrok. RC No. 33/2000 dated 27.7.2000 in MTNL Mumbai.	1 officer (SDE)	Prrosecution sanctioned issued.
45.	Prossession of disproportionate assets. RC No. 35/2000 dated 8.8.2000 in MTNL Mumbai	1 officer (SDE)	Prosecution sanctioned issued.
46.	Possession of disproportionate assets. RC No. 8/2001 dated 23.2.2001 in MTNL Mumbai.	1 officer (JTO)	Chargesheet filed on 30.7.2002.
47.	Abuse of official position. RC No. 32/2001 dated 29.8.2001 in MTNL, Mumbai	1 officer (AO)	Under investigation.
48.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 38/2001 dated 12.10.2001.	1 officer (SDE)	Prosecution sanction issued.
49.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 39/2001 dated 12.10.2001,	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.
50.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 40/2001 dated 12.10.2001.	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.

1	2	3	4
51.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 40/2001 dated 12.10.2001.	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.
52.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 42/2001 dated 12.10.2001.	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.
53.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 43/2001 dated 13.10.2001.	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.
54.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 44/2001 dated 14.10.2001.	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.
55.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 45/2001 dated 12.10.2001.	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.
56.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 46/2001 dated 12.10.2001.	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.
57.	Criminal conspiracy in execution of reinstatement works in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 47/2001 dated 12.10.2001.	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.
58.	Acceptance of bribe in MTNL, Mumbai. RC 3/2002 dated 15.2.2002.	1 officer (CO)	Prosecution sanctioned issued.
59.	Acceptance of illegal gratification in MTNL, Mumbai. RC No. 22/2002 dated 27.6.2002.	1 officer (AE)	Under investigation by CBI.
60.	Possession of disproportionate assets in MTNL, Mumbai. RC No. 25/2002 dated 12.7.2002.	1 officer (SDE)	Under investigation by CBI.
61.	Cheating MTNL, Mumbai. RC No. 29/2002 dated 19.7.2002.	1 officer (AO)	Under investigation by CBI.
62.	Possession of disproportionate assets in MTNL, Mumbai. RC No. 33/2002 dated 24.8.2002	1 officer (DE)	Under investigation by CBI.
63.	Acceptance of bribe in MTNL, Mumbai. RC No. 36/2002 dated 19.9.2002	1 officer (AO)	Under investigation by CBI.
64.	Local purchase at exorbitant rate in MTNL, Mumbai. PE No. 12/99 dated 9.7.99.	1 officer (DE)	Penalty imposed. (Case closed. Appeal pending)
65.	Local purchase at exorbitant rate in MTNL, Mumbai. PE No. 13/99 dated dated 13.7.99.	1 officer (SDE)	Penalty imposed. (Case closed. Appeal pending)

1	2	3	4
66.	Local purchase of items at exorbitant rate in MTNL, Mumbai. PE No. 16/99 26.7.99.	1 officer (SDE)	Penalty imposed. (Case closed. Appeal pending)
67.	Criminal conspiracy & issue of purchase orders and passing of bogus irregular bills of stores in MTNL Mumbai. RC No. 15/98 dated 30.6.1998.	1 officer (AO)	Under investigaton/ inquiry by CBI.
68.	Allowing use of telephones to private persons who did not pay the bills resulting in heavy loss to MTNL, Mumbai. PE No. 19/99 dated 14.9.99.	1 officer (PRO)	Disciplinary proceedings in progress.
69.	Irregularities in disconnection of subscriber's telephone in MTNL, Mumbai. PE No. 1/2000 dated 2.2.2000.	1 officer (Sr. AO)	Under process.
70.	Demand & acceptance of bribe in MTNL Mumbai. CBI trap case. RC No. 42/2000 dated 18.9.2000.	1 officer (JTO)	Under process.
71.	Irregularitis in bonafide verification for provision of new telephone in MTNL, Mumbai. RC No. 3/2000 dated 11.1.2000.	1 officer (JTO)	Under process.
72.	Complaint against DGM (F), Corporate office, MTNL regarding fraudulent withdrawal of GPF.	1 officer (DGM)	Warming issued. (GPF advance taken recovered).
73.	Complaint against DGM (Mktg.), MTNL Corporate office in organizing a musical program.	1 officer (DGM)	Matter closed after enquiry.
74.	Irregularities in award of cellular services tender.	----	No irregularities found. Case closed in consultation with CVC.
75.	Complaint from Bhartiya Telecom. Karmachari Sangh regarding misuse of official vehicle by General Secy., MTNL, Staff Union.	1 official (Gr. C)	Warning issued.
76.	Complaint from Bhartiya Telecom. Karamachari Sangh regarding misuse of Govt. money for personal benefit by DGM (Cash), MTNL Corporate office.	1 official (DGM)	Allegations not established.
77.	Complaint from Bhartiya Mahanagar Telephone Karamchari Sangh regarding irregularities in purchase of diaries by MTNL, Delhi from MTNL staff union.	---	matter closed on advice of CVC.

1	2	3	4
78.	Complaint from Dr. Bali Ram, MP regarding foreign travel of one Sr. Telephone Operator.	1 official (Sr. TO)	Matter examined and case closed.
79.	Complaint regarding attempt to bribe by one GM, MTNL Mumbai.	1 officer (GM)	Matter examined in consultation with CVC. Name of the officer included in Agreed list of CBI for surveillance and property returns of the officer being scrutinized.
80.	Complaint regarding irregularities in MTNL tender for Managed Leased Line Data Network.	---	Matter examined. No irregularities / malafide prima-facie observed. File is since under submission to Minister's office.
81.	Complaint from Dr. Bali Ram, MP, regarding misuse of financial power by Director (F), GM (F) & DGM (F), MTNL Corporate office.	3 officers (1 Director, 1 DGM & 1 GM)	Report submitted to APS to MoS (C).
82.	Complaint from MTNL Staff Union against Director (Tech) regarding Provocation.	1 officer (Director)	Report under submission to competent authority.
83.	Delay in procurement of switching equipment by MTNL.	---	Case examined. On the basis of CVO's report, delay could not be attributed on part of any official/officer. The file on the subject is under submission to Minister's office.
84.	Complaint from Shri Raghuraj Shakya, M.P. regarding irregularities in purchase of uniform cloth & shoes for GR. C & D staff of MTNL.	---	The subject matter of the complaint is under investigation by CBI.
85.	Irregularities in hiring of premises in Mahipalpur, Delhi for establishing RLU exchange.	---	Matter under investigation by CBI.
86.	Complaint regarding keeping in abeyance empanelment of Sunil Hospital Delhi.	---	On investigation/examination, no irregularities observed. Matter under consideration for closure.
87.	Complaint from Bhartiya Telephone Employees Union regarding alleged corruption & arbitrariness in legal cell of MTNL Delhi.	---	Allegations not established.

1	2	3	4
88.	Complaint from M/s Life Tree Convergence Ltd. regarding RCMS and CCMS equipment	---	Allegations not established.
89.	Complaint/news item in Rashtriya Sahara dated 26.10.2001 regarding purchase of CRPS equipment by MTNL.	---	No irregularities in the evaluation of tender noticed.
90.	Complaint regarding appointment of retired GM (Vig.) as consultant to perform vigilance function.	---	No irregularities observed. Appointment was for a short period for preparation of vigilance Manual.
91.	Complaint against Ex-CGM, MTNL Mumbai.	---	Allegations not established.
92.	Complaint regarding irregularities in payment of transport allowance to DGMs working in MTNL, Delhi.	---	Matter investigated/examined. No irregularities observed & case closed.
93.	Complaint from Shri S.S. Indu, JE (C), against Shri D.V.S Valid, AE (C).	1 officer (AE)	Matter under investigation.
94.	Complaint from Bhartiya Telecom Employees Federation, New Delhi regarding ongoing irregularities in the coaching camp of Kabaddi team of MTNL, Delhi, organized from 7.10.2002 to 5.11.2002 in Chatrasal Stadium, New Delhi.	---	Case under examination.

Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme

4469. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh had sent three Integrated Infrastructural Development Schemes in respect of SSI for Sagar, Vidisha and Mandsaur districts for the approval of the Union Government;

(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) to (c) Under the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme, State Government/Union Territory is required to formulate proposals for setting up IID Centres and get these appraised by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The IID Centres are sanctioned on the basis of the techno-economic viability report of SIDBI. So far, the Government have sanctioned five Centres in the State of Madhya Pradesh viz. Nadantola Distt. Satna, Jaggakhedi Distt. Mandsaur, Nimrani Distt. Khargone, Lamtara Distt. Katni and Village Naogawn in Distt. Sagar. All these projects are at various stages of implementation. No further proposal is pending with the Government for consideration at present.

WLL in Uttranchal

4470. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether WLL service is available in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, reasons for not providing any connection under the scheme in Pipana Salt Village in Almora district of Uttranchal whereas the people have already deposited forms for getting connection and the connections have been provided in other areas;

(c) whether PCO line to this village was cut off three months ago though it was not operational even earlier;

(d) whether there is scope for providing cell phones in said village; and

(e) if so, whether these will be provided to the persons who have already applied?

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

(b) There is no registered demand in village Pipana as on date WLL connections are being given in phased manned. Initially the existing MARR VPTs are being replaced by WLL. Thereafter, if spare capacity is available telephone connections will be provided.

(c) The PCO line at Pipana was operational at ED Post Office and was disconnected as per the request of Department of Post dated 05.10.2002.

(d) and (e) At present there is no scope for providing Cell phones in the said village as it is not covered by existing mobile DTS.

[English]

Act of AIIMS

4471. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointment of two retired professors beyond the age of superannuation is violation of AIIMS Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Two retired Professors, Viz. Dr. N. Kochupillai and Dr. V.K. Dada were re-employed for a period of 2 years beyond their age of normal superannuation i.e. 62 years. To the post of Professor in the Department of Endocrinology & Metabolism and Dr. Rajendra Prasad for Ophthalmic Science respectively with the approval of President, AIIMS ratified by the Institute Body.

The request of the Institute for making necessary provision in Regulation 30 of AIIMS Regulations 1999 for grant of extension in service to faculty members on a case to case basis upto the age of 64 years was taken up with the Department of Personnel & Training. The Department of Personnel & Training commented that the proposal of the Department of Health to make provision for re-employment upto the age of 64 years is against the General Policy of the Government and could not be agreed to. In the light of the above, the re-employment of Dr. N. Kochupillai and Dr. V.K. Dada have been discontinued w.e.f. 31.10.2002.

[Translation]

NH No. 3

4472. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds provided for the construction of National Highway No. 3 between Indore Sendava route Manpur to Sendava sector and Sendava to Dhulia sector in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the amount spent so far on the maintenance of the National Highway between these sectors alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 15.14 cr. has been sanctioned during the year 2002-03 for improvement of section of NH-3 in the Indore-Sendava sector in Madhya Pradesh details of which are at in enclosed statement. Till date Rs. 1.35. cr. have been spent for improvement of this sector of National Highway.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Work	Length in Kms	Cost Rs. in crs.
1	2	3	4
1.	Improvement of riding quality in km 21-22	2	0.39
2.	Improvement of riding quality in km 23-30	8.8	2.27
3.	Improvement of riding quality in km 72, 74-83	11	2.3

1	2	3	4
4.	Improvement of riding quality in km 84 to 96	13	2.68
5.	Improvement of riding quality in km 97 to 108	12	2.5
6.	Improvement of riding quality in km 109 to 120	12	2.53
7.	Improvement of riding quality in km 121-132	12	2.47
	Total	70.8	15.14

[English]

Anti Fertility Study on Primates

4473. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether anti fertility studies on primates being carried out at AIIMS and at the National Institute of Immunology are funded partly or wholly by International agencies;

(b) whether such funding is in accordance with relevant rules and regulations;

(c) if so, whether such funding agencies are private or Governmental in nature;

(d) if so, the details of quantum of the funding; and

(e) the details of the social benefits of the results of such research to the population of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) At AIIMS and at National Institute of Immunology, anti-fertility studies on Primates have been supported by a number of National and International agencies. Projects were funded as per rules and regulations of the AIIMS/National Institute of Immunology respectively. Funds provided to AIIMS during the current year is as follows:

1.	WHO Rockefeller Foundation	$ 100,000/-
2.	CONRAD	$ 78,286/-
3.	DST	Rs. 1,50,000/-

The Institute of National Immunology received from the Department of Biotechnology, a sum of Rs. 25.11 lakhs and US $ 21,000 (One year) for taking up projects.

(e) Expanding Contraceptive choices is an important Research & Development area and the data so generated would be useful for development of contraceptives, pre-clinical toxicological evaluation of drugs etc. which may be of benefit to the Indian masses for utilizing the contraceptive devices.

Telephone Connection in Rural Areas

4474. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Telephone authorities refuse to give telephone connections to rural habitations on the ground that new post/poles need to be erected;

(b) whether any criteria have been fixed for creating new post/poles for giving telephone connections; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) New telephone connections are not refused on the ground that new posts/poles are to be erected.

(b) and (c) Normally new telephone connections are provided by extending underground cable from telephone exchange to the distribution point of the service area and thereafter depending on the necessity, overhead line is erected restricted to a maximum of 2 to 3 spans only. At present, 5 pair underground cables are also being used to minimise erection of posts. Also as per the present policy wireless in local loop (WLL) system is inducted into rural network, especially for long distance connections in remote and scattered areas, thereby eliminating the necessity of erecting posts.

[Translation]

Ayurvedic Production

4475. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is constant increase in demand of Ayurvedic products in the country as well as abroad;

(b) if so, the value of Ayurvedic products exported during the last three years alongwith the target for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute task force to boost export of Ayurvidic products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ayurvedic/plant based product exported during the last three years are as under:-

(Value Rs. crores)

1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
340.34	590.01	616.52

(c) and (d) There is a proposal to constitute task force to suggest ways and means to increase our export of Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani & plant based products.

Desert Medical Research Centre

4476. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Rajasthan State to provide more assistance to Western Rajasthan's DMRC (Desert Medical Research Centre); and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) The Desert Medicine Research Centre (DMRC) is a research Institute under ICMR. The ICMR which is funded by the Central Government has not received any proposal from Rajasthan State for additional assistance to this institute.

Foreign Visits of Officials

4477. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of officials of his Ministry who visited foreign countries for official purposes during each of the last two years;

(b) the purpose of their visit and the amount spent thereon;

(c) the details of norms for selection of these officials for official foreign tours;

(d) whether some complaints had been received regarding abuse of power by the officials involved in the selection process;

(e) if so, the details of the complaints received; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to adopt a transparent selection process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Details are given in enclosed statement.

(c) to (f) Selection of officials for the foreign tours was made having regard to the nature of trainings/ meetings/seminars and suitability of officials with regard to their experience as also the relevance and utility of the trainings/meetings/seminars to this Ministry. Selections are transparent and no complaints have been received.

Statement

Details of Foreign Visits of Officials during the period commencing with 1.6.2001, the Date on which the Officials of the Erstwhile Ministry of Surface Transport were Allocated to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Sl.No.	Name & Designation	Period	Country	Amount of Expenditure	Purpose
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Shri R.K. Sharma Suptd. Engineer	28th May to 1st June, 2001	U.K.	Regn. Fee 1850 Pound DA 375 US $ Rs. 109500/- (air fare)	To attend training course on Innovation in Road Management.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Shri T.B. Banerjee Suptd. Engineer	11-15th June, 2001	UK	-do-	-do-
3.	Shri Indu Prakash Chief Engineer	18-22nd June, 2001	-do	-do-	-do-
4.	Shri A.K. Yadav Suptd. Engineer	25-29th June, 2001	U.K.	Regn. Fee 1600 Pound DA 375 US $ Rs. 109500/- (air fare)	Training Programme on Management of Appropriate Technology in Road Sector for developing emerging Economy.
5.	Shri K.C. Verkeyachan Suptd. Engineer	3-13th July, 2001	U.K.	Regn. Fee 3200 Pound Rs. 109500/-(air fare)	-do-
6.	Shri Rajiv Sharma Deputy Secretary and	23-25th July, 2001	Indonesia		Expert Group Meeting for preparation of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure Development in Asia and Pacific Region.
7.	Shri Nirmaijit Singh Chief Engineer				
8.	Shri Alok Rawat Joint Secretary	2.8.2001 to 4.8.2001	Nepal	Rs. 9,844/-	Bilateral Talks between India and Nepal-Delegation led by Commerce Secretary.
9.	Shri A.V. Sinha Chief Engineer	8-10th August, 2001	Philippines	Rs. 1,52,101/-	To negotiate with ADB to seek ADB Assistance for Western Transport Corridor Project.
10.	Shri Ashoke Joshi Secretary and	12-14th Nov. 2001	South Korea	Rs. 1,54,243/-	Senior Officials Meeting for Ministerial Conference on Transport, Communication & Tourism Infrastructure Development in Asia and Pacific Region.
11.	Shri A.V. Sinha Chief Engineer				
12.	Shri A.N. Dhadopkar Suptd. Engineer and	28th Oct. to 2nd Nov. 2001	USA	Regn. Fee 7600 US $ DA 750 US $ Rs. 2,60,000/-(air fare)	To participate in the first International Seminar on Asset Management.
13.	Shri N.S. Jain Suptd. Engineer				
14.	Shri P.K. Chakrabarti Chief Engineer and	11-14th Nov. 2001	Philippines	Rs. 51,092	To negotiate with ADB to seek ADB Assistance for West Bengal Corridor Development Project.
15.	Shri A.P.S. Sethi Suptd. Engineer				
16.	Shri Alok Rawat Joint Secretary and	29.4.2002 to 2.5.2002	Nepal	Rs. 72,945/-	Regulation of Motor Vehicular Traffic between India and Nepal.
17.	Shri Vivek Ashish Section Officer				

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Shri S.K. Mishra Director	2.6.2002 to 7.6.2002	Nigeria	**	To study Automobile Industry of Nigeria.
19.	Shri V. Velayuthan Chief Engineer and	4-17th August, 2002	USA	Regn. Fee 12600 US $ DA 18.75 US $ per day Per Head Rs. 2,90,000 (air fare)	To participate in the Seminar on Contract Maintenance.
20.	Shri Ashok Wassan Suptd. Engineer				
21.	Shri N.K. Sinha DG (RD) & SS	9-13th Sept. 2002	Australia	Rs. 2,11,000/-	To attend the Conference on Better Built Environment.
22.	Shri A.P. Bhadur Chief Engineer	15-21th Sept. 2002	USA	Regn. Fee 4100 US $ DA 75 US $ per day Rs. 1,45,000-(air fare)	To participate in the 2nd Annual Asset Management Seminar.
23.	Shri P.K. Sarangi private Secretary to MOS (IC), RT&H	14-18th October, 2002	USA	Debit Note is awaited from Embassy of India USA	To attend 9th World Congress on Intelligent Transport System-Delegation led by MOS (IC), RT&H.
24.	Shri Alok Rawat Joint Secretary	22.10.2002 to 26.10.2002	Philippines	Rs. 9,104/-	To attend the meeting of Japan Automobile Standards Internationalization Center.
25.	Shri A.P. Bahadur Chief Engineer	23-26th October, 2002	Philippines	Rs. 67,466/-	To attend Loan Negotiations with ADB for East-West Corridor Project and MP State Road Development Project.
26.	Shri S.B. Basu Chief Engineer	13-15th Nov. 2002	Thailand	Rs. 9,140/-	To attend 4th Session of Transport, Communication & Tourism Infrastructure Development in Asia and Pacific Region.
27.	Shri S.B. Basu Chief Engineer	2-4th December, 2002	Myanmar	Rs. 50,000/-	To attend Task Force Meeting on Trilateral Highway Project in Myanmar.

* Expenditure in respect of Sl.No. 6 & 7 met by UN EXCAP
** Expenditure in respect of Sl.No. 18 met by ADB.

Evaluation of National Family Planning Programme

4478. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any evaluation of the work done/achievements made under National Family Planning Programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the progress made by different States under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Evaluation of Family Planning Programme have been done by National Family Health Survey (1998-99) and Rapid House Hold Survey (1998-99). Apart from this, demographic indicators like Crude Birth Rate (CBR) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR) are yearly reviewed as impact indicators of the Program implementation. Statements showing CBR and TFR for the Ninth Plan Period are enclosed as statements I & II.

Statement-I

Crude Birth Rate (CBR)

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	1997	1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.5	22.4	21.7	21.3
2.	Assam	28.2	27.9	27.0	26.9
3.	Bihar	31.7	31.1	30.4	31.9
4.	Gujarat	25.6	25.5	25.4	25.2
5.	Haryana	28.3	27.6	26.8	26.9
6.	Karnataka	22.7	22.0	22.3	22.0
7.	Kerala	17.9	18.3	18.0	17.9
8.	Madhya Pradesh	31.9	30.7	30.7	31.4
9.	Maharashtra	23.1	22.5	21.1	21.0
10.	Orissa	26.5	25.7	24.1	24.3
11.	Punjab	23.4	22.4	21.5	21.6
12.	Rajasthan	32.1	31.6	31.1	31.4
13.	Tamil Nadu	19.0	19.2	19.3	19.3
14.	Uttar Pradesh	33.5	32.4	32.1	32.8
15.	W. Bengal	22.4	21.3	20.7	20.7
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	21.4	22.5	22.3	22.3
17.	Chhattisgarh	32.2	28.7	26.9	26.7
18.	Delhi	21.1	19.4	20.3	20.3
19.	Goa	14.2	14.3	14.3	14.3
20.	Himachal Pradesh	22.6	22.6	23.8	22.1
21.	J & K	NA	19.9	20.9	19.7
22.	Jharkhand	28.2	26.9	26.3	26.5
23.	Manipur	19.7	19.0	18.6	18.3
24.	Meghalaya	30.2	29.2	28.7	28.5
25.	Mizoram	NA	15.8	17.0	16.0
26.	Nagaland	NA	11.9	11.8	NA
27.	Sikkim	19.8	20.9	21.6	21.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
28.	Tripura	18.3	17.6	17.0	16.5
29.	Uttaranchal	22.9	23.6	19.6	20.2
30.	A&N Islands	18.6	17.7	18.1	19.1
31	Chandigarh	18.8	17.9	17.9	17.5
32.	D&N Havell	28.2	34.1	34.2	34.9
33.	Daman & Diu	24.9	21.7	26.9	23.7
34.	Lakshadweep	22.9	23.0	25.1	26.1
35.	Pondicherry	18.4	18.2	17.7	17.8
	All India	27.2	26.5	26.1	25.8

Source: Sample registration system

Statement-II

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

S.No.	State	1997	1998	1999
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.5	2.4	2.4
2.	Assam	3.2	3.2	3.2
3.	Bihar	4.4	4.3	4.5
4.	Gujarat	3.0	3.0	3.0
5.	Haryana	3.4	3.3	3.2
6.	Karnataka	2.5	2.4	2.5
7.	Kerala	1.8	1.8	1.8
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4.0	3.9	3.9
9.	Maharashtra	2.7	2.7	2.5
10.	Orissa	3.0	2.9	2.7
11.	Punjab	2.7	2.6	2.5
12.	Rajasthan	4.2	4.1	4.2
13.	Tamil Nadu	2.0	2.0	2.0
14.	Uttar Pradesh	4.8	4.6	4.7
15.	West Bengal	2.6	2.4	2.4
	All India	3.3	3.2	3.2

NA = Not Available
Source SRS Estimates, RG, India

[English]

Fire Accidents in Motor Vehicles

4479. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government of minimize fire accidents in motor vehicles run on LPG/CNG;

(b) whether Government are aware of bursting of LPG/CNG Gas Cylinders used in Bus and cars; and

(c) if so, whether Government are planning to stop the usage of LPG/CNG Gas Cylinders in motor vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) The CNG/LPG norms notified by the Government include the safety aspects also. The enforcement of these norms is the responsibility of respective State Governments under Motor Vehicle Regulations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Only Gas cylinders authorized under Gas Cylinder Rules, 1981 are permitted to be used for motor vehicles.

Physically Handicapped IAS Officers

4480. SHRI. C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of physically handicapped IAS cadre officers in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government provides some special facilities to them;

(c) if so, the details of the facilities being provided to physically disabled candidates who sit in the Civil Service Examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any quota for the physically handicapped persons in the Government jobs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (e) The IAS (appointment by Competitive Examination) Regulations, 1955, Rule 12, provides that no candidate shall be appointed to the service who after such medical examination as the Central Government may prescribe is not found to be in good mental or bodily health and free from any mental or physical defect likely to interfere with the discharge of the duties of the service. Accordingly, a candidate is medically examined by a Medical Board constituted by the Government in accordance with the Medical Regulations contained in the Civil Service Examination Rules before appointment and is appointed to the Indian Administrative Service if he is declared fit for appointment to the Service.

No post in the Indian Administrative Service has been identified for person or class of persons with disability defined under the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

Recruitment through Civil Services Examination, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, is made to the two All India services, namely the Indian Administratives Service and the Indian Police Service and various Central Services/posts, Group 'A' and Group 'B'. Some of the Central Services have provisions for reservation for physically handicapped persons. The rules for the Civil Services have provisions for reservation for provide for relaxation of the upper age limit prescribed for candidates appearing in the Civil Services Examination by ten years in the case of blind, deaf-mute and Orthopaedically handicapped persons. They also provide that the prescribed qualifying standards are releasable at the discretion of the Union Public Service Commission at all the stages of examination in favour of physically handicapped candidates in order to fill up the vacancies reserved for them. Further, blind candidates are allowed to write the examination with the help of a scribe.

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for not less than three per cent reservation for persons or class of persons with disability of which one percent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from-

(i) blindness or low vision;

(ii) hearing impairment;

(iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy.

in the posts identified for each disability.

[Translation]

Telephone Subscribers

4481. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in the country in the year 1991 and as on 31 October 2002, State-wise; and

(b) the rentals prevalent in the country as on October, 2002, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The number of telephone subscribers in the country state-wise in the year 1991 and as on 31st October, 2002 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act 1997, as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000 the power of fixing tariff for telecom. services is now mandated to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India only. However, the service providers, including the Government Public Sector Units are at liberty to offer alternative tariff options along with the standard Tariff Package prescribed by TRAI within the floors and ceilings fixed by TRAI.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has fixed uniform rentals in all the telecom circles for its Basic telephony including Wireless in Local Loop (Fixed Phones) Services as under:

Monthly Rental Charges (As on 31.10.2002) in BSNL

Exchange system capacity	Urban subscribers	Rural subscribers
Exchange system capacity of less than 1,000 lines	Rs. 120	Rs. 50
Exchange system capacity of 1,000 lines and above but below 30,000 lines	Rs. 120	Rs. 110
Exchange system capacity of 30,000 lines and above but below 1,00,000 lines	Rs. 180	Rs. 150
Exchange system capacity of 1,00,000 lines and above	Rs. 250	Rs. 210

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has fixed Rs. 250/- per month rental for its basic telephony.

Statement

Number of Telephone Subscribers in the Country

S.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	As on 31.10.2002 (See Note 2)	As on 31.03.1991
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	34828	(See Note 1)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4057662	340241
3.	Assam	500289	40638
4.	Bihar	1012757	108756
5.	Jharkhand	411800	—
6.	Gujarat$$	3582825	450799
7.	Haryana	1205610	113937
8.	Himachal	486811	33636
9.	J&K	243698	28803
10.	Karnataka	3253949	332253
11.	Kerala**	3279536	260261
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1688062	209860
13.	Chhattisgarh	279515	—
14.	Maharashtra@	8477681	735542
15.	North East#	3114335	26951
16.	Orissa	752424	70410

1	2	3	4
17.	Punjab$	2685228	208294
18.	Rajasthan	1841282	154893
19.	Tamilnadu***	4728912	460928
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3299901	329301
21.	Uttaranchal	330088	
22.	West Bengal^	2861665	90034
23.	Delhi	3631556	520562
	Total	4,89,60414	50,77,099

$$ Gujarat includes the Union Territories of (1) Dadra & Nagar Haveli and (2) Daman & Diu

**Kerala includes the Union Territory of Lakshdweep Islands.

@Maharashtra includes the State of Goa.

#North East includes the State of (1) Meghalaya, (2) Mizoram, (3) Tripura, (4) Arunachal Pradesh, (5) Manipur and (6) Nagaland

$Punjab includes the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

***Tamil Nadu includes the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

^West Bengal includes the State of Sikkim.

NOTE: (1) In 1991, the figures of Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar is included in West Bengal.

(2) This is Total Nos. of Subscribers in the Country and includes Fixed, WLL and Cellular Subscribers.

Health Sector Reforms

4482. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any schemes for reforms in the health sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of fund which the Union Government propose to provide to the States for their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Health is a State subject. Hence State Governments are primarily responsible for preventive, promotive and curative aspects of Health care services. Many State Governments have initiated health sector reforms to improve health care facilities. State health Systems Project with World Bank Assistance aimed at improving and upgrading the secondary level health care facilities is presently under implementation in seven States. Funds are also provided under Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana (PMGY) for improving functional status of rural primary health care institutions.

Delay in Post-Mortems

4483. SHRI MANSINH PATEL
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that post-mortems are delayed as a result of which the families of the deceased have to face a lot of problems in Government hospitals;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government are considering to get the autopsy done within four hours of a death;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government are considering to review the method of post-mortem; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (g) So far as Central Government Hospitals—Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals, are concerned, post-mortems are conducted within 3-4 hours on receipt of the inquest documents from the concerned authorities. There is also no delay in carrying out the post-mortem examination in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. No proposal is under consideration of this Ministry to review the method of post-mortem.

[English]

Passenger Vessel Services

4484. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger vessel service between Chennai, Penong, Kualalumpur and Singapore are likely to be resumed again; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Constitution of High Technology Cooperation Group

4485. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.S.A. have agreed to constitute a High Technology Cooperation group to facilitate long held up transfers of American controlled 'dual use' technologies to this country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to our country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) During the visit of U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Kenneth Juster to Delhi on 12-13 November 2002, the two sides agreed to create an India-U.S. High Technology Cooperation Group.

(b) and (c) This Group, comprising senior representatives of relevant departments of both countries, would expeditiously work towards developing a new statement of principles governing bilateral cooperation in high technology trade, with the goal of increasing India's access to dual use goods and technologies from the United States.

Procurement of Nuclear Reactors

4486. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to procure Nuclear Reactors from Russia and the West to boost nuclear power generation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Based on an Inter Governmental agreement, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India is setting up two nuclear power reactors of capacity of 1000 MW each at Kudankulam (Units 1&2) in Tamilnadu, in co-operation with Russian Federation. Work on this project is progressing as per schedule and the commercial operations of the units 1&2 are targeted to commence in December 2007 and December 2008 respectively.

Dental College Students

4487. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated August 3, 2002 to the effect that approval to conduct Central Pre-Medical Test was given to a Lucknow based Dental College during the year 2000-01;

(b) the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the number of students took admission in the first year in this college during the year 2000-01 and the amount of donation paid by each of such candidates;

(d) the date on which and the basis and the period from which approval was granted to the said college;

(e) whether the students have a bleak future as they cannot pursue further studies after first year; and

(f) the arrangement made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (f) The Central Government granted permission on 2.5.2000 to Bhartiya Manav Vikas Samiti, Lucknow for establishing a new dental college in the name of Avadh Institute of Dental Sciences at Lucknow with 100 admissions with effect from the academic session 2000-01 on the basis of recommendations of the Dental Council of India (DCI). As per information furnished by the College authoritis, they had admitted 100 students during 2000-01 and collected an amount of Rs. 40.60 lakhs from the students.

The above permission was valid for a period of one year and was to be renewed on yearly basis after verification of the achievement of annual targets and the revalidation of the Performance Bank Guarantee of Rs. 150 lakhs. The Dental Council of India did not send its recommendations for renewal of permission for 2001-02 because of certain deficiencies in terms of

infrastructural facilities in the college. In the meantime, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, acting on the complaint of the students, recommended to the Central Government to disapprove the College and shift the students to some other College. Acting on the recommendation of UP Government, the Central Government conveyed its no objection to the State Government to shift these students to other approved/ recognized Dental Colleges subject to the condition that the approved admission capacity of those colleges did not exceed. Now, it was the responsibility of the State Government to adjust these students in other approved Colleges.

In the meantime, the students also went to the Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court, who in its interim order directed that the Principal Secretary, Department of Medical Health and Training, Government of UP, Director General, Medical Education & Training (UP) and Dental Council of India to accommodate the petitioner students in 2nd year BDS Course in other Dental Colleges of the State. They also directed DCI to take necessary steps for increasing the seats in the existing Dental Colleges so that the petitioner students may be accommodated in the 2nd year BDS Course.

The DCI had informed that it was filing an appeal against the interim order passed by the Hon'ble High Court because there is no provision in the Dentists Act, 1948 for increasing admission capacity in 2nd year BDS Course. The DCI has also sent its recommendation for renewal of 2nd year permission in this Dental College. A meeting of the representatives of the State Government and the DCI is being convened to resolve the issue.

Conversion of Sub-Centres

4488. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Annual Plan 2002-2003, the Health Department of A&N Administration will undertake conversion of 6 (Six) Sub-Centres building to RCC structure apart from construction of 4 (four) Mortuary Building and expansion of PHC Building at Kadamtala under the scheme PMGY;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when reconstruction of the Sub-Centre building at Hanspuri and Jarawa Creek and construction of Mortuary Building at Garacharma, Ranghat and Radhanagar in Andaman District and Gandhinagar and Nacowry in Nicobar District would be completed;

(d) when the construction of new building for existing Sub-Centre at Pashimsagar and conversion of Sub-Centre into RCC building at Milangram is likely to be taken up and completed;

(e) when the construction of OPD Block and Correcting passage with Homoeo Dispensary for PHC and construction of addition and alteration of Sub-Centre building at V.K. Pur and Netaji Nagar at Hutbay will be taken up; and

(f) by when conversion of building will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a provision for repaid and renovation of Sub-centres buildings at Hanspuri & Jarawa creek and conversion of existing Sub-Centres building to RCC structures at Flat Bay, Kalsi, Milangram, Kakana and Paschimsagar under PMGY.

New Mortuary Buildings are proposed to be constructed for PHC at Gandhinagar (Campbell Bay), Garacharma (South Andaman), Radhanagar (North Andaman) and CHC at Nancowry (Nicobar Dist). The Mortuary Building at CHC Rangat at Bamboo flat are proposed to be repaired and renovated during annual Plan 2002-03 under PMGY.

(c) The repair and renovation of Sub-Centres Hanspuri is likely to be completed during 2002-03.

The repair and renovation for Sub-Centre at Jarawa Creek and construction of Mortuary Building at PHC Garacharma, Ranghat & Radhanagar in Andaman District and PHC Gandhinagar and CHC Nancowry in Nicobar District is likely to be taken up and completed during 2003-2004.

(d) Since Paschimsagar falls under reserve Forest area, alternate site is being decided. The work for conversion of Sub-Centre building into RCC at Milangram (North Andaman) is yet to be taken up.

(e) The drawings and layout for OPD block and connecting passage with Homoeo Dispensary for PHC at Butbay is under finalization. Addition/alternation of Sub-Centre building at V.K. Pur and Netaji Nagar has since been taken up.

(f) The work of Sub-Centre buildings at V.K. Pur and Netaji Nagar is likely to be completed during financial year 2002-03.

Maintenance of Bridges

4489. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to maintain and reconstruct the bridges and wooden bridges on National Highway-52;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for the same during the current year;

(d) whether there is any proposal for conversion of National Highway No. 52 into double lane; and

(e) if so, by when the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) The rehabilitation of six bridges on NH-52 has been taken up. Work on two bridges has been completed and work on balance four bridges is likely to be completed by March, 2003. Rehabilitation of remaining bridges is proposed to be taken up during 2003-2004.

(c) An amount of Rs. 95 lakhs has been allotted for the purpose during the current year.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The work of double laning of 185.76 Km. of single lane NH stretches is proposed to be taken up during the current year. Double laning of remaining sections of National Highway is also proposed to be taken up in the 10th Plan, subject to inter-se-priority and availability of funds. It is too early to give likely date of completion at this stage.

[Translation]

Scheduled Languages in Competitive Examinations

4490. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have allowed option of writing answers in any of the Indian languages to the candidates appearing in all the competitive examinations for different services of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of all such services;

(c) whether a resolution to this effect passed by the Parliament on January 18, 1968 has been implemented in letter and spirit.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the Government propose to implement it?

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 Official Language Resolution, 1968 passed by both the House of the Parliament, inter-alia resolved that all the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and English shall be permitted as alternative medium for the all India and higher Central Services Examinations, after ascertaining the views of the UPSC on the future scheme of the examinations, the procedural aspects and the timing. In purpose of the Resolution, the option to write answers in any of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution on India has been expended only in the Civil Services (Main) Examination conducted by UPSC. The question of extension of this facility to other examinations conducted by UPSC is under consideration of the Government on the basis of the recommendations made by Dr. Satish Candra Committee.

In view of the importance and sensitivity of the matter and divergent views on the subject, Government's endeavour is to seek a consensus and evolve a nationally acceptable policy after holding wider consultation with the State Governments and others concerned, efforts for which are on.

Satellite Phone

4491. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Satellite Phones have been provided in some areas where there is no facility of communication; and

(b) if so, the criteria behind providing satellite phones and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 327 INMARSAT Mini-M Satellite Terminals are working as Village Public Telephones (VPTs) on INMARSAT satellite. These are being deployed in the most remote and isolated areas of the country in J&K, North East and Andaman & Nicobear Islands etc. where no other terrestrial technology is feasible.

National Service Voluntary Scheme

4492. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient feature of N.S.V.S. scheme;

(b) the State-wise number of youth benefited under this scheme during last three years; and

(c) the amount provided by the Government to the States Organisations under this scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) National Service Volunteers Scheme is aimed at providing opportunities to rural youth who have completed their first degree (intermediate in case of SC/ST) to enable them to make contribution to socio-economic progress of the country. Volunteers are deployed by National Service Scheme. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan. Bharat Scouts & Guides and State Governments for a period of one year extendable by another one year, at a monthly honorarium of Rs. 1000/-. The Scheme encourages youth to involve themselves in nation building activities. Before deployment in the field, they undergo a well designed programme of training for 28 days.

(b) State-wise list is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) Details are enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

S.No.	State/UTs	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A.N. Island	26	23	28
2.	Arunanchal Pradesh	34	30	26
3.	Andhra Pradesh	280	307	231
4.	Assam	247	248	254
5.	Bihar	561	660	463
6.	Chandigarh	8	7	7
7.	Delhi	16	16	7
8.	Daman & Diu	30	30	38
9.	D.N. & Haveli	8	10	14
10.	Goa	9	14	479
11.	Gujarat	159	154	479
12.	Haryana	115	129	134
13.	Himachal Pradesh	85	87	66
14.	J & K	106	114	113
15.	Karnataka	165	170	159
16.	Kerala	233	226	236

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Lakshadweep	8	4	—
18.	Madhya Pradesh	454	462	415
19.	Maharashtra	369	321	341
20.	Manipur	76	82	86
21.	Meghalaya	45	41	53
22.	Mizoram	27	17	20
23.	Nagaland	52	57	56
24.	Orissa	211	212	153
25.	Punjab	125	139	139
26.	Pondicherry	15	20	18
27.	Rajasthan	229	227	207
28.	Sikkim	46	39	32
29.	Tamil Nadu	285	319	287
30.	Tripura	48	43	33
31.	Uttar Pradesh	855	788	684
32.	West Bengal	368	399	301
33.	Uttranchal	4	3	4
	Total	5299	5398	5563

Statement-II

S.No.	State/Organisations	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1.	NYKS	5,50,38,340	4,96,30,555	5,38,86,000
2.	NSS	21,75,000	22,27,183	61,14,000
3.	Bharat Scouts & Guides	11,58,750	20,75,062	—
4.	State Govt. of Punjab	1,22,931	—	—
5.	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	1,09,969	—	—
6.	Govt. of Manipur	84,000	54,450	—
7.	Kerala Federation of the Blind	48,000	—	11,450
8.	Universal Braile & Talking Book Library Research & Education Institute Kerala	—	12,750	—
	Total	5,87,36,990	5,40,00,000	6,00,11,450

Formation of India-Iran-Afghanistan Triangle

4493. SHRI C.N. SINGH:'
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to form India-Iran-Afghanistan triangle to promote trade;

b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in this direction; and

(d) the other measures taken/likely to be taken by the Government to promote trade with Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Government is in touch with other countries in the region, including Iran and Afghanistan, and is developing projects to improve links, including ports, roads and other infrastructure, so as to facilitate more efficient movement of goods to Afghanistan, both as a part of reconstruction assistance and commercial transactions.

(d) Government had facilitate the organization of 'Made in India' show in Kabul in September this year by the Confederation of Indian Industries. The exhibition introduced the Indian capabilities in the field of commerce and industry to the Afghan people and business community, as is also being done by the Government's assistance programme for Afghan reconstruction. Officials of the two countries are also working on finalization of a Preferential Trading Agreement.

[English]

Rehabilitation of IT Professionals

4494. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has taken note of the influx of thousands of software professionals back to India, who were thrown out of I.T. firms all over the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) There is no data to substantiate that these people came back to India in large numbers and are jobless. As per NASSCOM, most of these professionals were able to relocate their jobs in these countries. The number of professionals who came back to India is not very high. Out of these, who were suitably qualified, were absorbed by the industry and most of those who were not suitably qualified have undergone retraining.

(c) Several policy measures have been taken to facilitate infrastructural development and attract foreign investments in the areas of IT for improving the position of employment in the country. Some of them are setting up of new software technology parks, establishing Media Lab Asia, spread of internet and IT enabled services.

Following two initiatives are taken in order to address the problems which are likely to be faced by the Indian IT professionals in the coming years:

— Promoting new markets (other than USA) like EU, Latin America, Asian region etc.

— Making off-shore developments/services more attractive and increasing confidence level of clients abroad.

[Translation]

Amount Spent on Publicity

4495. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) the amount spent by the MTNL on publicity and gifts since April 1, 2000 till date;

(b) whether this huge expenditure by the MTNL is justified;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any action against any officer to check such wasteful expenditure alongwith the clarification of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such wasteful expenditure by the MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) An amount of Rs. 58,38,68,178 was spent on publicity and Rs. 73,11,796 on gifts by the MTNL since 1.4.2000 till dated.

(b) Yes, Sir. This expenditure has been made in the interest of service i.e. to promote the services and educate the subscribers, which is must in competitive environment.

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

(d) No Sir, as no wasteful expenditure has been incurred.

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

[English]

Setting up of Medical College

4496. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI; Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from West Bengal Government for the setting up of a medical college on the ground that no new medical college has been set up in the State during the last 35 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Two proposals have been received from Government of West Bengal for permission to start new medical college at the following places:—

1. New Medical College at Midnapore.

2. Medical College at Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Kolkata.

These proposals have been forwarded to the Medical Council of India for evaluation. Clearance of these proposals depends on availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of the Medical Council of India thereon.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Communications Sector

4497. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Government so far in regard to foreign investment in communications sector; and

(b) the details thereof?

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

[English]

ISO 9000 Certification

4498. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant Rs. 75,000/-to each small scale units that obtains ISO 9000 certification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of small scale units which have been granted the amount under the said scheme as on October 31, 2002; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b): The scheme of reimbursement of ISO-9000 Certification Expenses to Small Scale Industries has been in operation since March, 1994. The scheme envisages reimbursement of 75,000/- in each case. The scheme has been extended up to 31st March, 2007.

(c) and (d) Since the launching of the scheme, 3049 small scale industries has been granted reimbursement

for an amount of Rs. 18.49 crores upto 31st October, 2002. During 10th Plan, an allocation of Rs. 40.50 crores has been proposed.

New Policy for National Highway Development

4499. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved recently a new policy for National Highway development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the priorities of Government so far as development of National Highways are concerned;

(d) whether areas have been identified for private investment;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for private investment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The policy objectives for National Highways for the 10th Five Year Plan period mainly envisages the following:

(i) capacity augmentation.

(ii) enhancement of mobility, safety and conductivity.

(iii) phased removal of deficiencies in existing network.

(iv) preservation of existing assets.

(v) Encouragement of private sector participation in road construction and maintenance.

(c) The priorities of the Government are 4/6 laning of National Highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and Port Connectivity and improvement of riding quality of non-NHDP sections of National Highways.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details are given in the statement.

(f) The policy of private investment has been adopted to supplement Government Budgetary support for development of National Highways.

Statement

List of Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Projects

S.No.	Project Name	NH No.	State	Length in Km	Cost Rs. Cr	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ministry						
Toll Based Projects						
1.	Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass	3	Maharashtra	24	103	Completed
2.	Nardhana ROB	3	Maharashtra	13	34.21	Completed
3.	Hubli-Dharwar Bypass	4	Karnataka	30.35	68	Completed
4.	Construction of additional 2-lane	4	Maharashtra	8	37.8	Completed
5.	Construction of six bridges	5	Andhra Pradesh	6 Nos. Bridges	50	Completed
6.	Kosasthalyar Bridge	5	Tamil Nadu		30	Completed
7.	Nasirabad ROB	6	Maharashtra	30m	10.45	Completed
8.	Wainganga Bridge	6	Maharashtra	530m	32.6	Completed
9.	Udaipur Bypass	8	Rajasthan	11	24	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Mahi Bridge	8	Gujarat		42	Completed
11.	Bridge across river Watrak	8	Gujarat		48.2	Completed
12.	Chalthan Road Over Bridge	8	Gujarat	4-lane RoB	10	Completed
13.	Narmada bridge	8	Gujarat	6	113	Completed
14.	Patalganga Bridge & ROB	17	Maharashtra	1 No.	33.3	Completed
15.	ROB at Derabassi	22	Punjab		31.48	Completed
16.	Coimbatore Bypass	47	Tamil Nadu	33	90	Completed
17.	Katni bypass	7	Madhya Pradesh	17.5	42.00	In progress.
18.	Guna bypass on NH 3	3	Madhya Pradesh	18	30.00	In-principal approval given
19.	4-laning of Gonde-Nasik-Pimplegaon road including Dwarka fly over from 380/00 to 440/00 on NH 3	3	Maharashtra	60	246.00	Technical Proposal approved
20.	Construction of Bridge across Pinglai river in km 113/800 on NH 6	6	Maharashtra		8.20	Prequalification done. Bids to be invited
21.	Construction of Akola bypass on NH 6	6	Maharashtra		45.00	Prequalification done. Bids to be invited
22.	Construction of ROB in Km 399/0 near Fekri on NH 6	6	Maharashtra		11.80	Technical Proposal approved
23.	4-laning of Raipur-Durg section of NH 6	6	Chhattisgarh	26.6	48.00	Award under finalisation
24.	4-laning of Pune-Sholapur road Km. 14/00 to 40/00 of NH 9	9	Maharashtra	26	88.00	Prequalification done. Bids to be invited.
25.	4-laning of Pune-Sholapur road from Km. 210/00 to 241/00 of NH 9	9	Maharashtra	31	62.00	Technical Proposal approved
26.	Construction of ROB & its approaches near Sendra (Km 12) of NH 14	14	Rajasthan		10.00	In-principle approval given
27.	4-laning of NH 50 from km 12/190 to 40/00	50	Maharashtra	27.81	105.00	Technical Proposal approved
28.	4-laning of Nasik Sinnar road on NH 50 from 180/00 to 208/640	50	Maharashtra	28.64	76.00	Technical Proposal approved

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.	Meerut-Muzaffarnagar section of NH-58	58	Uttar Pradesh	63	23.00	Prequalification done
National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)						
Toll Based Projects						
1.	Durg Bypass	6	Madhya Pradesh	18.4	68	Completed
2.	ROB at Kishangarh bypass	8	Rajasthan	1	16.66	Completed
3.	4-laning of Satara-Kagal Section	4	Maharashtra	133	600.00	In progress
4.	4-laning of Tumkur-Neelmangla (km 29.5 to km 62.0 of NH-4)	4	Karnataka	32.5	155	In progress
5.	4-laning of Tada (km. 52.8) to Nellore (km. 163.6)	5	Andhra Pradesh	110.52	621.4	In progress
6	Delhi-Gurgaon Section	8	Haryana	27.7	555.00	In progress
7.	Nandigama-Vijayawada	9	Andhra Pradesh	35	138.65	In progress
8.	Vivekananda Bridge and approach	2	West Bengal	6	600.00	Approved for award
9.	Mahapura (near Jaipur)-Kishangarh (km 273.5-km 363.885)	8	Rajasthan	90.38	644.00	Awarded
Annuity based Projects						
1.	4-laning of Panagarh-Palsit Section	2	West Bengal	64.457	350	In progress
2.	4-laning of Palsit-Dankuni Section (Durgapur Expressway)	2	West Bengal	65	432.40	In progress
3.	4-laning of Maharashtra Border-Belgaum Section	4	Karnataka	77	332	In progress
4.	4-laning of Anakapalli-Tuni Section	5	Andhra Pradesh	58.947	283.2	In progress
5.	4-laning of Tuni-Dharmavaram Section	5	Andhra Pradesh	47	232	In progress
6.	4-laning of Dharmavaram-Rajamundry Section	5	Andhra Pradesh	53	206	In progress
7.	Nellore bypass	5	Andhra Pradesh	17.2	143.20	In progress
8.	4-laning of Tambaram-Tindivanam Section	45	Tamilnadu	93	375	In progress

Telephone Facilities in Meghalaya

4500. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages specially situated near the Indo-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya yet to be provided with telephone facilities; and

(b) by when these villages are to be provided with telephone facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) 170 villages situated near Indo-Bangladesh border in Maghalaya are without telephone facilities. All these villages are planned to be provided with telecome facility through satellite phone by August, 2003 subject to timely availability of resources.

Bypass Surgery

4501. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new innovation in the field of bypass surgery has been evolved wherein "wrist watch incision" is carried on a heart patient;

(b) whether it is a blood saving device and is very convenient for the patients undergoing bypass surgery;

(c) whether this new device has been introduced on a large scale in the country's Government hospitals; and

(d) if not, by when it would be done on a large scale in Government Hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new device has been evolved wherein small incisions are made to harvest the grafts used for coronary artery bypass grafting. It is a blood saving and less painfully procedure and more convenient to the patients.

(c) and (d) At present the above procedure is being used in a few hospitals in Delhi and Mumbai.

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Outstanding Amount to Companies

4502. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the companies supplying medicines to the C.G.H.S. dispensaries have stopped the supplying of medicines in the wake of non-payment of outstanding amount of such companies by the Government due to which the beneficiaries of CGHS dispensaries are facing a lot of problems; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take an early action in this regard so that the problems being faced by the beneficiaries of CGHS dispensaries particularly senior citizens, can be addressed?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) The CGHS does not purchase allopathic medicines directly from the Companies as all the bulk requirement of medicines for CGHS are procured through Medical Stores organisation under the DTE. GHS. The medicines not available in the CGHS dispensaries are indented with the authorised local chemists appointed under CGHS for supplying the same to the dispensaries. As regards supply of medicines to the ISM&H dispensaries under CGHS is concerned, no supplier has stopped supply of medicines due to non-payment of their outstanding bills.

At present, the availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries is not adequate. Due to the ongoing strike of the authorized local chemists of CGHS Delhi, the beneficiaries have been allowed to purchase the medicines from open market and get reimbursement of the expenses incurred on this account from the Govt. Arrangements have also been made for making reimbursement to CGHS pensioner beneficiaries in the concerned CGHS dispensary itself.

In the present context, steps have been taken to procure generic as well as proprietary medicines through the Hospital Services Constancy Corporation (India) Limited. There supplies have already started arriving in CGHS Delhi.

(b) In view of 9a) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Spurious Drugs

4503. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had called a meeting of all Chief Ministers to check the menace of spurious drugs in the country and ways and means to check it as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated November 13, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein;

(c) the outcome of the meeting; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Union Minister of Health & F.W. had called a meeting of the Health Ministers and senior officials of 13 major States

of the country on 12.11.2002 to discuss measures to ensure concerted action required to check movement of spurious drugs in the country and to involve all stake holders, including pharma industry, in measures required to curb menace of manufacture and marketing of spurious/ fake medicines.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare had also written on Oct. 8th, 2002 to all the Chief Ministers seeking their personal intervention to ensure that adequate measures are taken in each State to vigorously pursue the strategies needed to preclude any possibility of menace of spurious products.

(c) and (d) Based on the deliberations held, the meeting recommended certain guidelines needed to be adopted by the State Govts. for focused strategies to curb the menace of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs. These strategies included: (1) Improving uniformity in implementing various regulatory requirements by the State enforcing authorities. (2) Making stricter provisions under the Drugs & Cosmetics Acts, 1945 for offences as non-bailable and cognizable. (3) State Governments may consider an enactment "The Gujarat Prevention of Anti-social Activities Act, 1985" made by the State of Gujarat which provides for preventive detention of drug offenders for anti-social activities and dangerous activities prejudicial to the maintenance of public order. (4) Augmentation of drug testing facilities in the States for speedy analysis of drug samples with a view to bring down testing time of samples of drugs. (5) Efficient communication networking through computerization for efficient information exchange. (6) Surveillance over distribution of drugs through medical practitioners. (7) Improvement of regulatory infrastructure (8) The pharma industry to take adequate initiative to detect counterfeiting/imitation of their product and proper coordination with drug regulatory agencies. (9) Speedy trial by identified or designated courts for deciding spurious drug cases (10) To provide toll free number so that consumers or doctors can easily make their complaints. (11) Establishment of intelligence-cum-legal cell and anti-spurious squad to detect and unearth spurious drugs cases. (12) To set up/reactivate state drugs advisory committee in which all stakeholders are partners. (13) Undertaking surveillance of suspected dealers through Decoy customers/watchers. (14) Training programmes for officers of drugs control administration in matters concerning development of intelligence, detection, investigation, preparing and filing complaints, court procedures etc.

[Translation]

Haj Pilgrims

4504. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quota allocated by Saudi Arabia to the country for the Haj pilgrims during the last three years; and

(b) the number of Haj pilgrims who undertook pilgrimage during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Haj quota allocated by the Saudi Arabia for the Indian Haj pilgrims during the last three years is as follows:

2000	1,20,000
2001	1,20.000
2002	1,47,000

Out of the above, the Haj Committee's quota in the same period has been 72,00 per year. The remaining Indian pilgrims travelled to Saudi Arabia through Private Tour Operators, and from third countries.

(b) The total number of Haj pilgrims who undertook the Haj pilgrimage were:

2000	1,09,909
2001	1,18,512
2002	1,18,759

Available information on the State-wise breakdown of Haj pilgrims in these years under aegis of the Haj Committee is placed on the Table of the House. State-wise figures of Haj pilgrims who went through Private Tour Operators is not available.

Statement

States	2000 No. of Pilgrims Proceeded	2001 No. of Pilgrims Proceeded	2002 No. of Pilgrims Proceeded
1	2	3	4
Daman & Diu	31	23	30
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	30	15	18

1	2	3	4
Goa	28	28	26
Gujarat	7269	7082	5993
Mahdya Pradesh	3638	3406	3282
Chhattisgarh	—	—	210
Maharashtra	10413	10682	10583
Chandigarh	21	4	10
Delhi	3083	2649	2456
Haryana	867	720	577
Himachal Pradesh	15	39	25
Jammu Kashmir	4443	5746	6383
Punjab	158	144	180
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	13925	12085	11749
Rajasthan	3987	4297	4202
Andhra Pradesh	3459	3711	4634
Karnataka	4455	4848	3900
Andaman Nicobar	30	13	31
Lakshadweep	205	216	156
Pondicherry	60	72	63
Kerala	6969	6221	6780
Tamil Nadu	3537	2858	2682
Assam	620	1067	1106
Bihar	1580	1771	1308
Jharkhand	—	—	692
Manipur	126	198	173
Orissa	240	214	270
Tripura	10	9	47
West Bengal	2227	2056	2278
Govt. Quota/H.C	483	959	432
Total	71909	71133	70276

[English]

Development of Trade and Sharing of Water with Bangladesh

4505. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO:
DR. V. SAROJA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any protocol has been signed between India and Bangladesh on inland water transit and trade;

(b) if so, the routes identified for co-operation under the protocol;

(c) the year/date till which the protocol agreement is valid;

(d) the details thereof;

(e) whether there exists any agreement with Bangladesh regarding the use of Chittagong Port for the transportation of commodities to the North East region of India;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any Indo-Bangladesh joint-study group has been set up for exploring the prospects of bilateral trade between Bangladesh and North East region of India; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The routes identified for cooperation under the Protocol are (i) Calcutta-Haldia-Raimongal-Chalna-Khulna-Mongla-Kaushali-Barisal-Hizla-Chandpur-Narayanganj-Aricha-Sirajganj-Bahadurabad-Chilmari-Dhubri-Pandu. (ii) Pandu-Dhubri-Chilmari-Bahadurabad-Sirajganj-Aricha-Narayanganj-Chandpur-Hizla-Barisal-Kaushali-Mongla-Khulna-Chalna-Raimongal-Haldia-Calcutta. (iii) Calcutta-Haldia-Raimongal-Mongla-Kaushali-Barisal-Hizla-Chandpur-Narayanganj-Bhairab Bazar-Ajmiriganj-Markuli-Sherpur-Fenchuganj-Zakiganj-Karimganj. (iv) Karimganj-Zakiganj-Fenchuganj-Sherpur-Markuli-Ajmiriganj-Bhairab Bazar-Narayanganj-Chandpur-Hizla-Barisal/Kaushali-Mongla-Raimongal-Haldia-Calcutta. (v) Rajshahi-Godagari-Dhulian. (vi) Dhulian-Godagari-Rajshahi. (vii) Karimganj-Zakiganj-Fenchuganj-Sherpur-Markuli-Ajmiriganj-Bhairab Bazar-Narayanganj-Chandpur-Aricha-Sirajganj-Bahaburabad-Chilmari-Dhubri-Pandu. (viii) Pandu-Dhubri-Chilmari-Bahadurabad-Sirajganj-Aricha-Chandpur-Narayanganj-Bhairabbazar-Ajmiriganj-Markuli-Sherpur-Fenchuganj-Zakiganj-Karimganj.

(c) and (d) The Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh was entered into on 4th October 1980. Since then it has been periodically renewed. The Protocol is currently valid till 3 February 2003.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bridge on Rapti River

4506. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the dilapidated and accident-prone condition of the bridge over Rapti river on National Highway 28 in Gorakhpur city;

(b) if so, whether the Government plan to construct a new bridge over there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The existing bridge on Rapti river on NH-28 in Gorakhopur has been repaired and rehabilitated.

(b) and (c) There is a proposal for construction of Gorakhpur bypass under East West corridor component of National Highway Development Project (NHDP). Construction of a new bridge is also a part of the proposal.

[English]

Diabetes Medicine

4507. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Homeopathic Drug Research Institute, Lucknow has made an important break-through in developing medicine to cure diabetes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the drug is likely to be made available commercially?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Homeopathic Drug Research Institute, Lucknow has carried out a Research study with Cephelandra Indica on the Alloxan induced diabetes mellitus in albino rats and has come out with the hypothesis that this drug can initiate regeneration of the beta cells of the pancreas which are responsible for production of insulin in animals. The drug is being used by Homeopaths for several decades for the treatment for Diabetes Mellitus and is commercially available in the market.

Central Council of Homeopathy

4508. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI T.GOVINDAN:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of mushrooming growth of Homoeo Medical Colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of Homoeo Colleges sanctioned by the Central Council of Homeopathy during the last one year alongwith the admission capacity, State-wise;

(c) the details of seats enhanced in U.G. and P.G. courses in existing colleges during the above period;

(d) whether such increase in seats are as per norms prescribed in the Regulations;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints against the Central Council of Homeopathy; and

(f) if so, the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure proper function of the CCH?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details as given in the enclosed statement.

(c) During the period from 1.1.2001 to 30.11.2002 the existing 2320 seats in 56 Under Graduate Colleges were increased to 3500 and the existing 378 seats in 15 Posts Graduate Colleges were increased to 543.

(d) to (f) Complaints about irregularities in the Central Council of Homeopathy have come to Government's notice. The issue has already been taken up.

Statement

I. Details of the Homeopathy Medical Colleges existing in the Country as on 13.11.2002:

Name of State	Total Number of Colleges	Under Graduate	Post Graduate
1	2	3	4
Assam	3	3	—
Andhra Pradesh	4	3	1
Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—
Bihar	13	13	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—
Chhattisgarh	3	3	—
Delhi	2	2	—
Goa	1	1	
Gujarat	16	15	1
Haryana	1	1	—

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh	2	1	—
Jharkhand	2	2	—
Kerala	5	3	2
Karnataka	11	7	4
Maharashtra	47	43	4
Madhya Pradesh	20	—	—
Orissa	6	5	1
Punjab	5	5	—
Rajasthan	6	5	1
Tamil Nadu	10	10	—
Uttar Pradesh	9	8	1
Uttaranchal	1	1	—
West Bengal	13	12	1
Total	182	166	16

II. Number of Undergraduate Homoeopathy colleges sanctioned by the Central Council of Homoeopathy:

2001 01.01.2001-31.12.2001			2002 01.01.2002-30.11.2002		
UG Colleges	No. of Colleges	Admission Capacity	UG Colleges	No. of Colleges	Admission capacity
Maharashtra	3	150	Punjab	1	50
Madhya Pradesh	3	150	Uttar Pradesh	1	100
Bihar	2	150	Himachal Pradesh	2	135
Tamil Nadu	1	50	Madhya Pradesh	3	200
Arunachal Pradesh	1	50	Rajasthan	2	135
Gujarat	1	50	Maharashtra	2	100
Total	11	600	Gujarat	2	200
			Uttranchal	1	50
			Chhatisgarh	1	50
			Total	15	1020

III.Number of Post Graduate Homeopathy colleges sanctioned by the Central Council of Homeopathy:

2001 01.01.2001-31.12.2001			2002 01.01.2002-30.11.2002		
PG Colleges	No. of Colleges	Admission Capacity	PG Colleges	No. of Colleges	Admission capacity
Gujarat	2	27	Bihar	1	69
Karnataka	1	18	New Delhi	1	42
Maharashtra	1	18	Karnataka	1	14
Total	4	63	Maharashtra	3	111
			Madhya Pradesh	1	6
			Punjab	1	60
			Tamil Nadu	1	30
			Uttar Pradesh	2	99
			Total	11	431

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[Translation]

Telephone Connections

4509. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the State-wise, number of telephone connections released out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The target and achievement of New direct Exchange Lines (DEL's) of Public Sector Units in the country during the last three years is given in the statement.

Statement

Targets and Achievements of DEL's (Direct Exchange Lines) During Last Three Years

Sl.No.	Name of State/Union Territories	1999-00		2000-01		2001-02	
		Target for New Direct exchange lines	Achievement of New Direct Exchange lines	Target for New Direct exchange lines	Achievement of New Direct Exchange lines	Target for New Direct Exchange lines	Achievement of New Direct Exchange lines
1	2	3	4	5	- 6	7	8
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	7000	8690	7000	5613	7700	2958
2.	Andhra Pradesh	350000	655088	575000	610931	467500	293126

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	60000	61162	55000	65260	81500	82614
4.	Bihar	163000	125179	260000	264396	149100	168775
5.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	47500	68804
6.	Gujarat$$	250000	374022	330000	476841	584400	435189
7.	Haryana	117000	117436	150000	152193	233000	189702
8.	Himachal Pradesh	59000	60027	60000	61761	83100	88751
9.	J&K	40000	22158	50000	43512	72700	49278
10.	Karnataka	300000	364715	425000	427155	455500	330169
11.	Kerala**	400000	350055	450000	456444	611100	529001
12.	Madhya Pradesh	141000	154816	150000	167166	128300	112224
13.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	21200	28365
14.	Maharashtra@	620000	657868	840000	779027	815300	747397
15.	North East#	40000	43801	50000	49274	40600	44697
16.	Orissa	87000	89036	100000	103107	109700	114810
17.	Punjab$	240000	208288	250000	251197	426700	379565
18.	Rajasthan	180000	182395	210000	216886	276100	264998
19.	Tamilnadu***	490000	546170	700000	702187	547500	407593
20.	Uttar Pradesh	400000	418217	490000	527929	489100	468462
21.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	84900	51086
22.	West Bengal^	341000	301803	438000	402290	418900	332839
23.	Delhi	200000	176733	200000	161620	125000	85947
	Total	4485000	4917659	5790000	5924789	6276400	5276350

$$ Gujarat includes the Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu **Kerala includes the Union Territory of Lakshdweep Islands.

@Maharashtra includes the State of Goa.

#North East includes the States of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland

$Punjab includes the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

***Tamil Nadu includes the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

^West Bengal includes the State of Sikkim.

[English]

Criteria for Central Assistance

4510. COL (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central assistance provided to various States during the last four years, State-wise/year-wise;

(b) the reasons for wide spread variation in provision of Central assistance to different States;

(c) the criteria adopted for sanction of Central Assistance grants to States;

(d) whether it is fact that Andhra Pradesh has been given preferential treatment when compared with other States considering economical condition of each State; and

(e) if so, reasons therefore and justification for giving preferential treatment to Andhra Pradesh?

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) Statements I to IV showing Central Assistance provided to various States during the last four years, viz 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 are enclosed.

(b) to (e) Central Assistance to the States consists of Normal Central Assistance, Assistance for Externally Aided Projects, Special Central Assistance for specific projects/programmes and Additional Central Assistance. Normal Central Assistance to the States is based on the methodology, Criteria & Weights given by Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, which has been adopted and approved by the National Development Council in December 1991. Assistance for Externally Aided Projects is project based and it depends upon the ability of the States to obtain financing from external funding agencies. Special Central Assistance for specific projects/ programmes are allocated to States on the basis of formula arrived at between the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries concerned. Additional Central Assistance is need based and project based and it is allocated to States to supplement the effort of the States in tackling specific problems. Hence, variations in Central Assistance to the States reflect the need of Central Assistance by the States as recognised in the formulae for allocation to the States and the effort of the States in attracting external assistance, and no State including Andhra Pradesh is given preferential treatment in allocation of Central Assistance.

Statement—I

Central Assistance Released to States in 1998-99

Sl.No.	States	Normal Central Assist.	ACA for EAP	Others	Total Central Assist.
0	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	82074.71	62472.11	48995.00	193541.82
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41888.34	0.00	10669.04	52557.38
3.	Assam	97714.18	3316.33	33282.00	134312.51
4.	Bihar	130954.99	11278.44	53050.50	195283.93
5.	Goa	5827.39	572.93	764.48	7164.80
6.	Gujarat	31524.48	26764.96	55259.00	113548.44
7.	Haryana	20128.63	16500.86	4523.00	41152.49
8.	Himachal Pradesh	48772.30	0.00	27026.00	75798.30
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	96121.92	842.49	141408.00	238372.41
10.	Karnataka	41982.68	31648.64	28334.52	101965.84
11.	Kerala	45557.23	4085.44	18356.17	67998.84
12.	Madhya Pradesh	81268.11	16325.58	39043.00	136636.69
13.	Maharashtra	64410.51	59713.41	28600.64	152724.56
14.	Manipur	29290.09	896.28	11565	41751.37

0	1	2	3	4	5
15.	Meghalaya	24561.00	0.00	9127	33688.00
16.	Mizoram	26390.68	49.24	6452	32891.92
17.	Nagaland	28675.11	0.00	8113.76	36788.87
18.	Orissa	55713.38	41582.58	22719.26	120015.22
19.	Punjab	19880.12	17111.31	6840.00	43831.43
20.	Rajasthan	46541.92	22517.17	47917.12	116976.21
21.	Sikkim	18745.00	1168.66	5425.00	25338.66
22.	Tamil Nadu	66342.12	30516.38	20054.00	116912.50
23.	Tripura	35746.47	0.00	16608.5	52354.97
24.	Uttar Pradesh	161917.77	46505.14	110689.00	319111.91
25.	West Bengal	85401.14	88620.60	41194.58	215216.32
	Total	1387430.27	482488.55	796016.57	2665935.39

Note: (a) Figure at Current Prices
(b) Others includes Special Central Assistance and Additional Central Assistance.

Statement—II

Central Assistance Released to States in 1999-00

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	Normal Central Assist.	ACA for EAP	Others	Total Central Assist.
0	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	83070.44	144051.39	29196.45	256318.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	43979.92	0	13173.82	57153.74
3.	Assam	102924.66	4118.96	37921.88	144965.5
4.	Bihar	144844.61	13041.26	63776.00	221661.87
5.	Goa	5760.37	44.89	1150.37	6955.63
6.	Gujarat	39235.47	51233.05	47624.00	138092.52
7.	Haryana	18153.58	28085.26	3801.00	50039.84
8.	Himachal Pradesh	53726.92	1556.05	39315.70	94598.67
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	97636.76	2483.98	189560.00	289680.74
10.	Karnataka	47264.58	45670.46	30973.05	123908.09
11.	Kerala	48958.78	4154.6	18920.24	72033.62
12.	Madhya Pradesh	90347.53	59867.37	40946.54	191161.44

0	1	2	3	4	5
13.	Maharashtra	68989.45	24535.73	28254.32	121779.5
14.	Manipur	32212.62	1843.11	22122.14	56177.87
15.	Meghalaya	26277.55	62.13	11864.75	38204.43
16.	Mizoram	30950.64	319.04	10001.7	41271.38
17.	Nagaland	32154.89	0	13059.24	45214.13
18.	Orissa	46965.8	39155.51	36156.73	122278.04
19.	Punjab	18516.42	10634.85	10946.00	40097.27
20.	Rajasthan	57301.19	18808.89	39033.17	115143.25
21.	Sikkim	19472.55	209.31	9967.00	29648.86
22.	Tamil Nadu	66343.86	59140.86	20035.45	145520.17
23.	Tripura	43276.81	0	9967.00	53243.81
24.	Uttar Pradesh	197117.05	43121.64	140588.00	380826.69
25.	West Bengal	97185.52	81967.3	36720.00	215872.82
	Total	1512667.97	634105.64	905074.55 .	3051848.16

Note: (a) Figure at Current Prices.
(b) Others includes Special Central Assistance and Additional Central Assistance.

Statement—III

Central Assistance Released to States in 2000-01

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	Normal Central Assist.	ACA for EAP	Others	Total Central Assist.
0	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80361.9	144234.04	42378.49	266974.43
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	43786.66	0	14564.08	58350.74
3.	Assam	107757.54	7825.54	36436.26	152019.34
4.	Bihar	128104.71	6366.9	35593.68	170065.29
5.	Goa	6041.96	0	907.46	6949.42
6.	Gujarat	42116.14	89124.42	28003.44	159244
7.	Haryana	17565.15	29665.89	11804.00	59035.04
8.	Himachal Pradesh	52124.51	5639.64	35726.39	93490.54
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	101790.93	1571.06	61293.74	164655.73

0	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	46981.39	57950.38	30261.87	135193.64
11.	Kerala	46509.74	7716.3	11736.33	65962.37
12.	Madhya Pradesh	80647.64	17268.24	35988.68	133904.56
13.	Maharashtra	45080.88	31870.32	37525.54	114476.74
14.	Manipur	30458.31	1956.9	8775.68	41190.89
15.	Meghalaya	26573.67	815.06	12536.12	39924.85
16.	Mizoram	31223.61	189.18	8421.46	39834.25
17.	Nagaland	31033.53	0	10736.43	41769.96
18.	Orissa	49982.87	51634.22	33796.15	135413.24
19.	Punjab	12925.53	18715.17	17425.39	49066.09
20.	Rajasthan	52881.7	24842.21	33418.50	111142.41
21.	Sikkim	19867.17	50.06	6718.72	26635.95
22.	Tamil Nadu	66343.86	77513.59	31412.08	175269.53
23.	Tripura	41035.5	2.65	23525.97	64564.12
24.	Uttar Pradesh	193074.87	169789.69	103584.90	466449.46
25.	West Bengal	100036.26	63609.3	39282.25	202927.81
26.	Chhattisgarh	11368.64	0	16056.00	27424.64
27.	Jharkhand	12110.96	0-	19179.25	31290.21
28.	Uttaranchal	2606.82	972.89	43998.00	47577.71
	Total	1480392.45	809323.65	791086.86	3080802.96

Note: (a) Figure at Current Prices.
(b) Others includes Special Central Assistance and Additional Central Assistance.

Statement—IV

Central Assistance Released to States in 2001-02

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl.No.	States	Normal Central Assist.	ACA for EAP	Others	Total Central Assist.
0	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	85443.1	375584.23	48231.40	509258.73
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44286.66	32.01	23185.97	67504.64
3.	Assam	104796.85	9325.1	51987 10	166109.05

0	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	118063.6	1683.2	24474.47	144221.27
5.	Goa	7073.55	0	6192.09	13265.64
6.	Gujarat	46557.72	160496.12	73098.40	280152.24
7.	Haryana	19466.21	15193.24	4392.00	39051.45
8.	Himachal Pradesh	52950.05	3816.12	46003.11	102769.28
9.	Jammu & kashmir	98699.88	3804.88	99751.00	202255.76
10.	Karnataka	52968.02	169174.06	62588.66	284730.74
11.	Kerala	53603.96	9699.38	15640.38	78943.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	77543.18	81959.8	32629.07	192132.05
13.	Maharashtra	76868.23	28923.46	19187.94	124979.63
14.	Manipur	30367.23	1626.73	31993.96	63987.92
15.	Meghalaya	26299.75	4311.93	30611.68	61223.36
16.	Mizoram	31223.61	348.6	31572.21	63144.42
17.	Nagaland	32513.53	106.46	32619.99	65239.98
18.	Orissa	59738	31050.17	37885.50	128673.67
19.	Punjab	25060.81	20958.39	20575.75	66594.95
20.	Rajasthan	59990.2	9911.84	29074.50	98976.64
21.	Sikkim	20557.3	191.85	14552.00	35301.15
22.	Tamil Nadu	70222	34018.64	21756.00	125996.64
23.	Tripura	45485.5	366.52	35376.30	81228.32
24.	Uttar Pradesh	190845.71	60637.23	99202.00	350684.94
25.	West Bengal	104059	68845.1	32385.80	205289.9
26.	Chhattisgarh	32235	716.84	11330.40	44282.24
27.	Jharkhand	38443	0	5373.00	43816
28.	Uttaranchal	53800	1740.84	59313.65	114854.49
	Total	1659161.65	1094522.74	1000984.33	3754668.72

Note: (a) Figure at Current Prices.
(b) Others includes Special Central Assistance and Additional Central Assistance.

Amendment to Central Council of Homeopathy Regulations

4511. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the students in under-graduate courses in Homeopathy in Karnataka have been demanding carry over system, provision for grace marks and other facilities that are being provided to other medical courses like MBBS, BDS, BUMS, BAMS;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has sought amendment to the existing Central Council of Homeopathy Regulations; and

(c) the action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Requests received for such amendments have already been taken in hand for necessary action.

Winter Sports Stadiums

4512. SHRI HASSAN KHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed setting up Winter Sports Stadium at Leh and Kargil in Ladakh Region of J&K;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) "Sports" is a State subject. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to create various Sports facilities including Winter Sports Stadium to promote sports at all levels. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this direction, Central assistance is provided to State Governments/Municipal Corporations etc. on matching share basis for creation of various sports facilities under the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure, subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the States.

On the basis of proposals received from the Government of J&K, the Ministry has approved the following Winter Sports Infrastructure in the Laddakh Region of J&K from 1999-2000 till date:

Sl.No.	Project	Amount sanctioned with date
1.	Ice Hockey Rink at Shankoo, Kargil	Rs. 37.50 lakhs (11.12.2001)
2.	Ice Hockey Rink at Choglumsar, Leh.	Rs. 37.50 lakhs (11.12.2001)

CBI Cases

4513. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred to CBI by the Orissa Government;

(b) the number of cases accepted by CBI; and

(c) the number of cases still under investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Upto 1.12.2002, out of 8 matters, including several cases, referred by the Government of Orissa to Central Bureau of Investigation, 7 have been accepted. 31 cases have so far been registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation on these 7 matters, out of which 27 are currently under investigation.

[Translation]

Attack on a Temple in Jammu

4514. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent attack on a temple in Jammu has been condemned by the international community; and

(b) it so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, members of the international community, including the United States of America, European Union, Russia, Japan etc. have condemned the recent attack on a temple in Jammu.

(b) Statements issued by United States of America, European Union, Russia and Japan have inter alia expressed shock at the terrorist attacks, condemned these latest instances of senseless violence and said that violence will not solve the problems, nor will terrorism achieve the goals of any group.

The Russian Foreign Ministry statement also stressed that the foremost condition for the cessation of terrorist acts in Jammu & Kashmir is the full implementation by Pakistani authorities of their own obligations for the speedy eradication of terrorist infrastructure in that country.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry statement mentioned that barbaric terrorist attack targeting civilians shall never be justified and reaffirmed its determination towards eradication of any form of terrorism.

[English]

Renewal Permission for Admission

4515. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government for the renewal of permission for admission of students against additional seats for five medical colleges where deficiencies were pointed by the Medical Council of India have been rectified;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) The permission of the Central Govt. for establishment of new medical college and increase in seats in MBBS course is given initially for a period of one year subject to be renewed on annual basis on creation of facilities as per the norms of the Medical Council of India and recommendations of the Medical Council of India thereon. Permission has not so far been renewed for admission of fresh batch of students during the academic year 2002-03 in new medical college at Anantapur for want of Medical Council of India recommendations. In addition, permission for admission of students against the increased intake has also not been renewed in respect of four medical colleges at Tirupati, Kurnool, Warangal and Kakinada. In case of college at Kurnool and Warangal the compliance report on rectification of deficiencies pointed out in the inspection report of Medical Council of India has not been received from the college authorities whereas in case of colleges at Tirupati and Kakinada recommendations of the Medical Council of India are awaited. Renewal of permission in respect of these colleges will depend on availability of infrastructure facilities and recommendations of the Medical Council of India thereon.

Medical Projects with US

4516. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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 "US flays India for delay in clearing medical Projects" appearing in *The Hindu* dated November 19, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the USA have urged upon the Government to expedite the clearance of the large number of pending medical projects;

(c) whether USA Government have also sought changes in the existing procedures being followed by the Government which is causing delays in the clearance of projects involving Indian Scientists already cleared by the USA Government;

(d) weather USA also intend to provide more funds for joint research with India because the Indian Science achieved significant progress in health research; and

(e) if so, the number of projects pending clearance and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (e) The medical Research proposals involving foreign assistance/ collaboration after peer review are placed before the Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC) which meets periodically, for clearance. At present there are 15 project proposals involving India and USA which are under peer review at ICMR level, of which, 11 proposals have been submitted to ICMR in the last 4-5 months weareas 4 proposals need certain clarification/modification/revision.

IT in Orissa

4517. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of Union Government to assist backward States in Information Technology like Orissa for development of IT Parks with at least 75% Central assistance;

(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) centres have already been set up at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. These centres are operational and functional. There is no proposal under consideration for setting up another STPI in the State of Orissa.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges

4518. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present total number of telephone exchanges in Jabalpur city alone and the installed capacity of each of them;

(b) whether SDCA has been set up by including the areas of the municipalities of the rural areas and towns of Jabalpur city, if so, whether the bimonthly rent of telephone is also being charged on the same basis;

(c) whether the total installed capacity of adjoining areas of the telephones exchanges is less than ten thousand while rent is charged at rates equivalent to the metropolitan areas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up separate SDCA to said adjoining areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Number of telephone exchanges in Jabalpur city is 13 and installed capacity is 86380 lines. Details are given the statement enclosed.

(b) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

List of Exchanges of Jabalpur Town

Sl.No.	SDCA	U/R	Name of Exchange	Capacity
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jabalpur	U	JBP CTO	16280
2.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Ku Mandi	3500
3.	Jabalpur	U	JBP TTc	3000
4.	Jabalpur	U	JBP KHAMARIA	2000
5.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Madarmahal	9500
6.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Medical college	3000
7.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Milauni Gang	16600
8.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Ramnagar	2000
9.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Rampur	4000

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Ranjhi	5000
11.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Wright Town	18500
12.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Kanchanpur	2000
13.	Jabalpur	U	JBP Bilahari	1000
	Total			86380

[English]

Joint Study Group of India and Singapore

4519. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed for setting up of joint study group for India-Singapore comprehensive economic cooperation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Prime Ministers of India and Singapore, during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Singapore in April, 2002, decided to set up a Joint Study Group (JSG) to study the scope, content and structure of a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). The JSG is headed, on the Indian side, by Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Deputy Governor, RBI, and is to submit its report to the two Prime Ministers within one year.

Telephone Exchanges

4520. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of waiting list for telephone connections in Dharampuri SSA area;

(b) whether any new telephone exchange is proposed to be opened in the current year in the above area;

(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 (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There is no waiting list in Dharampuri SSA area.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It has been planned to open 7 (seven) exchanges during the current year out of which 3 exchanges have already been commissioned. The remaining 4 exchanges will be commissioned subject to availability of resources.

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

Seminar on India Post

4521. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on "India Post 2010" was held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including details of organizers participants in the seminar; and

(c) the suggestions made by the participants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basic objective of the conference was to provide a platform to policy makers from the government and as well as practitioners and independent experts to discuss the potential uses of the postal network. The Conference was jointly organized by the Department of Posts, the World Bank and Invest India Economic foundation. The participants in the seminar included Central and State Government officials as well as representative sof foreign postal administrations, the World Bank, academic institutions, the private sector and the media.

(c) The participants deliberated upon and suggested many new roles which the vast and credible infrastructure of Post Offices can perform in the Indian economy

including: payments system functions, e-governance functions, front end for the financial sector, information dissemination in rural and semi-urban areas and front end for e-commerce.

Withdraw of Relaxation in Promotion

4522. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that before the DoPT's O.M. dated August 22, 1997, the SC/ST Section Officers and Assistants of CSS were given four years relaxation in their promotion and those were withdrawn unilaterally with the concurrence of a junior level officer in the Law Ministry and without consulting the National Commission for SC/ STs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has restored those relaxations in pursuance to Constitution (82nd) Amendment Act, 2000;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be restored;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Attorney General of India and the Law Ministry have opined for restoration; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government against those officials and the reasons for not honouring the commitment given by the Government to restore the relaxations as existing prior to August 22, 1997?

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 (f) The amendment to Rule 12 (2), rule 13 (2) and Regulation 2 in the Fourth Schedule of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Rules, 1962, carried out vide notification dated 08th March, 1999, was made broadly on the following grounds:

(i) The Supreme Court in the case of S. Vinod Kumar Vs. UOI held that the provision for lower qualifying marks/lesser level of evaluation in the matter of promotion in favour of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was not permissible under Article 16 (4) of the Constitution. In pursuance of this judgment, this Department issued O.M. dated 22.07.1997, rescinding the earlier instruction, clarifying that there shall be no separate standard of evaluation for SC/ST officers for promotion and assessment of all the candidates for this purpose would be with reference to uniform standards;

(ii) Lower qualifying service as distinct from lower qualifying marks/lesser standards of evaluation in the matter of promotion has not been provided under the general policy on reservation;

(iii) It was considered necessary in as much as seniority could not be substituted for eligibility and therefore a person should gain the uniform minimum experience in the feeder grade to be eligible for promotion to shoulder higher responsibility.

The aforesaid amendment was carried out after consultation with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Ministry of Law (Legislative Department) apart from inter departmental consultations.

In pursuance of the 82nd Amendment Act, 2000, the Department of Personnel & Training issued an O.M. dated 03.10.2000, restoring with immediate effect, the relaxations/concessions in the matter of promotion of SC/ ST candidates by way of lower qualifying marks/lesser standards of evaluation that existed prior to their instructions dated 22.07.1997. Accordingly, the related provisions of CSS Rules were restored w.e.f 03.10.2000 by way of carrying out requisite amendments.

On the question of restoring the provision relating to relaxation in the length of eligibility service, Ministry of Law had been consulted and the advice of the Attorney General (A.G.) was obtained. However, it has been considered necessary to seek the advice of A.G. again.

Telephone Connections in Haryana

4523. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has not yet provided telephone connections in villages of Sonipat and Gurgaon district on the basis of connection released by Department of Telecommunications in the month of April, 2002;

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

(c) whether a number of representations have been received in CGM officer at Ambala in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the connections are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, out of telephones sanctioned by the Department of telecommunications in April, 2002 for villages of Gurgaon and Sonipat district on out of turn basis, 10 telephones in Gurgaon and 70 in Sonipat are pending provision at present due to non-availability of underground cables and equipment.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The pending connections will be provided progressively by March, 2003.

[Translation]

Pre-Paid Card Venture

4524. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department has reached any agreement with the Master Card International to venture into pre-paid card business; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for introduction of the pre-paid card is at a conceptual stage and will be finalized subject to technical, operational and financial feasibility as well as clearance from the Ministry of Finance and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

[English]

Bye-Pass Phase-II From Kovalam to Inchivila

4525. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire alignment of Bye-pass Phase-II from Kovalam to Inchivila (Parassala) has been approved; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, P.W.D. Kerala has sought modification of the approved alignment which is under examination.

[Translation]

Posting of IAS Officers

4526. SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are provisions that I.A.S. officers of the same cadre are posted in the same State of the country;

(b) if so, whether an I.A.S. officer of Uttar Pradesh Cadre only are posted against the post of District Magistrate in Uttar Pradesh State;

(c) whether I.A.S. officers of other than Uttar Pradesh Cadre have also been posted against the posts of District Magistrate in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details of such officers and the respective districts they are posted in; and

(e) the reasons behind posting of other than Uttar Pradesh cadre I.A.S. officers against the posts of District Magistrate in Uttar Pradesh State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, defines a member of the Indian Administrative Service as a cadre officer and according to Rule 8 ibid every cadre post shall be filled by a cadre officer, save as otherwise provided in these rules. Rule 6 (1) of the IAS (Cadre) rules, 1954, provides that a cadre officer may with the concurrence of the State Government of the State Governments concerned and the Central Government be deputed for service under the Central Government or another State Government. The post of District Magistrate and Collector in Uttar

Pradesh being a Cadre post as defined in the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954, can be held by a cadre officer either borne on IAS cadre of Uttar Pradesh or taken on inter-cadre deputation under Rule 6 (1) ibid.

(c) to (e) The posting of Cadre officers within the State is the prerogative of the concerned State Government. The requisite information, therefore, is not centrally monitored.

[English]

Promotion of Under Secretaries

4527. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that third proviso of sub rule 2 of Rule 12 of Recruitment Rules of Central Secretariat Service, 1962 was deleted by the Government in 1999 by an amendment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these amendments have been applied retrospectively even for the panels of regular Under Secretaries from 1987 onwards thereby depriving the Direct Recruit SC/ST Officers of the Central Secretariat Service from getting promotion to the Grade I of CSS; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Article 309 of the Constitution, the amendment to third proviso to Rule 12 (2) of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Rules, 1962, as carried out vide notification dated 8.3.1999. This amendment, which was effective from the date of publication, was made broadly on the following grounds:

(i) The Supreme Court in the case of S. Vinod Kumar Vs. UOI held that the provision for lower qualifying marks/lesser level of evaluation in the matter of promotion in favour of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was not permissible under Article 16 (4) of the Constitution. In pursuance of this judgment, this Department issued O.M. dated 22.7.97, rescinding the earlier instruction, clarifying that there shall be no separate standard of evaluation for SC/ST officers for promotion and assessment of all the candidates for this purpose would be with reference to uniform standards;

(ii) Lower qualifying service as distinct from lower qualifying marks/lesser standards of evaluation in the matter of promotion has not been provided under the general policy on reservation;

(iii) It was considered necessary in as much as seniority could not be substituted for eligibility and therefore a person should gain the uniform minimum experience in the feeder grade to be eligible for promotion to shoulder higher responsibility.

The Select Lists of Under Secretaries for the years 1987 to 1994 were issued between May, 2000 and August, 2002 in consonance with the aforesaid amendment dated 08.03.1999 as the same was in operation at the time of issue of these Select Lists.

[Translation]

Creating of Infrastructural and Tourism Facilities

4528. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project proposal for creating infrastructural and tourism facilities in Bihar has been sent to the Chief Advisor (Incharge Bihar State) Planning Commission on November 24, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Planning Commission has not received the said project proposal of November 24, 2002 for creating infrastructural and tourism facilities in Bihar.

[English]

Re-Designation of Stenographers

4529. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision for re-designation of the Regional Stenographers' of O.L. Wing of Ministry of Law and Justice and Stenographers' of CSS has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The matter regarding re-designation of Stenographers of Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service will be discussed in the meeting of the Departmental Council (Joint Consultative Machinery) of the Department of Personnel and Training.

Reimbursement to Pensioners

4530. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications from Central Government Pensioners in Delhi are pending with CGHS for medical reimbursement for the last 4-5 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the number thereof, till date;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the hardship being faced by the Pensioners who are too old and unable to approach the CGHS Office frequently to find out the fate of their pending bills;

(d) whether Pensioners are informed in case their medical bills are considerably delayed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Govemment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Reimbursement of medical expenses of pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS is made from the budget allotted under the Sub-Head Professional Services (PS) for CGHS. The amount of budget allotted under the said Sub-Head during the year 2002-2003 for CGHS Delhi has exhausted due to the following reasons:

(1) Upward revision of the ceiling rates for various medical treatment procedures/tests/investigations in the private hospitals/Diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS Delhi vide Dept. of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001 as compared to the earlier ceiling areas circulated vide O.M. dated 18.9.96.

(2) Recognition of 67 private Hospitals and Diagnostic Centres under CGHS Delhi vide Dept. of Health's O.Ms. dated 7.9.2001, 15.3.2002, 6.5.2002, 14.5.2002, 2.8.2002 and 26.8.2002, as compared to only 24 private hospitals/ diagnostic centres which were earlier recognised vide O.M. dated 18.9.96.

(3) The conditions contained in O.M. dated 7.9.2001 require that the private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS Delhi have to provide credit facility to the pensioner beneficiaries based upon valid permission and that their hospital cannot charge more than the ceiling rates fixed for the various medical procedures/tests/investigations under CGHS. Therefore, the preference of the pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS to take treatment/investigations in these recognised private hospitals has increased tremendously and many pensioners who had not opted for CGHS after retirement have started to obtain CGHS pensioner cards and avail CGHS facilities.

A total of 2,838 medical claims received by CGHS Delhi during the period 1.8.2002 to 30.11.2002 are pending for want of funds under the relevant budget Sub-head. The month-wise break-up of pending medical claim bills is as under:-

August, 2002	680
September, 2002	758
October, 2002	677
November, 2002	723
Total	2,838

(c) to (e) Medical claims of pensioners are generally cleared in 6 to 8 weeks time subject to availability of necessary funds and subject to claim papers preferred by the pensioners found complete and in order.

It is not a common practice to send a written communication to the CGHS pensioner beneficiaries about the status of their medical claims.

(The Medical Officers and staff of the CGHS are available on telephone and information/clarification sought by them is provided to them over the telephone and at the Information and Facilitation Centre of the CGHS at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

(f) In addition to the Budget allotted under the Sub-Head Professional Services to CGHS Delhi from which reimbursement of medical claims to pensioner beneficiaries is made, an additional amount of Rs. 3.50 crore was sanctioned through internal adjustment (Rs. 1.50 crore in August, 2002 and Rs. 2.00 crore in November, 2002) to make reimbursement to the pensioner beneficiaries.

Pulse Rate Reduction

4531. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

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

(a) whether the basic phone operators have requested to reduce the call duration from three minutes to $1^1/_2$ minutes;

(b) whether the operators have also requested to have two slabs for rentals;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes Sir. Out of the many diverse suggestions received by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its consultation process to review tariff for Basic Telephone Services, one of the suggestions is to reduce the call duration from 3 minutes to $1^1/_2$ minutes.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) The service providers are to abide by the tariffs prescribed by TRAI.

Unspent Money of MPLADS in Delhi

4532. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MPs from Delhi have not yet spent the money under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme during the last three years;

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

(c) the amount that remains yet to be spent, Member of Parliament-wise for the year 2002 and how does that compare with each of the last three years;

(d) whether any schemes to improve the appalling conditions particularly of roads and Yamuna Ghats and cleaning of Yamuna River have been proposed by the Local MPs, if so, details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to spent the entire amount?

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 (c) Under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), MPs are entitled to make their recommendations in respect of works in accordance with the Scheme Guidelines to the District Heads concerned. After technical and administrative approval, the District Heads assign the works to implementing agencies for execution as per the established work procedures of the Government concerned. In Delhi, the MPLADS works are administered by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The factors hampering the utilization of the Scheme funds include shortfall in recommendations with reference to the entitlement and delays in preparation of estimates, according approvals and implementation of works. Details of funds released and unspent amounts available in respect of the Lok Sabha constituencies and Rajya Sabha MPs of Delhi are given in the enclosed statement-I

(d) Details of the works of improvement of roads in Delhi under MPLADS are given in the enclosed statement-II. In respect of the development of Yamuna Ghats, a recommendation has been made to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi by the local MPs.

(e) All the State/UT Governments have been requested from time to time to ensure that sanctions for the works under the Scheme are issued expeditiously and the funds released are utilized effectively.

Statement-I

Delhi: Lok Sabha Constituencies

Statement Showing Cumulative Release & Unspent Amount of MPLADS Funds

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Constituency	Upto March, 2000		Upto March, 2001		Upto March, 2002		Upto Dec. 13, 2002	
		Release	Unspent Amount	Release	Unspent Amount	Release	Unspent Amount	Release	Unspent Amount
1.	Delhi Sadar Shri Madan Lal Khurana	805	320.3	1005	256.5	1205	299.4	1305	256.8
2.	East Delhi Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari	755	228.5	955	278.1	1005	207.3	1305	425.3
4.	Karol Bagh Smt. Anita Arya	805	192.9	1005	200.9	1205	185.2	1405	242.1
4.	New Delhi Shri Jagmohan	805	290.2	905	186.3	1105	296.6	1305	394.4
5.	Outer Delhi Shri Sahib Singh Verma	705	138.7	1005	401.3	1205	355.3	1305	242.6
6.	South Delhi Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra	505	246.2	805	413.6	805	285.3	1005	282.9
7.	Chandni Chowk Shri Vijay Goel	550	274.2	750	380.1	900	442.0	900	319.0
	Totals	4930	1691.0	6430	2116.8	7430	2071.1	8530	2163.1

Statement-II

Details of Road Works Proposed by MPs From Delhi During 2002-03

Shrimati Anita Arya

Sl.No.	Name of work	Amount [Rs. in lakhs]
1	2	3
1.	Improvement of road by Concrete Cement from MIG Flats No. 4 to Delhi Jal Board Water Tank	2.26
2.	Improvement to road by Metaling and Premixing from MIG Flats No. 64 to DVB Office	2.25
3.	Improvement to road by concrete Cement from Mandir to MS Depot along DTC colony Wall in Satyam Commercial Complex	3.99
4.	Improvement to round about at Joshi Road & Link Road	2.39
5.	Improvement to road in Nai Basti from Anral Road towards H.No. 511, Nai Basti	2.50

1	2	3
6.	Providing Mastic Asphalt flooring on approach road to Deshbandhu Gupta Road and crossing	2.32
7.	Improvement to road from 1B/27 to Ganga Ram Hospital road by Concrete Cement pavement	2.41
8.	Improvement to road by providing Concrete Cement flooring from Faiz Road to Laxmi Narain Mandir	1.78
	Shri Sahib Singh Verma	
9.	Providing Metaling and Premixing of road from Jagdish Chowkidar's house to Phirni road in Mundka village	2.40
10.	Providing Metaling and Premixing of road from Saini Pond FPS shop in village Mundka	2.38
11.	Improvement to road by Metaling and Premixing from Vidha Pardhan house to Phirni road in Mundka village	2.73
12.	Construction of road along the canal upto Haryana Border from Bawana Auchandi road to Balbir farm.	3.01
	Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari	
13.	Improvement to road by Metaling and Premixing near H. No. 38 Santi Nagar.	0.92
14.	Improvement to road by Metaling and Premixing from H. No. 17 to 50 in Santi Nagar	2.83
15.	Improvement of Road, Jain Hardware to flood drain by Metaling and Premixing in Nehru Enclave, Alipur.	5.97
	Shri Jagmohan	
16.	Strengthening of road around park near H. No. 30 and Jaipur Estate in Nizamuddin East	2.58
17.	Strengthening of road near park near H.No. 25 and DAV School in Nizamuddin East	2.55
18.	Strengthening of "T" point of the road near H.No. A-86 in Nizamuddin East	2.46
19.	Improvement of road berms near H.No. 2 in Nizamuddin East	2.51
20.	Widening of road and improvement to footpath, Krishna Market in front of Shop No.1 to 30 in Lajpat Nagar-I	1.78
21.	Re-surfacing of inner roads of 'A' Block, Defence Colony.	3.94
22.	Re-surfacing of inner roads of 'C' Block, Defency Colony.	4.00
23.	Construction and improvement of roads adjoining, Arya Samaj Mandir & Raghunath Mandir in Amar Colony, "C" Block	3.99

1	2	3
24.	Construction and improvement of road from Ring Road to Feroz Gandhi Marg along Nallah Community Centre side in Lajpat Nagar-III	3.90
25.	Resurfacing of road along Nallah J&I Block side in Lajpat Nagar-II.	3.96
26.	Resurfacing of road along Nallah, S&F Block side in Lajpat Nagar-III	3.99
27.	Resurfacing of road from Gurudwara Road Khalsa School going in between 'B' Block, Amar Colony to Sanatan Dharam School, Dayanand Colony	3.99
28.	Resurfacing of Central Road between Amar Colony A-E Block to B-C Block, Dayanand Colony	3.99
29.	Resurfacing of road Amber Vithi and Angad Vithi in 'A' Block, Defency Colony.	3.96
30.	Resurfacing of roads in 'D' Block adjoining 'D-192, D-230, D-277 & D-327 in Defence Colony	3.94
31.	Resurfacing of roads around Gumbad adjoining MCD Office in Defence Colony.	3.97

Incidence of Poverty in Orissa

4533. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is high incidence of poverty in Orissa, especially in the KBK regions of Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps were taken/proposed to be taken for raising the people above proverty line,

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Historical and geographical factors including differences in resource endowment have contributed to the high incidence of poverty in Orissa as well as the KBK region.

(c) and (d) In addition to the on-going programmes of the State Government and Central Schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation, Special Central Assistance of Rs. 100 crore has been allocated under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana for the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa.

(e) Does not arise.

Rest Areas Along the National Highways

4534. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received demands from various quarters for Rest Areas along the National Highways;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the proposals and action taken thereupon; and

(c) the details of such Rest Areas opened/proposed to be opened on the National Highways passing through West Bengal?

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

(b) Land has been acquired for the Rest Area proposed along National Highway-5 near Eluru in Andhra Pradesh. A proposal for transfer of forty acres land at Shaktigarh to Government of West Bengal on Panagarh-Palsit section of National Highway No. 2 is under examination.

(c) Details are given in the statement.

Statement

Rest Areas along the Naitonal Highways

Details of Rest Areas opened/proposed to be opened on the National Highways passing through West Bengal

No.	Location	Status
1.	Km 805 on NH-31	Facility is in operation
2.	Km 111 on NH-6	Work is in progress
3.	Km 528 of NH-2	The provision made as part of widening of National Highway
4.	Km 615 of NH-2	The provision made as part of widening of National Highway
5.	Km 50.1 of NH-6	The provision made as part of widening of National Highway
6.	Km 124 of NH-6	The provision made as part of widening of National Highway
7.	NH-60 (location under finalization)	The provision made as part of widening of National Highway.

Donation of Human Organs

4535. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the donation of organs is not a much accepted concept in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is a huge shortage of cadavers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for creation of public awareness on donation of human organs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the transplantation of human organs requires tissues and organ matching to ensure acceptance of the organ transplant into the body of the recipient. The Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994 restricts removal of transplantable organs from live donors to near relatives only. However, in cases of transplantation involving non-related donors permission of an Authorisation Committee duly constituted by a Gazette notification of the Central Government/State Government concerned is necessary. The Committee may, on receipt of a joint application made by the live donor and the recipient made for reasons of affection in the manner prescribed in the said Act, after it has satisfied itself about such reasons in order to rule out commercial dealings in human organs, grant such permission. In so far as removal of organs harvested from dead bodies, including those declared brain stem dead is concerned the Act stipulates that it could be done only if deceased from whose body such an organ is to be removed had authorised such removal before his death. In cases where removal was not authorised by the deceased such removal could be authorised with consent of the near relatives of the deceased. In cases of unclaimed dead bodies such removal may be authorised by the registered Medical Practitioner to whom the body has been sent for post mortem/inquest. In case of removal from brain stem dead bodies, such death has to be certified by a duly constituted committee under the Act. Except in case of brain stem dead persons, vital organs such as heart, liver, kidney, etc. cease to function and are not transplantable. In case of removal of eyes, however, whose removal, after death only, can be authorised by the deceased before his death, awareness campaigns for encouraging people are duly carried in an ongoing and continuous manner. Government have also established an Organ Retrieval and Banking Organisation at AIIMS, New Delhi. This Organisation through their website

www.orbo.org and various functions such as lectures, seminars, symposia etc. educates the people to come forward for donating their organs. In addition, there are many NGOs helping the Government in this cause.

Meeting of UN Assembly for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

4536. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the UN Assembly for Elimination of Racial Discrimination was held in August, 2002, in Geneva;

(b) if so, whether a demand was made at the meeting for early submission of the pending reports on discrimination to the U.N. as per its directive issued earlier;

(c) if so, whether India participated in the Geneva meeting; and

(d) if so, the issues raised and discussed at the meeting and the details of the pending reports required to be submitted to the UN and the reasons for delay in submission, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The 61st Session of the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) was held in Geneva from 5-23 August 2002.

(b) to (d) The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) consists of 18 experts who serve in their personal capacities. There is an elected Indian expert on the Committee. The International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination calls on State Parties to reports periodically on legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination examines reports submitted by State Parties, and at the 61st session, the Committee considered country reports of Armenia, Botswana, Canada, Estonia, Fiji, Hungary, Mali, New Zealand, Senegal and Yemen. The Committee also held a two day thematic discussion on discrimination on the ground of descent.

Establishment of Cultural Centres

4537. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open some more Cultural Centres abroad;

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

(c) by when they are likely to become operational; and

(d) the extent to which the existing Cultural Centres have been successful in achieving their aims and objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. Cultural Centres are periodically opened in different countries with a view to promoting India's composite cultural heritage abroad.

(b) and (c) Several proposals for opening new Cultural Centres are presently being examined. These Centres will be opened depending upon the assessment of their requirements and the availability of funds.

(d) The existing Cultural Centres have been successful in projecting India's image and diverse cultural heritage. These Centres are playing a pivotal role in showcasing and promoting Indian cultural traditions abroad.

Shortage of Ayurvedic Medicines

4538. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Union Government to strengthen the Ayurvedic System of medicine in the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of the CGHS (Ayurveda) dispensaries are not having adequate stocks of many of the medicines included in the authorized list;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints about shortage of medicine in the CGHS Dispensary, North Avenue, Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) In order to popularise the Indian System of Medicine & Homeopathy including Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Systems, the Government in 1995 established an independent Department of ISM&H under the Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare. The Department has already implemented schemes for the development and cultivation of medicinal plants, preparation of agro-techniques, upgradation of undergraduate/postgraduate institutions, standardisation of drugs, encouraging intra-mural and extra-mural research and dissemination of information and awareness building through information, education and communication (IEC). A Medicinal Plants Board has been established to give focused attention to development of the medicinal plant sector to provide good quality raw material for the manufacture of ISM drugs and products.

(b) Yes, Sir. A few of the Ayurvedic medicines are not available in the CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries/units due to delay in finalisation of the Ayurvedic formulary for the year 2002-2004. The said formulary has since been finalised and supply orders for all listed medicines have been dispatched. The supplies in respect of CGHS Delhi have already commenced.

The beneficiaries are allowed to purchase Ayurvedic medicines from the open market which are not available in the CGHS dispensary/units in Delhi and amount is reimbursed to the beneficiary.

In the case of CGHS Ayurvedic units outside Delhi, most of the Ayurvedic medicines prescribed by the doctors are available in the dispensary. The medicines which are not available in the dispensary are either procured through local chemists based upon individual prescription or alternatively, the beneficiaries are authorised to purchase the Ayurvedic medicines from the market and reimbursement is made to them.

(c) No Sir.

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

MCI Inspection Teams

4539. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India constitutes Inspection Teams to visit medical colleges which are being set up;

(b) the number of such teams in the rolls of the MCI;

(c) the full details of monitoring the visits by Government of such Inspection Teams;

(d) whether any steps will be taken to ensure that the Inspection teams do not misuse their power/authority; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard to supervise properly the activities of such terms?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Medical Council of India (MCI) constituted inspection teams for carrying out inspection of the medical colleges for starting/increase of seats/renewal of permissions in addition to periodical inspections which are carried out every five years for continuation of recognition of MBBS degree granted by the affiliating University.

(b) The Medical Council of India is maintaining a panel of Inspectors, Speciality-wise, and the inspection teams are appointed from that panel by the Executive Committee of the Council.

(c) to (e) The Government has not instituted any mechanism for monitoring visits of the Inspection teams., As per the practice in the Council, the inspection reports received from the Inspectors are placed before the Executive Committee of the Council for its consideration and the decision of the Executive Committee are thereafter communicated to the Central government an other concerned authorities. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 20.11.2002 has constituted an Adhoc Committee consisting of eminent medical educationists namely Prof. P.N. Tandon, Prof. N. Rangabashyam, Dr. S.J. Bhansali and Dr. (Mrs.) S. Kantha to assist and monitor the work of the Medical Council of India. The Adhoc Committee would work harmoniously and in full cooperation with the Executive Committee of the Council. The Committee would associate itself particularly in selection and appointment of Inspectors and scrutinize their reports and making recommendations for grant of recognition to medical colleges.

[Translation]

STD Facility at Railway Station

4540. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up STD/PCO booths at railway platforms of Bihar especially at Shekpura railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) STD/PCO Booths are liberally sanctioned to applicants having permission of railway authorities for installation at railway platforms. No such proposal has been received so far for Shekpura Railway Station.

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

[English]

Financial Help by World Bank

4541. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have listed the State highways being financed by the World Bank in the country, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal; and

(c) the amount sanctioned by the World Bank for State highways during Eighth and Ninth Plans, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) As per the information received from Ministry of Finance, the details of State Highways financed by World Bank are listed in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of State Highways, State-wise and the amount sanctioned by the World Bank as on 30th September, 2002.

S.No.	Name of Project	Loan/Credit No.	Date of Agreement	Date of Closing	Loan amount (In Million US $)
1.	Andhra Pradesh State Highway	LN 4192-IN	30.07.1997	31.01.2003	350.000
2.	Gujarat State Highway Project	LN 4577-IN	18.10.2000	31.12.2005	381.000
3.	Karnataka State Highway Project	LN 4606-IN	26.07.2001	31.12.2006	360.000
4.	Kerala State Transport Project	LN 4653-IN	06.05.2002	31.12.2007	255.000
5.	Mizoram State Roads Project	CR 3618-IN	06.05.2002	31.12.2007	60.000
	Total				1406.000

Purchase of Computers by Ministry

4542. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Department of Expenditure O.M. No. 8 (4)-E-II (A)/98 dated 17.12.1998., open tender system is to be followed in all cases where the estimated value of purchase is Rs. fifty thousand and above;

(b) whether 168 computers from NCCF despite their rates being higher than the DGS&D and open market of the same brands with similar configuration were purchased by the Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of models with configuration and prices purchases from the NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar in each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken to follow strictly the provisions of rules/regulations on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. However in the cases of procurement of various items from Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF, the procedure regarding calling of tenders for purchase has been waived as per the instructions contained in Department of Personnel & Training's O.M. No. 14/15/93-Welfare dated 10.02.2000.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The total cost of procurement of computers alongwith accessories as per configuration

procured were at rates lower than if those were to be procured through DGS&D/Open market.

(d) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways came into existence on 17.11.2000 only. Details of model with configuration/accessories purchased from the budget of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways since its formation are given in the statement.

(e) All the relevant provisions of rules/regulations are being followed.

Statement

Purchase of Computers by the Ministry

Year of Purchase	Purchased from	Computer Model & Configuration	Quantity	Price per unit
2001-2002	NCCF	HP Vector Pentium-IV PCI with power supply, Integrated sound blaster card Key Board, Printer, Internet card, Color Monitor, Antivirus Software, cut power supply, in a minitower design etc.	168	108811/-
2002-2003	NCCF	Accer Pentium-IV PCI with power supply, Integrated sound blaster card Key Board, Printer, Internet card, Color Monitor, Antivirus Software, cut power supply etc.	03	102700/-

Cellular Services

4543. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fulfilled its target to provide basic telephones and cellular telephones in the country during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise including details, company-wise viz. BSNL, MTNL and others private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Government has fulfilled its target in general to provide basic telephony and Cellular telephony in the Country and Company wise details are given as under:

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has exceeded the targets during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. During the year 2001-2002 the targets for basic telephones could not be achieved due to heavy disconnections (of approx. 13.44 lakh) The target and achievement of BSNL for the last three years is given in statement-I.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

The achievement of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for Cellular telephones is significantly higher than its target. However achievement of Basic telephones is marginally lower than the targets. The target and achievement of MTNL for the last three years is given in statement-I.

Private Companies

As per licensing conditions, there are no specific target fixed by the Government for providing Cellular Telephones by private operators, however, an operator is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years of their service. The licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District

Headquarters. The choice of District/town to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/ town shall lie with the licensee depending on their business decision. As on 31.10.2002, total no. of cellular mobile telephones by the private companies are given in statement-II.

As regards Basic Private Operators, the commitments in the first three years from effective date only is 2017809 DEL's (Direct Exchange Lines) for all operators and the achievement during last three years company-wise is given in statement-III.

Statement-I

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

Year	Basic Telephones		Cellular Telephones		Total	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1999-2000	4060000	4539948	0	0	4060000	4539948
2000-2001	5350000	5629255	0	*2707	5350000	5631959
2001-2002	6529500	5292009	300500	*14973	6830000	5306982**

*Achievement from Pilot projects only.

**Although BSNL provided 66.51 lakh new telephone lines in the country in 2001-02 but net new lines were 53.07 lakh only due to disconnection of 13.44 lakh lines.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)

Year	Basic Telephones		Cellular Telephones		Total	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1999-2000	4.25 lakh	3.78 lakh	0	0	4.25 lakh	3.78 lakh
2000-2001	3.25 lakh	2.85 lakh	0	18243 lines	3.25 lakh	3.032 lakh
2001-2002	2.5 lakh	2.25 lakh	1,00,000 lines	200547 lines	3.50 lakh	3.25 lakh

Statement-II

Cellular Subscriber Figure in Telephone Service in Telecom Circles and Metro Cities Including MTNL and BSNL

Sl. No.	Service Area (Metro City/Telecom Circle	Name of Operator	Number of Subscribers as on 31.10.2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	7,91,637
		Sterling Cellular Ltd.	5,55,586
		Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited	1,26,980
2.	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communications Ltd.	5,56,871
		Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.	5,73,365
		Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	1,07,493

1	2	3	4
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	1,77.403
3.	Kolkata	Bharti Mobile Ltd.	1,67,728
		Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	2,31,719
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	13,338
4.	Chennai	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	1,50,284
		Bharti Mobinet Ltd.	1,80,126
		Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	40,120
5.	Andhra Pradesh	IDEA Cellular Ltd.	3,13,394
		Bharti Mobile Ltd.	3,02,896
		Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	44,628
6.	Assam	Reliance Telecom (P) LTD.	37,675
7.	Bihar	Reliance Telecom (P) LTD.	1,36,201
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	17,952
8.	Gujarat	Fascel Ltd.	3,88,754
		IDEA Cellular Ltd.	2,25,026
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	45,929
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	7,000
9.	Haryana	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.	1,02,371
		Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	19,643
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	35,799
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	105
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	23,879
		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	8,480
11.	Karnataka	Spice Communications Ltd.	2,00,619
		Bharti Mobile Limited	3,06,718
		Hutchison Essar South Ltd.	41,395
12.	Kerala	BPL Cellular Ltd.	1,47,809
		Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.	2,45,052
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	60,484
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	6,032

1	2	3	4
13.	Maharashtra	BPL Mobile Cellular Limited	1,95,270
		IDEA Cellular Ltd.	3,91,229
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	88,588
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	12,270
14.	Madhya Pradesh	RPG Cellcom Ltd.	1,20,370
		Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	1,39,918
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	25,407
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	7,174
15.	North East	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	6,771
16.	Orissa	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	57,441
17.	Punjab	Spice Communications Ltd.	4,10,498
		Bharti Mobile Ltd.	1,76,906
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	446
18.	Rajasthan	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	33,064
		Hexacom India Ltd.	1,04,306
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	708
19.	Tamilnadu	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	1,55,370
		Aircel Ltd.	1,98,116
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	70,742
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	6,833
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.	2,18,227
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	57,260
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	93,383
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	7,364
22.	West Bengal	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	57,683
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	100

Metro Cities	36,72,650
Circle	53,53,285
All India Total	90,25,935

Statement-III

Company-Wise Details of Achievement made During Last Three Years

Name of Companies	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Bharti Telenet Ltd.	77987	23245	66077
Hughes Telecom (India) Ltd.	17196	46686	90913
Tata Teleservices Ltd.	26713	31847	91935
Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Nil	160	140
Shyam Telecom Ltd.	Nil	9119	18031
HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Nil	13326	53069

[Translation]

Patents of Traditional Medicines

4544. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 2500 patents have been granted all over the world which have been illegally derived from traditional medicine formulas of India;

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

(c) whether Union Government propose to take the assistance of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) to get these patents cancelled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) The Government is aware of patents granted on the medicinal use of our plants. A Traditional Knowledge Digital Library is being established to cover 35,000 formulations which will help prevent patents on these medicinal uses.

[English]

Ayurvedic Medicines Criticized by AIIMS

4545. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that AIIMS has made a study recently questioning the efficacy of Ayurvedic Medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) The AIIMS study has not questioned the efficacy of Ayurvedic Medicines. The study has only drawn the attention to the misuse of corticosteroids mixed in alternative system of medicine by quacks and to the existence of a few practitioners who dispense spurious medicines to the detriment of indigenous medicine. Corticosteroids are known to cause potential side effects on chronic use and may lead to serious ailments.

[Translation]

Laying OFC in Churu, Rajasthan

4546. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of area in Kilometers in district Churu of Rajasthan where Optical Fiber Cable has been laid by the Union Government till March 31, 2002;

(b) whether the Government have received applications from the State Government for allocation of additional funds for laying of Optical Fibre Cable in the said district;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the amount allocated and by when the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The location-wise details of area in Kilometers in district Churu of Rajasthan where Optical Fibre Cable has been laid by the Union Government till March 31, 2002 is given in the Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of OFC route	Route Kms
1	2	3
1	Adsar-Sridungargarh	28.53
2.	Bidasar-Chhapar	14.32
3.	Biramsar-Ratangarh	00.45
4.	Dudwa Khera Village-Rly Station	08.00
5.	Ratangarh-Persneu	00.30
6.	Likhamadesar-Sridunagarh	05.96
7.	Momasar-Adsar	11.69
8.	Sendwa-Bidasar	18.03
9.	Bigga-Sridungargarh	01.19
10.	ChandGothi-Harpalutal	00.78
11.	Dadrewa-Sadulpur	01.00
12.	Harpalu-Sadulpur	00.20
13.	Kishanpura-Sadulpur	00.82
14.	Rajaldesar-Ratangarh	01.06
15.	Seruna-Sardarshahar	30.90
16.	Sundsar-Sridungargarh	11.05
17.	Chubakiya Tal-Sadulpur	03.11
18.	Ratannagar-Churu	00.95
19.	Benisar-Sridungagarh	02.50
20.	Ghanghu-Churu	00.30
21.	Ratangarh End Link	01.50
22.	Sujangarh end Link	02.20
23.	Bain-Taranagar	08.50
24.	Pendru Tibba-Taranagar	05.50
25.	Satyoo-Taranagar	14.50
26.	Khari-Sujangarh	36.00
27.	Sahawa-Taranagar	36.00
28.	Lambabori-Sadulpur	10.00
29.	Abarsar-Rajaldesar	08.50
30.	Nagal Bari-Paharsar	15.90
31.	Laseri-Sadulpur	13.00
32.	Changoi-Taranagar	12.50
33.	Hamirwas-Sadulpur	02.00
34.	Paharsar-Sadulpur	14.00
35.	Jharsar-Taranagar	01.50
36.	Dheerwas-Taranagar	02.00
37.	Ranasar-Churu	12.00
38.	Nesal-Chandgothi	11.00
39.	Jasrasar-Churu	11.00
40.	Udasar-Pullasar	12.00
41.	Kohina-Bhaleri	16.00
42.	Bhuwadi-Sadulpur	14.00
43.	Lalagarh-Katar	31.00
44.	Katar-Sendwa	21.00
45.	Gaurisar-Ratangarh	12.00
46.	Sarothia-Sendwa	16.00
47.	Bhamasi-Churu	08.00
48.	Setra-Churu	22.00
49.	Kusumdesar-Ratangarh	15.00
50.	Inyana-Sendwa	11.00
51.	Salasar-Sujangarh	29.00
52.	Gadep-Sendwa	15.00
53.	Bhadesar-Sardarshahar	29.00

1	2	3
54.	Sadulpur-Churu	60.00
55.	Badela-Sridungargarh	37.00
56.	Rampura-Chandgothi	20.00
57.	Lilki-Sadulpur	11.00
58.	Kanota-Sendwa	11.00
59.	Saroobari-Lalgarh	08.00
60.	Malsisar-Sujangarh	07.00
61.	Kaman-Sadulpur	14.00
62.	Khudera-Ratangarh	11.00
63.	Sawantsar-Sudsar	12.00
64.	Bhimsar-Salasar	04.00
65.	Sankhu Fort-Nesal	08.00
66.	Gogasar-Ratangarh	00.40
67.	Churu-Jharia	06.00
68.	Churu-Bhaleri	36.00
69.	Pithasar-Churu	10.00
70.	Jharia-Khandwa	08.00
71.	Bhaleri-Taranagar	32.00
72.	Jharia-Khinwsar	08.00
73.	Taranagar-Sadulpur	36.00
74.	Buchawas-Taranagar	02.00
75.	Sadulpur-Sidhmukh	35.00
76.	Sardarshar-Pullsar	11.00
77.	Sardarsahar-Phoga	06.00
78.	Sardarshahar-Meharasar	00.50
79.	Sardarshahar-Bandhnau	00.50
80.	Sardarshahar-Bukamsar	10.00
81.	Pullasar-Dularasar	08.00
82.	Meharasar-Asalsar	01.00
83.	Ratangarh-Lachhasar	07.00
84.	Ratangarh-Loha	01.60
85.	Ratangarh-Parihara	02.00
86.	Ratangarh-Golsar	09.00
87.	Chhapar-Abarsar	04.00
88.	Dungargarh-Riri	01.00
89.	Ratangarh-Sardarshahar	50.00
90.	Ratangarh-Sujangarh	55.00
91.	Dppg. At Chhapar	00.50
92.	Sardarshahar-Bhalreri	35.00
93.	Toliyasar-Dungargarh	00.50
94.	Biramsar-Ratangarh	15.00
95.	Ratangarh-Sridungargarh	70.00
	Total	1251.34

[English]

Tax on Medical Equipments

4547. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the recent taxation policy has resulted into galloping prices of the essential sophisticated sight saving equipments and surgical instruments to unaffordable levels;

(b) whether the Government have proposal to get the taxation policy reviewed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Government of India has decided to impose 5% Custom Duty on Sight Saving Equipment which will marginally increase the price of such equipment. This will not increase price up to unaffordable level.

(b) No such proposal has been mooted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(c) Question does not arise.

Hospitals for AIDS Patients

4548. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the Rights International-NGOs (HIV/AIDS) suggested the Government to establish one AIDS Research Institute in each State to do research on treatment for the dreaded disease;

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

(c) whether not a single hospital in major cities catering exclusive to AIDS patients;

(d) if so, reasons therefor;

(e) the details of funds from various agencies received by Government to fight AIDS during the last three years;

(f) the manner in which it is utilized; and

(g) the steps taken by Government in regard to setting up hospitals in major cities exclusively for the treatment of AIDS patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such suggestion has been received by the Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The policy of the Government is to provide care and treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS in all hospitals without any stigma & discrimination. Therefore, the Government do not support the idea of exclusive Hospital for AIDS patients.

(e) The Government of India has received financial assistance from the following agencies to fight HIV/AIDS epidemic during the last three years:-

(Rupees in Crores)

Agency	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
World Bank assisted National AIDS Control Project Phase-II	Nil	151.78	155.45
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 (U.K) assisted Partnership for Sexual Health Project in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa and Kerala;	6.575	10.084	6.434

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) 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 2001-2002. However, in the absence of statements of expenditure, no reimbursement has so far been claimed from the funding agency.

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

(g) No, Sir. The policy of the Government is to provide care and treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS in all hospitals without any stigma & discrimination. Therefore, the Government do not support the idea of exclusive Hospital for AIDS patients.

Transfer of Engineers to North-East States

4549. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is general reluctances on the part of the officials working in the Department of Communications to accept postings in the North-East on getting promotion;

(b) if so, the number of engineers in the Department of Telecom who got promotion in different circles during 2002:

(c) the number of engineers who got posting in the North-East on promotion, circle-wise;

(d) the number of promoted engineers whose transfer orders where cancelled later, circle-wise;

(e) whether the reluctance of promoted engineers to be posted in the North-East results in officials already serving there overstaying the tenure in that area; and

(f) the steps being taken to ensure that engineers and other officials who are posted in North-East on promotion are not allowed to stay back in their circles on some pretext or other?

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

Telephone Exchange

4550. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some telephone exchanges at small place like Khekr in U.P., Fazilka, Malout and Kotkapra in Punjab have been clubbed with Meerut, Jalalabad, Giddabaou and Jaitu respectively;

(b) whether telephone exchange at Fazilka has been clubbed with Jalalabad despite latter town having been allotted separate Code No. 0168611;

(c) whether the subscribers of these towns are being charged higher rental than that in adjoining bigger town, if so, the reasons for charging higher rental from subscribers in smaller town;

(d) the details of pending complaints received in this regard; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to remove the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, Khekra, Jalalabad, Giddarbaha and Jaitu Telephone Exchanges form part of Meerut, Fazilka, Malout and Kotkapura Short Distance Changing Areas (SDCA) respectively.

(b) Sir, Jalalabad is a part of Fizilka, SDCA. The SDCA code allotted to Fazilka is 01638 which is also used by Jalalabad exchange subscribers as per DoT Policy.

(c) No, Sir Rentals are being charged as per the prevailing tariff applicable to SDCA's total exchange capacity.

(d) No such complaint is pending.

(e) Does not arise.

Establishment of Ophthalmic Cell in Daman & Diu

4551. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the UT of Daman & Diu for Establishment of State Ophthalmic Cell in the UT of Daman & Diu under the National Programme for Control of Blindness;

(b) the action taken by the Government on the proposal; and

(c) the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) A Mini State Ophthalmic Cell has already been sanctioned to the UT of Daman & Diu in the 9th Five Year Plan. But the UT could not fill up the sanctioned posts of the State Ophthalmic Cell. Recently a proposal has been received from the UT to appoint persons on contract basis on these posts.

[Translation]

Licences to Companies

4552. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private telephone companies which providing telephone and mobile services to which have been provided Licences alongwith the details of the rules and conditions under which licences were issued and the dates which they were issued;

(b) whether these companies complied with the conditions on which they were issued licences and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether providing telephone facilities in rural areas was one of the conditions for the private Telephone companies;

(d) if so, the names of companies which provide telephone connections in rural areas;

(e) the names of the companies which have been found guilty in providing telephone service as per the conditions;

(f) whether the Government propose to take action against such companies;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The names of private sector companies along with the dates of their signing the licence agreements as well the details of terms and conditions thereof for providing Basic Telephone Services and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services are given in statement-I and statement-II respectively.

(b) to (h) The private sector companies having signed licences prior to 2001, could not comply fully with their committed performance obligations and the review of those having signed licences in 2001 is still not due. Basic Telephone Service Licensees viz. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd., M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd, M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd., M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Ltd., M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd., M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. and M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. are providing telephone connections in rural areas. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd., M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd., M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd., M/s Hughes Telecom (India) Ltd., M/s HFCL infotel Ltd. and M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. could not provide telephone service as per licence conditions. Government has consistently insisted upon them to complete their unfulfilled VPT obligations either by themselves or by working out arrangements to utilise infrastructure of other service providers in their service area. The number of VPTs provided by them have reportedly increased from 639 VPTs on 30.11.2001 to 4775 VPTs on 30.11.2002.

Statement-I

List of Private Basic Telephone Service Licensees

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Effective date of Licence Agreement	Service Areas licensed.
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	30.9.1997	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)
2.	M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd	30.9.1997	Gujarat
3.	M/s Hughes Tele.com (India)	30.9.1997	Maharashtra (including Goa & Mumbai)
4.	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	30.9.1997	Punjab

1	2	3	4
5.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	30.9.1997	Andhra Pradesh
6.	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	4.3.1998	Rajasthan.
7.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	20.7.2001	Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, West Bengal (including Sikkim & Kolkata), U.P. (East), Karnataka, Maharashtra (including Mumbai & Goa), Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, U.P. (West) (including Uttaranchal), Orissa, Bihar (including Jharkhand), Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar.
		26.9.2001	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai)
8.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	31.8.2001	Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
9.	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	8.10.2001	Haryana
		29.10.2001	Karnataka, Delhi, Tamil Nadu

Terms & Conditions for Providing Basic Telephone Services

(a) For Licences Issued prior to 2001:-

(i) Foreign equity not to exceed 49%.

(ii) Payment of licence fee as per their voluntarily quoted amounts upto 31.7.1999 (the cut off date for migration to NTP' 99) and after that as percentage of Annual Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) earned from operations of the licence.

(iii) Performance obligations in terms of provision of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and Village Public Telephones (VPTs) as per their voluntarily made commitments. Performance Bank Guarantee as a security against non-performance.

(iv) Licence period of 20 years extendable by 10 years at a time.

(v) Financial Bank Guarantee to securitise licence fee.

(vi) Payment at prescribed rates for frequency spectrum.

(vii) Use of hand held telephone sets in Wireless Access network.

(viii) Licences are assignable/transferable subject to Licensor's prior written consent in line with a tripartite Agreement.

(ix) Resale of local loop/resources is not permitted.

(b) For Licences Issued in 2001:

The salient terms & conditions of licences issued in 2001 are same as above except that an entry fee is payable for obtaining licence and licence fee is payable as percentage of AGR from the beginning itself and the roll out obligations are in terms of establishing stipualted percentage of Points of Presence (POPs) in SDCAs (Short Distance Charging Areas i.e typically Tehsils) with coverage of Urban, Semi urban and Rural SDCAs in equal proportion at the end of 2,3,5 and 7 years of licence period.

Statement-II

Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

S. No.	Name of the Company	Service Area	Date of Grant of Licence Agreement
1	2	3	4
1.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Delhi	29.11.1994
		Mumbai	28.09.2001

1	2	3	4
		Gujarat	28.09.2001
		Haryana	28.09.2001
		Kerala	28.09.2001
		Madhya Pradesh	28.09.2001
		Maharashtra	28.09.2001
		Tamilnadu	28.09.2001
		UP (West)	28.09.2001
2.	Sterling Cellular Ltd.	Delhi	30.11.1994
3.	BPL Mobile Communications Ltd.	Mumbai	30.11.1994
4.	Hutchinson Max Ltd.	Mumbai	29.11.1994
5.	Bharti Mobitel Ltd.	Kolkata	30.11.1994
6.	Usha Martin Telecom. Ltd.	Kolkata	30.11.1994
7.	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	Chennai	30.11.1994
8.	Bharti Mobinet Ltd.	Chennai	30.11.1994
9.	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.	Haryana	28.12.1995
		Rajasthan	1.8.1996
		U.P. (East)	20.12.1995
10.	FASCEL Ltd	Gujarat	11.01.1996
11.	Hexacom India	North East	01.01.1996
		Rajasthan	16.09.1996
12.	Bharti Mobile Limited	Andhra Pradesh	22.12.1995
		Punjab	26.12.1995
		Karnataka	18.10.1996
13.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	19.12.1995
		Gujarat	12.12.1995
		Maharashtra	12.12.1995
		Delhi	05.10.1995
14.	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Haryana	12.12.1995
		UP (West)	12.12.1995
		Kerala	12.12.1995
15.	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	19.12.1995
		Kerala	19.12.1995
		Maharashtra	19.12.1995

1	2	3	4
16.	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	12.12.1995
17.	BTA Cellcom Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	15.12.1995
18.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	12.12.1995
		West Bengal	12.12.1995
		Assam	12.12.1995
		Bihar	12.12.1995
		Himachal Pradesh	12.12.1995
		North East	12.12.1995
		Orissa	12.12.1995
19.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Karnataka	09.09.1996
		Punjab	09.09.1996
20.	Aircel Limited	Tamilnadu	22.05.1998
21.	Hutchinson Essar South Ltd.	Chennai	26.09.2001
		Andhra Pradesh	26.09.2001
		Karnataka	26.09.2001
22.	Reliable Internet Services Ltd.	Kolkata	27.09.2001
23.	Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	20.10.2001
		Punjab	20.10.2001
		Rajasthan	20.10.2001
		UP (East)	20.10.2001

Salient features of the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Telecom Circle Service Areas

1. The Licensee shall install and run Cellular Mobile Telephone Service within 12 months of the effective date.
2. The Licensee shall operate and provide the Services. He will be solely responsible for the installation, networking, operation, treatment of the complaints, issue of bills to his subscribers, collection of his component of the revenue, claims, damages arising out of this operation.
3. At least 10% of the District Head quarters will be covered in the 1st Year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within 3 years of effective date.
4. The mode of ownership of terminal/mobile telephone will be at the option of the subscriber.
5. The Licensee shall ensure that objectionable or obscene messages or communications, which are inconsistent with the established laws of the country, are not carried on his network. In particular, he is obliged to provide the tracing facilities to trace the nuisance or malicious calls, messages or communications transported through the equipment and network.
6. The licence is governed by the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. As per the provision of the Act, the Licensee will provide necessary facilities to the designated authorities of Central/State Governments for interception of the messages passing through its network.

[English]

Delay of Drug Imports at MPT

4553. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many drug and drug related importers are being harassed by Mumbai Port Authorities and their imports are getting delayed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they are insisting on production of Bank Guarantee instead of Letter of Guarantee as per the provisions of the Drug and Cosmetics Act;

(c) if so, the quantum and value of imports that have been delayed due to such harassment; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring such officials to book and action initiated against them?

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

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

No Score on Stadium Display Board

4554. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "No Score on Stadium display board" appeared in *Hindustan Times* dated September 3, 2002;

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

(c) whether the SAI has conducted any inquiry and fixed the responsibility in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against persons responsible?

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

(b) to (e) The news-item pertains to non-functioning of Score Board, installed at Chattarsal Stadium, the venue for holding preliminary Football matches under the auspices of the 1st Afro Asian Games, which were, earlier scheduled to be held in November 2001. The Electronic Score Board was procured by Sports Authority of India (SAI) and installed there in May/June 2001 by M/s. Computer Maintenance Corporation (a Government of India Undertaking). After appearance of the said news-item in the Press, the matter was taken up with M/s CMC, who informed that on the 14th August 2002, the rain water had seeped into the Board, causing temporary malfunctioning, which was rectified by the manufacturer, the same evening and the Board readied for next day's function. In other words, the Score Board installed at the Chattarsal Stadium has been functional and was successfully utilised, recently, on 14.11.2002 to commemorate the BAL DIVAS. It is also pertinent to mention here that SAI was only involved in purchase of Score Board and its installation. Other infrastructure facilities to protect the same from rain and heat etc. fall under the jurisdiction of Government of NCT of Delhi.

Drug Control Policy

4555. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the main points of Drub Control Policy;

(b) the action taken by the Government for implementation of Drug Control Policy;

(c) the number of preventive checks conducted by the Drug Control Department in each State during the last three years and the current year upto September, 2002;

(d) the number of cases detected by Drug Control Department; and

(e) the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) There is no separate Drugs Control Policy. Manufacture and sale of drugs are regulated under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules made thereunder.

(c) to (e) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules thereunder, State Governments have been empowered to carry out preventive checks with a view to monitor on quality of medicines manufactured and sold in the market. The State Drugs Control Officers randomly draw samples from manufacturers, traders and get their quality validated through Govt. labs. As per the feedback available from the State Licensing Authorities 38936; 35570 and 36947 samples of drugs were tested during the years 1998-99; 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively and out of which 0.24%, 0.32% and 0.30% samples were found spurious and 8.19%, 10.31% and 8.36% samples were found sub-standard. A statement showing the number of prosecution launched, number of cases decided during the period 1998-99; 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are enclosed.

Statement

The Number of Prosecutions Launched No. of Cases Decided, ETC. During the Period 1998-1999, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 Under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

S.No.	State/Uts	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Number of Prosecutions Launched	Number of Cases Decided	Number of Prosecutions Launched	Number of Cases Decided	Number of Prosecutions launchded	Number of Cases Decided
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70	19	NA	NA	84	27
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	1	1	NNil	Nil
3.	Assam	1	1	2	1	6	Nil
4.	Bihar	7	Nil	5	Nil	NA	NA
5.	Goa	3	Nil	5	1	2	Nil
6.	Gujarat	23	12	18	13	31	11
7.	Haryana	21	8	21	8	NA	NA
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	6	3	12	7
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	12	82	4	68	3
10.	Karnataka	39	2	NA	NA	22	12
11.	Kerala	22	15	22	15	9	13
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9	15	22	11	9	7
13.	Maharashtra	NA	Nil	104	9	157	63
14.	Manipur	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Mizoram	Nil	Nil	31	26	Nil	Nil
17.	Nagaland	Nil	Nil	11	NA	Nil	Nil
18.	Orissa	14	3	18	Nil	10	3
19.	Punjab	9	13	9	13	22	18
20.	Rajasthan	16	2	22	16	45	19
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Tamilnadu	116	38	107	29	106	52
23.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	NA	Nil	48	Nil	6	Nil
25.	West Bengal	NA	Nil	8	2	8	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.	Chandigarh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
29.	Delhi	8	Nil	21	11	11	9
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
31.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
32.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
	Total	364	143	563	163	651	245

NA Information not available Spurious Statistics/41

Inclusion of OTC in Scheduled Act

4556. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose for inclusion of OTC medicines such as Asprin, Paracetamol, Cough Syrup and the other medicines of the category in the Scheduled Drug Act;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such medicines are injurious to health and the use of asprin by children damages their liver and the prolonged use of anti-biotic paracetamol causes permanent damage to kidney; and

(c) if so, by when the Government are contemplating to include O.T.C. medicines in the 'Schedule Drug Act'?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) the term OTC is not defined under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules made thereunder, Drugs like Asprin, Paracetamol and Cough syrups etc, which are non-prescription drugs are permitted to be sold at licensed premises without requiring a prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.

(b) Restrictions for sale of drugs against prescription depends upon the overall safety/risk ratio. Aspirin is not recommended for use in children below 12 years of age. Paracetamol is not an antibiotic. It is a non-prescription drug all over the world and in recommended doses it is not associated with permanent damage to the kidney.

(c) There is no proposal to separately define OTC medicines under the Schedule to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

New Vaccines

4557. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug prices are likely to go up after 2005, when WTO agreement on medicine comes into operation;

(b) whether a number of new Vaccines for diseases like Malaria, T.B. and Cholera are likely to hit the market next year;

(c) whether Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore is conducting the first phase of clinical trials on these vaccines based on bio-technology, developed by the Indian scientists;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether country has great potential to develop new generation vaccines; and

(f) if so, the concrete plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA) (a) to (f) The patents act contains a number of safeguards such as compulsory licensing and parallel imports, which can be

used in case a situation arises where there is a threat, to public health and to accessibility to drugs at a reasonable cost.

The Dept. of Biotechnology, in the Government of India has implemented a project entitled "National Jai-Vigyan Science and Technology Mission" for the Encephalitis, Rabies, Cholera, Tuberculosis and Malaria. At present, the vaccines are either undergoing preclinical or phase I//II volunteer trials. The subsequent large-scale Phase-III trials or Cholera vaccine would be undertaken after regulatory clearance.

The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has developed a combined Rabies DNA vaccine, which has been proved to be very efficacious in experimental animals. Initially the vaccine will be marked for animal use only. Subsequently, after detailed preclinical and clinical study, the vaccine is intended for human use.

The country has developed the expertise towards the development of new generation vaccines based on recombinant DNA technology, which have been developed over the years through R&D support by the department. Based on the leads obtained, the Dept. of Biotechnology has the following major programmes towards vaccine development, viz., Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme and National Jai-Vigyan Science and Technology Mission Programme on development of new generation vaccines. Under the Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme, Rotaviral Diarrhoea vaccine will be under going clinical trials in India. Current thrust is on vaccine development of three major diseases, viz HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

SRP of Computer

4558. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5597 dated August 29, 2001 and state:

(a) whether against the SRP of computer at Rs. 64790/-and the amount of extended warranty Rs. 8040/-while the same has been indicated as Rs. 69080/- and 7600 to the Ministry of Defence respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons for the discrepancies; and

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

(d) if so, the action taken on the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The SRPs and extended warranty of Rs. 64790/-& Rs. 8,040, and Rs. 69080/-& Rs. 7600/- relate to sale of computers to two different offices at different times. The former related to computers sold to Cabinet Secretariat in March, 2000 and the latter related to computers sold to DGQA in August, 1999. Hence the prices are different.

[Translation]

Sign of Agreement

4559. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the issues on which talks were held with Dr. Craig Brett, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Intel Corporation in August, 2002 and the agreements signed during his visit;

(b) the assistance to be provided by Intel Corporation to remove the difficulties coming in the way of making whole country as I.T. power house; and

(c) the names of the cities of India in which Intel Corporation has been engaged in augmentation of IT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) During the visit of Dr. Craig Barrett, Chairman & CEO of INTEL Corporation to India on 29th August, 2002, talks were held in the following areas:

(I) **Growing the Industry:** Expansion of INTEL's presence in India by making additional investment in the area of Engineering Design & Development, Software Development, Networking and Communication and to support promising technology ventures that enable growth of the Internet economy.

(II) **Education:** To train additional 100,000 teachers by 2003 in use of technology to enhance the teaching and student learning process. To continue initiative in curriculum design and faculty development with equipment support and also in the project "Vidya Vahini".

(iii) **Technology Programme:** To collaborate with Government agencies to share and introduce cutting edge technology towards setting up grid based computing clusters intended for use in Bio-informatics, Weather modeling Education, Scientific research etc. In the area of e-governance INTEL to partner for joint work with Government in the identified pilots and facilitate roll out of successful ones.

(iv) **Bridging the Digital divide:** Intel & Media Lab Asia to explore the possibilities of cooperation for Research, Setting of standards and developing technology in support of Government's endeavour to reach to the masses and bridging the digital divide.

During the visit of Dr. Criag Barrett, a Joint Statement of Partnership covering the above areas of cooperation was signed. Another MOU between INTEL and ERNET (a Society under the Department of Information Technology) was signed for cooperation in the Project "Vidya Vahini".

Programme of Weaker Sections

4560. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programmes has been introduced by an International Information Technology Company for the backward/Weaker sections of the society in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features thereof; and

(d) the number of students likely to be benefited therefrom annually?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

UNPF Scheme for Aged

4561. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) has drawn up a scheme for the developing countries including India to help them dealing with the problems being faced by the aged persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any survey about the number of aged and infirm persons;

(d) if so, the number thereof and the steps taken/ proposed to be taken about their health related matters;

(e) whether the Government have sent proposal to the UN Population Fund for financial assistance for the welfare of these aged people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the assistance is likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) UNFPA has the mandate to work on population ageing in the developing regions, In 2002, UNFPA joined the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and Columbia University to work together to establish in international programme for capacity building and policy development in the area of population ageing in developing countries. This programme will conduct research and training of some government officials and NGO staff in social gerontology and ageing and will provide technical assistance to frame policies for the aged. India is not participating in this programme.

(c) and (d) As per information collected during Census 1991, the population of aged persons (60+) was 5.67 crores, which is 6.8% of the total population of the country.

The Government of India announced a National Policy for Older persons in January 1999. It aims at strengthening the legitimate place of older persons in society and help them to live the last phase of their life with purpose, dignity and peace. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing a scheme "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons" under which grants-in-aid is provided to eligible organizations for establishing and maintaining Day-Care Centres, Old Age Homes, Mobile Medicare Units and for non-institutional services for the older persons. Under the Mobile Medicare Unit grant is given to NGOs for providing health care facilities to older persons.

In addition, Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and Medical Reimbursement Scheme have been extended to retired Central Government employees and their dependents. Health Insurance Schemes such as Bhavishya Arogya and Mediclaim are also available for the elderly through General Insurance Corporation of India.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Loss Due to Sharing

4562. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether private sector companies were assigned the work of starting cellular service in the country on payment of the prescribed licence fee;

(b) if so, whether the above system has been changed later on and the system of revenue sharing has been adopted in place of payment of licence fee;

(c) if so, the percentage of revenue sharing fixed;

(d) whether the percentage of revenue sharing is proposed to be curtailed and if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the financial loss incurred, if any from 1.8.1999 by the Government due to changing the earlier system of licence free regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Sir, upto 31.07.1999 the licence fee for the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) was based on the amounts committed by the Licensees as a result of open bidding process for grant of Licences. Thereafter, with effect from, 1.8.1999 the Operators were migrated to revenue sharing regime subject to fulfillment of the conditions of the Migration Package. Subsequently, Licences for CMTS were granted to private companies in the year 2001 on the basis of Entry Fee and License Fee as revenue share. At present, the Licence fee for CMTS for Category 'A' 'B' & 'C' Service Areas is 12%, 10% and 8% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) respectively, inclusive of Universal Service Obligation levy, apart from separate charges for use of wireless frequency spectrum.

(d) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of the private cellular operators have requested for reduction of Licence fees for CMTS quoting international practices. It has been represented that the licence fees should be sufficient only to cover the costs of administration and regulation of the sector.

(e) Change-over from fixed licence fee regime to revenue sharing regime has been made as a result of informed and institutionalized decision in best public interest making pragmatic adjustments warranted by ground realities in relation to the Telecom Industry. The two arrangements of charging licence fee are different; and loss, if any, can be said to be notional and not real and it is not possible to compare the two situations.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges

4563. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during the Tenth Plan in Rajasthan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The planning for setting up of New Telephone Exchanges is finalized at the beginning of each financial year based on the waiting list and resources available.

(b) The location-wise details of Digital Electronic Exchanges planned to be set up during 2002-03 in Rajasthan are given in the statement. These will be commissioned subject to availability of resources.

Statement

Location-wise details of New Telephone Exchanges Proposed to be set up in Rajasthan during 2002-2003

Sl. No.	Name of District	Location's Name
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	Akodia
2.	Alwar	Dumroli
3.		Karanpura

1	2	3
4.		Nayagaon Partapur
5.		Thumrela
6.	Banswara	BSW-M/W
7.		Sagwadiya
8.	Barmer	Adel
9.		BRM-Old Exch.
10.		Sarli Jagir
11.	Bharatpur	Sadpuri
12.	Bhilwada	BLW-Pur
13.		BLW-Subhash Nagar
14.		BLW-V.S. Pathik Nagar
15.	Bikaner	Badnu
16.		Beeramsar
17.		BIK-MDV Colony
18.		Sahlarasar
19.		Thawaria
20.	Dholpur	Jarga
21.		Mithawali
22.	Dungarpur	Modar
23.	Hanumangadh	Hn.Jn-B.S. Chowk
24.	Jaisalmer	Luherki
25.		Parewar
26.	Jaisalmer	Sonu
27.	Jalore	Khara
28.		Paota
29.		Sanpur
30.		Tatol
31.	Jhunjhunu	Kot
32.		Papra
33.	Jodhpur	Chamu
34.		JDP-Mandore
35.		Jetiwas
36.		Kakelao
37.		Ketumada
38.	Karauli	Mandrayal
39.	Kota	Kota DCM
40.		Kota Rampura
41.	Nagaur	Jijot
42.	Pali Marwar	Jitra
43.		Khandi
44.		Kharia Neev
45.	Rajsamand	Tikhli
46.	Sikar	Bidoli
47.		Dakas
48.		Dantru
49.		Sikar-Krishi Mandi
50.	Udaipur	Badawali

Creation of Digital Library

4564. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ministry has sanctioned Rs. 86 lakh to the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) to create a culture heritage digital library in Hindi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to create similar heritage digital library in other regional languages;

(d) if so, whether Government have fixed any time-frame for such an exercise; and

(e) the details of other areas to be coverd in this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. IGNCA has been assigned the responsibility of Development of Cultural Heritage Digital Library for the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal. This is in line with the Action

Plan-I, recommendations of the National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development.

(c) to (e) For other languages, presently there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

Wasteful Expenditure

4565. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has identified the areas in its various departments where wasteful expenditure is being incurred;

(b) if so, the details of the areas so identified;

(c) the efforts made to curtail or stop the wasteful expenditure and success achieved by the Government, so far in this regard;

(d) whether expenditure has increased despite the measures taken by the Government; and

(e) if so, the clarification of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) There has been no wasteful expenditure in the Ministry.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Consumer Protection Forum

4566. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Protection Forum has awarded six months imprisonment and fine as well to several high ranking officers of the Department of Telecommunications, Noida for not complying with its order;

(b) if so, the names of such officers and the details of charges; and

(c) whether these officers have been sent to jail or any action has been taken by the department in this regard alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The District Consumer Redressal Forum, Gautam Budh Nagar (Noida) has awarded six months imprisonment and fine of Rs.2,000/- (Rupees two thousand only) to General Manager Telecom District, Noida, for neither complying with its order dated 4.2.2002 nor submitting justified reasons for not complying with the order.

(c) No, Sir. The Officer has not been sent to jail. District Forum has stayed its own order on 11th November, 2002 because the State Commission, Lucknow, had already put a Stay on the proceedings of the case in District Consumer Redressal Forum, Gautam Budh Nagar on 28th October, 2002, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., Noida, has filed an appeal in the State Commission against the decision of District Consumer Redressal Forum, Gautam Budh Nagar for setting aside the impugned judgement and order dated 4.2.2002 passed by the Learned District Forum, Gautam Budh Nagar.

Facilities to Sports Persons

4567. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities/incentives being provided by the Government to the sports persons participating in the sports at the International level;

(b) whether different norms have been prescribed for the sports persons playing different sports for according incentives;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the facilities provided for the sports persons playing karate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) In order to prepare the sports persons and teams for International sports events, intensive coaching camps, latest equipments, services of foreign coaches and experts, in addition to Indian coaches and scientists are provided to sports persons participating in the sports competitions at the International level. In selected disciplines, Govt. also provide air fare, boarding, lodging, entry fee and misc. expenses like airport tax, visa fee etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to prioritize sports disciplines for special focus and work out differential pattern of assistance based on status and performance, various sports disciplines have been categorized in three parts;

I. Priority-In this category, such sports discipline are listed which are included in Olympic, Commonwealth and Asian Games or such other sports for which internationally recognized tournaments are held in which at least twenty countries participate, subject to fulfilment of the following conditions:-

(a) Sports in which the current standards are at or close to international competitive levels; and

(b) Where the teams or individuals are likely to win medals in future.

II. General-Sports, which are included in Olympic, Commonwealth and Asian Games and where there is a proven aptitude but which is not yet close to international competitive levels.

III. Others-In this category such sports are listed which are not covered under the above mentioned Priority and General Categories.

(d) The Karate discipline at present comes under 'Others' Category for which Government provides assistance towards organizing National Championships only.

Government has provided air travel, boarding, lodging & miscellaneous expenses including pocket allowance towards participation of the karate team in the 14th Asian Games held at Busan from 29th September to 14 October, 2002.

[English]

Diseases of Stomach

4568. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that stomach related diseases are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the cases registered in each year during last three years in Government hospitals;

(c) whether sufficient gastroenterologists are available in Government hospitals and dispensaries to tackle the situation; and

(d) if so, the number of gastroenterologists available in Government hospitals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) As per data maintained by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, the overall cases of stomach-related diseases reported for the year 2001, are less than those reported for the year 2000. The cases registered during last three years mainly in Government Hospitals are as under:-

Year	Cholera	Acute Diarrhoea	Viral Hepatitis-B	Enteric Fever
1999	3839	8215296	131798	379304
2000	3879	8870507	153034	471502
2001	4178	8765077	136516	455211

(c) and (d) The present health care facilities are geared up to tackle the situation. The number of Gastroenterologists available in the country is not maintained at the Central level.

Machines out of Order in Government Hospitals

4569. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the machines in the Union Government run hospitals in the capital remain out of order causing embarrassment to the beneficiaries;

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

(c) whether any physical verification of such machines have been conducted by the Government in the past six months;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the cause of the frequent breakdowns of such machines have been ascertained;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper functioning of such machines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (g) The total number of machines costing more than one lakhs and the non functional status of the same in respect of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College and Associated Hospitals is as under:-

Name of Hospital	No of equipment	Total number of non-functional equipment
Dr. R.M.L. Hospital	221	Nil
Safdarjung Hospital	361	02
LHMC & Associated hospitals	259	6

There is no frequent break down of machines. However, the machines may tend to become non-functional due to constant use, attributed to large number of patients and usual wear and tear. Immediate steps are being taken to get the machine repaired. Besides, monthly monitoring of non-functional equipment is also undertaken. Further, all the machines are put under Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC).

Port Development under BOT Schemes

4570. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ports developed/being developed by Government under BOT Scheme with direct funding and private funding; and

(b) the progress of work of these ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) 18 projects have been approved for development of various ports through private sector participation in major ports, namely Jawaharlal Nehru, Mumbai, Kandla, Vasakhapatnam, Chennai, Tuticorin, Paradip, Mormugao, New Mangalore and Kolkata. Out of these, the following 7 projects have been commissioned/completed so far:-

(1) Container Terminal at Jawaharalal Nehru Port.

(2) Liquid Cargo Berth at Jawharlal Nehru Port.

(3) 5th Oil Jetty (Indian Farmer Fertilisers Corporation) at Kandla Port.

(4) Oil Jetty (Indian Oil Corporation Limited) at Kandla Port.

(5) Container Terminal at Tuticorin Port (7th Berth).

(6) Captive Berth (Oswal Chemicals & Fertilizers) at Paradip Port.

(7) Container Terminal, Chennai Port.

The other 11 projects are under various stages of implementation.

New Pattern of Financing for IWT

4571. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI K.E KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government announced new pattern of financing for Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have enhanced the plan outlay of Rs. 668 crores in Tenth Plan for the IWT sector compared to Rs. 308/-crores during the Ninth Plan;

(d) if so, the details of the new projects proposals, both the National and State level projects alongwith incentive package, if any, given State-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to take assistance from the international financial agencies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The pattern for financial assistance by Central Govt. to the State Governments for development of Inland Water Transport under Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been revised. Under the revised pattern, financial assistance by way of grant would be provided up to 100% cost of the approved scheme for North Eastern States including Sikkim and up to 90% cost of the approved scheme to other States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The head-wise break up of Rs. 668.00 crore provided to IWT sector for Tenth Five Year Plan period, is as under:

Net Budgetary Support-	Rs. 430 crore.
External Assistance-	Rs. 10 Crore.

External Commercial Borrowings- (From bonds to be issued by IWAI)	Rs. 136 crore
Others (Private sector participation through Joint venture and BOT)	Rs. 92 crore
	Total: Rs. 668 crore

Finalization of break up in respect of provisions made under External Assistance, External Commercial Borrowings and Others, items is not feasible at this stage as the development in these fields is presently under progress. Presently, the break up in respect of Net Budgetary Support for the IWT Sector i.e. Rs. 430 crore for Tenth Five Year Plan period has been finalized which is as under:

A. IWAI

National Waterway No.-1	Rs. 189.00 crore
National Waterway No.-3	Rs. 65.73 crore
Other Schemes (NWs)	Rs. 65.00 crore
Technical Studies & R & D	Rs. 7.00 crore
IVBSS/LISS	Rs. 45.00 crore
Centrally Sponsored Scheme	Rs. 20.00 crore
B. CIWTC	Rs. 38.27 crore.
	Total Rs. 430.00 crore

(Note: Development activities on National Waterway No. 2 are to be undertaken from out of the fund available with the Ministry under the North East Pool).

There are proposals for declaration of new waterways. Incentive schemes include 30% Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme (IVBSS) under Central Sector Schemes. An initial provision of Rs. 20 crore has been kept under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of IWT in the States during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Details on such schemes will depend on the proposals to be received from State Governments and approved by Central Government.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Proposal for obtaining External assistance has been processed by the Government. World Bank and Asian Development Bank have shown interest to provide such assistance. However, before giving this assistance they would like to update the studies based on which proposals for assistance were prepared.

[Translation]

Leproscopy Machines in Government Hospitals

4572. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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 "Leproscopy se janch ho to 30 fisadi rogi surgery se bach sakate hein" appearing in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated August 17, 2002;

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

(c) whether the Government proposed to provide such machines in all the Govt. hospitals keeping in view its importance and utility; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) The facilities of laproscopic surgery is already available in the Central Government Hospitals.

Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the respective State to proved such facilities in their Hospitals.

[English]

Introduction of Hospital Ship

4573. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Health Department of Andaman and Nicobar Administration is implementing a scheme namely "Introduction of Hospital Ship" under Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the name of agency constructing the vessels, the facilities proposed to be provided in the vessels, total cost of construction of the vessels and expected date by which vessels will be delivered and put into service in these Islands; and

(c) also indicate the target fixed for the Annual Plan 2002-2003 and progress made upto October 2002 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) The UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands have intimated that they have included the Scheme in the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, the proposal is only in preliminary stage.

Telephone Connections

4574. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the telephone connections are sanctioned to the applicants on demand in rural areas of Lucknow, Mohan Lal Ganj region and Kheri Lakhimpur district in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of infrastructural facilities available/ proposed for increasing the capacity of telephone exchange in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The telephone connections are sanctioned to the applicants on demand in many of the rural exchanges in Kheri Lakhimpur district only and not in Mohan Lal Ganj, Lucknow district. The details are given in the statement-I.

(c) The details of infrastructural facilities available as well as proposed expansion plan for increasing the capacity of rural telephone exchanges in these areas is given in the statement-II. Execution of expansion plan is subject to availability of resources.

Statement-I

List of Rural Exchanges in Kheri Lakhimpur District where Telephone Connections are Given on Demand

Sl. No.	Name of Exchanges
1	2
1.	Bhira
2.	Isa Nagar
3.	Dhakherwa
4.	Katauli
5.	Ramia Behar
6.	Nakha
7.	Maigal Ganj
8.	JB Ganj
9.	Phattepur
10.	Majigawan
11.	Mamri
12.	Sikandrabad
13.	Mahangapur
14.	Vishanpuri
15.	Khajuria
16.	Sampurna Nagar
17.	Chandan Chawaki
18.	Majgaeen
19.	Nighasan
20.	Belrayan
21.	Bamhanpur
22.	Jas Nagar

Statement-II

Details of infrastructural facilities available/proposed Plan to be commissioned by 31.03.2003 for increasing the capacity of Rural Exchanges

1. Mohan Lal Ganj Region, Lucknow District

Sl. No.	Name of exchange	Available Capacity	Proposed Expansion Plan
1.	WLL Mohanlal Ganj	500 lines	500 Lines
2.	WLL Malihabad	500 Lines	500 Lines
3.	WLL Itaunja	500 Lines	500 Lines
4.	Rahimabad	256 Lines (two units	1000 Lines
5.	Bijnore	256 Lines (two units)	1000 Lines
6.	Kahla	256 Lines	256 Lines
7.	Rahman Khera	256 Lines	256 Lines
8.	Amethi	256 Lines	256 Lines
9.	Sysendi	256 Lines	256 Lines

2. Kheri Lakhimpur District

Sl.No.	Name of exchange	Available Capacity	Proposed Expansion Plan
1.	Lakhimpur	500 Lines capacity Base Transmitter Stations (BTS) of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system	New telephone connections are being provided on demand within 25 Kms of radial distance from these Exchanges.
2.	Palia		
3.	Bhira		
4.	Nighasan		
5.	Mohamdi		
6.	Maigal Ganj		
7.	Dhaurahra		
8.	Gola	1400 Lines Exchange (two units)	1000 lines WLL BTS and 1000 lines Remote Subscriber Unit (RSU)
9.	Belrayan	256 Lines Exchange (two units)	512 Lines Exchange
10.	Aliganj	512 Lines Exchange	Nil
11.	Gajiyapur	Nil	256 Lines Exchange and 30 chl. Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Transmission Media.
12.	Behti Afghan	Nil	256 Lines Exchange and Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Transmission Media.

Reduction in Prices of Drugs for Thalassaemics

4575. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the drugs for thalassaemics are costly and out of the reach of poor patients;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring down the prices of drugs for thalassaemics; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Thalassaemia is a disorder characterized by defective synthesis of haemoglobin treated by repeated blood transfusions. Excess of iron predicted in the body due to repeated blood transfusions is removed by chelation therapy. The chelators, deferral injection with the infusion pump and other oral chelator deferiprone are being imported and not manufactured in India. Government have extended exemption from Customs duty for import of certain drugs for Thalassaemics. However, the prices of drugs for Thalassaemia are not fixed by the Government. There is no proposal to bring these drugs under the provisions contained in Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

[Translation]

Uranium Production

4576. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of uranium mines in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the quantity of uranium produced from these mines?

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 Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) a public Sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) at present operates three underground uranium

mines at Jaduguda, Bhatin and Narwapahar all located in the East Singhbhum District of Jharkhand.

(b) It is not in the public interest to disclose information on the quantum of uranium produced in the country.

[English]

Establishment of Regulatory Bodies

4577. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM has suggested to set up of regulatory commission for ports and inland waterways on the lines of regulatory bodies established for power and telecom sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ASSOCHAM has also suggested that the development of inland waterways infrastructure should be the total responsibility of the Government and maintenance of the infrastructure;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government in regard to parts (a) & (c) above; and

(f) the efforts made by the Government to identify stretches that have high cargo-carrying potential on the waterways?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Inland Waterways Authority of India has interacted with various prospective shippers of cargo and has identified origin, destinations and probable quantity of different types of cargo, which can potentially be transported through the three National Waterways.

Collection of Dues from BSNL

4578. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of telecom has entrusted the work of collection of telephone dues from the BSNL telephone subscribers to the Police personnel on commission basis in certain Telecom Districts in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the method is successful and whether Government propose to introduce such system in other Telecom, Districts;

(c) whether Government have examined the methods adopted by the Police to recover the dues and whether force, threat, coercion or other methods were employed by the Police while recovering dues; and

(d) the details thereof and whether Government have received any complaints in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Department of Telecom is no longer collecting telephone dues after the formation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. The Company has, however, initiated a procedure to avail of the services of State Government Departments including the Police and Revenue authorities for recovery of outstanding dues. For this work 1.5% commission of the recovered amount is payable to the concerned Department.

(b) to (d) Despite best efforts, by erstwhile DOT (now BSNL), a huge amount remains outstanding against habitual defaulters. As a last resort this decision was therefore taken with a view to recover the dues from such defaulters in public interest. As per the information available at BSNL (Hqrs.), the system has not taken off inmost Telecom Circles as yet. At no point of time BSNL has suggested the use of coercive methods for recovery of outstanding dues and also no complaints have been received about any use of force by Police in this regard.

Border Talks with Bangladesh

4579. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:
SHRI R.L. BHATIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether joint Boundary Working Groups to settle boundary related matters with Bangladesh have been constituted;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) whether any meeting of the working groups took place in Delhi recently;

(d) if so, the details of the discussions;

(e) whether India has offered a composite package in this regard to Bangladesh on which the views of Bangladesh Government are awaited; and

(f) if so, when this package was offered and by when the views of Bangladesh are likely to be received?

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

(b) The teams may include all concerned agencies including representatives from the Ministries of External/ Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Land, Law, Water Resources; and officers of land records, survey, border guarding forces from both sides, and the concerned State Governments in the case of India.

(c) The second meeting of the Joint Boundary Working Groups was held in New Delhi on 26-27 March 2002.

(d) The discussions covered all outstanding issues relating to the implementation of the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974 including pending demarcation of the boundary, exchange of adverse possessions and enclaves.

(e) Yes.

(f) The package was offered during the second meeting of the Joint Boundary Working Groups in March 2002. It is difficult to indicate as to by when the views of Government of Bangladesh would be received.

Plantation of Trees on Both Sides of National Highway

4580. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government for the plantation of new trees/medicinal trees on the both sides of the National Highways passing through in the different States, State-wise during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the details thereof along with the funds earmarked for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Government has a policy for the plantation of trees, including medicinal trees, along the National Highways. The provisions for plantation of trees are made as part of various projects for development of National Highways. No separate funds are earmarked for this purpose.

Central Assistance to States

4581. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Chief Ministers of some States have desired the Union Government to bring out a white paper on the Central Assistance provided to States during the past five years;

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

(c) when Government propose to bring out a white paper in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have been charged by some Chief Ministers for adopting discriminatory attitude in providing Central Assistance; and

(e) if so, the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) There is no formal request from the Chief Ministers of some States for the Government to come up with a white paper on Central Assistance to States.

(d) and (e) The Union Government have not been charged with adopting discriminatory attitude in providing Central Assistance.

Allocation of Funds for RQP

4582. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the fund allocated for the development of Improvement of Riding Quality Programme (RQP) work for the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 in the country in general and the State of Orissa in particular;

(b) if so, whether National Highway Nos. 201 and 217 have been included under the RQP scheme which passes through the KBK region of the State of Orissa, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bridges damaged on National Highway No. 201, have been taken for reconstruction as it connects Bhawani-Patna which is the district headquarter of the Kalahandi district; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) Funds are allocated for improvement and development of National Highways as a whole and not for Improvement of Riding Quality Programme (IRQP) separately. Allocation for the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 for the country as a whole and for the State of Orissa separately is given below-

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Allocation for country	Rs. 1517.04 Cr.	Rs. 1617.01 Cr.	Rs. 1585.00 Cr. (Budget Estimate)
Allotment for Orissa	Rs. 67.04 Cr.	Rs. 45.00 Cr.	Rs. 65.00 Cr.

(b) Ministry has sanctioned IRQP works for 95 kms on NH 201 and 117 kms on NH 217 at a cost of Rs. 1678.53 lakhs and Rs. 1683.75 lakhs respectively.

(c) and (d) The estimate for project preparation for construction of Hati bridge has been sanctioned for Rs. 8.89 lakhs. The proposal for re-construction of bridge across Suktel has been received recently and is under examination.

SISI at Madurai

4583. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a branch of Small Industries Service Institute (SISI) at Madurai in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu during the last three years?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government has been implementing various schemes for making accessible credit, infrastructure development, technology upgradation, marketing support, entrepreneurship development, etc. in the small and tiny industries sector in the country., SISI, Chennai and other agencies of the Ministry in Tamil Nadu have conducted EDPs & training programmes, and provided consultancy and extension services to many SSI units in the last three years.

Withdrawal of Officers of AIS Service

4584. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has sent any proposal to the Union Government to withdraw some of the All India Service posts and withdraw such personnel from the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the Union Government have also decided to reduce 20% of sanctioned posts from All India Services cadre like IAS, IPS etc. in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The State Government of Orissa has informed that it has decided to reduce the strength of its Indian Administrative Service cadre from 202 to 184 over a period of 3-4 years and that of Indian Police Service cadre from 159 to 143. However, detailed proposals for review of cadre strength have not yet been received. The State Government has also a proposal to reduce the cadre strength of the Indian Forest Service but no final decision has been taken so far by the State Government. There is no proposal to withdraw any personnel from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does nor arise.

Plenary Meeting of India-U.S. Cyber Security Forum

4585. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plenary meeting of India-U.S. cyber security forum took place in April, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the decisions taken, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. The first meeting of India-U.S. Cyber-Security Forum took place on 29-30 April 2002 in New Delhi.

(b) The two sides recognised that cyber terrorism has emerged as a major economic and security threat and agreed, in this context, to intensify bilateral cooperation to enhance mutual capability for securing their nation cyber infrastructure. The Forum has established a programme of activities, including in the areas of institution building and personnel training, exchange of experts, joint research and development, sharing of information and strengthening national and international legal framework for cyber security.

Mission To Mars

4586. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose co-operation with USA, Russia and other countries in the research work in inter space, especially for a mission to Mars;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached;

(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) No, Sir. At present there is no specific proposal on mission to Mars. However, ISRO has collaboration in the general area of space research with USA, Russia and several other countries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Possible collaboration with USA and other countries may be explored once ISRO's plan on future planetary studies are firmed up.

Development of Three Piece Manipulator

4587. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Kerala Hightech Industries Limited, a Government enterprise, has developed a three piece manipulator for handling hazardous nuclear waste;

(b) if so, whether this manipulator has been handed over to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC); and

(c) the results achieved by this manipulator?

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

The Kerala Hightech Industries Limited, a Government Enterprise, has manufactured a three-piece manipulator for remote handing of radioactive materials based on inputs provided by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

(b) Yes, Sir. Two pairs of manipulators have been formally handed over to BARC and are presently being transported to Mumbai.

(c) Functional tests carried out on the manipulators at Kerala Hightech Industries Limited have been very satisfactory and are acceptable to BARC.

Entry of Stenographers in the Grade of Section Officers and Under Secretaries

4588. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Personnel and Training has put on hold the recommendations made by the senior officer's committee for stoppage of lateral entry of stenographers in the grade of Section Officer and Under Secretary;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Cadre Review Committee had not made any recommendations about the lateral entry of stenographers in CSS cadre;

(d) if so, the reasons for tampering the report by enforcing lateral entry of stenographers in CSS cadre;

(e) whether there is shortfall of 175 posts in creation of 632 posts in Under Secretary Grade arising out of the statistical error; and

(f) if so, by when the error is likely to be rectified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No final decision has been taken on the recommendations of the Committee on Cadre Restructuring of the Central Secretariat Service (CSS).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) While the Committee has recommended a cadre strength of 1400 in Grade I of CSS, the creation of requisite posts can be taken up only after a final decision is taken on its recommendations.

Reservation Policy in Promotion

4589. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Reservation Policy of the Government, there is a provision of promotion for SC/ST Officers to the lowest rung of Group 'A' post;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Direct Recruitment SC/ST Officers of CSS joining as Section Officers (Group 'B' post) are being deprived of this benefit, by way of equating them to the Direct Recruit Section Officers of General category while giving them regular promotion to the Grade-I i.e. the lowest rung of Group-'A' post of CSS; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Exchange of Reservation Between SC and ST

4590. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a0 the number of vacancies reserved/meant for SCs, STs and GCs in the select Lists of Grade-I of CSS for the years 1987 to 1994, year-wise;

(b) the number of SC and ST candidates included in these Panels, year-wise;

(c) whether the instructions of the Government regarding exchange of reservation between Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the same year, in case of promotion by selection from Group 'B' to the lowest rung of Group 'A' have been complied with while finalizing the Panels for Grade-I of CSS for the year 1987 to 1994;

(d) if not, whether vacancies meant for SC Officers by way of exchange of reservation, have been utilized by promoting General category Officers against these; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to immediately include the names of requisite number of SC Officers in the Select List for the years 1987 to 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE. (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) he Select Lists for Grade I of CSS for the years 1987 to 1994 have been prepared keeping in view the instructions contained in DoP&Ts O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated 2.7.1997.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Statement

Year of Select List	Vacancies meant/reserved for			Number of SCs/STs included in the Select List	
	Gen.	SCs	STs	SCs	STs
1987	72	—	10	—	—
1988	97	—	07+10*	—	—
1989	133	—	6+17*	—	04
1990	133	—	14+19*	01	—
1991	164	26	07+33*	33	06
1992	103	16	00+34*	22	—
1993	54	26	01+34*	28	01
1994	64	03	02+35*	05	02

*Carried forward. Vacancies meant for ST Officers could not be filled up as required eligible ST Officers were not available even in the extended zone i.e. five times the number of vacancies for each Select List year.

Economic Package to Himachal Pradesh

4591. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have prepared an economic package for the growth and development of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when it is likely to be prepared/implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Union Govt. have not, so par, prepared any economic package for growth and development of Himachal Pradesh.

However, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is working out a package for providing various fiscal incentives for attracting investments in industrial sector in the Special Category States including H.P.

Participation of Private Sector in Road Construction

4592. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major policy decisions taken to encourage private sector participation in road construction; and

(b) the matter in which West Bengal is likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) Following incentives have been offered to attract the private investors in the development of road infrastructure.

(i) 100% tax exemption for 10 years to be availed within 20 years.

(ii) Concession period allowed upto 30 years.

(iii) Duty free import of major modern high capacity equipment for highway construction.

(iv) Government to provide land at no cost and free from all encumbrances.

(v) Government to provide capital grant upto 40% of the project cost to enhance viability, on a case-to-case basis.

(vi) National Highways Authority of India permitted to participate in equity of BOT projects upto 30% of the total equity.

(vii) Foreign direct investment allowed upto 100%.

(b) In West Bengal, 3 National Highway Projects costing about Rs. 1382.7 crore have been taken up on Built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

Irrational Cocktail of Drugs

4593. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Need to ban irrational cocktail of drugs" appearing in the *Hindu* dated December 4, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the combination drugs are made available to consumers without informing them of their side effects;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ban the irrational cocktail of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Drugs and Drug Combinations considered harmful or irrational have been examined by Expert Committee from time to time and so far 74 categories of drugs/drugs formulations have been prohibited/phased out.

Banning of irrational combination/formulations of the drugs are continuous process. Fixed dose combination of Norfloxacin with Metronidazole was considered rational by leading medical experts and has therefore been permitted. Though Nalidixic acid and Norfloxacin are quinolone group of drugs, however their safety and efficacy profile is different.

As far as licensing of combination products by State Licensing Authorities is concerned the Central Government has issued strict instructions to all State Drugs Controllers. Further, the Government of India has amended the Rules 69,71,75 and 76 in May 2002 to ensure that State Authorities do not license the new combination drugs.

Ratification of Convention Against Torture

4594. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has emphasised the need for the ratification of the convention against torture;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) India signed the UN Convention Against Torture and other cruel, inhuman treatment, degradation of punishment of October 14, 1997. India has, however, not yet ratified the Convention because amendment of legislation to be in conformity with the provisions of the

Convention is under examination. The process is under way and once the necessary amendment of legislation is enacted, the Government will be in a position to ratify the Convention.

Bifurcation of Postal Division

4595. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for bifurcation of Nanded Postal Division into Nanded and Parbhani Division is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, by when a decision of the proposal is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Order to create Parabhani Postal Division by bifurcating Nanded Postal Division has been issued on 13.12.2002.

Aid to Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram

4596. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received request from the Government of Kerala for providing grant-in-aid for the construction of ladies hostel at Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram, under the scheme for upgrading/strengthening of Indian System of Medicine and Hospitals;

(b) if so, details thereof and whether the request has since been approved; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in sanctioning the Grant-in-aid?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Grant of Rs. 30.00 lakhs has been recommended by the State Government for construction of ladies hostel at Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvanathapuram.

(c) The proposal is not complete. The State Government/Principal of the College are being advised to complete application and provide utilization certificates for the grants released to the past.

[Translation]

Bridges on Rivers in Bihar

4597. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the status of proposed bridges on major rivers in Bihar during Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): Reconstruction/widening of 31 bridges at an estimated cost of Rs. 129.00 crore is proposed to be taken up in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Of these 31 work on 17 bridges amounting to Rs. 10.61 crore has been sanctioned during 2002-03. These bridges are targeted to be completed by March 2004.

[English]

Extradition Cases

4598. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of criminals extradited during the last year and current year till date, country-wise;

(b) the number of pending extradition cases between India and other countries; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the early disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) While no person was extradited to India in 2001, three persons were extradited/deported to India in 2002, all of them from the UAE.

No person was extradited from India in 2001. However, in 2002, two Indian nationals have been extradited by India, one to the U.S.A. and one to Canada.

(b) Twelve Indian extradition cases/requests are pending with foreign governments and twenty extradition cases/requests from the foreign governments are pending with the Government of India.

(c) Government regularly takes up pending extradition cases with the concerned foreign governments to expedite the extradition of fugitive criminals to India. Government is also seeking to enter into Extradition Treaties and Extradition Arrangements with as many countries as possible.

Rate of Anesthesia

4599. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per MOHFW OM NO. F.No. Rec-24/2001/JD (M)/CGNLHI/CGHS (P) dated 7.9.2001, the approved rate of private diagnostic centres under CGHS is Rs. 5000/-for MRI cervical spine, and additional amount of Rs. 1000/-is also charged by the private diagnostic centres when MRI cervical spine is done under anesthesia, this additional amount is not included in the approved list annexed to above referred OM of MoHFW;

(b) whether Anesthesia charges being taken by the CGHS approved private diagnostic centres for MRI cervical spine special procedure @ Rs. 1000/-are refundable;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to include anesthesia charges for all kind of specialized procedure in the list of approved rates of CGHS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) For MRI test, by and large Anesthesia is not required and hence anesthesia charges are not included under CGHS ceiling rates for MRI circulated vied Dept. of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001.

(b) and (c) As per CGHS rules, if there is no prescribe CGHS rate for any procedure/investigation, then the reimbursement is to be limited to the AIIMS rates. Further, in case the ceiling rates for the particular procedure/investigation have also not been fixed under AIIMS, then the reimbursement is to be made as per actual.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no proposal to include anesthesia charges for all kinds of specialized procedures/tests in the ceiling of approved rates under CGHS.

Export of Software to Pak and Taliban Regime

4600. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the software exported by the Bangalore-based Huawai Technologies may have helped Pakistan and the Taliban regime in the years 2000 and 2001 to upgrade their telecommunication network as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December 10, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the said firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Government is not aware of any Bangalore based Chinese software firm exporting software to Pakistan or to the Taliban.

[Translation]

Generic Medicine

4601. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

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

(a) whether due to wrong policies of the Government, chemists are earning big profits by selling 'generic medicines' (basic medicines without any brand name) and consumer are being cheated;

(b) whether huge expenditure is incurred on the excise duty on branded medicines as also their publicity which gives less profit to the chemists whereas promotion of sale of generic medicines given huge profits to the chemists;

(c) if so, whether there is any Government control over maximum sale of generic medicines in the country which amounts to around 50 per cent at present; and

(d) the details of action taken by the Government for providing some benefit to the consumers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) As per the information made available by Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals, the permissible margin to retailer is regulated under the provisions of the Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995 only for formulations for which the retail price is specified by an order on notified by the Government. Single ingredient formulations based on bulk drugs specified in the First Scheduled of Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995 and sold under the generic name are not scheduled formulation, hence, their prices are not fixed by the Government. However, in case the Government

notifies price for a formulation as ceiling price, such price is applicable to all such formulations including those sold under generic name.

[English]

Vocational Training Centres for Computer Technology

4602. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had the edge in becoming a major global IT outsourcing centre;

(b) if so, whether more than 185 of the fortune 500 companies outsourced their software requirements from India;

(c) whether India exports software services to more than 95 countries; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to set up more vocational training centres for rapid development of Computer Technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. During the year 2001-2002, Computer Software/Services exports from India was destined to 103 countries around the world.

(d) 1. The area of Vocational Training in Computer Technology is fully open to private sector. There are several private institutions already functioning, such as, NIIT, Aptech, Tata-Infotech, etc.

2. Government has a Scheme viz. "DOEACC Scheme" under which Computer Training Institutes/ Organisations in the non-formal sector are given accreditation for conducting specified level of courses viz; 'O'-Foundation level, 'A'-Advanced Diploma level, 'B'-MCA level 'C'-M.Tech. level, 'CCC'-Certificate Course on Computer Concepts.

Global Glaucoma Meeting

4603. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 2-day Global Glaucoma meeting was held in India in the month of November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meeting;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to spread the message of the meeting throughout the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that vision once lost due to glaucoma cannot be regained; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A two days Glaucoma Society meeting was held at Dr. R.P.Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi on 9th and 10th November 2002. The suggestion made of the Glaucoma Society are as under:-

(i) A country wide survey is needed to determine the prevalence and blindness due to Glaucoma, as also its risk factors. A high prevalence of 4.7% in the population over 40 years of age was seen in small surveys from South India.

(ii) Screening programmes should target the high-risk population at comprehensive eye camps, private eye clinics, optometrists and primary health facilities.

(iii) Glaucoma health education material about the importance of visual assessment at and after the age of 40 years, especially in relatives of patients having Glaucoma.

(iv) Research in Glaucoma should be considered a priority at appropriate levels of the eye health care delivery system.

(v) Diagnosis of Glaucoma and its management should be stressed at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels with specific emphasis on gonioscopy and primary.

(vi) All District Hospitals and Medical Colleges need to be equipped with Slit Lamps, Gonioscopes, Appanation Tonometers, Automated Perimeters and Nd Yaglasers.

(c) Recommendation of the meeting are under consideration.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Blindness due to Glaucoma can be avoided by early detection & appropriate treatment in eye care facility.

Health Heritage Data Base

4604. SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether competent authority of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion participated in Inter-governmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of World Intellectual Property Organisation held during June, 2002;

(b) whether report adopted by the Committee states that Indian Delegation indicated in the meeting that Health Heritage Database has established in India;

(c) if so, details of above database, including organizations involved in creating database, quantity of data, specification and sources of data, year and month if established, and amount spent for creating above database, category-wise; and

(d) if so, web-site of above database?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's initiative to establish Traditional Knowledge Digital Library is in the knowledge of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

(c) Data base is being developed for 35,000 Ayurvedic formulations in collaboration with the Department of ISM&H, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion and National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources. The work was started early this year and expenditure of 1.2 crore is likely to be incurred.

(d) The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is yet to be established.

[Translation]

Filling Up of Reserved Posts for OBCs

4605. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing rules to fill up posts reserved for OBCs;

(b) whether the Government propose to constitute any panel and launch any campaign to fill up the posts reserved for the persons belonging to OBC Categories;

(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) Twenty Seven percent of civil posts filled by direct recruitment on all India basis by open competition are reserved for OBCs. Reservation for OBCs is 25.84 per cent when posts are filled by direct recruitment on all India basis otherwise than by open competition. In case of direct recruitment to Group C and D posts normally attracting candidates from a locality or a region, percentage of reservation for OBCs has been so fixed that it does not exceed 27% and total reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs does not exceed the limit of 50%. OBC candidates recruited on their own merit are not adjusted against reservation quota. In order to fill up vacancies reserved for OBCs, various concessions like relaxation of three years in upper age limit are given. There is also a ban on derservation of vacancies reserved for OBCs,

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does note arise.

(d) Vacancies reserved for OBCs are filled up alongwith other vacancies and no need has been felt to constitute any panel or to launch any campaign to fill up the posts reserved for OBCs.

[English]

Inter State Economic Disparities

4606. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Tenth Plan proposals for reduction of regional economic disparities-both inter state and intra-state;

(b) the States identified as States having very weak revenue base;

(c) the details of changes in formula of plan assistance envisaged for Tenth Plan period, in order to

achieve faster pace of development, sustain the economic development and strengthen the revenue base, State-wise;

(d) which are the States consuming substantial portion of their revenue in debt services;

(e) whether change in grant-loan ratio in Plan assistance for States has been considered during the Tenth Plan period, if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, reasons therefor;

(g) whether higher component of central plan grant to backward States with weak revenue base is being considered; and

(h) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council (NDC).

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

(d) According to available information, in 2001-02, all major States except Karnataka and Tamil Nadu had to spend more than 20 per cent of their total revenues on debt servicing.

(e) to (h) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Night Services of CGHS Dispensary in North Avenue, Delhi

4607. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not closing the night service in the CGHS dispensary at North Avenue as the doctors available in the dispensary refer all the patients to Dr. R.M.L. Hospital; and

(b) if so, the details of the number of cases referred to Dr. RML Hospital during last six months also reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Out of 1,460 patients who attended to the emergency services at the CGHS dispensary, North Avenue, during the last six months, only 52 cases were referred to Dr. R.M.L. hospital for further treatment.

Only the serious cases which cannot be managed at the dispensary level due to infrastructure constraints are referred to Dr. R.M.L. Hospital for further management.

Domiciliary visits through the CGHS dispensary is extended only for the patients who are unable to attend/ come to the dispensary. Therefore, the question of stopping the night service at the CGHS dispensary, North Avenue, does not arise.

National Highway No. 3

4608. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which a four lane road construction scheme from Chambal bridge to Gwalior be completed on National Highway No. 3;

(b) the time by which four lane bridge on Chambal river on National Highway 3 will commence;

(c) whether the bridge on this National Highway No. 3 on Asian river collapsed during construction;

(d) if so, the persons responsible therefor; and

(e) the details of the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) Four-laning of National Highway-3 from km 61 to km 103 of Chambal bridge to Gwalior section is targeted to be completed by June, 2003.

(b) the work is scheduled to be awarded by January, 2004.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. One span of superstructure of Asian bridge on National Highway-3 collapsed during construction. National Highways Authority of India constituted an Expert Committee to investigate the reasons of collapse of the bridge and assigning the responsibility for the collapse of the span. The report of the Expert Committee has been received and is under examination.

[English]

Land Acquired for Golden Quadrilateral

4609. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the Golden Quadrilateral and North-South, East-West corridor Highways project;

(b) the amount sanctioned for acquiring the land for those projects;

(c) the method adopted in fixing the price for the land acquired for those projects; and

(d) and particularly the details of land acquisition in NH-5 Road in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) The progress of Golden Quadrilateral and North-South & East-West Corridor projects as on 30.11.2002 is as under:

(i) **Golden Quadrilateral Project**

Total Length	5846 km.
4-laning Completed	1159 km.
Under Implementation	4551 km.
To be awarded	136 km.

(ii) **North-South & East-West Corridor Project**

Total Length	7300 km.
4-laning Completed	817 km.
Under Implementation	671 km.
To be awarded	5812 km.

(b) No separate amount is sanctioned for acquiring, the land. So far, approximately 4800 hectares of land have been acquired and National Highways Authority of India has made available with Competent Authority Rs. 426 crores, for the land acquired.

(c) The price of the land is fixed by Competent Authority/Revenue Officer of the State based on the market value and other factors as envisaged in Act.

(d) In the State of Tamil Nadu, land acquisition in a length of 41.8 km of National Highway-5 is being made. The total area of land to be acquired on this stretch is 81.402 acres.

Traditional Knowledge and Digital Library of Ayurveda

4610. SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether competent authority of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion participated in Inter-governmental Committee on Intellectual Property Organisation held during June, 2002;

(b) if so, report adopted by the Committee states that Indian delegation indicated in meeting that Traditional Knowledge Digital Library of Ayurveda has established in India;

(c) If so, the details of above database, including organizations involved in creating database, sources of data, year and month it established;

(d) if so, web-site of database;

(e) whether above database is available as on today; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's initiative to establish Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) for Ayuveda is in the knowledge of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

(c) to (f) Data base on 35,000 formulations is being prepared by this Department is association with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources. The work is yet to be completed. Therefore, data are not available on the web-site.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

4611. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for providing telephone connections on the recommendation of Member of Parliament;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the criteria in respect of Saharsa, Madhepura and Supoul district of Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken for violation of criteria by officers for not sanctioning telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As per the existing criteria, telephone connections on the recommendations of Members of Parliament are required to be provided within 30 (thirty) days from the date of sanction, subject to technical feasibility.

(b) and (c) Provisioning of telephone connections on the recommendations of the Hon'ble MPs is monitored by Government as well as field units. All the 44 recommendations for out of turn telephone connections in Saharsa, Madhepura and Supoul districts of Bihar in the year 2002 received till date, have been sanctioned. Out of these, twenty five telephones have already been provided. Telephone connections have been offered to the remaining nineteen applicants on WLL and they will be provided on WLL as soon as acceptance is received from them.

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

[English]

TAMP

4612. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring minor ports under the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) as recommended by C. Babu Rajiv Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to shift the TAMP Office from Delhi to Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Committee headed by Shri C. Babu Rajeev did not recommend bringing minor Ports under the jurisdiction of Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP). However, while considering the issue relating to 'Uniformity in Port Tariffs', the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport & Tourism has opined that a level playing field between Major Ports and State/Minor Ports does not exist, since only major ports come under the jurisidication of regulatory authority while other ports do not. The Committee held that it is clearly a discrimination towards the Major Ports of the country, adversely affecting the competitive environment. The Committee, therefore, recommended that there should be the same regulation for all ports or, if that was not possible, then major ports should have liberty to fix port tariff on their own. The matter was also discussed in the 4th meeting of the Maritime States development Council (MSDC) which recommended that a Task Force be constituted by the Ministry of Shipping to look into these aspects and make necessary recommendations so that major ports and comparable non-major ports may be subjected to similar regulations. The Ministry has also received representations from some quarters, opposing converting TAMP into an appellate authority as well as extending its jurisdiction to non-major ports. Govt. has not taken a final decision so far.

(c) and (d) While considering the proposal of this Ministry for location of headquarters of Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), the Cabinet Committee of Accommodation (CCA) in its meeting held on 30.6.2000 approved the continuation of the Headquarter of TAMP till the expiry of the then existing 5 years lease with Sports Authority of India for accommodation at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. The CCA also directed that in the meantime this Ministry may consider relocation of TAMP in a Port City. Accordingly, TAMP office has since been shifted from Delhi to Mumbai with effect from 8.11.2002.

[Translation]

Migration of Indian Professionals

4613. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Professionals having high technical knowledge are migrating to industrialised countries to fulfill the requirement of skilled workers in the field of Communication and Information Technology there;

(b) whether a number of posts are lying vacant in the Information and Technology faculty in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Indian Software companies and technical workers do undertake onsite projects and jobs for overseas companies in industrialized and development countries to meet their requirements and execute specific projects.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The shortage of faculty in Communications and Information technology (C&IT) has been observed around 20% as per Educational Institution Surveys.

(d) 1. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has taken some steps to attract talented persons to teaching in technical institutions. One of the initiative is Early Faculty Induction Programme under which students studying in the final year of technical undergraduate course are selected and given a fellowship of Rs. 10,000 and admission in post graduate programme at some premier institutes and they are supposed to join teaching for at least three years after completion of post graduation.

2. Number of seats under Quality Improvement Programme have also been increased. This programme provides an opportunity to technical teachers to upgrade their qualifications.

3. The amount of fellowships for M.Tech. and Ph. D. has been increased so that more numbers of persons with higher qualifications are available for teaching positions.

[English]

Sale of Personal Computer

4614. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

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

(a) whether the sale of personal computers has shown a considerable down ward trend in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for the negative growth thereof and the actual number of units sold and value thereof; and

(c) whether Government expect the trend to be reversed during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) As per IMRB (Indian Market Research Bureau)-MAIT Study, the sale of personal computers was 16.7 lakh units during 2001-02, registering a decline of 11% over the previous year. Value of Personal computers sold during 2001-02 was. 4,846 crores. The reason for downward trend was that the market witnessed significant slow-down in Information Technology consumption in general and particularly in the manufacturing, banking & Finance and media & professional services Sectors. As per the study, the trend is expected to reverse with projected Personal Computers sales of 19 lakh units in 2002-03.

De-Linking of Vadinar Areas

4615. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an understanding between Government of Gujarat and the Government of India that Vadinar would be developed an oil import terminal for I.O.C. only;

(b) whether a proposal was made by Union Government to form a separate company as a Special Purpose Vehicle for the development of Vadinar Port with 262 equity holding by Kandla Port Trust and remaining equity holding by Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) and Gujarat Government;

(c) whether the issue was finally discussed by the Chief Minister of Gujarat with the Minister in a meeting held on June 14, 2002; and

(d) if so, whether a final decision in the matter has been conveyed to the Government of Gujarat, if not, by when it is likely to be conveyed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (d) The Government of Gujarat, from time to time, has been requesting to revert Vadinar, which was earlier part of minor port of Salaya, by delinking it from Kandla Port limit. Vadinar was included in the limit of Kandla Port after Government of Gujarat issued notification deleting it from the limit of minor port of Salaya, while the Government of India issued notification for its inclusion in the limit of Kandla Major Port. The identification by Government of Gujarat did not limit use of Vadinar for import of crude for I.O.C. refinery only.

Government of India had suggested to Government of Gujarat for formation of a joint venture company with

Kandla Port Trust and Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) of State Government as partners for the development of facilities at Vadinar. However, the Gujarat Government did not show interest in forming a joint venture. The issue was also discussed between Minister (Shipping) and Chief Minister of Gujarat on 01.04 2002 and 14.06.2002 at New Delhi. It is not possible to give a time frame for a final decision in the matter as any agreement would require concurrence of both the parties.

[Translation]

Progress of Golden Quadrilateral in Madhya Pradesh

4616. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the work-progress of roads under construction under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme;

(b) if so, the progress of work of road construction falling between (Jhansi-Lakhna-Daun) in the Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether the time period has been fixed for the completion of this work;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the progress of work is slow as compared to the target fixed?

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

(b) to (d) The Jhansi-Lakhanadon section in the Madhya Pradesh region does not fall under Golden Quadrilateral Project. This is a part of North-South Corridor under National Highways Development Project (NHDP). This section is scheduled to be taken up in the next phase of NHDP. The award of civil work is likely to be taken up by September, 2004. The work is scheduled to be completed by year 2007.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Migration of Rural People

4617. SHRI K.P SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware the increasing migration of rural people to urban areas;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether growing unemployment is one such reasons; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to generate additional employment in the current plan period to stop such migration?

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 reasons for migration are employment, education, movement of family, marriage, business and natural calamities like drought, flood etc.

(d) Citizens of India have the freedom to pursue a vocation in any part of the country. However, programmes for creation of employment opportunities in the rural areas and in the urban areas are implemented by Government to meet the needs of the people in the respective areas.

[Translation]

Transport facility to Andaman Nicobar Islands

4618. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are working on the implementation of any scheme for providing transport facility in the Andaman-Nicobar Islands at the earliest; and

(b) if so, the complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) and (b) This Ministry is not aware of any plan scheme in the Road Transport Sector. However, in the Shipping sector, the Andman and Nicobar Administration have informed that two plan schemes namely "Improvement to Mainland-Island" and "Improvement to Inter-Island transportation and sheltered water communication" for providing sea transport facilities between Mainland-Island and various Islands in the Andman and Nicobar group of Islands, are under implementation.

Law to Avoid Traffic Jams on National Highway

4619. SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a law to avoid daily traffic jams on national highways by imposing a ban on marriage procession, public programmes and other factors contributing to it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is proposing to enact a legislation titled 'Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic)' with the objective of providing powers to the competent authority in the highway department for prevention of unauthorized occupation of highway land and their removal, control of access points to the National Highways, regulation of traffic and control of use of road land for public utility etc.

The Bill in this regard has already been introduced in the current Winter Session of Lok Sabha.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Inter Island Shipping Services

4620. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inter-island shipping services of the Southern group of Andaman and Nicobar Island is inadequate and far from satisfactory;

(b) whether A & N Administration has placed any order for acquiring new passenger vessels for the inter-island services;

(c) whether there is any proposal for acquiring speed boats for passenger services and if so, what is the present position of acquisition;

(d) the number of times global tenders have been floated for acquisition of the passenger ship-Katamaran and what is the present status of the vessels to be acquired; and

(e) the number of times the representatives of A & N Islands Administration visited foreign countries in this regard and the total amount spent and the outcome of these visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) At present only two vessels viz. MV Chowra and Sentinel, with carrying capacity of 300 passengers each are available, which can operate in all weather conditions in the Southern Group of Islands. In addition, MV Harshavardhana is also deployed for limited number of sailing (2-3 each month) to augment the shipping services in the Southern Group of Islands. Approximately 4500-5000 passengers travel per month between Port Blair and the Southern Group of Islands excluding Hut Bay.

(b) Two 400 passenger vessels are under construction at Hoogly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd. (HDPEL), Kolkata and Alcock Ashdown (Gujarat) respectively. Another 500 passenger vessel is in the stage of tendering process.

(c) There is a proposal for procurement of two 205k pax speed boats/crafts for Inter-Island sector during the 10th Plan period. As per 10th Plan acquisition program these have been proposed to be acquired in 2005.

(d) Global tenders have been invited only once during 1998 for acquisition of two Catamarans and a conditional approval was recommended. The proposal has been given up after taking into account the non feasibility recovery of full operational charges.

(e) At team comprising of Director of Shipping Services (DSS), a representative of National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam and Shipping Corporation of India visited Japan during March 2002 to evaluate the sea riding qualities and the performance of the ride control system of the Catamaran which was proposed to be acquired by the Administration. The visit of DSS to Japan was on the invitation of Indus Marine to attend the launching ceremony of new series of Yanmar Engines and all the expenses were borne by the company. The total expenditure incurred during the tour by the team was 2,51,696/-. The Committee submitted its report to the Administration recommending procurement after modifications.

Four Laning of National Highway-2

4621. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways 2 (four laning) already damaged at Durgapur in West Bengal after completion of one year;

(b) whether the right kind materials were used by the contractors;

(c) whether four laning of NH2 from 513 KMP to 316 KMP in Panagarh Bazar in West Bengal is propose by acquisition the extra land on both sides of the road;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) The project for four-laning of National Highway-2 from Raniganj (km. 474) to Panagarh (km. 515.2) in West Bengal had been substantially completed by November, 2001 (Durgapur falls under this section). Some defects were detected in 13 km. length during taking over of the project from the contractor. The contractor is in the process of repairing the stretch at his own cost as per provisions of the contract.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Due to heavy built up area in Panagarh Bazar, it is proposed to construct a bypass from km. 513 to km. 516 of National Highway-2. There are some problems in finalized alignment of the bypass, due to existence of nearby Panagarh Airstrip and alternatives are being explored. The bypass is targeted to be completed by December, 2004.

Road Transports and Highways

4622. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that it charges toll tax two times upto Agra amounting to. 105/- for up and down trips but it does not care to ensure that the conduction of the highway is good with the road being humpy and broken at many places; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the quality of the NH2 from Delhi to Agra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Rate of Fee being charged from road user on National Highway-2 from Delhi to Agra is as under for single trip:

Sl. No.	Type of Vehicle	Fee collection at km 72 for km 18.8 to km 108.8	Fee collection at km 160 for km 108.9 to km 199
1.	Car/Jeep/Van	Rs. 35	Rs. 35
2.	LCV	Rs. 60	Rs. 60
3.	Trucks/Buses/Multi-axle Vehicles/ Heavy Construction Machinery	Rs. 125	Rs. 125

However, if the same vehicle has to cross the defined toll road stretch more than once in a day, the user shall have the option to pay one and half times the rates specified above while crossing the section in the first trip itself. The user can also have a monthly pass on payment of charges equal to thirty times of single rates. There are other concessions provided to local frequent travelers.

The condition of the road is good in general. However, in order to improve the conditions further, National Highways Authority of India has recently awarded operation and maintenance contract of National Highway-2 from km 18.80 to km 198.0.

[Translation]

Proposal Regarding Family Planning and Rural Health Care

4623. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan regarding family planning and rural health schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any of these proposals are for foreign assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan presented its Annual Action Plan (2002-03) for funding from Government of India during the Third Business Session of EAG held on 29.8.2002. An administrative approval has been accorded for ongoing and new schemes, amounting to. 4038.96 lakhs, by the Department of Family Welfare, on 24th October 2002. The Scheme-wise details of amount recommended for Rajasthan are given in statement I of the Annexure enclosed.

(c) and (d) Although none of the proposals in the Action Plan (2002-03) referred to above, aimed at seeking foreign assistance, it has been decided that some of the Schemes will be financed from European Commission assisted Sector Investment Programme, for an amount of Rs. 1713.28 lakhs. The schemes to be financed under SIP are at Statement II of Annexure I.

Besides, a project proposal has been received from the State Government, covering 6 districts of Rajasthan under the IPD Project (2003-07), to be funded by UNFPA, at a total cost of US $ 10.5 million. The same is under consideration in the Department of Family Welfare.

Annexure-I

No. G.20011/2/2002-EAG

Government of India

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Department of Family Welfare

EAG Bureau

Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi

Dated the 24th October 2002

Administrative Order

Subject: FW Programme-Administrative sanction of funds to EAG States (U.P., M.P., Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Orissa) for the Annual Action Plan 2002-03-reg.

1. Administrative Sanction is accorded in respect of programmes/schemes as per enclosed list, which are a part of the State Action Plans that were approved by the EAG at the 3rd Business Session chaired by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare on 29.8.2002. All these schemes and programmes are ongoing and have the approval of the competent authority.

3. All Programme-Officers are requested to take appropriate action to obtain approval from IFD for release of funds for these items subject to the funds already available with the States, submission of utilization certificates upto the year 2000-01 and SOE 2001-02 and detailed Action Plan, wherever required.

3. Statement-II is the list of schemes that are to be financed out the SIP funds, for which the Programme Officers are requested to initiate action for obtaining the approval of the SRC/PMB for release of funds.

4. All Programme Officers are requested to mark a copy of the release orders to the EAG Bureau.

5. This has the approval of Secretary (FW) and Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance, vide Diary Nos. F. 2205/S (FW)/02 dated 18.10.2002 and F. 9619/SE/02 dated 23.10.2002 respectively.

Sd/-
(SHUBHRA SINGH)
DS (Policy)

To

The Secretaries (FW) of EAG States

Copy to:

1. PS to HFM/MOS
2. PPS to Secretary (FW)
3. JS (P)/JS (RCH)/JS (FA)
4. All Programme Officers.

Statement-I

Scheme-wise Details of Amount Proposed for Rajasthan

(Rs. In lakh)

Sl No.	Name of Scheme	Amt. with States	Amt. to be released	Remarks
I.	**RCH Schemes**			
1.	Additional ANMs	19.44	457.76	5000x6 months for 1193 Addl. ANMs in tribal and desert districts
2.	PHNs	52.85	85.99	267 at CHC level @ Rs. 6500.
3.	Lab. Technicians	9.63	21.09	@ 2 per district for 32 distt. X Rs. 6000 for 8 months.
4.	PPI	0.00	365.97	
5.	Home Delivery Care (Dais Training)	5.24	184.76	Scheme extended to 32 districts at the rate of 1900 per dais x 10000 dais
6.	Promoting Institutional Deliveries (24 Hour Delivery)	280.30	0.00	20000 night deliveries for 6 months
7.	Referral Transport	67.57	14.00	Extended from 18 to 32 districts @. 1/ distt for 14 distt.
8.	Out reach Services	63.36	87.14	Extended from 12 districts to 32 districts
9.	RCH Camps	125.85	116.15	RCH camps at. 12 lcs per district.
10.	MIS	—	100.00	
11.	Urban Slum Projects (Urban Health)	0.00	20.00	For project formulation.
12.	Information, Education and Communication	184.72	315.28	
II.	**Area Projects**			
1.	District Projects/RCH Sub-Project	0.00	400.00	
2.	Area Projects (IPP Projects)		100.00	
III.	**National Maternity Benefit Scheme**	50.30	57.54	
	Total	859.26	2325.68	

Statement-II

(Rs.In lakhs)

Sl No.	Name of Scheme	Amt. with States	Amt. to be released	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
	EC Assisted SIP Project			
1.	Construction & Repair of Sub-Centres	0.00	500.00	500 SC buildings @ Rs. 1 lac 1st Install. of 20% cost.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Strengthening of Basic Training Schools	0.00	30.00	Strengthening of 3 ANMTCs
3.	Strengthening of CHC/PHC	660.00	300.00	Complete incomp. Buildings of 55 PHCs & 14 CHCs.
4.	Strengthening of Jan Mangal Programme	0.00	380.00	
5.	Supply of Mopeds to ANMs		90.00	Subject to submission of Ucs for funds released earlier
6.	SAP/DAP	120.00	107.28	
7.	Repair of Laparascopes	0.00	146.00	Maintenance and repair of 828 laparoscopes
8.	Operationalising FRUs for Emergency Obs. & NN Care	0.00	160.00	Blood storage unit at FRUs
	Total	780.00	1713.28	

[English]

Grounding of Cargo-Vessel

4624. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cargo-Vessel MV Rajnikant has been grounded by the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited (CIWTCL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Jahaj Karmi Sangha of the CIWTCL have complained often of problems of the inland water transport system in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Cargo-vessel M.V. Rajnikant was not grounded but temporarily held up for a few days near Dhubri along National Waterway No.-II due to inadequate depth of water.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Traditional Knowledge and Medicinal Knowledge

4625. SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether competent authority of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion used to participate in meetings of World Intellectual Property organisation;

(b) whether WIPO invited contributions to be submitted before 26 April, 2002 on traditional knowledge including medicinal knowledge, agricultural knowledge, scientific knowledge and technical knowledge along with details of national periodicals, journals or gazettes concerning traditional knowledge-related issues for immediate knowledge of patent examiners for defeating false claims;

(c) if so, the details submitted, including "Wealth of India" and Medicinal and aromatic plants abstract published by CSIR, if any;

(d) whether information from Wealth of India was used to protect use of turmeric for wound healing; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) WIPO has compiled inventory of traditional knowledge journal during March/April 2002.

(c) National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources have informed that they on their own initiative sent the information for its journal *"Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge"*. to WIPO on 23rd February, 2002.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources have informed that CSIR submitted prior art references from more than 30 sources including that to Wealth of India while contesting on turmeric patent at USPTO.

Spreading of Bugbear Virus

4626. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have taken note of frequent infection of computers worldwide by fast spreading virus like Bugbear known as a mass mailing worm;

(b) whether this Bugbear virus spreads itself through computer users' e-mail programme and has spread worldwide affecting millions of computers in Europe, USA and Asia;

(c) if so, the effective preventive measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid/control spread of such a virus in the country's IT industry; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In order to combat the menace of computer virus, growing number of anti virus solutions, which are commercially available, are being used throughout the world.

Development of Knowledge Management System

4627. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the State of Kerala regarding the development of Knowledge Management System for pharmaceutical Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for the development of Knowledge Management System for Pharmaceutical industry with pilot implementation at Kerala State Drugs Pharmaceuticals (KSDP) was received in May, 2002. The total cost of the project was estimated at Rs. 221 lakhs and 50% funding from Government of India was solicited.

(c) Since the knowledge Management system for pharmaceutical industry is primarily the responsibility of Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals, Government of Kerala were requested to approach them for funding the project.

IT Cooperation with Italy

4628. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a0 whether he visited Italy during the month of October, 2002;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit; and

(c) the details of discussion held with the counterpart during the visit including the key areas on which both countries have agreed to cooperate with each other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main purposes of the visit were to jointly inaugurate and address the opening ceremony of SMAU 2002 Exhibition an international fair dealing with office automation and IT products and to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation and trade in IT and Telecommunications.

(c) During the visit an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the field of Telecommunication was signed.

The discussions mainly pertained to use of ICT for better delivery of Government services, better quality of life and identification of possible joint projects. The areas for cooperation were identified as under:-

— India will give Italy the technology and Consultancy on Electronics Voting Machines and E-Governance.

— Italy will give India Information Technology and Consultancy on Smart Cards, E-Governance.

MV Harshavardhana

4629. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MV Harshavardhana, an Andaman-bound passenger ship with 602 people on board including 11 infants and crew was stranded near Geonkhali in East Mindanpore district of the coast of the Bay of Bengal on July 21, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such events in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The vessel sailed from Kolkata Docks on 20.7.2002 evening and anchored at Garden Reach waiting for the tide. On 21.7.2002 at 5.36 hrs she resumed her passage from Garden Reach. While the vessel was rounding waterloo wreck buoy near Geonkhali water intake jetty, the vessel ran aground at 0841 hrs. despite the use of engine in the reverse direction and dropping of anchor. The vessel, was floated during the next high water at 2140 hrs on 21.7.2002 with the help of Kolkata Port Trust. There was no injury/casualty to any passenger or the ship's staff.

(c) In accordance with the provisions under the Part XII of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (Investigation & Inquiries) the Directorate General of Shipping is conducting Preliminary investigation for the purpose of finding out the cause of the casualty and to determine the remedial actions with a view to preventing similar occurrences in future.

[Translation]

Caller ID Telephone Sets

4630. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of "EPBT with Clip Facility Telephone" purchased so far and the number of clip (Caller ID) phones allocated to the consumers till October 31, 2002;

(b) whether the Mahangar Telephone Nigam Limited has not provided M.Ps with the said telephone sets despite having given such orders in writing; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when M.Ps and other subscribers would be provided with the said telephone sets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Delhi unit of MTNL has placed purchase order for 10,000 CLIP phones, out of which 5000 have been received. Till 31.10.2002, 882 number of CLIP instruments have been issued to the consumers.

In MTNL, Mumbai, one purchase order was placed in December, 2000 for 4800 CLIP instruments out of which 3500 instruments have been utilized, mainly for service connections and internal testing requirements etc. Information for rest of country under BSNL is being collected.

(b) Delhi unit of MTNL has provided CLIP instruments to Hon'ble MPs whosoever asked for the same. There was, however, some delay in only two cases.

(c) In the above two cases pertaining to Hon'ble MPs, the premises were found closed and the instrument could be provided only on 21.11.2002. CLIP instruments are being provided to all the subscribers who are asking for it.

[English]

SSI in Bodoland

4631. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up Small Scale Industries in Bodo-Tribal dominated backward areas in lower Assam as a measure of generating employment for the unemployed Tribal youths and thereby augmenting economic growth and development in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a "Integrated Infrastructure for Industries, Trade and Commerce" in the said region;

(e) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The setting up of Small Scale Industries is an activity of the individual entrepreneur and Government do not set up any small scale industries. However, Government facilitates the development and promotion of small scale sector through various schemes/programmes implemented in a unified manner throughout the country.

(d) to (f) The Government launched a scheme viz. Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme which *inter-alia* envisages creation/upgradation of infrastructural facilities like power, water, roads, communications & marketing outlets etc. and common services to facilitate setting up of units, creation of employment and promotion of export of the commodities produced there. Under this Scheme, the State Governments/Union Territories are required to formulate proposals and get these appraised by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). On the basis of the recommendation of the SIDBI, Government sanctions projects for setting up IID Centres. So far, four proposals received from Government of Assam for setting up IID Centres at Bhomoraguri Distt. Nagoan, Dalgaon Distt. Darrang, Malini Beel Distt. Cachar and Demow Distt. Sibsagar have been sanctioned by Government of India and these are at various stages of implementation.

CGHS Dispensary In Netaji Nagar

4632. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CGHS dispensary at Netaji Nagar which caters to a large number of CGHS beneficiaries does not have a laboratory while other CGHS dispensaries catering to a lesser number of beneficiaries do have the laboratory facility; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the criterion on which such facilities are sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The beneficiaries of a number of nearby CGHS dispensaries are attached to a particular CGHS laboratory for providing laboratory services. Therefore, the selection for locating the CGHS laboratory in a particular dispensary is based upon factors like the centrality of the location of the particular dispensary to enable easy access to all the beneficiaries including the beneficiaries who are already attached to the said dispensary.

Approval for Levonorge

4633. SHRI RAM RATI BIND:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

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

(a) whether M/s Cipla had not taken any DCGI approval for launch of Levonorge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by DCGI against the company?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (c) Levonorgistrel is a contraceptive hormone which was used along with Ethylestradiol as oral contraceptive pill. Levonorgistrel is a very old and established drug which also has Pharmacopoeial monograph in Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) and other Pharmacopoeias like BP, USP etc. In September, 2001 the use of Levonogistrel (0.75 mg strength) has been approved as an emergency contraceptive for manufacture and import in the country. However, since this use is a new indication, the product would fall within the definition of new drug under Rule 122-E of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Permission for New Drugs should be given by office of DCG (I).

It is understood that the licence for marketing has been granted by State Drug Controller of Maharsthra. M/s Cipla Ltd., has, therefore, been directed to obtain permission from the office of the DCG (I) after depositing the required fee and other documents.

Doha Declaration on Life Saving and AIDS Medicines

4634. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA; Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken up the follow up action on Doha Declaration by giving relaxation of life saving and AIDS medicines from patents TRIPS provision;

(b) whether after the implementation of TRIPS/WTO Act life saving drugs, HIV/AIDS medicines will become very costlier;

(c) whether the department has taken cognizance of starting product patent instead of process patent;

(d) whether various NGOs, patients, medical professionals, MPs have urged the Government to take up this issue with the concerned authorities;

(e) whether any coordinated efforts were made by Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, details of steps taken by Government on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): Statement (a) to (f) The Doha Declaration on the TRIPS agreement on Public Health affirms that the TRIPS agreement can and should be interpreted in a manner so as to protect public health and promote access to medicines for all. The Declaration recognizes that affordability and availability of medicines is a universal right. The Ministers agreed that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent members from taking measures to protect public health.

The patent Act in India has certain safeguards such as compulsory licenses and parallel imports, which can be used to protect public health, in case such an exigency arises. The Doha Declaration clarifies that Governments have freedom to determine the grounds for grant of compulsory licenses. The Declaration also clarifies that each member has the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme emergency for issuing compulsory licenses on an expeditious basis.

The Declaration would allow a more flexible interpretation of the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement and allow the Government of India to use flexibilities available within the Agreement relating to compulsory licensing and parallel import in order to protect public health. The Indian pharmaceutical industry could also benefit in catering to the demands of such markets outside the country where the governments undertake measures like compulsory licensing and parallel import.

At present, India is following the process patent system for pharmaceuticals, and that question of a more liberal use of safeguards will be more relevant under the product patent system. There also appears to be no provision in the Doha Declaration for exempting any category of medicines from the provisions of TRIPS.

ILD Service

4635. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) whether the charges of DOT/VSNL for the extension of the international circuits from the VSNL use at Mumbai to the ISP's services in cities like Hyderabad are very high;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the objective of the Union Government to make Internet Services available inexpensively to Indian users is getting hindered due to these high charges;

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

(e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have made nay suggestions in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the measures initiated thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. BSNL is charging uniformly as per the prescribed tariff of TRAI for leased lines. As regards international segment, the tariff agreed by VSNL with ISPs is not known as VSNL is under the control of private management.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a proposal for enabling of submarine Cable Nodes to inland cities in Andhra Pradesh.

(f) Landing stations have been permitted to be set up within 100 kms from sea shore. Connectivity to Submarine Cable Landing Stations from other cities can be had by taking leased lines from Telecom Service Providers authorised to provide the same. International Long Distance (ILD) and National Long Distance (NLD) has been opened up for private participation which has resulted in competition in these areas. ILD Operators can also set up international gateways in the inland cities using satellite medium.

[Translation]

Regional Imbalances

4636. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have reviewed the financial condition of the States;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to remove the regional imbalance 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) The financial condition of the States are reviewed periodically during the Annual Plans as well as during the mid term review of the Five Year Plans. Based on these reviews, the States are provided Central Assistance to supplement their own resources for Plan financing which inter-alia aims to remove the regional imbalances between the States. Central Assistance to States comprises of Normal Central Assistance (NCA) under Gadgil Formula, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and ACA for various Special and other Programmes. Further, in pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC), the Ministry of Finance has drawn up a Scheme of Medium Term Fiscal Reform Plans (MTFRP), which inter-alia, aims at restoration of the financial health of the State Governments. All these measures by the Union Government are aimed to remove the regional imbalances.

[English]

Commonwealth Games

4637. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Indian medal winners were disqualified owing to malpractices at the recent Commonwealth games;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was ordered in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Govt. so that such malpractices may not occur in future?

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

(b) and (c) Sports Authority of India (SAI) had instituted a One-man Inquiry Committee to probe the incident of two weight lifters who tested positive for use of prohibited substance. The Committee had submitted its report, on examination whereof, it was found that the committee had not inquired into certain vital aspects of these incidents. Director General, Sports Authority of India has, accordingly, been asked to further inquire into these aspects. The final report is yet to be received. However, pending final outcome of the inquiry, following actions have been taken in this matter.

(i) The SAI Coach, Shri K. Manilal, who was attached with the National Coaching Camp for Weightlifting has been placed under suspension.

(ii) The Chief Coach of the Weightlifting camps, Shri Tami Selvan, who belonged to Railways, was sent back to his parent Department, with the advice to take action against him.

(iii) The other Coach, Shri C.S. Shivrama, attached with the weightlifting camp, has been sent back to the Karnataka Government who have been asked to take action against him.

(iv) Shri Durgalal Meena, Lab Technician has been removed from the contractual service for negligence of duty.

(v) Both these players, who tested positive for dope during Commonwealth Games-2002, have been debarred from entering the SAI campus for any training or other activities.

Further action will be taken on basis of the final outcome of the inquiry.

[Translation]

Infection Control Committee

4638. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken positive steps to make the report of the Infection Control Committee effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether number of persons were died in the Capital due to their operation being conducted in infected operation theatre;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government have taken action against the doctors found irresponsible while preventing infection; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (g) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi i.e. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safearjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals are concerned, fully functional infection control committee chaired by Medical Superintendent of each hospital is in existence. The committee meets regularly, discusses and implements the various steps pertaining to control of infection. The operation theatres are regularly cleaned and their cleanliness is reviewed. The air sampling of operation theatres is done regularly and monitored.

No death has been reported during operation due to infected operation theatres.

[English]

Profit Earned by Paradeep

4639. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the profits projected in respect of Paradeep Port for 2002-03; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The gross surplus of Paradip Port Trust for the year 2002-03 is Rs. 58.48 crores details of which are as follows:-

		Rs. in crores
(i)	Operating Income	349.68
(ii)	Operating Expenditure	220.70
(iii)	Operating Surplus	128.98
(iv)	Fin. & Misc. Income	17.92
(v)	Fin & Misc. Expenditure	88.42
(vi)	Gross surplus	58.48

Compensation for Land Acquired by NHAI

4640. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India is acquiring land for the construction, development and maintenance of national highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any compensation is paid to State Government/private parties/persons whose land is acquired;

(d) if so, the total land acquired for this purpose during the last three years and compensation paid;

(e) whether it is a fact that large cases of such compensation are pending with the NHAI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by Government for timely payment of compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The land is acquired wherever required for 4/6-laning of National Highways covered under National Highways Development Project and other project entrusted to National Highways Authority of India.

(c) Compensation is paid to private parties/persons whose land is acquired as per the rates fixed by the Government. No compensation is paid to State Governments.

(d) Approximately 4800 hectares of land have been acquired and NHAI has made available with Competent Authority Rs. 426 crores, for the land acquired.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Bye Pass Phase-II

4641. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for land acquisition estimated to cost Rs. 12.69 crores from Mukkola to Kanjiramkulam in Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara combined bv pass phase-II is now being kept in abeyance; and

(b) by when technical sanction and financial approval by way of reappropriation as recommended by the Government of Kerala is likely to be issued in the current annual plan outlay?

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

(b) The proposed work of land acquisition costing of Rs. 12.69 Cr. from Mukkola to Kanjiramkulam for Thirvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara combined bypass under Phase-II is not included in the Annual Plan 2002-03. At present Ministry's priority is to improve the riding quality of National Highways network in the State of Kerala. Land acquisition for the said portion of the bypass has low priority and would be taken up in future depending upon the availability of funds and inter se priority of works. The proposal has been returned to Government of Kerala unapproved.

Adoption of Linux

4642. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government have advised all Central Government offices and institutions to adopt the Linux software;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the Government are likely to save money by adopting Linux; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Advantages of using Linux software including cost savings resulting thereby are evaluated on a project-by-project basis.

12.00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have earlier announced that the current year's interest on both the *kharif crop* loan and agricultural term loans will be deferred and the loans proper will be rescheduled into term loans; to be recovered over the next 5 years in the case of small and marginal farmers, and 3 years in the case of other farmers. In addition, interest, for one year, on both these types of loans, amounting to Rs. 6040 crores, having been deferred, was to be spread out over several years as a liability.

2. In order to further mitigate the hardship of our farmers in these States, I have now, decided to waive completely, the first year's deferred liability of interest on Kharif loans, as a one time measure. Such of our citizens as having availed of this facility shall be entitled to obtain an endorsement of this waiver directly from their loaning Bank. Appropriate guidelines in this regard will be issued by the R.B.I.

3. As for Agricultural Input Subsidy, my Government had already announced a grant of this to small and marginal farmers, amounting to over Rs. 1490 crores. In view, however, of the severity of the drought, I have decided that this Agricultural Input Subsidy will now be extended further, to cover all other farmers too, for both the sown and unsown areas, upto a ceiling of 2 hectares, as a one time measure and in relaxation of existing guidelines. On the basis of assessment to be made by the Ministry of Agriculture, in consultation with the Finance Ministry, all the 14 affected States will receive additional amounts, based on actual land holding and cultivation patterns. These States will therefore, now receive in excess of a further Rs. 555 crores, for combating drought, to be met from either the Calamity Relief Fund or the NCCF.

4. For cattle, further additional amount of Rs. 25 crores will now be provided to the Department of Animal Husbandry, for support to such 'gaushalas' as tend to more than 1000 heads of cattle. Releases may be permitted directly to NGOs running such 'gaushalas'. A Committee comprising of officers from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Ministry of Finance and the PMO will authorise such releases, in tendem with like and simultaneous disbursements from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

5. I wish to add that the Government has already earlier approved additional assistance for cattle in which a further sum of Rs. 70 crores for cattle care has already been allotted to Rajasthan. I had also sanctioned free transportation of cattle-grade feed and fodder to State Governments; the period of such free transportation of water and fodders will continue until the end of June, 2003.

6. On the foodgrains front, the Government has already sanctioned an allotment of 38.75 lakh Metric

Tonnes of rice and wheat, costing over Rs. 4000 crores; free of cost to the 14 drought-affected States of which 19.50 lakh Metric Tonnes for current drought. This tonnage is for three months only, that is, up to January, 2003. More foodgrains will thereafter be made available to needy States. It is desirable that there be systematic monitoring, however, of the actual utilisation of this foodgrain in generation of relief employment. Of course, States are free to seek additional allocations following utilisation of the allotted foodgrains. It is in this context that PDS functioning must be improved.

7. I recognize that acute water shortage exists, particularly in the drought effected areas of Rajasthan. I have, therefore, instructed the Ministry of Railways to run additional water tanker trains to, in part, mitigate this critical deficiency. The Ministry of Water Resources will immediately appoint a task force to assist the effected States in this regard. I am also instructing the Ministry of Petroleum to examine the possibility of deep drilling rigs being employed for sinking deep tube wells.

8. We will meet the challenge of this drought unitedly and shall ensure that the difficulties of our citizens are mitigated.

[Also placed in Library, See no. LT. 6732/2002]

12.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri, 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. 1195(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2002 regarding authorising the District Revenue Officer Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu to perform the function of the competent authority in respect of land acquisition on National Highway No. 7A (Palayam Kottai-Thoodhakudi Section).

(ii) S.O. 1196(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2002 regarding authorising the District Revenue Officer Thoothakudi, Tamil Nadu to perform the function of the competent authority in respect of land acquisition on National Highway No. 7A (Palayam Kottai-Thoodhakudi Section) in Tamil Nadu.

(iii) S.O. 1222(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam section) in East Godavari District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) S.O. 1241(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 60 (Balasore to Laxmannath section) in Balasore District in the State of Orissa.

(v) S.O. 1242(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 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.

(vi) S.O. 1259(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2002 regarding acquisition land for widening of National Highway No. 60 (Balasore to Laxmannath section) in Balasore District in the State of Orissa.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6662/2002]

(2) A copy of the Central Motor Vehicles (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 788(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2002 under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6663/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers, Noida, for the year 2001-2002 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers, Noida, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6664/2002]

(4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the period from the 1st April, 2001 to the 28th June, 2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the period from the 1st April, 2001 to the 28th June, 2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6665/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Electronics Corporation of India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6666/2002]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jharkhand, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jharkhand, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6667/2002]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6668/2002]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Antrix Corporation 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. LT 6669/2002]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6670/2002]

(f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for

the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6671/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, for the year 2001-2002 alongwith Audited Accounts

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6672/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6673/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for he year 2001-2002 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6674/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6675/2002]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kendriya Bhandar, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kendriya Bhandar, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6676/2002]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6677/2002]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6678/2002]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6679/2002]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2000-2001.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6680/2002]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for the Development of Glass Industry, Firozabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for the Development of Glass Industry, Firozabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6681/2002]

(13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6682/2002]

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6683/2002]

(15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6684/2002]

(16) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongiwth Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6685/2002]

(17) (i) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6686/2002]

(18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of National MSI Radar Facility, Gadanki, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National MST Radar Facility, Gadanki, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6687/2002]

(19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6688/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the TRAI (Levy of Fees and other charges for Tariff Plans) Regulations 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 301-6/2002-TRAI (Econ.) in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2002 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6689/2002]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6690/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Society for Electronics Test Engineering, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Society for Electronics Test Engineering, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6691/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6692/2002]

(3) (i) a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Computer Centre, Calcutta, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Computer Centre, Calcutta, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6693/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Research and Development Centre of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Research and Development Centre of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6694/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Electronics Design and Technology of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Electronics Design and Technology of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6695/2002]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Software Technology, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the National Centre for Software Technology, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6696/2002]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6697/2002]

(8) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6698/2002]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the ERNET India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the ERNET India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6699/2002]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Pune, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6700/2002]

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, you should understand what you are doing.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the procedure, you cannot ask question regarding this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are all aware of the rules. On a suo motu statement made by a Minister, no classificatory question can be asked.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want? We are going according to the rules. Please cooperate. Next item has already been started. We are on Item No. 7 now. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Shri A. Raja, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6701/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Cancer Centre for Research and Treatment, Gwalior, for the year 2001-2002 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Cancer Centre for research and Treatment, Gwalior, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6702/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Acharya Harihara Regional Cancer Centre, Cuttack, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Acharya Harihara Regional Cancer Centre, Cuttack, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6703/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6704/2002]

(6) (i) A copy of the annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Allied Diseases, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Allied Diseases, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6705/2002]

(7) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6706/2002]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith 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 2000-2001.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6707/2002]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6708/2002]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of National Institute of Biologicals, Noida, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Biologicals, Noida, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6709/2002]

(12) 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 Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(13) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6710/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): 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:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6711/2002]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6712/2002]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6713/2002]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Annual Report of the Dredging Corporation of India Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor general thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6714/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6715/2002]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6716/2002]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6717/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the New Mangalore Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6718/2002]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the of the Kandla Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6719/2002]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 6720/2002]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Accounts.

(ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paradip Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6721/2002]

(9) (i) A copy of the Administrative Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6722/2002]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts, under section 24 of the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6723/2002]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6724/2002]

(12) A copy each of the following Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:

(a) (i) Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6725/2002]

(b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust, Gandhidham, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust, Gandhidham, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6726/2002]

(c) (i) Annual Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6727/2002]

(d) (i) Annual Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6728/2002]

(e) (i) Annual Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6729/2002]

(13) A copy of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 449 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd November, 2002 under section 36 of the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6730/2002]

12.07 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

Third Report

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): I beg to present Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges.

12.07$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Eleventh Report

[English]

SHRI S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad): I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

(i) Ninety-seventh Report

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the Ninety-seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

(ii) Evidence

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Evidence tendered before the Committee on the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

12.09 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura): I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Jitendra Kr. Deka, President, Brihattar Jagiroad Bachao Sangrami Mancha, Jagiroad, Morigaon (Assam) and others regarding environmental pollution caused by Nagaon Paper Mill, Kagajgaon, Assam.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6731/2002]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of privilege motion. The statement given in the House by Shri Sharad Yadav on 12th regarding the incident of firing in Munerwa Basti is far from truth. In the statement it was said that one farmer was killed though he was not killed in police firing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on this issue will be held later.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious issue. I have given notice of privilege motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

The statement that has been given here that at the time of firing at Mudndrawa Basti. ...*(Interruptions)* I want your ruling. It is a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When the discussion on this issue is to be held then how can you time and again raise this issue at present? You raise this issue at that time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion is a different thing. The statement that has been given here has noting to do with reality. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has said that the incident of firing took place there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you to raise this issue at that time.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to all the units of National Textile Corporation and British India Corporation. It is quite unfortunate that inspite of all efforts the Ministry of Textile has not agreed to start the mills of NTC and BIC in Uttar Pradesh and as a result of this Kanpur city is worst affected where four mills of NTC and three mills of BIC have been almost closed. On several occasions I raised this question in the House and the Minister of Textile had assured that one unit of BIC will be started at any cost. The workers of NTC had offered a proposal to the Government stating that the Government may sell the entire assets of NTC in lieu of opening only one mill of NTC which would be run by all the workers and would earn profit for the Government. If they fail to run the mill in profit the Government would have every right to close it down. This proposal was given to the Ministry of Textile by the workers. The hon'ble Minister of Textile had assured that he would sympathetically consider this proposal and would certainly take some appropriate decision in this regard. It is unfortunate that till today neither any decision regarding the starting of BIC mill, as was announced, has been taken nor mill was started or any action was taken regarding the proposal of the workers concerning NTC. The third most important thing is that hon'ble Minister of textile had assured that the assets of NTC and BIC would be sold through auction in open market. However, today the entire assets of NTC and BIC, all types of machines lands etc. are being sold clandestinely. These are not being openly auctioned. The lands worth billions of rupees are being sold at down cheep rate and the assets and machines worth crores of rupees are being sold in lakhs by the Ministry of Textile. So I would like to request the Government that it should stop the Ministry from doing such things. The entire auction process should be transparent and should be done in open market so that people may purchase it by way of bidding and as was assured by the hon'ble Minister of textile, one mill of BIC should be opened as soon as possible. The Ministry of Textile should make efforts to take immediate decision on the proposal of the workers regarding the management of one mill of NTC by themselves.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, you had enquired in the House about the SAARC Summit. The External Affairs Minister is here. You raised that issue yesterday. Would you like to get a reply from the Minister right now? He is ready to give the reply.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): He may reply after the 'Zero Hour', Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I had promised this to the House yesterday. This is not a *suo motu* statement by the Minister. It was a part of the 'Zero Hour' yesterday also when hon. Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi had raised it. Just in a minute or two the hon. Minister will explain the position so that my promise to the House would be fulfilled. Otherwise, we are left with only two days. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He had raised a question during the 'Zero Hour' yesterday. If the Minister is willing to give the reply, what objections do others have?

There is another notice of privilege that Shri Ramji Lal Suman has given. I have called for the information from the Minister. As soon as the information comes, I will give him permission to speak on the issue.

12.13 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Issue of Postponement of SAARC Summit

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): On the issue of the postponement of the SAARC Summit, a question was raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi yesterday. On the 9th of December, Pakistan, which was supposed to host the SAARC Summit in January 2003, unilaterally announced the postponement of the Summit. This matter was under our consideration. I believe that this was also awaiting a response from the Government of Bhutan.

But the Government of Pakistan, on considerations which can only be considered as specious, decided to announce the postponement of the SAARC Summit.

I will take a minute of the House to share this information that, according to the Charter of SAARC, acceleration of economic growth among the member States is objective number one and the House is aware that trade is a very important art of this whole process of economic growth. The question of Preferential Trade Arrangement among the members of SAARC had been under discussion for almost fifteen years, ever since SAARC came into existence in 1985. I am raising this issue because the Summit of SAARC met in Kathmandu in January this year and specially enjoined that the negotiations for Preferential Trade Arrangement should be completed as early as possible and that the negotiations for Preferential Trade Arrangement should be completed as early as possible and that the negotiations for the Free Trade Arrangement should be completed before the end of this year. So, SAFTA was to be completed immediately. SAFTA was to be completed by the end of the year. This was the direction of the Summit in January this year.

The Council of Foreign Ministers met in August in Kathmandu and I attended it on behalf of India. In that meeting, we again reiterated that the Preferential Trade Arrangement negotiations would be completed between the 2nd and 4th of September. The meeting had already been fixed. We had met in Kathmandu on the 21st and 22nd of August. The representative of Pakistan did not raise the issue of postponement of the negotiations for SAFTA. Then it was only a few days away. They agreed with the rest of us that SAFTA should be concluded between the 2nd and 4th of September. When the dates approached closer, then Pakistan suddenly informed the Secretariat of SAARC that they were not in a position to attend the discussion on SAFTA between the 2nd and 4th of September and that this should be postponed to the end of the December.

Now, I would like to mention to the House, through you Sir, that the first meeting following the January Summit of SAFTA, the Preferential Trade Arrangement, was supposed to take place in February. It was postponed to March at Pakistan's behest. The meeting was held in March. Some negotiations were held and it was decided that the next meeting will be held in May when it will be finalised. The May meeting was postponed at the behest of Pakistan and they said that they would now hold it in September. So, the meeting in September was fixed with the consent of all the parties. When the September meeting came, then Pakistan told us to push it to December. The Foreign Ministers of SAARC met on the 16th September on the margins of the UN General Assembly and in that meeting, when the representative of Pakistan raised the issue of the Summit dates, I asked him this question: "Why are you postponing these SAFTA meetings? If you have a problem, please take us into confidence and tell us what your problem is." The Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs was perhaps unaware or did not want to share their problem with us. It was decided by consensus in that meeting that SAFTA meeting would be held in the first half of October. When they went back to Islamabad, they said that first half of October would not suit them. So, it was pushed to the end of October.

At the end of October and the beginning of November, when the meeting was held, you will be surprised to know that Pakistan offered us Preferential Tariffs on something like 250 items out of which 146 items were on the negative list which means India cannot export those items.

I would also like to inform the House, through you Sir, that out of about 6500 tariff lines, there are only 500 to 600 tariff lines which are on the positive list and the entire rest of it is on the negative list as far as our exports to Pakistan is concerned.

As far as our exports to Pakistan is concerned, Pakistan does not extend on a reciprocal basis to us the Most Favoured Nation treatment. Therefore, I told the Pakistani Foreign Minister that he has to come clean if Pakistan did not have any interest in negotiating the Preferential Trade Agreement. I told him that they have to tell us frankly what their problem was. In October-November meeting this is what has happened. The SAFTA is still far from being negotiated. Therefore, we told Pakistan, we told the SAARC Secretariat, and we

told the other member States that we must be able to make progress with regard to the decisions which were taken in the Summit. It is because the Summit is not a formality which has to be completed. I mean, in the earlier Summit, in January this year, a number of decisions were taken and all those decisions have to be implemented. They cannot pick up just one decision with regard to the dates of Summit and say: "This is the most sacrosanct, we must have the Summit whether we make progress or we do not make progress". This is the position of India. We did not say 'No'. We are still fully committed to the SAARC Charter and we are still fully committed to the SAARC process. It is our hope that fresh dates will be fixed for the SAARC Summit and India will be ready and willing to participate, provided we make progress with regard to the substantive issues of SAARC.

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHTO (Purulia): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government regarding the request for CBI inquiry on the murder of Comrade Sushanta Sengupta, Vice-President of our Party in Jharkhand.

On 5th October, 2002, Comrade Sushanta Sengupta, Comrade D.D. Paul and Comrade Sanjay Sengupta were shot dead with AK-47 rifles on the national highway near Nirsha Police Station in the District of Dhanbad, Jharkhand. In this connection, we met hon. Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Shri Babulal Mirandi, on 11.11.2002 to request him to recommend CBI inquiry on this matter. The Chief Minister had publicly assured as that he would recommend for the CBI inquiry. I was told that he has recommended the case for CBI inquiry to the Central Government.

I urge upon the Central Government to issue necessary instructions to the Department concerned so that CBI inquiry is held into the murder of Comrade Sushanta Sengupta.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an issue which concerns my constituency. My constituency produces more than sixty per cent of the salt that is produced in the whole country. Due to hike in he railway freight—an unprecedented hike of 135 per cent in the last Railway Budget—all the salt producing units are being closed down. More than thirty-five thousand families are facing the consequences of unemployment problem. Due to several reasons they will not get any other employment. More than thirty-five thousand families are dependent on these units.

My only request, through you, to the Government is that, the Government should consider reviewing of this unprecedented hike in the next Railway Budget so that the problem of unemployment is solved. That is my only request to you. Thank you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, yesterday, we heard about the suicide of four employees of Centaur Hotel of Mumbai. Today, I have received a fax message that a number of workers belonging to National Jute Manufacturing Corporation and Bird Jute and Export Limited have committed suicide. The Government of India has decided to close down all the six mills of NJMC as well as BJEL. The management of NJMC and BJEL—the management being the same-is forcing and coercing the employees and workers to take VRS. They are almost in starvation. For the last five months, twenty-three thousand workers belonging to NJMC and BJEL have not received their salaries. The Government has not sanctioned any fund of payment of salaries to the workers of NJMC as well as BJEL.

As a result of this, the workers are on starvation. The workers are committing suicide. Therefore, I demand that the Government should take effective steps to revive—not to close down—these mills. If these mills are closed down, about 19,000 workers and also their family members will be thrown on the streets. So, Government should review the decision of closure of the six mills of NJMC as well as the BJEL. The Government should also release the funds immediately so that the salary of workers can be paid immediately...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): The case is pending...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Topdar, you will be associating with him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, why are we sitting in this Parliament? Sir, you are presiding over the House. We know your views. The people of this country are now on starvation. Nothing is there to fall back upon. The Government is sitting there. I do not know why we are also sitting here. What do we tell the people? Since we are in Parliament, people ask us to talk to the Government and try to do this and that. We cannot even earn something for these people. I do expect that something must be said on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government should respond to this. The Minister should respond to this. The workers are committing suicide. They are starving. For the last five months, they have not received their salaries. What is this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): This is a serious matter. The Government has not been taking it seriously. Every time, there are some dissenting voices in the Cabinet. Sir, I am sorry to mention that you had a different view before you sat in that Chair. Some Ministers even threatened to go out of the Government. But soon after I read in the newspapers that there has been reconciliation among the Ministers and the policy would continue. The Disinvestment Minister, in his arrogance, said that nobody could stop the process, whatever may be the views, whatever may be the difficulties of the workers. He is ready to sell out everything that India has constructed and built during the last fifty years. One should know where one should start and what one should do. Are we to be the passive spectators of what is happening today? Every time, this question is raised by some friends and the Government just keep mum. All of a sudden, we hear in the newspapers that they have taken a decision to sell one company or the other company. They say that they would do it. They say that the workers are free to do anything. At the same time, the Government say that they are going to assure the minimum wages to the workers. Such contradictory statements are being made by this Government.

Sir, now they have got some victory somewhere in the country. They think that everything is coming from El Dorado; and somebody is coming tomorrow from there. Perhaps, they are going to bring about that El Dorado by magic. But the fact is that no country can progress unless and until the workers put in their hard work, whether they are peasants or workers. In spite of the natural resources, we have totally become beggars before the countries which are not going to help us in any manner. Should we sit silent? Under your Chairmanship, we should know how to stop this type of selling of this country.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Shekhar, you are aware that today, in the afternoon at four of the Clock, there is a discussion on Disinvestment. The Disinvestment Minister will be definitely replying to that. In the meantime, Shri Basu Deb Acharia has raised this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to him. What is wrong with you today. You have been interrupting proceeding of the House since morning.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: The problem is that they have got the majority. The Members of the NDA might be differing from the Government outside. But when voting comes, they are going by the assurance of the Deputy Prime Minister that the Government would be run according to the NDA agenda.

Sir, I do not know what is that NDA Agenda; whether it is being represented by the VHP or it is being represented by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri L.K. Advani; I do not know what is the NDA Agenda. My friends of NDA, most of them are sitting here, they do not know what they are going to do. The only thing is, we may have a discussion. They have the majority and by the majority they take it that they have got every authority to sell away the country. So, what is left out for the people of this country except revolting against the whole system?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need a direction from the Chair because it is a very serious issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are of the same view which is expressed on the floor of the House. It is necessary for the Government to protect the interests of the weaker sections of the society...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, is this not arrogance? The hon. ex-Prime Minister talks about arrogance of the Minister. To identify oneself with the nation saying 'I am the nation', if I am opposed, the nation is opposed, what sort of behaviour is this and what sort of attitude is this of the ex-Prime Minister?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given you permission. If it is necessary the hon'ble Minister will reply why are you standing up.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted only Shri Shivraj Patil to speak. He will only speak now. Please take your seat.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it has been the policy of this nation, which is reflected in the Constitution, to help the weakest in the society and the best method of helping the weakest in the society economically is to provide employment to them. Instead of providing employment to them, if the employed people are thrown out of the job, it is not doing economic justice to them.

We are talking in terms which are not relevant to us. We shall have to talk in terms which are relevant to the majority of the people of this country. We want production, but not at the cost of the suffering of the workers in the country, we want production, but not at the cost of the suffering of the consumers and we want production to make this country strong. This is our feeling also, the feeling of the Members who have sat in this House for 30 years or 40 years, that we come here, express our views and go out, but we are not in a position to help those to whom the help should be extended by this House. Now, if this kind of helplessness is realised by us and experienced by us, sitting in this House, you can imagine what kind of helplessness the people who are thrown out of the job might be feeling and if the Government or we all, sitting here, do not rise to the occasion or do not realise the importance of helping those who should be helped, we suffer and nobody will be helped.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the children of the workers have been taken out of the schools because they cannot pay the tuition fees even. Nothing can be done for them. Their education is stopped and there is absolutely nothing for them to eat. These people are coming here and what can we tell them?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add just two sentences here. The case of NJMC is pending before the BIFR and now it will go to the tribunal. But before that, they are selling it away and we know about it only through newspapers. When this House has passed a law by which this NJMC was formed, selling out NJMC in this manner in undemocratic and *ultra vires*...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a different issue, though I fully support the contention expressed by Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Chandra Shekhar and our leader Shri Shivraj Patil....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue I raised is very important. There should be some response from the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is for the Minister to decide what he wants to say.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, you have made an observation. I hope the Government takes note of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; you have very strongly expressed your feelings.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Dasmunsi ji you may speak now.

12.34 hrs.

(I) Re: Frequent erosion caused by Ganga, Mahananda and Other Rivers in Bihar and West Bengal

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to a serious situation that has developed both in Bihar and West Bengal due to frequent erosion of the Ganges, Mahananda and other rivers.

Sir, Lord Ramakrishna's Dakshineswhar Temple has been threatened so badly that the West Bengal Government had to send a proposal to the Central Government, but still the proposal has not been executed. I am worried about this. I personally talked to the Prime Minister in this regard. The entire temple would be under the water of the Ganges very soon.

The entire Murshidabad District, specially, in Jangipore sub-division, villages after villages for the last eight years have been washed away. No measures have been taken so far. The constituency that I represent, in Dinajpur and Malda combined, a place called Ratua and in Dinajpur a place called Goalpukur—the people who have voted irrespective of parties—118 villages have gone. They are staying in small tents. I wrote so many letters to the Minister for a joint initiative with the Government of West Bengal and Union Government, including the State Government of Bihar, but nothing has been done.

On 22nd December I will be going there. The people there have told me that if I come there without any commitment...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): That is the problem with the 'Zero Hour'. As Shri Basu Deb Acharia is demanding, if I knew it I would have called the concerned Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): You may call him tomorrow.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It is not that I will again give you a chance.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Please do not get angry.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, at the place where the Fulwa river and the Ganges meet in Ratua at a point called Billaimori Mantola, not only one but 11,000 people are homeless as 18 villages have been submerged. I will be going there on 23rd and they will be taken me into a boat to go to that place. You cannot imagine that the village, that I visited before the last Session and where I had my public function, also has gone. No steps have been taken so far. I have taken up this issue with the hon. Minister so many times, but no concrete steps have been taken. I do not know how do I face the people there.

In Murshidabad, the people of his entire constituency, which Shri Moinul Hassan represents, are on the street. We have been crying for a comprehensive measure, but nothing is done. Sir, right from Dakshineshwar Temple to the districts of Dinajpur, Malda and Murshidabad, no concrete measures have been taken. I want that the hon. Minister should positively respond to this matter...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the hon. Minister is here.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no objection if he responds.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Sir, please allow me to speak on this for two minutes.

Sir, I already had a meeting with you in this regard. The erosion problem in West Bengal, particularly, in the three districts, namely, Nadia, Malda and Murshidabad is a grave concern. Yearly 40,000 people are evicted from their own land. The agricultural land and mangroves are already engulfed by the Padma and Ganga erosion. This has already been mentioned by the hon. Member Shri Dasmunsi.

Sir, there is no rehabilitation, no shelter on the heads of the concerned people. The Government of West Bengal is doing a lot for them but there is a meagre allocation on behalf of the Government of India. The Minister of Water Resources has also visited those areas and he is very much sympathetic to the problem. I would like to request the hon. Minister to again visit the adjacent areas right from Malda to Jalangi, do something and allocate more funds to protect the erosion of Ganga-Padma rivers.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides West Bengal it is also the issue concerning Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: All right now you please sit down. Hon'ble Minister has come. Now allow him to reply, I am concerned about your case.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): Sir, I am entirely an agreement with the views of the hon. Members that they have expressed here. The bank erosion of the Ganga and its tributaries as well as Mahananda is serious, there is no doubt about it. But I am not in agreement with the hon. Members that nothing has been done.

Sir, for the first time, during last year and prior to previous year, we have provided funds to the tune of Rs. 30 crore under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to West Bengal...*(Interruptions)*

Please hear me. It is certainly incumbent on the State Government to utilise the funds, and also to provide the utilisation certificate, etc. Out of Rs. 30 crore, we have already released Rs. 17.88 crore to West Bengal. I am sorry to say—please bear with me—that the required utilisation certification has not yet been received by us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We will find out...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: I would like to request the hon. Members from West Bengal, who are present here, to prevail upon the State Government to send the utilisation certificate. The moment the utilisation certification is received by us, certainly, money will be provided.

Moreover, I have already visited some of the areas. I have undertaken an aerial view of the whole situation.

I am very much concerned about the situation. But, at the same time, because it is primarily a State subject, both the State and the Central Governments must co-operate together to utilise the funds, to implement it as well as to give adequate protection.

As far as my hon. friend, Shri Dasmunsi, is concerned, yes he has written letters to me. I have already requested the State Government of West Bengal to submit a scheme. The scheme has not yet been received by us. I would request the hon. Members from West Bengal to prevail upon the State Government. The moment it is received by us, we will certainly look into it and adequate funds will certainly be provided.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Within 10 days, I will come back to you....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I am ready to meet all the hon. Members from West Bengal. I will certainly meet them and they can discuss with me. Whatever is possible will certainly be done...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you meet him and put your points before him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot start a debate in the 'Zero Hour'. Please sit down. How can a debate be started in the 'Zero Hour'?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has assured to give you a meeting. Please meet him and talk to him.

Now, Shri Suresh Jadhav.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my parliamentary constituency Parbhani Jayakwadi tank and Majalgaon canal are many large and medium sources of irrigation. Silt has accumulated for years on the bed of these sources of irrigation like canal network. It is on account of this that the entire canal network has become useless and water is not passing through these canals to the crop fields and 50 to 60 percent water is wasted. Several times I brought this to the notice of the Maharashtra Government and told about this to the Minister concerned. But the financial condition of Maharashtra Government is still not good and the Government is not in a position to do anything in this regard. Through you I would like to request that the silt filled in canal network.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a state matter and the Maharashtra Government will have to act. However, I have given permission to raise this issue here in the House.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, in this connection I have approached Maharashtra Government several times. Through you I would request the Central Government that it should prepare special scheme for desilting and repairing the canal network and to provide financial assistance for this.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the scam and corruption in the construction of bridge over Asian river on Agra-Mumbai National Highway No. 3. The bridge was inaugurated in March, 2002 and exactly after three months the bridge automatically collapsed on 25 June, 2002 like a set of playing cards. When the Minister of Road Transport had gone there in March to inaugurate the bridge the local peoples representatives had given him representation stating that the material use in the construction of the bridge was of substandard quality and it might cause danger to the people of that area.

The Minister of Road Transport & Highway had assured on 23 April that there is no such thing in it and the matter have been examined and found that good quality materials have been used. However it is well known fact that the bridge collapsed in June without any external reasons. My request to you is that high level inquiry should be held regarding the same and the guilty persons should be severely punished. It is not the question of only this highway rather it is concerned with the safety of the people...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Many hon'ble Members have given notice to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister will give statement in detail.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I have given my notice early in the morning.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The reply of your notice has come.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvatupuzha): I have also given my notice:

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you but no injustice is being done.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, few day back the Chairman of Polaris and one of his colleague was arrested in Indonesia. It is not the question of arrest of one person. He was invited to Earth Griah Bank in Indonesia and was handed over to police. If there is any trade dispute even then such treatment cannot be given to citizen of other country. It is not the question of arrest of one person rather it is the question of dignity of the nation. This has on the one hand hurt the dignity of the nation, on the other hand it will democratize the entrepreneurs. I remember when gas had leaked from Union Carbide in 1984 at Bhopal and more than 3000 innocent persons were killed in the gas tragedy, we could not detain the Chairman of the company Enderson for ten minutes while one citizen of our country has been arrested in Indonesia in such a manner. Through you I would like to submit that the hon'ble Minister of Information Technology had made efforts in this regard however Indian Government should take harsh measures in this connection and if necessary the Prime Minister should interfere in it....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): I would also like to associate with what Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said because I am a Member of that organisation.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you are also allowed to associate.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a circular issued by the Delhi Police makes it compulsory for every personnel of the Delhi Police to open his account with the UTI Bank branch at Khan Market. Further, that circular goes to say that in case the accounts were not opened, the personnel would find it difficult to get their salaries. This is a very serious matter. This is violative of the service rules. The employees cannot be forced, as they are being forced now, to open their accounts in a particular bank much less a bank which has attracted flak from the Press. Without going further into the matter, I would only like to submit that this is forcing the employees much against their wishes to open accounts in one particular bank which is not permissible. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to immediately intervene in this matter and ensure that such instructions which are violative of the rules are not issued. The people have the liberty to go to any bank to open the account. In that case, all that the Government or the Delhi Police has to do is to issue salary cheques which can be deposited in any bank.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): I would also like to associate myself with this matter. I smell a rat in this. There is a bit of scam. I think the Delhi Police must be directed to come clean. The Delhi Police cannot ask all its 60,000 personnel to open accounts with a particular bank. If something happens to the bank, who is to be held responsible?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): I also associate with this matter.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Above, all, it is UTI Bank. You may kindly ask the Minister to draw the attention of the Home Minister to this and let the Delhi Police clarify the matter.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Every matter is serious. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, can you tell me which matter is not serious?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This is unheard of...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Their total salary deposit in a year would come to more than Rs. 500 crore...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): I may speak if he is silent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: How can you tell all the policemen to open account in one bank? It is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are 25 matters with me and out of these tell me only one matter which is not serious.

I have taken a serious note of it.

Ramji Lal Suman, is not your matter serious. You Please speak.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Shri Yashwant Sinha should know about this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is not the Minister concerned now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first he should stop speaking and silence is restored in the House then I will start speaking...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, what will happen if the Delhi police personels revolt and deny to open account in one specific bank where they have been hold to open accounts? How can you compel police personnel to open account in one specific bank?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, police personnel have been threatened in writing that they may face difficulties in getting their salaries if they do not open their account in a specific bank...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got a copy of your notice. I will bring this matter to the attention of the Government.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday when discussion was held on the internal security, the Deputy-Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs had told that there is possibility of terrorist attack. As per his intelligence report 6 terrorists of Jaise-e-Mohammed group are in Delhi. They have rocket launcher and a knowledge of regional languages and can speak regional languages and are travelling in buses. Any unpleasant incident may happen. It is a serious issue. It has been seen that such incidents happen and Government fail to exert psychological pressure on these terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Government as to what action has been taken by the Government to avoid unwarranted terrorist incidents in Delhi as six terrorists are present in Delhi. The Government should tell us about the measure taken by the Government to avoid such incident? What efforts are being made by the Government in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter. Kshetriya Gramin Kisan Banks are operating in entire India and there is a rule that there would be a post of Chairman in the district having more than 50 branches. A chairman has been appointment is in violation of the rules. My submission is that this matter should be enquired into.

Sir, due to arbitrary attitude of the Chairman employees of Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank are not getting equal salary, while as per the rule, employee of Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank in the country should get equal salary. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to ensure equal salary to all the employees and the enquiry against the appointment of Chairman or President of that place and the action against him.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: In the morning, I was the first person to submit a notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is also there.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a bus accident took place at Wazirabad bridge in my parliamentary constituency, East Delhi on 18 November, 1997, which claimed the lives of 28 children, and 62 were injured in it. The August House had also expressed its concern on this incident. A committee was constituted to enquire into the matter and the Committee concluded that Traffic Police was responsible for the incident and at that time it was decided to construct one more bridge over there, but, Sir, since 1997, the construction of that bridge has not yet begun. Sir, through you, I would like to request that construction work of bridge upto Shantivan via Wazirabad and Geeta Colony, cremenation ground should begin at the earliest, to avoid recurrence of such accidents. I would like to thank you for giving me time to speak.

12.52 hrs.

(ii) Re: Alleged indifferent attitude towards Indian nationals of Indian Embassy Officials in Saudi Arabia and other Countries

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government and make particular mention about the fact that the NDA Government has failed on all fronts and it

is a failure on international front also. The hon'ble Minister of External Affairs is present here. The Government have failed in case of foreign policy also. The reason behind this is that all high ranking IAS officers, I do not want to name anybody, are busy in making money in foreign countries. The high ranking officers of Ministry of External Affairs are just enjoying the facilities of embassies at abroad and are getting high salaries for no work, their mere aim is to make more and more money. They are least concerned about the citizens of the country residing in foreign lands. They are enjoying the salary and are busy in making money either by hook or crook, and running their business over there.

Sir, many citizens of Indian origin are living in those countries, but these officers are not rendering any help to them.

Indian citizen living in different countries do have problems relating their passports but there is no one to take care of this problem. I would like to cite an example that there is a persons named Shri R.P. Singh from our district who lives in the Miami city of USA. He got a big contract for supplying baggages to USA. He conveyed the message in this regard to Indian Embassy for follow up. One year, has been lapsed, he did not get any reply. Then he wrote to Chinese Embassy and on the very next day the Chinese Embassy gave him the list of all the suppliers and awarded the contract too. My submission is that if the India would have supplied baggages, we would have earned a lot of foreign exchange.

I would like to cite one more example, the Government of India is running all Indian schools in Saudi Arabia. The officers of that school...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. The officers over there are just earning money, many complaints have been received in this regard. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the fact that many Indian people who hail from my area, living over there, have complained that the embassy staff over there has become totally corrupt. Our citizens are not getting any help. Through you, I would also like to submit that the election for school management was held in Saudia Arabia...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of External Affairs should give reply in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I have written to the Minister of External Affairs to this effect. He must respond about whether irregularities have been committed in the elections over there? Many such complaints have been received from there. It is a very serious matter. If the officers over there will just make money...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that there are many Indian citizens in Saudia Arabia. It is very unfortunate that if they face problem, if they are exploited and their work is not done. It is not appropriate if only, the children of Embassy officials get higher education. I do not want to name any officer, but an officer in England has constructed a big House by Indian money...*(Interruptions)* Whether hon'ble Minister will order an inquiry into this. It is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister, would you like to say something?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Hon'ble Minister, he alone has not experienced it, all of us have experienced it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All should not speak at once, only one hon'ble Member should speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I would particularly like to mention that the irregularities being committed in the Embassy of Saudia Arabia...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You don't remain silent even when the hon'ble Minister is speaking. How the business of House can be conducted no such a situation.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has brought two particular points in my notice. First, according to him somebody has send a letter to our Embassy in Washington, and he did not reply for one year, whereas Chinese Embassy replied very next day. Secondly, he said about a school in Saudia Arabia. Both are important information. I would like to say that first incident is concerned, if the name of the person, and date on which he wrote letter and other information

is made available. I would definitely order an inquiry in this regard.

I would like to say that allegations are made here against the people belonging to Indian Foreign Services that they are not serving the country and are busy in making money. It appears to me that...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: You have been fascinated by the old cadre...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I did not belong to Foreign Services. I am talking about the responsibility. I am talking about justice that if we condemn the entire cadre in same way, it is not appropriate in itself...*(Interruptions)* Provide me information about a particular thing. I will definitely take the action...*(Interruptions)*

At present, I am the Minister, in past I was not the Minister and in future I won't be the Minister, but I have often got the opportunity to visit the foreign countries. I had visited abroad as an ordinary citizen...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: You are the Cabinet Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The question is not of Cabinet or a State Minister. I am saying that if any such incident take place, if anything wrong happens with Member of Parliament on his visit to foreign country, which normally do not happen, I will take stringent action in it. Therefore, I would like to submit that I will definitely take action against the particular cases on which you have drawn my attention, but it is a good cadre, therefore we should not condemn the entire cadre over here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): You are doing a good job...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, only a few minutes ago, the hon. Prime Minister declared here about some steps taken by the Union Government, as an assistance to the State which are affected seriously by drought this year. The hon. Prime Minister also declared here about some steps like waiver of loans for farmers of our country.

13.00 hrs.

Sir, I would like to say that the State of Kerala is not getting even a single paisa from this assistance. From the list of 14 States declared as drought-affected States, the State of Kerala is totally excluded. Though the State of Kerala made a very serious lapse to take up the matter properly, promptly and timely with the Union Government, the people of Kerala should not suffer for this. It might be a serious lapse on the part of the Government of Kerala to take up the matter with the Union Government.

Now the Government of Kerala has declared 40 talukas in 10 districts, out of the 14 districts of the State, as seriously drought-affected in the State. According to the declaration by the hon. Prime Minister a few minutes back, from the list of the 14 States declared as drought-affected two neighbouring States of Kerala—Karnataka and Tamil Nadu—are getting his assistance. I am mention that in the border areas of Kerala the farming community is not likely to get the assistance that the hon. Prime Minister has declared a few minutes back.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take up this matter seriously and to include the farmers of Kerala for getting assistance and benefit of schemes which have been declared by the hon. Prime Minister like the waiver of loans, both short-term and long-term loans. The Government of Kerala should also get this assistance. Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I also gave a notice on this subject...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, your name is associated with this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ravi Prakash Verma to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, we also associate ourselves with the issue raised by Shri Krishna Das...*(Interruptions)* We want to clarify the matter. Please allow us.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): Sir, please let me speak to clarify on this point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate yourself with this.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I also gave a notice on this issue. Please allow me to mention it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Varmaji, do not you want to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Krishna Das.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Banatwalla, your name will be associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, the matter is brought up before the hon. Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)* This is a very serious matter. Please allow us to clarify...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, hon. Member Shri Krishna Das has said that the details are not given. The hon. Minister of Revenue of the Government of Kerala has mentioned the details in a Press Conference. This was in the Press.. .*(Interruptions)* We understand from the hon. Minister of Agriculture that the details have been given sector-wise and district-wise. Since it was not given in the proper form and within proper time, Kerala is not included...*(Interruptions)* But for this, the people of Kerala should not suffer....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India is spending 15% of GDP on education, which is very less...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, we should not suffer. I would strongly appeal to you....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Sir, we need your protection. Please allow us to clarify...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We should not suffer for the lapse of the Government of Kerala...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, you please start speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are making injustice to the hon. Member who is speaking. Why do you not listen to him? The hon. Member is speaking. Do not make injustice to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: 102 crore citizens of India are going to face a very tough time after the implementation of World Trade Organisation agreement and the Globalisation by the year 2005....*(Interruptions)* 50 percent population of India is unemployed and their capacity for economic production is very limited...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, it has become necessary to increase expenditure on education to 8 percent and to set up a high level National Education Commission to improve the quality, utility of the education to uphold the provision of the constitution 93rd amendment so that the right to education and desired and targeted coordination between different sections of the society, educational institutions and Government machinery could be ensured...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is of half page only. I would like to read it out with your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with this matter, this is a very serious matter.

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance during 'Zero Hour' today.

The Government's decision to phase out and finally close down NG-based explosive units is leading to large scale unemployment, scarcity of explosives and monopolisation of explosive industry by other class-II based multinational explosive units.

The whole thing targeted with an incident of detection of use of NG-based explosives by terrorists and extremists in a terrorist attack. This led to the constitution of a committee to go into the desirability of continuing with the manufacture of NG-based explosives and other related matters. The Committee, being headed by the Chairman and former Managing Director of a multinational company manufacturing slurry based explosives, was inevitably biased against the NG-based explosives. The decision

was taken on the basis of the said committee's report which inevitably recommended phasing out and closure of the other class of explosive units, namely, NG-based units, leaving the field open for monopolisation by multinational slurry and emulsion based explosive manufacturers.

It is a very serious matter and calls for review by a high-level independent experts' committee.

*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.03 hrs.

Lok Sabha reassembled at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for today will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

(i) Need to connect certain cities in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan by air.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of global trade relations and international trade competition, the special measures are needed to be taken for economic development. In view of this, despite adequate possibilities of industrialisation in certain particular cities and areas of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the work of industrialisation is lagging behind and has been adversely affected due to lack of proper arrangements. Therefore, it has become essential that rail, road and air facility should be made available to these areas. Though some areas are linked with rail and road ways, but don't have air facilities. The Government should take necessary steps for formulating a time bound work plan to link Khandwa, Devas, Ujjain, Neemach and Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh and Chittorh, Bhilwara, Ajmer, Byavar, Bharatpur etc. in Rajasthan by air with other parts of the country so that industrial progress of these states should take place alongwith the development of above mentioned areas, hence these states would be able to contribute in strengthening the country.

(ii) Need to ensure that the cities located in Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand get the benefits of Urban Development Schemes.

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (Singhbhum): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many cities under my parliamentary constituency, Singhbhum where the Union Government have not started any scheme, as a result thereof these cities are not getting benefit of schemes run by Urban Development Department. The population of these cities is between 20 thousand to 50 thousand. There are many cities like Chaibasa, Adityapur, Saraikela, Chandapur etc. which can be benefited by the Schemes of Urban Development Ministry. There is no reason why the benefits of these schemes are not being extended to the far-flung and adivasi dominated areas of the cities. The life in these cities has become hell in want of water supply and poor sanitation facilities.

I would like to request the Union Government through the House to extend the benefits of the schemes of Urban Development Ministry to the people of my parliamentary constituency Singhbhum.

(iii) Need to start work of Conversion of Meter-Gauge Rail Line between Shyamkhali and Palanpur, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have accorded approval to the work of converting 133 kilometer long metergauge line between Shyamkhali and Palanpur into broadgauge line. It is an important railway line from several viewpoints but so far work on this project could not be started. It will provide direct transportation facility for goods from Kandala and Mundra Port to Delhi. At present these goods are transported via Ahmedabad. It will take less time and cost of transportation will decrease. It will also help in development of tribal dominated and backward areas located between Shyamkhali and Palanpur. The Government of Gujarat has made several requests time and again in this regard but it is being delayed without any reason which will increase cost of this project and that is not in the interest of the country.

I, therefore, request the Government that meter guage line between Shyamkhali and Palanpur should be converted into broadgauge at the earliest.

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(iv) Need to start work on Dausa-Gangapur Rail line in Rajasthan and also to sanction New Rail Line between Gangapur and Dholpur via Karauli.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Swai Madhopur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, transport facility is the means of development. From geographical view point Rajasthan is a region of sandy hillocks, inaccessible mountains and forests. Colourful culture and tourist places of this region have attracted tourists from our country and abroad. In such conditions the Ministry of Railways is providing an important facility of railway transport. In budget of 2001-2002 Rs. 15 crore were allocated for Dausa-Gangapur railway line. It is an important rail line and it should be completed at the earliest. Alongwith this Gangapur-Karauli, Dhaulpur railway line should be given approval at the earliest, so that Indian Railways could promote golden track tourism and mining of mineral resources. A fair of goddess Kaila Devi is organised here through the year and lakhs of devotees visit this region and they face lot of inconvenience to visit this place. The Railway facilities in this region will not only facilitate passengers but with development of this region, income of railways will also increase.

Therefore, through you, I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that work on Dausa-Gangapur railway line should be taken up at the earliest and orders should be issued for according approval to Gangapur-Karauli-Dhaulpur railway line.

(v) Need for proper Maintenance of Road between Bhilarhi and Bankatwa of Ghorasahan Canal in East Champaran, Bihar.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ghorasahan canal is on border of Nepal at East Chamaparan in Bihar. A pucca road was constructed by the Ministry of Water Resources on the dam of this canal in 1984, which has been damaged at many places and is in deplorable condition due to which people are facing difficulties to cross this canal. Bihar Government has not spent any money on maintenance of this road due to which it could not be repaired during the last 18 years.

Through this House, I request the Government that road between Bhilarhi and Bankatwa on Ghorasahan canal should be repaired and arrangements should be made for constructing pucca road there.

(vi) Need to provide adequate relief to Arecanut growers in Udupi district and adjoining areas of Dakshin Kannada in Karnataka

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Arecanut (Supari) is the main plantation crop grown in my district Udupi and adjoining areas in Dakshina Kannada and the planter—mainly small and marginal farmers depend on this crop for survival. The harvesting season for Arecanut is from mid-December to end of April, when large quantities of produce arrive in markets.

For the last few years, the market for Arecanut remains depressed for want of serious buyers willing to pay a remunerative price to the producer. The Central Govt.'s market intervention scheme has only partially given relief to the farmers, since procurement operations do not last for the whole duration of the season probably because funds with the procurement agencies like NAFED etc. exhaust after initial round of procurement. There is also a demand from the local Agricultural Produce Market Societies for increase in the minimum support price for Areca Rs. 60,000/- to Rs. 75,000/- per quintal.

The harvest season for Areca has already commenced. I would request the Central Govt. to activate the market intervention process in the right earnest in my district and adjoining trading centres and continue the same till end April 2003 by equipping the procurement agencies with adequate fund allocations.

(vii) Need for construction of a new rail line between Gopalpur and Rourkela via Angul and Talcher in Orissa during Tenth Plan period

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): The proposal to construct a new Railway line from Gopalpur to Rourkela via Angul and Talcher has been pending since long. The new track will connect the harbour town of Gopalpur in the South to the Steel city of Rourkela in the north via Berhampur, Aska, Bhanjanagar, Daspalla, Gania, Narsingpur, Hindol, Angul, Talcher, Samal, Palalahara, Barkot and Lahunipada. The line will connect the proposed steel plant at Gopalpur and the entire mining areas in the districts of Dhenkanal, Angul, Deogarh and Sundargarh. This will facilitate the procurement of mineral from the mining areas to the proposed steel plant at Gopalpur at cheaper rate and on the shortest route. Moreover, products from Rourkela steel plant can be transported to Gopalpur harbour for onward transmission through sea route. The proposed line which will be economically most viable will go a long way in promoting the economy of a poor state like Orissa. Besides, it will also connect the world famous pilgrim town Puri with northern western and southern Orissa.

In view of this, I urge upon the Govt. of India to include the proposal to construct the Railway line from Gopalpur to Rourkela during Tenth plan period.

(viii) Need to release adequate funds from Central Road Fund for repair and maintenance of roads in Begusarai Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through this House, I would like to say that under Central Road Fund apart from State highway, main districts roads, national highways and rural roads, proposals regarding other important roads are considered. Only a few projects pertaining to Bihar have been accorded approval under this head whereas lot of improvement in roads is required in the State. Several important roads pass through four districts (Sheikhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai) of my parliamentary constituency Begusarai which required to be repaired. I recommend repair of the following roads under this scheme—

1. Barbeegha to Sheikhpura, Sikandara, Jamui
2. Sheikhpura to Lakhi Sarai
3. Sheikhpura to Mehus-Mafa-Shahara road
4. Sheikhpura-Ariyari-Shahpur Mode
5. Sheikhpura-Aadha road
6. Tati to Hathiyava, Hathiyava to Sheikhpura Mehus road
7. Lekhi Sarai-Sikandara road to Pratappur road.

I request the hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways to include the project for improving condition of above mentioned roads in the plan of the Ministry for the current financial year.

(ix) Need to permit use of funds out of Railway Safety Fund for providing safety measures at level crossings No. 211B and No. 216 in Badagara Municipality and Onchiyam Gram Panchayat, respectively in Kerala.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Level crossings No. 211B in Badagara Municipality and level crossing No. 216 in Onchiyam Gram Panchayat respectively were provided on Deposit terms. Presently, these level crossings are non-interlocked gates. In view of he increased traffic at these gates and the safety hazards, the level crossings are to be inter-locked with signals. The approximate cost of inter-locking one gate is Rs. 15 lakhs. Now the Divisional Railway Manager, Palghat has asked the Badagara Municipality and Onchiyam Gram Panchayat to bear the entire cost; being deposit work. Local bodies with limited resources are not in a position to bear this heavy expenditure. The Railway has constituted a special fund known as Railway Safety Fund, exclusively for the purpose of implementing safety measures.

Under these circumstances, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Railways to examine the matter and give necessary directions to amend the existing rules in these matters and also to include installation of interlocking system with signals (deposit works also) in the list of works to be executed with Railway Safety Fund.

(x) Need to issue a commemorative stamp in the memory of great poet Saint Annamachrya on his 500th anniversary falling on 29th March, 2003

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY (Hanamkonda): The Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to issue a commemorative postal stamp of Saint Annamachrya. He was great saint and the first and foremost composer of Telugu Literature who composed 32,000 Sankeerthanas, which are the essence of our "Vedas". Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini is propagating the musical message of saint Annamachrya. The 500th anniversary of this great Saint is being celebrated on 29th March, 2003 on a grand scale at Hyderabad.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to take steps to release a commemorative stamp in memory of this great poet on 29th March, 2003 and honour this great man.

(xi) Need to protect the interests of Power-Loom and Handloom Industries in U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after agriculture, textile industry is the sector wherein largest section of our population have been engaged. Large number of manpower is engaged in powerloom and handloom sector. Powerloom is the source of livelihood for poor labourers, farmers and weavers in the country. In absence of Government protection after closure of sugarmills in Uttar Pradesh for last some years now weaving mills have been closed down. In this era of competition textile industry is not performing well. Due to non-availability of good quality yarn, technique and in absence of Textile Polytechnic and Technical Institute the textile weavers are lagging behind. Power shortage in he state has further aggravated the problem. The weavers of Meerut, Kanpur, Mauaima,

[Shri Dharam Raj Singh Patel]

Tanda, Maunath Manjhan, Azamgarh, Banaras, Gorakhpur and Khalilabad have migrated to Surat, Ahmedabad, Bhivadi, Malegaon, Amritsar and Ludhiana due to unemployment and proved their skill in this field. Textile industry will ruin in this region if like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab required infrastructure is not created for providing power and raw material for powerloom industry and market for prepared goods.

I, therefore, demand that the Government should take immediate action to save powerloom and handloom industry of Uttar Pradesh.

(xii) Need to Allocate Rs. 100 Crore for early completion of Amravati-Narkhed Railway Line Project in Maharashtra

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the work on Amravati-Narkhed railway line project has been started. Survey for this project is going on since 1950 and work of this project has been taken up in the year 1995. But annual allocation in Railway Budget for this project of which estimated cost of Rs. 200 crore is quite meagre.

Land has already been allocated for this railway line project. Earthwork and construction of small and big bridges upto Riddpur Station of Amravati has been completed. At several places construction of buildings of railway stations is going on. This is an important railway line for this region because except via Nagpur there is no other railway line available for passengers and agricultural produce is also transported through this route. The cost of this railway project has been increasing due to delay in implementation of this project.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government that provision of atleast Rs. 100 crore should be made in Railway Budget for 2003-2004 for this project so that it could be completed.

(xiii) Need to protect the Interest of farmers in the Country

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today on one hand loan is being made available at low rate of interest to big industrialists for industry and trade on the other hand farmers are given loan at 14 percent rate of interest. Farmers have been facing drought and flood every year due to which their crops get damaged and they are unable to pay loan as well as interest thereon timely. Moreover they have to pay compound interest on loan. In such a situation farmers are put in jails for this offense. Even criminals are given free of cost food in jails but these farmers have to make arrangement for food on their own. Such things should not take place in a predominantly agricultural country like India, where more than 60 percent MPs represent farmers in the Parliament.

I, request the Government to take preventive measures in this regard at the earliest.

(xiv) Need to Develop Sitamarhi in Bihar as a tourist Centre under 'Janki Circuit' Plan.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, culture of India is a centre of attraction and inspiration for the whole world. I am fortunate that my parliamentary constituency is related to Lord Sita-Ram who are considered ideal for the country. During the last decade the Government in principle gave approval to develop Punaura, Janakpur (Nepal), Nageshwar Sthan, Bhairavsthan, Haleshwarsthan, Panth Pakhar places from Sitamarhi to Ayodhya as 'Janaki Circuit' for development of tourism. The hon'ble Governor of Bihar had also made a mention of this Plan in his address to the Legislative Assembly in 1998. The State Government has already sent draft of this plan to the Union Government years ago. But so far, no decision has been taken for implementation of this scheme. I request the Government that decision should be taken at the earliest for inclusion of Sitamarhi, 'Janaki Circuit' on national tourism map by implementation of this scheme. Implementation of this scheme is not going to promote local physical development but also curb diminishing moral values in the country, which is required very much in the country.

(xv) Need for construction of an under-bridge at Mansa Railway Station, Punjab

[English]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda): I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to the problems the local residents as well as the daily and other railway commuters of Mansa Railway Station.

The railway track at Mansa goes exactly through the middle of the city of Mansa cutting it into two halves and the railway station falls in the middle of the city. With each passing year both pedestrian and vehicular traffic are increasing and people find it difficult to cross the railway track. It takes hour to cross the track and sometimes it becomes hazardous too, even some cases of run over took place while crossing the track. In case of medical emergency, the problem is felt more acutely.

Therefore, I request the Railway Minister to take the necessary steps so that the construction work of this under-bridge at Mansa is taken up by his ministry with all earnest.

14.04 hrs.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES ORDERS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item No. 16.

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, of certain tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities, equivalent names or synonyms of such tribes or communities, removal of area restrictions and bifurcation and clubbing of entries; imposition of area restriction in respect of certain castes in the lists of Scheduled Castes, and the exclusion of certain castes and tribes from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in relation to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, of certain tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities, equivalent names or synonyms of such tribes or communities, removal of area restrictions and bifurcation and clubbing of entries; imposition of area restriction in respect of certain castes in the lists of Scheduled Castes, and the exclusion of certain castes and tribes from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in relation to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, be taken into consideration."

We have allotted half-an-hour for this. So, please be brief.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I first congratulate the hon. Minister for having got a Bill to include further tribal communities who had been left out from the constitutional provision and the constitutional list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which was notified during the year 1950-51 in respect of various States.

Sir, the term 'Scheduled Tribes' first appeared in the Constitution of India under Article 342. It is mentioned as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purpose of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes".

Sir, for the first time the Central Government has created a new Ministry to take care of the tribal people. This subject was segregated from the other subject in 1999 and a new Ministry was created to look after the welfare of the tribals. This Government has tried to solve the problems which the tribals have been facing for a long time. The problems have been identified and special programmes have been initiated.

The problem of low literacy rate among tribal women has been targeted by this Government to improve the quality of life of the tribals. It is seen that only about eighteen per cent of tribal women are educated. To bring them on part with the other communities, the Government has taken a lot of initiatives through this Ministry.

Many of the castes that have been left out earlier, however have been included now in this Bill which the hon. Minister has piloted Corrections have been made where synonyms were missing. In respect of Orissa, I would like to thank the Government for agreeing to include Bhatara community. The Government is going to move an amendment to this effect. This Bhatara caste was a highly neglected caste. Though they were tribals, for marriage relationship they have affinity with the same Bhatara communities of the adjoining Districts. By moving this amendment, Government would be helping more than one lakh fifty thousand tribal people.

I clearly submit that I support this Bill. This Government has tried to get the tribals into the mainstream of our civilisation. This has not been done

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

previously. A major part of tribal population has diminished in the last fifty years in the North-East, Orissa and Bihar. The population of primitive tribes in the Andamans has diminished. The population of Ongi tribe has not increased because of lack of medical facilities and health care. This Government has tried to initiate and make this programme for the tribals proactive. It is only the proactive effort that can improve the economic and social status of the tribals.

The Minister is a tribal himself. He knows the problems of tribals better than anybody else. He grew in a tribal village. The problems faced by tribal youths can be best explained by him. I congratulate the hon. Minister for coming forward with this Bill. I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, this Bill has evoked a lot of response from the Members, especially from the tribal Members. They want to take part in the debate cutting across party lines. I made a request to the hon. Speaker this morning that instead of confining this debate to half-an-hour or one hour, it should be conducted till four o'clock when Discussion under Rule 193 will be taken, and continued later on. The hon. Speaker conveyed to me that it will be taken care of in that manner. Accordingly, we request that Members should be given more time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did the hon. Speaker agree to take it up under Rule 193?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The discussion could be continued till four o'clock, and can be concluded later.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will stick to the time scheduled as decided by the BAC.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir. BAC allotted only half-an-hour for this, which is not sufficient...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, may I continue further? Since you told me that this discussion is only for half-an-hour, I accordingly curtailed my speech. There is so much to speak on tribals...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already had your say. The BAC in its wisdom decided only half-an-hour for this Bill. Members know the limited purpose for which this Bill has been brought before the House. Every one of us is concerned about the tribal welfare. We can have elaborate discussion on this under any other form. This amendment Bill has been brought with the limited purpose. I would appeal to all of you to stick to the time fixed by the BAC.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to make an appeal. Seeing the number of amendments that have been tabled, we could judge the concern of the House. Keeping that in view, I made a presentation before the hon. Speaker to continue with this item upto 4 o'clock, before discussion under Rule 193 is taken up. The Minister could finish reply by 4 o' clock. Those members who want to speak can give their names and they can confine themselves to five to six minutes. A series of amendments have come and if each one sticks to speak on the amendment, the discussion will not conclude today. Therefore, the hon. Speaker was kind enough to say that this item may go up to 4 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will try to finish it as quickly as possible.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): First of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill to include some of the deprived communities in the Scheduled Tribes List.

We have raised this issue a number of times earlier also in this House. The Government has promised us to bring a comprehensive Bill in this regard. A lot of requests have come from different States. I will not go into them. I would confine myself to the problems faced by my State, Assam. As you know, a number of communities in Assam are agitating to be included in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List. We had a number of unfortunate *bandhs* also to protest this. Many people had lost their lives in various agitations held to demand their Constitutional right of including them in the Scheduled Tribes List.

Considering this problem, the then Lok Sabha constituted a Select Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Amar Roy Pradhan. That Committee had gone into the details of the demand of the people of Assam. The Select Committee was exclusively constituted by this august House to go into the demands of the people of Assam. The then Government of India promulgated an Ordinance to include one of the major communities of Assam, *Koch Rajbangshi* as the Scheduled Tribes. That Ordinance had to be promulgated several times because of frequent dissolution of the august House before completing its full term. I think three to four times Ordinances were issued.

In this background, this Bill has come up for discussion in the House. The hon. Speaker had kindly

constituted a Committee comprising of 15 Members drawn from sections of the House under the Chairmanship of Shri Amar Roy Pradhan to go into the details of the demands of the people of Assam. In this Bill, the hon. Minister has very kindly included only a communities from Assam. Dimasa, Hajong, Singhpho, Khampti and Garo are the communities that they have included in the list. He has excluded other communities. The Select Committee had twelve to thirteen sittings in which they considered memorandums received from 281 associations, organisations and individuals who had put forth their demands. The Committee had called the Registrar General of India, the then Secretary of the Tribal Department also to come and give evidence. They have recommended inclusion of a few more communities in the list. Some of the communities that they suggested are Koch Rajbangshi, Tai Ahom, Tea Tribes, Chutiya, Moran, Matak, etc.

Then there is the Tea Garden community. Though this is not the name of a community as such, tribal people like Orang, Munda, Santhals and other tribes—whom the hon. Minister knows personally—who are working in tea gardens are recognised as Scheduled Tribes all over the country. Even the Kandha in Orissa who are a primitive tribe has not been recognised as a Scheduled Tribe.

The State Government of Assam has recommended certain communities to be included in the list. Our hon. Chief Minister has written two letters to the hon. Prime Minister personally to expedite the matter because that is creating a lot of social tension in Assam. It is also creating other problems. He has requested that an appropriate legislation may be brought so that these tribes could be included in the list of the Scheduled Tribes.

I do not want to go into details of each and every community because the list is very long. For that reason, we have brought the amendment to enlist 38 tribes and I request the hon. Minister to consider the amendment given by us. Otherwise, you will be depriving the people like Koch Rajbangshis who are the aboriginal people of Assam. Then there are Chutiyas who are also aboriginals. The Tai Ahom community is in the other part of the northeastern region. The Tai speaking people are recognised as a Scheduled Tribe community. Likewise, Moran and Matak are also aborginal people. They are most backward people, socially and economically. Now a days, I am pained to say this, many young boys from this community have taken to the arms. But the constitutional right given by this Act will give a good message to the young people who have taken to the arms in frustration.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the hon. Minister has stated that he is removing the area restrictions in respect of certain specific tribes in the existing list and imposing area restrictions in respect of certain other castes. In Assam Orang, Munda, Santhal, Bhil, Kheria, Kandh etc. are recognised as Scheduled Tribes in the border areas of West Bengal. But just half a kilometre away those people are not recognised as Scheduled Tribes. There is marriage among the families of these communities. In one part they are recognised as ST whereas in another part they are not recognised as ST. This is creating a lot of problems.

You know the problem in the BAC areas. Hundreds of people have been killed in communal clashes. It created a major law and order problem in Assam. If we give them ST status constitutionally, I think these communities will be satisfied and they will remain grateful to you. That is their genuine demand also.

Sir, two Scheduled Tribes of Sikkim also are included. I would like to read two or three lines on this point.

We are including two Sikkimese Scheduled Tribes in this Bill, namely, Limboo and Tamang. In consequence, the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1978 will have to be amended. We request the Government to ensure that when the Order is amended, a now clause may be there which is reading as follows:

> "The inclusion of the two communities by this amendment shall not adversely affect the rights of the Bhetia and Lepcha communities of Sikkim as provided for them in any law."

This is in case of Sikkimese Scheduled Tribes. We have personally met the hon. Speaker and the hon. Minister for Tribal Welfare also. Already a lot of injustice has been done to these communities. Koch Rajbhangshi, Chutiya, Moran, Matak, Oraoon, Kol, Santhals and Bhil communities are enjoying this status and the Minister must bring a legislation as soon as possible. I request the Minister to take note of these points.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I welcome this legislation.

An assurance was given that a comprehensive Bill would be brought to include all the left-out communities which are ought to be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Here, in the Bill, 141 communities are proposed to be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. In the list of West Bengal, two communities belonging to Darjeeling are now being included, namely, Limboo Tribe and

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Tamang Tribe. There was a long pending demand for the inclusion of these two communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes of West Bengal. But some communities have not been included although an assurance was given a number of times on the floor of the House that when a comprehensive legislation would be brought, those cases would be considered.

I know about a community called Deswarli Machi. This community was recognised as a Scheduled Tribe till 1956 and they used to enjoy all facilities like other Scheduled Tribes. But that facility was withdrawn. Since then, this community has been demanding for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes. This community is found in four or five districts of West Bengal. They are mostly living in Purulia, Bankura, Paschim Midnapore, Burdwan and Hoogly. The Government of West Bengal, in 1999, recommended for its inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, in November, 2001, a proposal was sent to the Registrar General of India for his consideration. One year has already elapsed but I do not know whether any report has come from the Registrar General of India or not.

Sir, the Committee on Petitions, which is a parliamentary committee for which I happen to be the Chairman, examined this issue. We want to the district of Purulia and had a meeting with the representatives of this community. We also had a meeting with the Minister for Tribal Affairs. In spite of the categorical recommendation of the parliamentary committee, namely, the Committee on Petitions for its inclusion, it has not been included. This recommended was made long back.

One year back this recommendation was made. The Report was submitted and three months' time was given to implement the recommendation of this Committee. In spite of that this Community has not been included in the proposed legislation. This Community is the most backward community. Only 0.95 per cent are matriculates in this Community. Landless peasants or landless labourers constitute twenty-five per cent of this Community. Land holders up to five *bigas* are more than sixty-five per cent. This Community is economically, socially and educationally backward. But their cases have not been considered. I hope the Minister will assure this House that he will definitely consider including this Community when he brings another Bill.

I support Shri Ghatowar's demand, that is, the inclusion of *Santhal* Community in the list. These people were brought by Britishers to work in the tea gardens. Their relatives are all in the Chota Nagpur division, that is, in Purulia, Dhanbad, Ranchi and Singhbhum. In every State, in Orissa, in Jharkhand, in West Bengal, *Santhals* are recognised as Scheduled Tribes, but in Assam, they are not recognised as Scheduled Tribes. The reason is, previously the Government of Assam did not recommend for their inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes, but now the Government of Assam has already recommended it. I request the hon. Minister to consider this when he brings another Bill in the next Session.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ghatowar, please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Fifty-thousand people belonging to *Halwa* community of Maharashtra have submitted a petition to the hon. Speaker as well as to the hon. Prime Minister, demanding that they should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. I would request the Tribal Affairs Minister to consider these genuine demands for which the State Governments have already made the recommendation. The Ministry should pursue it was the Registrar General of India as well as with the National Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so that all these communities could be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. These demands should be considered...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I am calling Shri Gudhe to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: With this I conclude. Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You wanted me to take this extreme step of saying not to go on record. You know we have allotted only half an hour for this Bill. Only two minutes were allotted to your Party. But you took seven minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How it can be completed in half-an-hour. debate?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was not decided by me. How can I decide? Your Party Members were there in the BAC.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How will half an hour be enough? So many hon. Members want to speak on this issue.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is an important amendment Bill. How debate on it can be completed within half an hour.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, this being an important Bill, your representatives pleaded for it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, will you please resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how debate can be completed on such an important amendment Bill if two minutes are given for that.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh, I have given the floor to Shri Gudhe.

[Translation]

Why are you fighting with me on this issue. You should have taken up this issue in B.A.C.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill brought by the Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I have given the floor to him.

[Translation]

You should have taken up this matter in the Business Advisory Committee for this. Why are you doing so here.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: The Government have brought this Bill for welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. The intention of the Government for making this amendment in the Bill is to facilitate and financially strengthen those castes which were not capable and belong to poor and backward classes and not given the facility of reservation. But on reading this Bill I found that still injustice is being done to some Scheduled Tribes. Still there are some castes and communities which have been raising demand since long for their inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Now this Bill has been brought after 40 years and it should have fulfilled aspirations of all the sections of the society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are people belonging to certain castes live in the area of Maharashtra from which I come from. These castes are called adivasi but their names are not included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. All the time when area of Maharashtra spread over C.P. and Virar, Vidarbha, Nagpur and Madhya Pradesh, then there used to be a community Halwa-Koshti considered as tribal. People who used to plough the fields were called Halwa. This Halwa community has been engaged in weaving. Their population is approximately $1^1/_2$ or 2 lakh in Nagpur. Koshtis are considered adivasis and in this Bill there is no mention of Koshti community. People belonging to Koshti community have launched movements and raised this demand time and again. I would like to seek clarification from the hon'ble Minister as to why name of Koshti community has not been included into it.

I come from Amravati which is a hilly region. There is a caste 'Gaulan'. Their population is about 20-25 thousand at Melghat. Except this area people belonging to 'Gaulan' caste are not found anywhere in Maharashtra or in the whole country. There is a separate caste 'Gavali'. But 'Gavlan' caste also not been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. These people live in forests and hilly region. Injustice is done to them. In this Bill there is a caste 'Gond Govari' at serial number 9 and item No. 18. gond and Rajgond have been separated but there is no 'Gond Govari' caste in Maharashtra or Vidarbha. There is a caste 'Govari' which has been recommended by Maharashtra and a big movement was launched in Nagpur for inclusion of 'Govari' caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes. 116 persons belonging to 'Gavari' community lost their lives in this movement. At that time Shri Sharad Pawar was Chief Minister of the State. A big group of 'Govari' community came to Nagpur where they were lathicharged and 116 persons of Gavari community were killed in firing and their memorial has been built there. The over bridge in that area has been given name of 'Adivasi Govari' but there is no reservation facility for them. I request the Government to keep the item No. 18 pending.

[Shri Anant Gudhe]

This Bill should be kept pending till 'Govari' community is included into it by bringing a fresh Bill. The Government should bring a new Bill in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Gudheji, please conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: I am concluding. I am the only Member from my party to speak on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a limit of time for every one.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: People belonging to Koshti, Govari and 'Gaulan' have been fighting since long for their right. Politics is played in such matters and nothing happens. When hon'ble Manohar Joshi was Chief Minister of Maharashtra, he sent a recommendation to the Union Government but nothing is being done for last so many years and their names have not been included in the list. I request the Government to include Koshti, Govari and Gaulan castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes. I hope that these castes will be included in the Bill before its passing.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILSH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak over Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002.

Sir, the Constitution provides 21 per cent reservation to Scheduled Castes and 2 per cent reservation to Scheduled Tribes. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I do not want to go into the details of other issues. This Government has made a provision in the Bill to include following Scheduled Castes into the list of Scheduled Tribes by inserting them after entry 5 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Uttar Pradesh Order, 1967. They are Gond, Dhuria, Naik, Ojha, Pattari and Rajgond castes of Maharajganj, Siddarthnagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mao, Azamgarh, Jaunpur, Ballia, Gazipur, Varanasi, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts and Kharwar caste of Khairwar, Deoria, Ballia, Gazipur, Varanasi and Sonbhadra districts. I would like to say that this is nothing but a cruel joke by the Government with these people. The Government are not protecting their interests. The people of Gond community, which comes under Scheduled Castes, are continuously staging dharna and demonstration and agitating for obtaining Scheduled Caste Certificate for last so many years. Unfortunately they are blind supporters of the party, you belong to and casting their votes in favour of your party. But you are bent upon depriving them of their rights by incorporating them in Scheduled Tribes category.

You have mentioned about Maharajganj district. I would like to tell you that in Maharajganj district the number of people belonging to Tharu Caste and Gond community is more than 35,000 and 80,000 respectively. If we club both these figures we will find their total comes to 1 lakh 10 thousand which means only 2 per cent reservation will be provided to 1 lakh 10 thousand people. I would like to emphasise that these castes are being removed from the lists of Scheduled Caste as there is a pressure from a group of Scheduled Caste of Uttar Pradesh who do not want to provide them a certificate of Scheduled Castes in order to maintain their hegemony. The people of these castes suffered for years but were not given caste certificates and when they got the certificate it was only on the instructions of High Court. In this regard, the High Court had stated that the concerned collector can give a certificate of Scheduled Caste on the basis of their family register, revenue record, school leaving certificate or marital relations. Not one but three MLAs get elected from SC constituency of Eastern U.P. in which 2 MLAs get elected from Shri Prakashmani Tripathee's district. Hon'ble Tripatheeji is sitting here. Shri Ramakantji, who has been elected from SC region of Haata Parliamentary Constituency belongs to Gond Caste. Shri Purnamasi Dehati, who has been elected from reserve seat of Nebua-Naurangia, belongs to Gond caste.

I would like to say that if the Government agreed to this proposal of two per cent of reservation given to Scheduled Tribes then nobody belonging to Scheduled Castes who later included in the lists of Scheduled Tribes will ever get elected in Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha or Panchayats. Therefore, I request the Government to pay immediate attention towards this problem. If you do such thing for Gond, Kharwar or Khairkar community of Maharajganj and Deoria, then they will cause trouble for your administration. If you think that by passing this Bill, you can achieve your objectives then you are mistaken. Therefore, I request you to reconsider this and not to harm their interests. They want to remain in Scheduled Castes category so let them in that category itself. If you make arrangement for providing more reservation to STs and bring an amendment for enacting such law then we will certainly welcome it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since it is a very important Bill and I have to accommodate everyone, therefore, I request you to deliver your speech in brief.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will speak in brief and take only two minutes.

I welcome this Bill and congratulate the Government because in many regions of the country the demand of including such tribal castes, is being made since long. I welcome this Bill, which has been introduced to fulfill that demand and congratulate hon'ble Minister for this.

Sir, on behalf of Gaddi and Gujar Community of Himachal Pradesh I welcome and support this Bill as they are getting justice after 36 years. Punjab which merged in Himachal Pradesh. The Gujar and Gaddi community who were living on the one side of mountain region, used to get all facilities of Scheduled Tribes whereas the people of same castes, who were living on the other side, remained deprived of these facilities. That is why the people belonging to Gujar and Gaddi community living in low lying areas of Himachal Pradesh were continuously demanding this for the last 36 years that they should be given the facility of Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, not once but five times, all political parties unanimously passed the resolution in the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly to declare those Gaddi and Gujjar community people as a Scheduled Tribes, who have been living in Himachal Pradesh after reconstitution of Punjab and forwarded it to the Central Government for their nod. Today this Bill has been introduced in order to fulfill those objectives. I, thank hon'ble Minister on behalf of Gaddi and Gujjar Community of Himachal Pradesh as of now they are going to get the benefit of Scheduled Tribes. I once again express my gratitude to hon'ble Minister for introducing this Bill.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002. But there are some serious shortcomings in this proposed Bill. In order to remove those shortcomings, I have also given the proposal of amendment. But I do not think that my proposal will be accepted but even then I would like to emphasise over this and expect that an amendment bill will be introduced in this regard. I hope that once again a Bill will be introduced which will include all those castes, which the hon'ble Members have been demanding here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in regard to Uttar Pradesh, I would like to say that the Kol and Mawaiya Castes are already included in the lists of Scheduled Castes. But with the help of this Bill, the Government are trying not to include them in the lists of Scheduled Tribes. If this is acceded to then lakhs of people of these castes living in seven districts of Uttar Pradesh will not be able to reap the benefits which are being extended to Scheduled Tribes by the Government. In this regard, the Uttar Pradesh Government has given suggestion many times in the House and has also sent proposal to the Government that these should not be included in the lists of Scheduled Castes. Instead these castes should be included in the lists of Scheduled Tribes but I am regret to say that these castes have not been included in the lists of Scheduled Tribes. In the Southern part of Uttar Pradesh i.e. in Banda, Chitrakuta, Allahabad, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Chandouli and Varanasi districts thousands of people of these castes live in forest and mountains. They have been deprived of the benefits which are being extended to primitive castes by the Government. Gross injustice has been done with them. Hence an agitation is going on in this regard. In many States of the country like Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Jharkhand etc. the Kol caste has been included in the lists of Scheduled Tribes.

I would like to say that in the amendment proposed by the hon'ble Member Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar has also requested to include the Kol people in the lists of Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique has also requested to include Kol caste in the lists of Scheduled Tribes through his amendment proposal. I would like to say that Kol caste a primitive caste and since the people of this caste are in large scale in many States of the country, therefore, it is necessary that Kol caste should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

I would like to say that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent two proposals in this regard to the Government of India but the Government did not paid any attention towards it. That proposal was neither sent to the Registrar General of India nor to the SC & ST Commission. That proposal is still lying with the Government. I made losts of efforts in this regard and met hon'ble Minister also. I also met Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, who belong to Allahabad and other MPs also. I requested them that this injustice should not be done. I would like to say that in many States Kol Caste is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes but gross injustice is meted out to them by not getting their name included in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Uttar Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: My demand is that they should be included in Scheduled Tribes. Hon'ble Minister belongs to tribal region. I, therefore, believe that he will be able to check the gross negligence and injustice being meted out to the people of Kol community. I also request that the proposal of amendments, which we have given, may

[Shri Ram Sajivan]

be accepted. If the Government do not accept this proposal and get this Bill passed on this basis of majority, then they should bring another amendment to include these castes in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome and support this Bill. I would like to bring two-three things to the notice of hon'ble Minister. I am of opinion that Tureha Caste should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes as Tureha caste only. There is no doubt that the Tureha caste is already there in the list but at some places it is known as Tureha and at other Tureaiha. It has been written that in 1994 U.P. Government conducted a research or survey regarding inclusion of Tureha caste in SCs list like that of Turaiha caste. I would like to know as to why no amendment has been made when it has received the report on the basis of survey? It is a very big lapse. In view of this, I request the Government to bring necessary amendments in this regard.

Secondly, there is a provision in this Bill to bring the Gaund caste of Scheduled Caste into the list of Scheduled tribe which is in my opinion quite wrong. It should remain in SC list and there is no need to incorporate this amendment. Rather the newly formed districts like Kushinagar which formed from Gowari and Sant Kabirnagar should be included in this like Maharajganj, Siddharthnagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mao, Azamgarh, Jaunpur and Ballia. I would like to say particularly about Turaiha caste, that there is no need to include this caste in any list. In English it is known as 'Turaiha' whereas in Hindi it is called as Turha, Tureha and Turaiha at various places. This matter is pending with U.P. Government and with the Central Government since 1994. Hence, I request the Government to bring necessary amendment in this regard so that the local people of all places which I have mentioned, may not be deprived of all the benefits.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to thank you and welcome the Bill introduced by the Government. All the friends have welcomed this Bill and Bill is certainly worth welcoming. Hon. Members have expressed their views that there was a need to make this Bill more comprehensive. The reason for it is that this Bill has left from its ambit many tribal communities of the country and they have been constantly demanding from the State Governments for inclusion in the list. We all know that the tribes which have been included in the list and which are enjoying specific economic or educational facilities have not made much development and this has also been underlined by a survey and only very few persons have come to the forefront in the field of education. The people who are also demanding for inclusion in the list are also needed to be covered under this ordinance.

In this context I would like to say that the people belonging to tribal societies of Govari Mana and Halba society which comprise approximately 20-25 lakh people and about whom our colleague Shri Anant Gudhiji have also mentioned should also be included in the special list. I have also moved an amendment to this effect and I am also demanding it. As you know that on 25 November 1994 Govori and Mana tribes had putforth their demand for giving them the special status of tribals. Lakhs of people from there communities had also demonstrated at Nagpur during the session of the legislative Council. Stampede had taken place during that demonstration about which there was uproar in Lok Sabha also. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, both of us were Members of this House at that time. Our present Prime Minister used to be the leader of the opposition and Advaniji also used to be a member. All the Members had given there speeches and it was decided that those castes would be included in the list whenever an amendment is carried out. At that time 123 tribals had lost their lives. The hon. Members from our area have time and again requested the concerned Minister. When we requested the former hon. Minister, it was replied that a comprehensive policy in all the states is being formulated and these castes would be included in it. I request you to seriously consider over it. The culture and economic and social conditions of the Govari people are similar to those of the tribals.

Secondly, Mana society which is found in the areas of Nagpur, Chandrapur, Wardha Bhardara, Gondia, Gadchiroli etc. is also similar to the tribals. Thirdly, people of Halaba caste, migrated from Orissa to Vidarbha around 200-300 years back. After coming to Vidarbha they were engaged in agriculture and later on they took to craft of weavers under the regime of Gond and Bhonsle kings and they become Kashti' due to their Halba profession. However so far they have not been given the Adivasi status. They have been moving to the Courts and pleading for justice even though they got justice through the High Court. Now the State Government has moved to the Supreme Court and the matter has been pending there since 1986.

One more thing I would like to bring to your notice is that these people are the very basis of Zila Parishad Panchayat Samiti and Municipal Council seats comprising Nagpur, Chandrapur, Bhandara and Gadchirolli which are reserved for Scheduled Tribe and if these people are

excluded from the area it won't remain reserved for Adivasis.

Secondly, they are not in the OBC list also. Hence Govari, Mona and Halaba Kosthi do not get any special facility. 10 persons from Nagpur were elected on BJP and Congress tickets from the reserved constituencies and wards but their candidature was cancelled on the complaints of some persons. Not only it even the persons who have been serving for the last 20-30 years are forced to leave their jobs on the complaint that they do not have the Adivasi status. There is a great paradox in that the father derive the benefits of Adivasi status whereas his son do not. I urge upon you to consider the importance of this Bill. In this regard I would like to submit to hon. Minister that we have made repeated requests for inclusion of Govari, Adivasi, Mana Halba Kosti Communities in the Scheduled Tribe list. We requested you to do so when you visited Nagpur and Mumbai when the persons belonging to all the parties had requested in this regard.

14.56 hrs

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

I would urge upon you to include my amendments at 18th and 19th entry in this Bill and ensure the inclusion of the Halaba Kosti, Mana and Govari communities. I expect that being Adivasi you can understand the Grievances of these people. They share a common adivasi culture yet they have not been provided the facility for which they have been hoping all along. They are assured every time that they would be included whenever a Bill in this regard is brought. After the sacrifice of 124 Govari people all the political parties had assured that they would be included whenever such a Bill is brought. If it is not done than it will be injustice with them. We all welcome the Bill, which a very good one also but there is a need to make it more comprehensive by including our amendments to cover the left our persons. I would also like to say that the Members who have spoken on this Bill should have been given more time...*(Interruptions)* I am hopeful that you would include all these sections of the society.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support it but I can not speak being a Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to welcome this Bill and I would like to thank the hon. Minister and the Government for having included Gharo tribes living in Assam in this list. On behalf of the people of Assam, I would like to thank the hon. Minister very much.

I have only two points to make. The first is that a lot of problems are being created because the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are published State-wise, as we could see from the debate itself. Perhaps, the best thing would be to have a national list rather than having a State-wise list. Then, the problem could be solved. This is what we have also recommended in the Constitution Review Commission. We have recommended that there should be a national list instead of a provincial list.

The second point is a problem particularly relating to Delhi Administration. In spite of the fact that the lists are State-wise, an exception was made for Delhi right from the very beginning by a notification dated the 14th October, 1955 to the effect that though Delhi is a Union Territory and does not have a list of its own, since Delhi is directly administered by the Union Government, the policy of reservation for Scheduled Tribes must be made applicable to Delhi. This has been followed all through but since the year 2000, this has been discontinued. Apprehending that such a move was about to take place, I had myself raised this issue on the floor of this House way back in 1988 where the hon. Prime Minister himself intervened and assured that this would not be changed, that order would stand and Scheduled Tribes would be eligible for reserve quota in Delhi Administration. That was the assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister himself, but in spite of that assurance, the Delhi Administration has discontinued this reservation.

15.00 hrs.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes took cognisance of this issue. The Chairman had called a meeting of all the departments where the Secretaries of the Ministry of Law, Department of Personnel and all other concerned Secretaries agreed that the order issued by the Government of India on the 14th October, 1955 should continue. That was the unanimous opinion given by the various departments. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Home Affairs did not act upon on that decision. The matter has now been referred to the Attorney General of India.

[Shri Purno A. Sangma]

I met the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani yesterday. He assured me that he would tell the Ministry of Law to expedite this so that nothing harm would be done. I hope the hon. Minister will pursue this matter and get the report from the Attorney General of India and ensure that the order of 1955 continues and Scheduled Tribes are eligible to have this quota in the Delhi Administration.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN POTAI (Kanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir Today I rise to speak on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes orders (Second amendment) Bill, 2002. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister of the country, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and the Minister of Tribal Affairs. This SC/ST amendment Bill should have been brought earlier because it was needed. I would like to say that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have always been neglected and exploited and their exploitation is still going on. It was needed and today the Government have brought the Bill in the interest of the Adivasis and the Harijans society. In many states people belonging to these communities are enjoying several facilities but in some other states they are not. Why this inequality? My friend Akhleshji was saying that Gond Tribe in Uttar Pradesh has been given the SC status but in the Bill they have been given the ST status. Hence it won't do justice to them. If a person belongs to Brahmin Caste in a particular states, he cannot become a Thakur in the other. Likewise, a person belonging to the general category can not become OBC at other place. Why this disparity is prevailing? Why the persons belonging to Gond society have been given in Uttar Pradesh whereas they are given the status of ST in rest of the country? Certainly it may pose legal problems. Hence such a law be enacted that such disparity may not arise...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you conclude please.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Sir, it is a very important subject. Four to five hours is allotted for the discussion on other subject but why so little time has been allotted for this amendment Bill related to the tribals. Comprehensive debate should be held on it. Adivasis have been subjected to exploitation and are still being exploited and now when this steps in right direction has been taken by bringing this Bill less time is being allotted even though adequate time should be given to discuss it especially when many Members want to participate in discussion. It was also witnessed that very few people belonging to Adivasi Gond Community have expressed their views even though many of these have deep knowledge about the problems being faced by the Adivasi people. Today the people belong to Adivasi Gond community in Delhi are not enjoying ST status and they are not being given any facilities. They have been given SC status in Uttar Pradesh but not in Bihar is why it is so? Gond Adivasis should be extended the Scheduled Tribe status throughout the country so that uniformity could be maintained.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Through you I would like to say that adequate time to consider this Bill should be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Several hon. Members are to speak on this Bill.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Sir, I want to say one more thing...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member is right. It is due to the officers that such a Bill is brought in the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Sir, I want to say one more thing. They are also being subjected to injustice due to the difference of style in writing the name of the caste in Hindi and English. English is written as 'Gond' whereas in Hindi it is written a Gona, Gond, Gonda or Gaur, etc. and that is why they are not included in the Scheduled Caste list and due to variation in spellings they are not included in ST category. I would like to ask as to why does it happen? It is written differently as Gona, Gond, Gaur in Hindi while it is mentioned as Gond only in English. Hence are not included in the scheduled Tribe category just because the name of their caste is spelt different in Hindi and English, which is not fair...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude your speech.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, he is speaking to the point. Gond caste has always been subjected to injustice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Akhileshji, you please take your seat. Let him conclude.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Sir, in the areas where the people belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categories are living no development is taking place. There are several schemes for the development of these areas but they are not being implemented. I would like

to know as to why it happens? Though schools in our district Bastar have been opened but there are no teachers. In primary school the same teacher teaches from first to fifth class. This is the reason that these persons cannot get proper education and can not progress when competition for jobs are held. They have not made progress even after 55 years of independence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude your speech.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Sir, I would conclude in a minute.

I would like to say that the appointments of teachers should be done gradewise/classwise in primary schools while in the middle and high schools it should be done subject-wise so that they may progress and may successfully compete for jobs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to say about their living standard also. Some of our colleagues have expressed their views about environment also. I would like to know as to what action is being taken by the Government for the upliftment of the Adivasi people who are also called he aborigines...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Potaiji, if you give long speech your other colleagues won't get an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SOHAN POTAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that it being an important subject at least 4-5 hours should be allotted for discussion on it so that our friends may also get a chance to speak on it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very important subject, when the time allotted for other subjects is four to five hours why can't more time be allotted on this subject...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would also like to speak about the Scheduled Castes living in Chhattisgarh like dhobis, dhimmars, Kenwat, Mahra and Namosudra Bengali. These people have also put their demand before the State Government. When people inquire in this regard, pat comes the reply from the Chief Minister that the proposal has been sent to the Centre and they better put their demand to MP's who can draw the attention of the centre towards this aspect. When I inquired I was told that no matter of Chhattisgarh was sent here. I would like to know from the hon. Minister in this regard as to whether any amendment proposal for inclusion of the said castes in SC category has been received from Chhattisgarh. With these words. I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. It was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi to give not only the right to vote or citizenship to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, but also all facilities which should be enjoyed in a proper manner by all the citizens of India irrespective of their area and irrespective of their caste or creed. It was on the suggestion of Mahatma Gandhi that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru appointed Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar as Chairman of the Draft Committee of the Constitution. It was elaborately discussed and the whole thing was explained that every person, every citizen should get all the opportunities. I will only mention those communities which are left out in the States.

First of all, I thank the hon. Minister, a young and dynamic Minister, who has brought this amendment. It is not sufficient. I request through you, Mr. Chairman, that he should write to the State Governments and get the names of all the communities, which are left out, in order to include all of them. At the time of Budget Session, he should place it before the House. I think, the whole House would agree. It is done in piecemeal. Sometimes, some States are represented and sometimes, some States are not represented. Therefore, the Union Government should write to all the State Governments and get all details. Thereafter it should bring an amendment to incorporate them all.

I would like to mention one or two things. In Karnataka, there is a tribe Medar, Medara which has been left out. They are all synonymous terms in Karnataka List 37—Medara, Medar and Buddar. We have already given in it writing. The hon. Minister Shri Ananth Kumar has given it. I have given it. Shri Basavanagoud has also given it. These are the things to be incorporated. Even if it is not possible to do it now, by the time the next Session starts, the Government should totally identify them and come to the House with a comprehensive amendment. I think, the whole House will be unanimous on this issue.

I would like to point out another important thing. The Minister for Environment and Forests is also here. Most of the people are living in the forest areas. The hon. Minister, only last week, had totally accepted what we Members and hon. former Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda had mentioned about regularising the land to the tribal people who are cultivating it or those who are living in the forest. He had also agreed. regularising of land to the tribal people who are enjoying particular land from time immemorial should also be considered.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not wish to make a long speech. Though the lists have been prepared in every State of the country, yet, there are many States where the names of sub-castes have been left out so there is need to include them in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

The people belonging to 'Nunia' and 'Gond' castes of Bihar are struggling for being included in the list of Scheduled Tribes since the division of this State into Bihar and Jharkhand. In 1950, the SC and ST Commission had made recommendations for including these castes and Bihar had been getting the benefit of this recommendation but in the meanwhile, the State Government excluded the names of these castes from the Scheduled Tribes category. A delegation representing this caste had also called upon the hon. Minister in this regard who in turn did some correspondence with the State Government. The Government have admitted that their names should be included in the ST list. But there are certain names which have not been included due to confusion in certain words, although caste is the same. One can find that their names are spelt differently. Some appear different due to change in spellings of English words, which is why they do not get the benefit. In one State they get the benefit of being included in the list of Scheduled Tribes while in the other they do not. For example, in 10 districts of Uttar Pradesh Gond Caste gets the benefit of being included in the list of Scheduled tribes but in other districts they do not get this facility. When in 10 districts of one State under one Government, a particular caste enjoys the benefit of being included in the Scheduled Tribes list then why not in other districts of the same State? I, therefore, request the hon. Minister that particular castes should be uniformly treated in the entire country for bring included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

In the list of Bihar, names of one caste are read in different forms. Earlier all these people used to get a Scheduled Caste certificate from the block office, but now they are not given that. The objective of the said Bill as introduced by him, would be achieved only when he gives protection to these weaker sections through law. In English, by virtue of difference in spellings and pronunciation, this caste has been mentioned as 'Gond' in some places and 'Gonr' or 'God' at others. I request that necessary improvement should be brought about in it after consulting the State Governments and 'Gond' and 'Nunia' castes should also be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

SHRI BHIM DAHAL (Sikkim): Sir, the *Limboo* and the *Tamang* communities in Sikkim had been trying for getting the tribal status in Sikkim for over two and a half decades. Now, their dream is about to come true with the passing of this Bill. I would like to express my gratitude to the Union Welfare Minister for having brought forward this Bill.

Sir, I would also like to put on record that we have communities like the *Bhutias* and the *Lepchas* in the State of Sikkim. They have their distinct identifies and they have been declared as tribals in the year 1978. So, I would like to submit that their seats as well as their unique identity should be maintained and they should not feel hurt for the reason that they are not being included in this list while the other communities are being included.

Sir, we, in Sikkim, have other communities like the *Gurung*, the *Rai*, the *Shunwar*, the *Managar* and the *Bhujil*. We have been consistently demanding for a tribal status for these Communities in Sikkim. I would like to request the hon. Minister to set in motion a process for inclusion of these communities in this list.

Sir, my last point is that there are communities also like the *Bahun*, the *Chetris* and the *Newars* in our State. I believe, such communities cannot be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. But people belonging to these communities also have been demanding for this for the last so many years. I would like to request the hon. Welfare Minister to kindly to initiate some measures for including these communities in the list of backward communities.

Sir, on behalf of our beloved Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Chamling and the people of Sikkim and on behalf of the *Limboo* and the *Tamang* communities, I thank the Central Government for bring forward this Bill.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta, North East): Sir, the entire source of inspiration of this discussion has been article 15(iv) and article 323 of the Indian Constitution. Although I welcome this Bill, yet I would like the hon. Minister to take note of certain points that I have collated by reading the judgements of the Supreme Court and the debates of this House.

Sir, firstly, the word 'backward' should be taken to mean all the three aspects—social, educational and economic. Secondly, the hon. Minister must have seen that article 15(iv) talks about 'class' and not about 'caste'. Therefore, all the three aspects, namely social, educational

and economical should be taken together while deciding backwardness, and enlisting them in S.C./S.T. list.

Sir, in the judgement in a case between the Government of Uttar Pradesh *versus* Shri Pradeep Tandon may be taken into consideration to see that the differentiation between Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs should be decided on the criteria of social, educational and economic backwardness. The Supreme Court also has held that there is no bar in regard to a person being classified as belonging to Scheduled Castes even though he has been classified as belonging to the OBC, provided said three tests are satisfied.

Sir, so far as the State of West Bengal is concerned, I would like to submit that there has been a complete non-application of mind by the State on this issue. Such cases of according a Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or a OBC status to people is being who have been classified as belonging to the OBC category and are really poor in every respect, even poorer than the persons who are categorised as being Scheduled Castes, but they have not been given the status of being Scheduled Castes because of a mean type of politics of the State Government. Now, 'Saha' community in our State is classified as a Scheduled Caste community. But there also within brackets they mention (except *sunri*). We do not know on what basis this is being done. They are excluding from the list a particular class who are really poor and backward educationally and socially. Therefore, there has been a complete non-application of mind by the State Government in this regard. I would like to request the hon. Minister to take special interest in the State of West Bengal and see to it that dirty politics is not played while determining the status of communities. Shri Sangma talked about having a National List in this regard. But I do not think it would be possible. But there is a difficulty when a person belonging to a community enjoys a Scheduled Caste or ST status in West Bengal but that community is not recognised as a Scheduled Caste or ST community in the State of Bihar and vice-versa. When such persons are transferred to Bihar where the community to which he belongs is not included in that list of SC/ST and so his children are put in difficulty.

I would, therefore, request that a law be made that if any State recognises a particular community as a Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or OBC, it will circulate it to all other States and all other States will abide by that. Otherwise, there will be great difficulty as far as these matters are concerned.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI (Autonomous District Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the process of including or excluding communities from the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has always remained arbitrary, discriminatory and totally non-transparent. This Bill is not an exception to that.

From the discussion itself it becomes clear that many genuine castes have been left out even now. For the tribe to which I belong, it took fifty-five years to have its name changed. On the one side the Sixth Scheduled to create an Autonomous Hill Council for the Karbi tribe was incorporated in the Constitution. On the other hand, Karbis were recognised in the list under a very derogatory term. We have been requesting the Government to change this derogatory term and recognise the tribe as Karbi. It took fifty-five years after Independence and it is only now that the name has been changed.

Following the division of Assam into seven States, some of the Karbis who were living in the undivided Assam stayed back in Meghalaya; some of them stayed back in Arunachal Pradesh; some stayed back in Nagaland. As a consequence, the Karbis in all these States are not recognised as Scheduled Tribe. In this Bill, Garo tribe, which is recognised as a hill tribe in Meghalaya, is being recognised in Assam. However, the Karbis, who remained on the other side of the interstate boundary at the time of undivided Assam, are not recognised as a tribe. This type of discriminatory and pick and choose policy has to be discontinued. Karbis living in the neighbouring hill States, and plain Districts like Kamrup, Nowgaon, Bhramaputra valley Districts, and also in the other States like Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh should be recognised as tribals.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House another fact. While there are many genuine cases which are left out, recently there has been a trend. Whereby some very strong and economically forward communities who are politically influential are pushing their way to include the name of their community in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. While we support the inclusion of genuine communities, this House must also stop this conspiracy by some influential communities to take advantage of their political influence and creep into the list. There should be a national policy in this regard.

I want to bring a your notice, for example, that Koch Rajbangshi community which is a very strong community in Assam is now trying to get itself included in the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI (Mangaldoi): They are recommended by every agency for recognition as a Scheduled Tribe. The Registrar General of India recommended it; the State Government recommended it; and the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare recommended it. How can anybody say that Koch Rajbongshi should not be included?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member has not yielded and I have not permitted you. Please sit down.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Sir, unnecessarily my time is being wasted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When your turn comes you can say what you want to say. This is not the proper way.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that Koch Rajbangshis are recognised as a Scheduled Caste in the State of West Bengal. If they are recognised as a Scheduled Caste in West Bengal, how can they be recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in Assam? There should be national policy in this regard. If a community is recognised as a Scheduled Caste in a particular State, it should be recognised as a Scheduled Caste only in other States.

So also, if a community is Scheduled Tribe in a particular State it should be recognised as Scheduled Tribe in other States also. There cannot be a dual policy. With this, I once again demand that Karbis, living outside the specified area should be included as Scheduled Tribe.

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO (Parvathipuram): I rise to support the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002.

I would thank the hon. Minister on my own behalf and on behalf of my Party, TDP. In this Bill 142 claims have been included. The elaborate procedure by which the claims have been processed is quite effective but in the case of some proposals of inclusion or exclusion the process is very slow. Some proposals are shuttling between the State Government and the Central Government on one pretext or the other. So, I request the Hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs to see that the matter is disposed of speedily.

Sir, the tribals who migrate from one State to another are not getting the Scheduled Tribe status. It is a sort of injustice. The Government should form a uniform policy to identify them as a particular community on all India basis. There are some instances where some communities having same social customs, marital relationships, dialect, lifestyle and other similarities are not being treated equally. In some districts they are given the Scheduled Tribe status while in others they are not getting so. All these anomalies and problems should be addressed properly.

Sir, simply adding more categories in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not going to help unless proportionately the financial allocations are made and reservation quota is proportionally increased.

With these words I conclude, Sir.

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while welcoming this Bill I would like to raise a serious matter which has become a Constitutional crisis in Assam.

Sir, Koch Rajbangshi community, which is the poorest amongst the poor in the State and ethnically and historically the sons of the soil, was included in the List of the Scheduled Tribes by an Ordinance No. 9 of 1996. It was followed by Fourth. After that to replace this Ordinance, Bill No. 21 of 1996 was introduced in this House. This Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Select Committee headed by Shri Amar Roy Pradhan. The Parliamentary Committee went to Assam and took evidence. It recommended strongly that Koch Rajbangshi should be included in the List of the Scheduled Tribes. They submitted their report on the 14th August, 1997. Till now, this report has not been discussed in this House. Later on the Government have formulated four modalities to be included in the Scheduled Tribes. Koch Rajbangshi is recommended by the State Government of Assam twice. They are also recommended by the Tribal Research Institute of Assam, Registrar-General of India, the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and also by the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare. They have submitted their report recently on the 12th December in this House. Yet, our name has not been included in the comprehensive list that has been prepared.

Five castes have been included in the comprehensive Bill which has been brought before the House. They are, Dimassa, Hajong, Singhpho, Khampi and Garo. I am not opposing their inclusion. Their names have been included because of removal of area restriction but they are Scheduled Tribes in Meghalaya and not so in Assam.

In the case of Rajbangshi, they are not in the Scheduled Tribe list in Assam whereas they are recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in Meghalaya.

DR. JAYANT RONGPI: He is misleading the House. Koch Rajbangshi is not a Scheduled Tribe in Meghalaya.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Jayant, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record, then.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: You see the history. You do not know the history in that case. Koch Rajbangshi is a Scheduled Tribe in Meghalaya. Their name has come on the basis of removal of area restriction. But Koch Rajbangshi's name is not included in this list. Actually, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has violated clause 2 of article 342 because whereas we are included in the list of ST by a notification, we have been excluded from the list without any notification. Now we are neither ST, nor OBC or a general caste. Why this kind of discrimination and injustice is being done to these people? It is a very serious matter.

Now the State Government, the RGI, the Tribal Research Institute, the Standing Committee, the National Commission, everyone has recommended the inclusion of Koch Rajbangshi, yet this is not included in the comprehensive list. What is the reason?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): This is the condition of Rajvanshis? What is the hon. Minister doing?

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Therefore, I have given the amendment to include Koch Rajbangshi in the list of Scheduled Tribes. I urge upon all the senior Members of this House to cooperate with me to include the name of Koch Rajbangshi in the comprehensive list. This is a very genuine case. We have fulfilled all the modalities. I request the hon. Minister to include the name of Koch Rajbangshi in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002.

I welcome the inclusion of the Castes like 'Gond' 'Rajgond' in this but there is no mention of the Castes called 'Gaund' and 'Govari'. They launched a massive agitation in Nagpur in which 116 Govaris were killed, still Gaund and Govari have been mentioned it. I, therefore, suggest that Govari should be separated from Gond. Similarly, Halba and Halbi, Koshti should be included in C.P. and Berar as Halba and Halbi are included in the Scheduled Castes but they are addressed as 'Kushti' just for convenience. In fact the persons who have been working for the last 10-15 years have also received notices of retrenchment. I will give one proof. Census of India, 1891 Volume 11 is the proof of occupation adopted by Halba and Halbi Castes. It says that:

[English]

> "By far the largest sub division among the Koshtis is the Halbi, to which more than five-sixths of the caste in the Nagpur district belongs; they are the people who make the fine white cotton clothes with silk borders, for which more especially the towns of Nagpur and Umrer are famous."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir Pavni Badi Dihori and Sangni is a big village in my constituency, where Halba and Malbi undertake the occupation of Koshtis, the weavers.

If they are into the occupation of weavers that does not mean that they are not Halba/Halbi. In fact they are so.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is written that:

[English]

> "Accordingly, the occupation of Halba/Halbi was since weaving, their caste in the Revenue records, Death and Birth records, was recorded as Koshti by the then Government officials and employees, meant for this job. This has happened only after the practice of recording revenue was started, but prior to this, right in the year 1891 or so, the castes of Halba/Halbi, i.e., the so-called Koshti of the then C.P. and Berar, was recorded as Halba/Halbi only and were also recognized/known and said to be Halba/Halbi only."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this means that they are also Halba/Halbi. Therefore I, request that Halba/Halbi and Koshti Castes may kindly be included in this list.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA (Arunachal East): Sir, with all humility, I would like to say that I am not in total agreement with the Bill placed in the present form. The provisions of the present Bill, as far as Arunachal Pradesh is concerned, are inadequate and are not fully is accordance with the suggestions and recommendations made by the State Government, RGI and the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Only four tribes have been inserted in the Bill, namely, Adi, Hruso, Tagin and Khamba. Out of these four tribes, two tribes are already in existence. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has recommended to delete Abhor and substitute it by Adi. But in the present Bill, I find that they have not deleted Abhor but have included Adi. This will be duplication. In the case of Aka tribe also, they have not deleted Aka but they have added Hruso. So, we have requested the Government to substitute Aka tribe with the term called Hruso. Thus both the names are there. This is duplication of work. It is a serious anomaly which should be corrected by the present Government.

Then, we have also recommended as many as 12 tribes to be included which has also been recommended by the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, RGI and so on...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please give me a few more minutes. I have to say a very serious point on the Scheduled Castes list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are seven more Members to speak from the Congress Party.

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA: Please give me more time, Sir. The State of Arunachal Pradesh has inherited the legacy of Scheduled Castes of Assam. It is clearly mentioned in the recommendation and the Commission has also observed that the Scheduled Castes list of Assam was made applicable to Arunachal Pradesh *in toto* without any changes. But there is a provision under articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution. It provides that castes and tribes have to be specified in relation to that State/Union Territory, as the case may be, in consultation with the Governor thereof. But nothing has been done. There is a recommendation from the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to delete all the Scheduled Castes. The recommendation says:

> "In view of the analysis provided above, based on available literature and results of 1991 and earlier censuses, this office supports the proposal to delete the entire list of Scheduled Castes in Arunachal Pradesh, as the population returning themselves as Scheduled Castes, are mostly recent migrants and therefore without any root in the local cultural milieu of the State. This office further is of the opinion that separate field investigation in Arunachal Pradesh is not necessary at this stage."

In spite of that the Ministry has not done anything on this. So, I would like to request the Ministry to come with a more comprehensive Bill in which the amendments which I have put forward may be considered.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on this very significant Bill viz: The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2002. First of all, I extend my heart-felt thanks to Shri Jual Oram, the Minister of Tribal Affairs. And at the same time, I thank the Government of India for having brought this very important Bill in this august House. I do strongly support this Bill, but with certain amendments. Here, I would like to bring one amendment. That is, in page 3, after line 30, 'Bodo or Boro-Kachari' should be inserted so as to include more than one lakh Bodo tribal population living in two hills, autonomous districts of Assam, that is Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills in list of the ST Child list.

At the same time, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to include our Karbi tribal brethren also who have been living in the plains areas of Assam in the ST (Plains) List. Unfortunately, because of inter-district area restriction provision, the Bodos living in the hill areas and Karbis living in the plain areas of Assam have not been given the status of tribals. It is a very unfortunate and peculiar situation. I would like to appeal to the Government of India to remove this inter district area restriction in the case of Boro-Kachari and Karbi people in relation to hills and plains areas of Assam respectively.

I am coming to another very serious point, was mentioned by Shri Madhav Rajbangshi. He raised a demand for inclusion of Koch Rajbangshi people, in the list of Scheduled Tribes (Plains) in relations to Assam. There are some communities in Assam who are more advanced and populous then the original tribal people of Assam. If those more advanced and populous communities are included in the list of Scheduled Tribes, then the original tribal people will be marginalised in a very dangerous way....*(Interruptions)* That is why, all the

tribal organisations have vehemently opposed this move...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajbangshi, please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: That is why, before considering this kind of sensitive and contentious issue, the Government of India and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should consult all the original tribal leaders and tribal organisations of Assam...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, do you know what will happen? The indigenous tribal people's indigenous rights and status will be endangered and their survival and existence as well as their security also will be threatened...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajbangshi, why are you disturbing?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, Koch people living in Assam are not similar to the Koch tribe living in Meghalaya. The Koch tribe living in Meghalaya who have been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to Meghalaya, are quite different to that of Koch Rajbangshi people of Assam. So, this serious matter and pertinent aspect should be taken into account with great seriousness while dealing with such controversial and contentious issue in question.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur): First of all, I thank the hon. Minister for including 'Kanikaran, Kanikkar (in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli district', it is in my constituency. I will appreciate the hon. Minister if he extends that to some other areas also. I plead that the Government should include fishermen also. They are living in misery and in poverty. The Government must come forward to include them in the list of Scheduled Castes. I would like to place before this House an important thing. There is a discrimination to the Scheduled Caste Christians. The Christians are discriminated them also. I think it is time to accommodate the Dalit Christians also in the list of Scheduled Castes.

Suppose in a Dalit family the elder brother may be a Hindu and the younger brother may be a Christian. So, the Christian is denied the opportunity of being in Scheduled Caste community. He is treated as a person belonging to the backward class. So, it is a kind of an ill-treatment or inequality among the dalit brothers.

So, I appeal to the Government to consider this point. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI KHEL SAI SINGH (Sarguja): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that I support the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002 as introduced by the hon. Tribal Affairs Minister in the House. There are many castes in the country, which are included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in one State, in the list of Scheduled Castes in some other States and in the General Category in yet another State. The Caste 'Gond' has so far been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in ten States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra. And in the entire Uttar Pradesh, the Gond Caste is included in the list of Scheduled Castes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister, a provision has been made to include 'Gond caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes instead of that of the Scheduled Castes only in thirteen districts of Uttar Pradesh viz. Maharajganj, Siddarthnagar, Basti, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Mau, Jaunpur, Balia, Gazipur, Varanasi Mirzapur, Azamgarh and Sonebhadra. Two new districts—Chandauli and Bhadohi have been carved out of the districts of Varanasi. In both the districts, there is no proposal of transferring the name of the 'Gond' caste from the list of Scheduled Castes into that of the Scheduled Tribes. Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare is a part of the Lok Sabha. The hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha had referred this Bill to the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare for examination and the Chairman of that Committee is Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora. I am also a Member of that Committee. Recommendations have been made to include the 'Gond' caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes after excluding it from that of the Scheduled Castes in the entire Uttar Pradesh. And it is essential also, it has been provided in Clause (2) of Article 342 of the Constitution that the Parliament can, by law, make changes.

I thank you for having given me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

At the outset, I would like to say that this Bill is proposed to resolve the anomalies existing in the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Order. But unfortunately the Bill itself has some anomalies. Through the amendment, I would request the hon. Minister to resolve such anomalies.

[Shri T. Govindan]

The Marathi community living in and spread over Hosdurg and Kasaragod taluks is now existing in the Scheduled Tribes list of Kerala. The total number of Marathi people comes approximately to 40,000.

Even after 55 years of Independence, this community has attained no progress in the social and economic sectors. The literate people in this Marathi community are only to the extent of two to three per cent, not to mention about people who are in Government jobs, who are industrialists and traders. Really, the criteria of including one community in the Scheduled Tribe list are relevant even now for the Marathis. Most of the families are living in the hilltops and their lives mostly depend on forest resources and hunting. Their life-style is primitive. The areas of these people are under-developed. There are no roads, water, electricity, hospitals and schools. This community is reluctant to interact and cooperate with other segments of the local people. They have their own identification for retaining them in the Scheduled Tribe list.

On the basis of the wrong assessment, the Government decided to delete the Marathis from the Scheduled Tribe list of Kerala. This is injustice done to them and it will affect the future progress of the poor Marathis. It is noteworthy that the Marathis in the adjacent Karnataka State are existing still in the Scheduled Tribe list. Considering these facts also, I would request the hon. Minister to reconsider the decision to delete the Marathis from the Scheduled Tribe list of Kerala.

In this connection, I would like to point out another thing. Two months before, the Members of Parliament from Kerala met the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister assured us that if the Kerala Government recommended, it would be retained in the Scheduled Tribe list. The Kerala Government has strongly recommended to retain the Marathi community in the Scheduled Tribe list. But, unfortunately, the Minister did not care it. It is against the federal structure of our Constitution.

Moreover, the Minister has also not fulfilled the assurance given to the hon. Members of Parliament. This community is already existing in the List of Scheduled Tribe in the State of Karnataka. So, I would request the hon. Minister to retain this community in the List of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala and also accept my amendment.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am highly obliged to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Second Amendment) Bill.

I would also like to thank the hon. Minister of the said department, Shri Jual Oram for proposing to omit entry 12 in sub-heading Maharashtra at serial number 9 in part 'i' on page number six of the Hindi Bill and secondly I would also like to thank him for doing a praiseworthy work in the interest of the Gond Community by separating them with a comma from the Rajgonds, in entry 18 replacing the term 'Gond Rajgond'.

Moreover, after Constitution of the (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1950, there were only 47 listed Scheduled Tribes in Maharashtra State. Now, this list is swelling and the number of Scheduled Tribes is on the increase e.g. Castes like Machhimar Koli and Suryavanshi Koli in the name of Dhorkoli, Tokrekoli and Mahadevkoli castes are making efforts to be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The whole Thakur community in the name of K. Thakurs, M. Thakurs, who wear 'langoti' in district Thane of Maharashtra, also wish to be included in this list but this should not happen. This is my request to the hon. Minister.

Tribal people live in hilly regions and forest areas in the country. There is now high competition in Government services and if non-tribal people would be covered under the category of tribal people, it would be real injustice to the tribal people. The third thing is that the people of 'Govari' Caste want to take advantage in the name of 'Gond Govari' caste. Big Powers are exerting pressure on the Maharashtra Government despite the fact that Maharashtra State has its own Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Government should include any caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes only after glancing through the complete report of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Similarly, the people of Koshti Caste are trying to take advantage in the name of Halba/Halbi. Koshti people are not tribals, they are non-tribals. They simply add Halba and then Koshti and try to take advantage of the reservation facility. I request that the Koshti Caste should not get the benefit of Halba/ Halbi Communities.

The Government of Maharashtra has set up a separate Tribal Affairs Department, and no caste should be included in it before going through the records. This is my humble request to the Union Government as also to the hon. Minister.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would be very brief and I would like to take only two minutes.

First of all, I would like to bring on record my gratitude. It is after 25 years of a battle which I have waged to bring the *Siddhis* of North Kamara into the List of Scheduled Tribes that I have succeeded today. So, I speak with a heart full of gratitude. I would just like to point out that the whole process takes so long as it has to go through 12 levels, from the Block to the Taluk, the District, the State, the Ministry the SC/ST Commission, the Census commissioner, back to the Ministry, the Cabinet, the Parliament, the President and it has to go through all these levels back again. I feel there should be a much more streamlined process of determining these communities. Then, all these kinds of complaints will not arise.

Secondly, I would like to say that most of these people have problems first of being identified. But when they are not identified and given the status, then all the rights which are given to these communities, when they are recognised, are denied to them by the Forest Department.

16.00 hrs.

They say: "You are not recognised STs. So, you have no rights within the forest area." For instance, for these people, I gave from the MP's Fund even drinking water wells for the Siddhi community in my constituency. I was told: "They cannot dig wells because it is a forest area, though they are known as 'Kadu Jana'-living in the forest. I think, some kind of coordination between the Ministry dealing with the SCs and STs and the Department of Forests is called for.

Lastly, I just want to mention that while it takes so long to include them, in my State, today, a community the Moghers, which has been on the list of SCs since 1977, has suddenly been removed by the State Government without an amendment in the Parliament. I have brought this matter to the notice of the Central Government. I would like them to look into it and ensure that justice is meted out to them.

16.01 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to extend my thanks to the Minister of Tribal Affairs for introducing this Bill. But I would like to put one thing across that the Tribal people whose origin lies in Jharkhand, are living in the Tea garden region of Assam for the last 100 years. Their main castes are—Santal, Muneta, Urao, Ho, Khadia and Bhumij etc. Even today these people have not been included in the list of tribals and this is gross injustice to them. The British had transported these people from their place of origin i.e. Jharkhand to Assam but even till date, they have not been included in the list of tribal people, they in fact did not go there willingly. And in this way they are subject to gross social, economic and political injustice. These people are living in relief camps and they do not get jobs. They can rise in the field of education. In a similar fashion, the British took many Indians to Mauritius, Fiji and many other countries. Today, such Indians have rose to become the Prime Minister or President of that country, but these tribal people are facing a lot of problems for not being included in the list of trials in Assam. I support the amendment moved by Shri Pawan Singh Ghatowar in this Bill and I would request the Ministry that since all the Committees constituted in connection with the tribal people viz. A.K. Chandra Commission, Lokur Commission, Bhewar Commission and Pataskar Commission etc. have also recommended their inclusion and the Joint Select Committee of Parliament under the leadership of Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, had also made similar recommendations in this regard. In 1995, the Assam Institute of Research for Tribals and STs had also recommended for this and lastly the Assam Government had also made their recommendations in this regard. So there is no reason why should we allow these tribal people to continue living in the tea gardens of Assam under such deplorable conditions which is hindering their development.

The representatives of All Adivasi Students Association of Assam organised a rally yesterday from Rajghat to Jantar Mantar in this connection. I was also present there and yesterday itself, they submitted Memoranda to the hon. Prime Minister of India, the Home Minister and also Tribal Affairs Minister. I request the Ministry that a comprehensive Bill may be introduced on this subject and efforts should be made to include these people in the list of STs as these people have been contributing to the national income of India by working in these Tea Gardens for the last fifty or even hundred years prior to achieving independence and it would be real injustice if these people are not included in the list of STs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are expected to start a discussion regarding disinvestment at 4 o'clock. But this Bill has to be completed. Originally, the Bill was given

[Mr. Speaker]

only half-an-hour, but due to the importance of the subject, it was extended by one-and-a-half hours more. So, now I will not be able to give more time.

But still there are few Members. A lot of time has already been given. If they can finish in two minutes each, I will allow them and thereafter the hon. Minister will reply. I hope all of you will cooperate because after that an important discussion on disinvestment has to be taken up.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Sir, there are two Members from our Party and they just want to make their points.

MR. SPEAKER: There are two Members from your Party, but there are other Members who want to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM RATI BIND (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gond caste is being included in the Scheduled Tribes even when the reservation for Scheduled Castes is 21 per cent and for Scheduled Tribes is 2 per cent. I think due to it many people will be deprived of their rights. Shri Vijay Singh Gond from Sonebhadra had been MLA for seven terms Shri Poornmasi Dehasi had been MLA for 3 terms and Shri Ramakant of Hathras had been MLA for 2 terms. After the passing of this Bill, these people will lose their rights. Therefore, I would like to request that this Bill should be passed only after detailed consideration. In some States the people of this caste are included either in Scheduled Castes or in the list of backward classes. Thus an injustice is being done to them. For example Bind is included in Scheduled Castes in West Bengal whereas in U.P. it is included in backward classes. Beldar is included in the list of Scheduled Castes in U.P. and in Bihar it is included in the list of backward classes. In Delhi also it is included in the list of backward classes. Kewat and Jal Kewat Castes are in Scheduled Castes in Maharashtra and Assam while in other regions these are in backward classes Majhi and Majhwar are in Scheduled Castes and Biyar caste is included in backward classes. These castes do not own an inch of land. Other similar castes called Nishad, Mallah etc. are in backward classes. My request is that anomalies regarding inclusion of castes and sub-castes should be removed and uniformity should be observed at national level.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Hon. Speaker, Sir, we are very grateful to the hon. Minister for bringing this Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill. But, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that last time also while the discussion was on, on this subject, we had pleaded regarding the Vimukt Jaties and Tapriwas people of Punjab who have been left out and have not been included in this Bill.

Sir, I want to inform the hon. Minister that according to us the list that we have gone through does not include them and it seems that the hon. Minister has not done his homework well. For the last 47 years, the Tapriwas & Vimukt Jaties, which include communities like Aheria, Banjara, Banjania, Bherkut, Beria, Bauria, Bangali, Beldar, Bazigar, Chirimar, Chhara, Deha, Dhinwar, Dhangar, Garhi-Lohar, Gadaria, Gandhila, Jogi, Kol, Kanjar, Kapadia, Mirasi, Madari, Nath, Nat, Parahiya, Rai Sikh, Sikligar, Sehariya, Singiwala, Sapera, Sarera, Od and so on have not been included in the Scheduled Tribes List.

Sir, the hon. Minister assured us last time on the floor of the House that as per the recommendations of the four Chief Ministers of the State, belonging to both the Akali Party and the Congress Party, they would be included in the Scheduled Tribes List, but till today, there has not been any decision in this regard.

The Federation had already sent its request to the hon. Minister and to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. When, ultimately, the Cabinet's nod was sought for approving the draft Bill, the Minister has included 140 communities, but this time also these people have been left out. I would like to request the hon. Minister to be specific enough to tell us why this discrimination is there against the people of Punjab, who are in large numbers. They are nomadic tribes and they have sacrificed for this nation. They have different cultures and they have their different ways of life. Why have they not been included in the Scheduled Tribes List?

This matter has been raised several times on the floor of the House. Sir, in the 'Zero Hour', you were kind enough to permit me to speak on this subject. We would like to specifically know whether these tribal people would be given justice or not. It is 47 years now. I hope, the hon. Minister will definitely give some view on this point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Bill, 2002. As per the provisions contained in Article 341 and 342 of the Constitution, in 1950-51 a list containing the names of Castes included in the list of Scheduled Castes was drawn

up and after the repeated demands of the State Governments this Bill has been brought by the Union Government. I thank the Government for its decision to include 140 castes of 20 States in the list of SCs and STs.

Sir, I would like to submit that same facilities should be extended to SC and ST people on migration to other States in search of employment which were enjoyed by them in their parent States because of being included in the Central List or the State List.

Sir, there are at least 42 Sub-Castes of Physianti (exonerated caste) community in Maharashtra and it includes Pardhi, Banjara-Banjari, Nathpanthi, Doni, Gosavi etc. My concern is that the condition of these communities is worse than the condition of SC and ST. These communities were supported to be included in the list directed to be prepared by the Mandal Commission but their name does not appear in the list prepared by the Mandal Commission. Thus I would like to request the Government that for all the castes which fall under Mandal Commission and 42 exonerated castes of Maharashtra a fresh third list is needed to be prepared. My demand is that after drawing a fresh list these castes should be provided the facilities available to SC and ST along with 5 per cent reservation. There is a community called Paradhi in Andhra Pradesh. The Paradhi males are included in SC whereas Paradhi females are included in another caste. I would like to request the hon. Minister that this disparity between the male and female members of same caste and community should be removed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is of sensitive nature and the hon. Members are very much interested in this Bill. All the hon. Members have expressed their views on it. There is a caste called Tharu in Bihar which lives in west Champaran and in the forests of border areas of Nepal. There had been a long standing demand to include them in SC and ST by making a provision about it in this Bill the hon. Minister had taken a right decision for which I would like to thank him too. Further I would like to seek the attention towards the matters of Gond, which is included in Scheduled Caste in one State and in Scheduled Tribe in other State and there is also disparity in the list of the Union Government and the State Government. The people of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward classes face problems in procuring the caste certificates. The concerned Department is not working properly. The State Government of Assam have sent a proposal to include Koch Rajbangshi in Scheduled Castes. Registrar General along with Social Studies Institute had also supported the demand and thus the Bill came into existence. There after the Bill was sent to the Select Committee and the Standing Committee too and this recommendation was made by them. Even then why the Government have not included Koch Rajbangshi in ST list. Therefore, it is a very sensitive issue. The Standing Committee have stated in one sentence that:

[English]

> "The Committee, therefore, recommend that urgent steps should be taken to include Koch Rajbangshi in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Assam."

[Translation]

The Committee had emphasised to take urgent steps. Then why the Government have not made any provision in this regard? Select Committee had stated that

[English]

> "keeping in view all these aspects, the Committee, therefore, recommends that the Koch Rajbangshi Community should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes so that they may come in the mainstream of the public life."

[Translation]

Sir, now when all the formalities had been completed and recommendations also were made by the two Committees to take urgent steps, even then why the Government have not brought this Bill. So, the Government and the hon. Minister should make it clear. Hon'ble Rajbangshi ji is sitting here. He also knows about it. If the Government do not take any step in this regard then we will take action against the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot browbeat them in the House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: All right, we will bring a No Confidence Motion against the Government.

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL (Nanded): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my constituency Nanded in Maharashtra. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes of the area should also be included in this. Fish catching is the main business in Marathwada. The Koli caste of Marathwada is not included in Scheduled Tribe. Population of Koli is sizeable. My request is that Koli caste should also be included in Scheduled Tribe along with Mahadev Koli

[Shri Bhaskarrao Patil]

Caste. In many Sates the 'dhobi' and 'kumar' people are included in Scheduled Castes. In Maharashtra also it should be included in SC because they are not yet included in it there.

'Vadar' people break stones for living and are very poor tribals. However, till date have not been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. They should also be included in the category of Scheduled Tribes. My request is that the poor tribal communities called Hatkar-Dangar should also be included in this schedule.

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no mention of Uttaranchal in this Bill. The Castes which were included in SC/ST category in Eastern Pakistan and West Bengal, but now are settled in Uttaranchal have not been included in the SC/ST lists. The State Government headed by hon. Shri N.D. Tiwari had sent a recommendation to the Union Government for including some castes in SC/ST list. Exclusion of all those SC/ST Bengali people of Eastern Pakistan who are not included in SC/ST category here smacks of discrimination. My suggestion is that they should also be included in this list.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, I associate with this.

MR. SPEAKER: You are allowed to associate with the matter raised by him.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Government of India for creating the separate Ministries for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, I would like to request that the Government should also have separate Commissions for each of them. Without the efforts of hon. Thakkar Baba and Shri Morarji Bhai the Tribal society would not have transformed. Therefore, it is fair to mention their efforts here. Hon. Manikrao ji is present in the House and I associate myself with his views. Everybody cannot call us Vanvasi (Tribals). This is not fair. This is contempt of Constitution and insult of tribal community. Vanvasi means the people who live in the forest. Lord Ram also lived in forest. My ancestor Shabri Bhilni had offered 'Ber' to Lord Ram. It is not fair to call us Vanvasi. You can earn anything but above all comes self respect and dignity. This Government have hurt the feelings of tribals by calling us Vanvasi. Therefore, I oppose them.

SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG (Koraput): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you and my party. I wholeheatedly welcome this Bill but it has some loopholes. So, I request you to make good those lacunae. I request you to include those castes in this Bill which have not been included till now. In my home state Orissa, Jodia and Joria castes of Kashipur Tehsil of Raigarh district and Bhottara tribes of Kalahandi and Navrangpur districts have not included in it despite the State Government having sent the proposal for their inclusion. Tamudia and Kaman Castes are primary tribal castes of Keonjhar district. These should be put in the category of Scheduled Tribes. Jodia, Joria and Paroja are different tribes. Therefore, the three should not be clubbed together and instead they should be treated differently.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gond is basically a tribal community but in Bihar, Assam and in some districts of Uttar Pradesh, it is not treated as a tribal community. Gond community should be treated as tribal community throughout the country.

Accordingly to the Article 19D and E19(5) the people of tribal community enjoy constitutional rights and freedom. So, these people should be provided protection wherever they live in the country. These days atrocities are being committed on the tribal people which makes them tread along the wrong path. So, all efforts should be made to channelise their energy. The reservation for them in the Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies should be extended beyond 10 years.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all the hon. Members and especially the 30 hon. Members who participated in the discussion. In this Bill, the Amendment is taking place regarding 142 communities. I would like to inform the House that for modification in the Scheduled List, either for inclusion or for exclusion, we have a procedure for which the approval of the State Government is needed. After which the approval of Registrar General of India is needed and then the concurrence of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission is obtained. Subsequently the matter is put before the Cabinet. Once the approval of the Cabinet is obtained the draft of the Bill is finalised for consideration and enactment. According to Article 342 of the Constitution the Government cannot make any legislation or modification in this regard. The Parliament enjoys the power to include or exclude any community from the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: There should be some criteria.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: First Schedule was enacted in 1950. After that the Schedule was never revised. For the first time a separate Ministry has been set up and for the first time the Scheduled List is being revised.

Mr. Speaker, Sir through you, I would like to put facts before the House. Till date 981 applications from the State Governments have been received in the Ministry and out of which 142 cases are being taken today for modification. Further the Government have out rightly rejected 144 cases. Approximately 502 cases are pending with State Government for eliciting their opinion. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not be able to reply to all the points raised by the hon. Members due to time constraint but have already been moved in the form of amendments. All the cases which are pending for eliciting the opinion of the State Governments will be considered by the Union Government once the views of the State Government are obtained...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: What steps have been taken to expeditiously seek the opinion of the State Governments?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): It is a very sensitive matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, this is not the way. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should not...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Is it that I do not know anything and you know everything?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a case of Koach Rajbangshi belonging to a certain community is pending with the Commission.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: But State Government has done it.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: It is not like what is being stated in this regard. In 1986 RGI denied to do it but in 1993 Assam Government agreed to it. However, TRI refused to do so. Thereafter in 1995, RGI cleared the proposal but SC/ST Commission refused it. Then again in 2002 SC/ST Commission did not agree to it. Finally eight days before...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What was the suggestion of the Select Committee of Parliament?

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 8 days ago Commission has cleared it. Now the proposal will be sent to Cabinet which would take a decision in this regard. It is being stated that why it was not done for such a long time. We are being blamed for not clearing it in eight days. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it cannot be done and it should not be done.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have told that First Scheduled was prepared in 1960. After a gap of some years, we again came to power. A separate Ministry was set up in this regard. Hon'ble Member should appreciate it. I am grateful to the hon. Members who participated in the discussion. I would like to assure that this formality is not for the sake of the Government. So far as Gond Community is concerned, it belongs to ST Category in 10 States but in Uttar Pradesh, it belongs to Scheduled caste category. Majority of the Gond people have demanded that this caste should be included in Scheduled Tribe category. It is not that our Government is saying so. Assam Government had recommended tea community for inclusion. We have written to the State Government in this regard. We will include Oram Munda under ST list if Assam Government recommends it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the paucity of time, I would request the House to consider this Bill and pass it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you concluded.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion in the lists of Scheduled Tribes, of certain tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities, equivalent names or synonyms of such tribes or communities, removal of area restrictions and bifurcation and clubbing of entries, imposition of area restriction in respect of certain castes in the list of Scheduled Castes, and the exclusion of certain castes and tribes from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in relation to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

First Schedule

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, line 13,—

after "Mirzapur"

insert "Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Banda" (9)

Page 2, line 15,—

after "Varanasi"

insert "Chandauli, Banda, Chitrakoot" (10)

Page 2, line 16,—

after "Sonbhadra"

insert "Varanasi, Chandauli, Banda, Chitrakoot, Allahabad" (11)

Page 2,—

after line 20, *insert*,—

"(c) in PART XVIII. — *Uttar Pradesh*,—

after entry 66, *insert*,—

67. Ramdasi (in the districts of Lakhimpur Kheri, Rampur, Philibhit, Bareilly, Bijnaur, Ghaziabad, Agra and Mathura)" (12)

MR. SPEAKER: I now put amendments Nos. 9 to 12 to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the First Scheduled stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

First Schedule was added to the Bill.

Second Schedule

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3, *after* line 30,

insert—

"16. Bodo or Boro-Kachari." (2)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3,—

after line 37, *insert*—

"15. Koch Rajbangshi

16. Tai Ahom

17. Matak

18. Moran

19. Chutiya (3)

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3,—

after line 37, *insert*—

"15. Koch Ranbangshi" (4)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 5, after line 24, *insert*—

"(iia) in entry 18, for "Gond Gowari,"

substitute "Gowari, Gawari" (5)

MR. SPEAKER: I now put amendment Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

Amendment made:

Page 5, line 36,—

add at the end—

"Bhatara" (20)

(Shri Jual Oram)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 6, *after* line 42,

Insert—

"41. Deshwalli Majhi" (7)

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 7,—

after line 8, insert—

"17. Koro

18. Meyor

19. Monpa

20. Sajolang

21. Sartang

22. Yobin

23. Tangsa

24. Nocte

25. Wangchoo

26. Tutsa" (8)

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 7, line 28,—

after "Mirzapur"

insert "Chandauli, Banda, Chitrakoot" (13)

Page 7, line 29,—

after "Varanasi"

insert "Chandauli, Banda, Chitrakoot" (14)

Page 7,—

after line 38, *insert*,—

"16. Kol, Mavayya (in districts of Chitrakoot, Banda, Allahabad, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Sonbhadra and Chandauli)". (15)

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3,—

after line 37, insert—

"15. Koch Rajbangshi
16. Tai Ahom
17. Matak
18. Moran
19. Chutiya
20. Asur
21. Bhuyan
22. Bhumij
23. Bedia
24. Bhil
25. Binjia
26. Birhar
27. Birijia
28. Chero
29. Chickbarik
30. Dhanwar
31. Gorit
32. Ghatowar
33. Kol (16)

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 3,—

after line 37, insert—

"15. Koch Rajbangshi
16. Tai Ahom
17. Matak
18. Moran
19. Chutiya
20. Asur
21. Bhuyan
22. Bhumij
23. Bedia
24. Bhil
25. Binjia
26. Birhar
27. Birijia
28. Chero
29. Chickbarik
30. Dhanwar
31. Gorit
32. Ghatowar
33. Kol
34. Kharia
35. Kherwar
36. Koya
37. Kondh
38. Kahar
39. Kamar
40. Kisan
41. Lodhi
42. Mahali
43. Munda
44. Malpaharia
45. Mirdha
46. Majwar
47. Praja
48. Rajwar
49. Sawar
50. Gonds
51. Santhals
52. Ovaon (17)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 4,—

for line 25, *substitute*—

"(i) in entry 37, at the end, *insert* "Medar, Medara, Buddar, Medari, Gauriga, Burud"; (18)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 5,—

omit line 8 (19)

MR. SPEAKER: I now put amendment Nos. 7, 8, 13 to 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Second Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Second Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1—Short Title

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 2,—

omit "Second" (1)

(Shri Jual Oram)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Should we go to Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill now?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, we will go to discussion regarding disinvestment of public sector understandings. There is no time to go to Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

Hon. Members, the discussion regarding disinvestment of public sector undertakings has been submitted in the name of Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Shri Prabodh Panda. Shri Basu Deb Acharia has since requested me to allow Shri Somnath Chatterjee to raise the discussion on his behalf, I have allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee to raise the discussion.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): I am on a point of order relating to the order of business. May I request that in view of the delay in commencing this discussion, the Half-an-Hour Discussion that is scheduled for 5.30 p.m. be postponed for tomorrow so that we can continue this debate without interruption?

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, this can be done.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: So, the Half-an-hour Discussion, which was scheduled for today, will be taken up tomorrow. This discussion on disinvestment of public sector undertakings will be completed today.

16.36 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. We are not keen to discuss the question of

disinvestment *per se*, but we are concerned about the manner and the objective with which this process of disinvestment is being carried on because what has happened so far in the name of disinvestment has caused havoc in this country and its history is nothing but a saga of loot and plunder committed in the name of getting rid of so-called loss-making public sector undertakings. That was the plea with which they started. I feel that this plea of disinvestment, that is being carried on and done by this Government, is the dirtiest trick that has been played on the innocent and the poor vulnerable sections of the community of this country by the most unprincipled and tainted concoction which is going by the name of NDA. It is the most sordid chapter, according to many of us, in India's post-Independence era where the people are reduced to penury and financial decimation of the people is there. The country is losing its valuable assets.

Sir, we used to call him "Hero Arun of 1970s" and what a fall! From that, he has become 'also Arun' and probably only Arun to rhyme with the famous advertisement that he is, that inspires him.

Sir, we have been raising certain basic questions, but there is no proper answer. Therefore, we have to raise them again. What is the policy, what is the principle and what is the objective and who have become or are going to be the beneficiaries, of this process of disinvestment? What we have been saying is why this is a hush-hush affair. There is a total vagueness and no attempt to justify what has been done or what is being done. The basic question is who are the owners of these assets and properties. It is not the Minister of Disinvestment. The people of this country, out of whose contribution all these assets had been acquired earlier, are the owners. Are they taken into confidence? Do they know anything as to what is happening in the corridors or office rooms of the Ministry of Disinvestment? Are the people told or consulted in any manner? We have the great privilege of representing the people of this country inside the House.

We have great obligation to the people, and great duties to discharge, but we are not told anything. We are kept totally in dark. We have to put questions to find out what is happening. We have to demand discussions in every Session of this House. It is a calculated affront to the House and to people of this country. We are never consulted, and nothing is being discussed. Therefore, my question is, who has given this authority to this Government to indulge in this loot. A simple question is being asked, why profit-making units are being sold and for whose benefit.

We know that a lot of criticisms are made, so far as we are concerned, who oppose this, about the way it has been happening so far. Of course, we are not alone; we have got the distinguished company of yourself, Sir, when you were here. Now, the very favourite answer of Shri Arun Shourie is, "Well, your State Governments are also doing it." That is why, he could not resist the temptation of following the controversial Defence Minister in wasting pubic money in publishing a book called "Disinvestment in States". How are you concerned? He is spending money on some 50-page booklet, like the Defence Ministry has spent money on some booklet, which was prepared and circulated by a friend of the Defence Minister. It is a comical thing and a childish attempt to try to divert the attention of the people from the real issues. I do not know what to say. I do not know where does our very good friend, Shri Ram Naik, stand now.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): I am sitting here.

MR. SPEAKER: He is very much there.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It seems you have surrendered and you sat down. What about our revolutionary and controversial Defence Minister? What happened to him? Where is our *saffron didi*? Where is our HRD Minister? He only reads NCERT books. All his blabber inside here is about NCERT books. What about his attempts to criticise or oppose this loot that is going on? He is conspicuous by his absence. The Ministers are fighting; NDA partners are opposing. I hope, Shri Geethe, you will be continuing this opposition. I hope, you will oppose it.

[Translation]

You people normally oppose and raise your hands against it.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): I will putforth my opinion when I would be given time to speak.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Does it not disturb everybody's conscience that you are selling very valuable assets? Should not there by transparency? Should not this House, at least, be taken into confidence? How are the consultants selected, and how are the reserve prices fixed? We shall come to that recent instance. How are the bidders selected? Everything is being done in secrecy.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

How much is above the table and how much is below the table? Nobody knows about it. At no stage, the Parliament has been consulted. If the Government has nothing to hide and nothing to suppress from the people, why do they not come to the House or consult, at least, the Standing Committee? They could have requested the hon. Speaker to form a small Committee. The Parliament and the representatives of different parties should have been taken into confidence.

Sir, let the Government say that this was the way they had done it and whether the Opposition had something to say on this or not. But that was not done. It was as if the entire House had to be treated as their enemy and as if this Government was alone the embodiment of patriots in this country. We cannot accept this opposition. That is why we shall go on opposing this. We have said that. As I said, why is the Government shying away from these questions?

Sir, I shall take a little time with regard to others on this. The glaring example of the Centaur case is before us. If the process of fixing the reserve price had any relation to the reality, then nobody could have made a profit of Rs. 34 crore within a few months.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this was in your city. Probably you had the occasion to inaugurate this hostel as the Chief Minister of that State. What has been the explanation of the hon. Minister to this? The explanation offered by the hon. Minister before the camera in front of the Parliament House was: 'What could the Government have done. They have become the owners of the property'. We are questioning not the right of the owner, but we are questioning the right, the obligation of the Government in fixing up a proper reserve price. How have the Government done that? Do they not feel ashamed about the fact that they sold a very valuable asset, that was so close to one of their leading partners in the NDA combine, to a private party and that private party, within a period of four to six months, has made a profit of Rs. 34 crore? You know much better all these things than I do.

Sir, the Indian Oil Corporation has been complaining that their land and petrol pumps have been sold out. They are objecting as to how the Government could have sold their land and petrol pumps. The significant question here is, has any head rolled? Has anybody suffered?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): He has been given another Ministry!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I hope my good friend, Shri Maran comes back and dislodges him. But I would like him to approve my SEZ.

Sir, this book titled, 'Disinvestment Policy and Procedure' was the Bible of Shri Arun Shourie. I do not know now if he had any occasion to touch this book or not. Very significantly there is no mention of any date of its publication. This is very significant. What are the objectives of the policy? It has been mentioned at page 10 of the book and I quote:

> "Primary objective: Realising large amounts of public resources locked up in non-strategic PSUs for re-deployment in areas that are much higher on the social priority such as basic health, family welfare, primary education and socially essential infrastructure."

I challenge the hon. Minister to prove as to what has been done in either of these spheres out of the sale proceeds.

I am not reading all of it but it further says:

> "Realising other tangible sources such as large manpower currently locked up in managing PSUs and their time and energy for re-deployment in high priority social sectors are short of it."

I would like the hon. Minister to give us one such instance. We would like to know from the hon. Minister about one such instance of re-deployment. Let him give us one instance of utilisation of the sale proceeds in the areas that he has mentioned. These are his statements.

It has been further said at Page 35:

> "Resources currently blocked in non-strategic PSEs should, therefore, be released as soon as possible through sale of Government stake in such PSEs for redeployment in the above sectors."- Namely, the social sector, Sir.- "We should also ensure there is no further flow of resources to these PSEs."-And no PSEs are firm, I can understand. - "The logic, rationale for privatising or not privatising a PSE is not based on whether it is making profit or loss, but whether it is in a strategic sector or in a non-strategic sector, and whether the taxpayers' money can be saved from the commercial risk by transferring the risk to the private sector."

On what basis do you decide whether something is in strategic sector or non-strategic sector? We have been raising this question. What are the parameters? It cannot be like Chancellor's foot! What are the parameters for you to decide on strategic and non-strategic sector? Is defence strategic sector or non-strategic sector? You have excluded some. We have been asking this but no

explanation has been given. Why is oil non-strategic sector? Why is petrochemicals non-strategic sector? What is the criteria? Who decides? What are the parameters? What is the principle behind it? You just cannot, at your *ipse dixit*, say, 'Well, I take it as non-strategic. Therefore, I need not bother. I will sell away this.'

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are everyday advised by these 'pink' papers. They are going to decide our fate. They are strong supporters and exponents of this theory. Mr. Shourie's friends, they are. What has been realised by this process? They say:

> "During 2000-01, the Government was able to raise Rs. 1,873 crore from disinvestment process. This figure shot up to Rs. 3,436 crore in the next year. The important part is that in less than half the financial year, though the collection figure has already reached Rs. 3,190 crore, out of it Rs. 2,576 crore were raised through the big ticket disinvestment like the sale of IPCL (a concern like IPCL is sold to Reliance for Rs. 1,491 crore) and the picking up of Maruti Udyog stake by Suzuki. Hindustan Zinc was sold for Rs. 445 crore. VSNL was sold for Rs. 1,439 crore. Hotel Indraprastha etc., etc."

Now, the important thing, they are saying, is that some of them have been sold at higher than the reserved price. This is the point. We come back to this. What is the basis of the fixation of the reserved price? One or two Consultants are appointed whose credentials we do not know the country does not know. What are the parameters of selecting them? They fix up a price. If it goes higher up they say, 'Oh! Great victory for Arun Shourie! Great Success that he has earned some more!'

Of course, some of them have called this crony-capitalism, people like Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta. The question that has been raised—I have been raising it—is that between 1991-92 and 2000-01, profits of 130 profit-making PSUs went up 4.6 times while the losses of 106 loss-making PSUs increased 3.4 times. Profit-making units are making more profit.

There are Standing Committee reports which you also are aware, Sir. I will place some portions of them. The C&AG also has made complaints about the fixation of the reserve prices. The Standing Committee has made the strongest comments on this. It has been said by one of the well-known financial writers, "Mr. Shourie is perhaps the only salesman in the world who criticises the product he is going to sell before he actually sells it."

We have seen the articles he had produced, trying to say how hotels are badly managed and should immediately be sold. Of course, I do not know what was the response of the Minister of Tourism. This is the case of one Minister abusing the other Minister's performance...*(Interruptions)* Shri Naik is the punching bag. Everybody is punching him. So, he wrote articles on hotels and India tourism. I do not know whether these Ministers have self-respect or prestige. Somehow, they want to be the Ministers and nothing else.

Sir, has the Standing Committee's Report any significance to this Government? We have been raising this question time and again before the hon. Speaker. We had raised this question before the earlier Speaker, Late lamented Shri Balayogi also. What is the purpose of formation of these Standing Committees? Of course, a lot of expectation is there. We can understand that every issue cannot be discussed on the floor of the House. There is no time. Therefore, the issues are selected by the hon. Speaker and he assigns certain task to us. All of us try, to the best of our ability, to do the work in the Standing Committee. Sir, I am sure, the experience of all the hon. Members, by and large, is that in the committees we try to work in a non-partisan manner. That is the glory of the functioning of these committees and that is the humble experience I had over the years. Hardly, politics intervenes, except in some rarest of rare cases. These are all unanimous reports of the Standing Committees where representatives of all political parties are present.

With regard to the utilisation of disinvestment receipts, it has been said that nobody knows how they are being spent. I would like to quote:

> "The disinvestment proceeds are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India like any other receipt of the Government of India. The expenditures out of this Consolidated Fund.....incurred for these purposes were much higher than the receipts from disinvestment."

They have said that the Government cannot show how the money realised by disinvestment has been utilised. I further quote:

> "The Committee find that there is no system to ensure that the funds thus received are utilised for these sectors. The Committee desire that the Government should put in place a system to ensure that a good portion of the sale proceeds from PSUs disinvestment is actually spent on the social and infrastructural sector as was envisaged in the objectives."

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Now, I come to the question of asset valuation. Strong comments have been made by the Standing Committee. They have said:

> "Although the guidelines are there, the Committee note that asset valuation guidelines are inadequate and vague, especially on the issue of land valuation of the disinvested PSUs. Actual land value is not considered in most of the cases. The Committee do not subscribe to the view of the Government that the value of the assets which are not giving income to the company is questionable."

They have said that they must improve and modify the guidelines for evaluation of the assets. This is the considered view of the Standing Committee.

With regard to the qualification of the bidders also, findings have been given.

> "The Committee find that though the disinvestment process is continuing for more than a decade now, guidelines regarding qualifications or disqualifications of bidders seeking to acquire their stake in PSUs through the process of disinvestment, were formulated."

So, very strong comments have been made on each aspect of valuation, selection of consultants, following the guidelines or drawing up the guidelines and also on qualification of the bidders, but nothing has been done.

17.00 hrs.

Now comes the main case. We are all aware of what is happening. I would concentrate on some of the basic live issues like HPCL and BPCL. There was a halt for three months because of internal dissension in the Government. Now, one day, the Prime Minister calls all the Ministers; I do not know whether for dinner or for admonition or for threatening or for cajoling or to give good words or in anticipation of Gujarat's Moditva/ Hindutva. I do not know what for the meeting was called. There was a change of stand. Now Shri Arun Shourie has been asked to take the Parliament into confidence by this statement and therefore he has taken us into confidence by committing another atrocity. Of course, they did not ask for a discussion.

The meeting takes place in the Prime Minister's house, as if it is a matter not even of the Cabinet—Cabinet hardly matters—in which two-three Ministers have been called who had the courage for a while to raise and say some words of protest. They were trying to save the Indian silver, or what he says, the country's silver, for which of course he has been thoroughly admonished, it seems. Through you, I would like to inform the House by reading the following:

> "The Government has, after detailed deliberations on the various issues expressed, (deliberations at 7, Race Course Road), and suggestions made, decide in a meeting held on 6th December to fine-tune the disinvestment policy and programme by adopting the following approach."

Fine-tuning was therefore necessary. The main objectives of disinvestment are:

> "To put the national resources and assets to optimal use and in particular to unleash the productive potential inherent in our public sector enterprises."

English language sometimes is very handy. Nothing is said about how they would put to optimal use the country's resources and assets and how they would unleash the productive potential inherent in our public sector enterprises. How will they do it? What is the process? Again kindly see the objectives:

> "The policy of disinvestment specifically aims at modernisation and upgradation of public sector enterprises."

This is a joke. Kindly tell the House as to which sector enterprise has been modernised. Then you say 'creation of new assets'. I take it in public sector. Where are those assets? Then you say 'generation of employment' I do not think the country can be taken for a ride like this. Where is the generation of employment? It is shameless. Today we are trying to espouse these causes about which we feel so agonised. The people come to us and say they are Central Government employees and they are not getting their salaries; their children have been taken away from schools; they cannot treat their members of the family who are ill; they have been given notice by the landlord to quit; they have nothing to eat, etc. But these people are glibly indulging in this kind of gimmickry.

You say 'generation of employment and retiring of public debt.' Here lies the point. Not only they are trying to utilise this money for meeting the fiscal deficit, but also the revenue deficit which shows total inefficiency in their functioning. These are the fine-tuned objectives. Were you asked to sign it? Please do not sign this. I read further:

"The Government would continue to ensure that disinvestment does not result in alienation of national assets which, through the process of disinvestment, remain where they are. It will also ensure that disinvestment does not result in private monopolies."

This is another joke.

What has happened? Can you stop it? I ask with all seriousness and I want an answer from the Government. Can you stop the private monopoly in the oil sector? The public petrochemical sector has almost gone. It is a private monopoly. And about the petroleum sector, what has happened and what has been decided? One is through strategic sale and Sir, just low and behold and somehow or the other, it will be "Only Vimal" Sir, they say that say that BPCL will be disinvested through sale of shares to the public. How can you stop them cornering? How can you stop one company and one business house cornering? How can you stop it? Let us know. Some few percentage of shares are given to the workers as if throwing some scrums before hungry workers. It is said "to disinvest Hindustan Petroleum through strategic sale". This is the greatest method of hoodwinking the people. Again, there will be the question of evaluation, again the question of selecting a consultant, again the question of guidelines and asset valuation, again the question of bidder and everything will be in secrecy.

I wish if the Government has any honesty—I charge them—they should agree immediately to constitute a parliamentary committee before whom they must come, if not before the House, before they sell any of the assets. This is the minimum thing they have to do. If they have nothing to hide, if there is honesty of purpose and an honesty of method, a specific percentage of shares should be sold to the employees. We are again being told of disinvestment proceeds funds. Will it be outside the Consolidated Fund? Or will it not be so? We do not know. It is said that this fund will be used for financing employment opportunities to investment and for retirement of public debt. What has been done so far financing fresh employment opportunities and on investment and retirement of public debt? That is the real crux of the matter. This is a totally bankrupt Government which cannot pay their debts. They even cannot pay their interest and they are selling away these properties for this purpose. I am very sorry that your leader must somehow show some initiative but again, he has gone to hibernation. Further, it is said that for disinvestment of natural asset company, the Ministry of Disinvestment and the Ministry of Finance will work out the guidelines. One is the beneficiary of the other. One is the methodology and the other is the beneficiary. They will sit together and decide. It is said that the Ministry of Finance will prepare a paper for the consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment. I do not know who are the members of that Committee. Do you know? You do not know and I also do not know. It is a paper on the feasibility and the modality of setting up asset management companies to hold and manage and dispose of the residual holding of the Government in the companies in which Government equity has been invested to a strategic partner. In future, they will decide after selling most of them as to how the remaining asset management can be done in those companies where the Government may retain some posts. This is nothing but trying to take the country for a ride. I am requesting the Government to please take this House into confidence and the people of this country into confidence. These are the assets and properties of the people, I may be excused for repeating it.

I have got the figures with me. Everybody knows about the assets that have been created by HPCL and BPCL so far. Both of them are highly profit-making units. The net profit earned by BPCL in 2000-02 was Rs. 835 crores against a turnover of Rs. 40,000 crore. The dividend paid to the Central Government is Rs. 330 crore. The profit of HPCL is Rs. 788 crore against the turnover of Rs. 45,287 crore. The Central Government has received a dividend of Rs. 340 crores.

Sir, the current assets of these PSUs are Rs. 20,000 crore, against the cost of acquisition of Rs. 49 crore. The Government had paid Rs. 49 crore and the present assets are Rs. 20,000 crore. Nearly nine thousand petrol pumps are being run by these two Companies. Twenty-three thousand workers are there. We took a delegation of 20 representatives trade unions in which representatives of AITUC, Shiv Sena, HMS, Khamgar Agadi, INTUC, CITU and AITUC were there, apart from the other independent trade unions. We went there with their representatives. Some Members of Parliament from different parties were also there. We requested the Prime Minister. I have the privilege of knowing Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for a long time, for over thirty years. Not one word was uttered by him. We felt that we went to a sleeping Buddha, sphinx like! It was so unlike of Vajpayee. You have finished him...*(Interruptions)* Well, I am told that the workers will not lose their jobs. Then, he said that the law was there. He said only two words. The workers said: "You are the Prime Minister. We have come to you. We have faithfully served these companies. These are people's assets. Tell us if anything wrong was done by us". There was not a single response.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

These are Acts of Parliament. We are told that they are going to Attorney-General. Let them go to Attorney-General or let them go to International Court of Justice and take the opinion. But these are people's assets.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee, how long will you take?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Within another five or ten minutes I will conclude.

This is not the question of legality. But it is clear that these were taken over from foreign companies in the public interest. How has that public interest vanished? Money was paid for it. It is said:

> "Where it is expedient in the public interest that the undertakings in India such and such should be acquired to ensure that ownership and control of the petroleum products distributed etc., and distributed as best to sub-serve the common good."

I reminded Shri Vajpayee, the Prime Minister that, if I am not very much mistaken, you also had voted for it. Then, he nodded. We had all voted for it. I believe the entire House must have voted unanimously for it. That was the unanimous decision of this country expressed through Parliament. It was done in the public interest. It was said that management will be done either by the Government or by a Government company for sustenance of the public interest, in the interest of the nation. Now, how has that interest vanished? This Government owes an answer. These are still laws of this country. These are Acts of Parliament. It is the clearest insult to Parliament. With keeping these laws in the statute books, you are trying to dispose them of. There is one very significant thing. The workers and the trade unions, including that of Shiv Sena, Left and the INTUC, had asked him whether they were not entitled to be consulted even once. We asked that to the Prime Minister with great humility. In no case were the workers consulted. They are treated as if they are enemies, and as if they are disposable commodities. 'Go to hell', that is the attitude. Their attitude is that they are the owners. Shri Shourie, you are not the owner.

You are a trustee of this Fund, assets and properties...*(Interruptions)* Why should I not say that this Government is an enemy of the workers? If you are friendly to the workers, at least you should have responded and said that you would talk to them and discuss with them. If you want to improve the performance, tell them and take them into confidence. They are your workers. The Prime Minister is there. You are the Ministers. You can ask them. You can tell them that if they improve further and give better production, probably you shall think otherwise. If there is any slippage—I do not admit that—why do you not talk to them? If there is any area of better performance which is needed, you can talk to them. They are your people. They have not been imported from outside. This is the way you treat your own people who are the workers.

There is a threat to NALCO. People everywhere in the country, not only from Orissa, say that they cannot accept it. The people have declared this. They have resolved it. The people of Orissa have resolved it...*(Interruptions)* I salute them.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Which people are you talking of? I represent Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are an aberration...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Can you tell me which people of Orissa you are talking of? I also represent Orissa. I also say that Orissa does not belong to you, does not belong to the trade union leaders. You are saying this because you *dana-pani* is going to be served by this...*(Interruptions)* That is why, you are telling it. That is the reason. I also represent Orissa. You do not represent Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I say that I have the great honour to be a neighbour of Orissa. My State is a neighbour of Orissa. We are in friendliest of terms with Orissa. There are always some exceptions and aberrations...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You are a fringe party in Orissa.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is a very well-known author. I believe that many of us would have read this book. This is not a publication of the CPM. He is Mr. Joseph Stiglitz, the former Chief Economist in the World Bank. My friends from that side, it is your headquarters! He is the former Chairman of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors. You would have been happier if he were the Advisor to Mr. Bush. He is the winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics for the year 2001. What has he said? I quote. I shall end my speech

with this.

> "In industrialized countries, the pain of layoffs is acknowledged and somewhat ameliorated by the safety net of unemployment insurance."

Sir, I know what I am saying. You will wholly agree with me when I say this. I have seen your performing as the Minister of Industry. I am not trying to make you happy. We have always felt that here is a friend of the country, friend of the industry and friend of the workers. I am sure, sitting in the august seat, you will maintain that. I quote further:

> "In less developed countries, the unemployed workers typically do not become a public charge, since there are seldom unemployment insurance schemes.
>
> It is important to restructure state enterprises, and privatization is often an effective way to do so. But moving people from low-productivity jobs in sate enterprises to unemployment does not increase a country's income, and it certainly does not increase the welfare of the workers...Privatization needs to be part of a more comprehensive program, which entails creating jobs *in tandem* with the inevitable job destruction that privatization often entails."

I hope he has read it. I wish to conclude by saying this. The most ominous observation based on the experience of this great author is this:

> "Perhaps, the most serious concern with privatisation, as it has so often been practiced, is corruption."

We are seeing the highest embodiment of that in this country. I can only appeal to all sections of this House to consider it. I would request the House not to treat it as a partisan issue. The workers are not only our workers, but workers in different States have different affiliations. Please look at them, at their family members, children and their wives. What crime have they committed that you throw them to the wolves?

Sir, as I said, I am not discussing disinvestment *per se*, but there are ways of doing it. It may be that some units can never be revived and they are a serious drain on the resources. They can apply a human touch to them, redeploy the workers and get rid of those companies. But they are only trying to say: "Oh! You have done it, therefore, I am doing it." In which matters are they following us? They are not following us because they are keen on privatising one of the greatest concerns as if they are justified in looting.

Sir, they are in power; may be in whatever manner they are in power, it is a peculiar combination in the world and probably the Guinness Book authorities are looking into this to put into the Guinness Book. Therefore, I would like to sincerely appeal to all the sections of this House. Let us, for once, on an issue like this, concerning lakhs and lakhs of workers, the future assets of this country, public interests which are manifested through our holding of the public sector undertakings in oil sector, in shipping, in defence and in so many other sectors, not consider this on the basis of any partisan approach. I can also warn and I hope that my warning would be heeded and my warning could be justified that if they do not listen to us and if they try to defeat us by this contrived and opportunistic alliance, then the people of this country would rise in revolt and, I assure you, that it would be the last fight so far as this Government is concerned.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard Somnath Babu with rapt attention that he always deserves and gets in this House in initiating the debate on disinvestment. Indeed, the first salvo was fired in the Question Hour today by Chandra Shekhar ji. When Chandra Shekhar Ji is angry, he speaks very fine Hindi and when he is really angry, he speaks in English. Today he spoke in English and Somnath Babu was vigorously nodding his head. When these two gentlemen put a point across to this House, everybody listens very carefully and takes note of it. Therefore, what Chandra Shekhar Ji said—and some of it was reflected in the end by Somnath Babu by saying—was that it is unfortunate that the NDA is in majority. This is the sentence he used. I do not know any Government surviving for a very long time without having majority. Chandra Shekhar Ji's experience may be very good, but he said, the unfortunate portion is that the NDA is in majority and the second point that he mentioned was that they think that they have got an *El Dorado*. I do not know whether anger made him say all that he said in the afternoon or disinvestment made him angry.

17.24 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Sir, he is against disinvestment; his stand has been absolutely the same all the time and the same thing I saw in Somnath Babu who spoke very passionately about the whole thing. But I noticed a definite shift in his speech today. He mentioned the 'manner of disinvestment', not the disinvestment and I think the time has come to take a view whether you are for disinvestment or you are not for disinvestment because the 'manner' is an executive

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

function. It is an executive function and no Government gives up its right to take day-to-day actions.

Therefore, are you only talking about the manner because this debate has gone on for a very very long time? This is not a change in the attitude of the Government today. This was a proper change in policy decision taken in 1991. In this Government's time or rather this Lok Sabha's time, this matter has been discussed in the House 14 times. I am not questioning the competence or the authority of the House to discuss any matter at any point of time when it feels like it, and this House is meant to, but this has been discussed 14 times. Yet Shri Somnath Chatterjee says that the House has never been taken into confidence...*(Interruptions)*

How do you take the House into confidence when in three years' time, you discuss a subject 14 times? You did not give us a chance to take you into confidence. You have always been acquiring, asking and getting all the information at all points of time. So, the question of keeping the House in darkness for these three years does not arise. I do not think anybody or any Government can talk about its performance or discuss the same subject again and again-14 times-in less than three years.

It is much more difficult to take an old idea out of anybody's head. It is much easier to put a new idea in that. This process of disinvestment like many other processes that we have seen in from a total picture of controlled economy going on to deregulation. Therefore, there are problems. We have seen these problems. I have been battling with it for the last 18 months in some other forum. The change is a painful experience. A change of this nature and of this economic magnitude is positively a very difficult experience. Therefore, when the nitty-gritty are being talked of, it is my humble request that it should be taken as learning experience. It is not as if everybody has got perfect answers or answers taken by the Opposition will lead us to a faultless arrangement or a faultless of this thing. That point must be borne in mind.

Now, here is a case where a very major change has positively been undertaken for the last 10 years. An investment of Rs. 2,74,000 and some odd crore, having more than 320 major units, changing into a private sector deregulated economy is a problematic thing. It poses a problem. There are people who will be affected. There are people. For a while, it is possible that the jobs will become less. Thereafter when the thing packs up, it becomes more. This is a transition phase. It must be understood that in this transition phase, there are things that will create problems. But every time saying that we have not been taken into confidence and that there is no transparency, I do not think it bears a factual position as it obtains today. Transparency is of two kinds. One is, how a thing looks. The second is, how a person looks at it. Both lead to transparency or opaqueness. It is not as if anything has been hidden. How can anything be hidden when the discussion in the Parliament in three years had been for 14 times? How can anybody hide anything?

But yes, if same points come up the whole time and the same answers are given, I do not think anybody is going to be much wiser.

I do not think this subject is about Shri Arun Shourie. He has been referred to every time now and then and also loot, etc. has been talked about. I think, in this country, at least, calling Arun Shourie, a person who has such tendencies, will not stick. If it is the officials, that they are blaming, who are looting the country, then they are the same officials that these people had been having them in their time. It is how quickly we can understand from our experience and every disinvestment is a separate process, has separate problems because human beings are involved.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, half an hour discussion was to be taken it at 5.30 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would be taken up tomorrow. It has been decided.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Alright, I was not aware.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, out of the 250 and odd companies that we are talking about in this disinvestment, the point that is made again and again is why are profit making companies being disinvested. I am quite sure, a lot of problems that have been raised will be answered by the Minister. He is in the know of the things. But one thing definitely I want to ask that if all the loss making companies were offered for disinvestment, who is going to buy them? I am very keen to know that. Nobody is going to buy anything for a loss, it will be for a profit...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, there has to be a mix and the mix is there not only at the time of making disinvestment, there are companies...*(Interruptions)*

I notice that the people were very quiet when Shri Somnath Chatterjee was speaking, but they have started all sorts of questions when I am speaking...*(Interruptions)* May I have my say?

There are times and we should realise that there was a time in the 50s when there was a requirement for a controlled economy, there was a time in the 50s when the Government had to come in and put up big companies, not only put up big companies but had to provide them with budgetary support. There is a time when that budgetary support was withdrawn. This is a fact. In 1990, the budgetary support was withdrawn because they had come on their own feet. There is a time, it is not yourself, but your party, which is talking about it.

Of course, they always like to quote America, England and what they said and so on, but only yesterday we had the speech of the President of United Republic of Tanzania in the FICCI. He had this to say and I quote:

> "Tanzania of today is very different from that of 1970s and 1980s, when we were almost totally centrally planned economy. We came to realise at considerable cost that Governments are not very good at doing business. So, we decided to leave business to business people and concentrate instead on the traditional functions of the State, including social services, law and order, administration and promulgation and enforcement of regulatory mechanism."

Of course, you would say, 'why do you quote His Excellency William Mkapa?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Does the hon. Member mean that India, which was leading the Non-aligned Movement, has come to a level to follow Tanzania and Africa. Is that what your Government has come to? It is a tragedy...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: You would not like me to quote an African President. You do not want me to quote an African President...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): At least Tanzania came to the rescue of your Government. Thank you very much...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Your objection is not to this and it is to taking it from an African country...*(Interruptions)* If you have all finished, then I can start. Why I am quoting this is this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): We patiently heard Shri Somnathji. Why we are being disturbed?

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Please sit down. No one is disturbing me.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: These are respectful queries...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: There is no disturbance.

The point I am making is that we have said about them in 1970s and 1980s, those were our conditions in 1950s and 1960s. This is a major difference. I am not saying so.

Of course, a lot of my friends start thinking which one is better—the Government or the private sector and so on. There is a lot of debate. The debate is always welcomed. But this fact of de-regulation is not a thing about whether one decision is good or another decision is good. All I am saying is that it is the quality of taking decision, and that having taken that decision, everybody must go along with it. This is what China has done. Having taken a decision, they are going on with it with similar voice...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: They are not a parliamentary democracy...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Therefore, whether you are right or I am right, I am not discussing. What I am discussing is that if we had talked about it for 14 times in this House in Lok Sabha, then in the last 10 years how many times this must have been debated. It is time to take decision and a decision has been taken by NDA...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The Minister never replies to our questions. He gives *pravachan*. He never replies. That is why, there is no transparency...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: You do not let him speak. We are interrupted and not allowed to speak. Reply will came when allowed to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

[English]

Therefore, my humble request is this. I will definitely make a request to the Minister. If our people disagree with each other, they are thought to be fighting. We are not a monopolithic party that everybody will raise his hand at the drop of a coin. Yes, there will be differences of opinion. Just as you have got, everybody has got and everybody expresses his view. That is fine.

Holding a meeting in 7, Race Course Road has come as a very new piece of news as if it has never been held before, and it is a very private kitchen cabinet working, and all that. Even Shri Somnath babu does not know about the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment, who they are, and so on, although it came out in the newspapers. So, holding meetings there and having differences are fine. It should be understood that after considering it for three months, a very deliberate decision has been taken. Therefore, with regard to the quality of the decision, there can be differences of opinion but there are no doubts and differences. It is only the manner– how fast, how slow.

I might say this point also that when every time it comes up in the House for discussion, the price of BPCL and HPCL goes down in the market...*(Interruptions)* Yes, there is a talk about it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: In the morning you make one statement and that brings the price down. In the evening, you make the opposite statement and it goes up, and your own friends make money. This is the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I am only pointing to the stop-start manner in which this is going on and the damage it is causing. I think this point ought to be taken seriously.

In 1991-92, the target was Rs. 2,500 crore. The amount realised was Rs. 3,038 crore. In 1992-93, the target was Rs. 2,500 crore. The amount realised was Rs. 1,913 crore. In 1993-94, the target was Rs. 3,500 crore. The realisation was nil. In 1994-95, again it picked up. The target was Rs. 4,000 crore. The realisation was Rs. 4,800 crore. The realisation was low. In these 10 years, the target had been Rs. 78,300 crore and the realisation was Rs. 29,490 crore, for which also the Government would be asked why the realisation is so bad. But it is the quality of decision which is important because we are stopping and starting. It is my firm view that there is a give or take 10 per cent right and wrong decisions, but timely decision, then going on with it and making it effective is what will bring us results. But if every time there is a Centaur Hotel or everything is like this, that will be questioned and that will come back...*(Interruptions)* Unfortunately, I have a bad throat.

I must say one or two points. One of the points that is for the consideration of the hon. Minister is that the companies of national importance that have strong linkages with the industry, transport, power and defence sector should also be examined in the light of trade-related investment measures taken under the World Trade Organisation. It would be otherwise impossible to restrict the foreign buyer after the PSU has been acquired, and we will not be able to do anything about it. So, we must very clearly, very diligently, notify all the measures that are not in conformity with the things before disinvestment. I see a major danger in this point. It is because it is a learning process and having not seen all the angles, if somebody acquires it, he can misuse it in a very, very major manner. One of the examples would be a foreign company deciding to export alumina from the National Aluminium Corporation rather than convert it into aluminium for domestic purpose. So, these checks and balances are a must. That point has to be kept in mind very, very vigorously and a very specific point that has to be made...*(Interruptions)* Whatever is fair is fair. Definitely, I am not saying that this is something different.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Does the Government share your perception?

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: The owners of these companies are the people of India. That is the second point that I agree. Whoever sits on this side is the custodian of that faith. I would say that a positive attitude towards disinvestment should be adopted. In my view, disinvestment is an irreversible process like Nehruvian socialism or to use my friend's words, Cronie capitalism or whatever it is.

It is a fact of life and if it is a fact of life, two things are positively required. That first is that we must make up our mind which road we are taking and having made up our mind, start going on that road.

My friend Shri B.B. Ramaiah would bear it out. When we first started out on WTO, adequate knowledge and expertise were not available. So, the second requirement is that now we must build adequate expertise. Let us not make the same mistake that we do not have adequate regulations while we deregulate our economy or make it privatised. Both things have to go hand in hand.

Just as Shri Somnath Chatterjee appealed for every section of the House to come out in one voice, my appeal is also that we must have one voice and we must say that we would change our gear on the road to disinvestment.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was a bit surprised to see that my friend Arun Shourie arrived in this House looking so natty because I expected him to come here in sack cloth and ashes.

We have been telling him for three years, 'For God's sake, review your policy, review your policy, review your policy.' He would not listen to us then but when his own colleagues got on to him and said, 'You should review it', we began to see the beginnings of the disinvestment of Arun Shourie! He is a clever man and he has succeeded in befogging his own colleagues into claiming that he has reviewed his policy through the statement that has been presented on the Table of the House but it is not as easy to make a fool of us as it is perhaps to befog his colleagues. So, our concerns remain.

My good friend and Chairman of the JPC, General Tripathi, has pointed out that we have discussed this matter 14 times in the House. Without going into the details of whether his mathematics is accurate, let me accept that we have many times discussed this, but equally as many times the Minister of Disinvestment—whether it was our King Arun I or it is now our King Arun II—refused to answer the questions that we raised. What is the point of a Parliamentary discussion when Shri Arun Shourie dons his saffron robes and indulges in a *pravachan* instead of answering the questions that are raised from here. He converts every single debate into a moral lecture from the podium on which he stands. He does not seem to understand the distinction between responding to a debate in the House and writing an editorial. That is why we have to keep coming back to exactly the same issues. He is not answering the questions that we have raised.

Now, we had rather hoped that when own colleagues asked him to undertake a review the review would come in the shape that we have been demanding, which is a White Paper. After all, in Parliamentary practice, if not in the editorial office to which Shri Shourie is accustomed, it is the practice to discuss matters by putting all the facts and all the points at issue in a document called a 'White Paper', to enable the nation as a whole to debate the matter and eventually for it to be discussed in Parliament. It is the absence of this that is at the root of the confusion that prevails with regard to disinvestment.

General Tripathi is an Army man. If we do not know who the enemy is, where is he going to send the troops? The whole point of this exercise is, when Shri Shourie is emptying the ocean, General Tripathi is sending his troops to the Himalayas.

We need to understand that disinvestment was, in the time of the Congress Government, a marginal part of overall economic policy. This Government has made disinvestment the centrepiece of its economic policy. When it made it the centrepiece, a large number of issues were raised, which we have been raising on this side of the House and they, on that side of the House, have been consistently refusing to answer.

General Tripathi also said, and I agree with him completely that if anybody attempts to say that Shri Arun Shourie is a crook, it is a charge that is not going to stick, because Shri Arun Shourie reminds me of an Ambassdor I once had when I was in the Indian Foreign Service, who disliked me intensely and, therefore, put an adverse comment against every single requirement of the Confidential Report. But then he got a bit stuck when it came to integrity. He did not know what to write, thought about it for a while, and then he said, "If by integrity is meant honesty is money matters, then Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is completely honest". This is exactly the charge I bring against Shri Arun Shourie. I do not believe for a minute that a World Bank pensioner is in need of any kind of assistance from the market, but the lack of integrity comes in his inability to honestly answer honest questions that are being raised.

Thirdly, on the 10th of August, 2002, that is, close to two and a half years ago, I posed 13 questions to the hon. Minister of Disinvestment. But when in the reply no answers were forthcoming to those 13 questions, once again, on the 20th December, 2000, I requested the hon. Minister to respond to those 13 questions. Still no answers were forthcoming. Since I have known Shri Arun Shourie for 40 Years and apparently he is having some hearing defect because he is unable to listen to the spoken word, I thought let us put it down as the written word and so in several articles I have attempted to provoke him to respond, but still there is no response. But, now that we are, once again, at the stage where his own colleagues are repeatedly asking him to look into the policy, I say please give us a White Paper which, at least, touches on the 13 questions I raised then, which I wish to raise, once again, over here. And to those 13 questions in as much detail as when I first spoke here, but I would to like to put them in essence before the hon. Minister.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

1. Which are the sectors in which the Government regards a continuing public presence as essential and which are inessential?...*(Interruptions)* First, I want to have answer on that.

2. Which are the public sector units that should be run purely on commercial lines and which, in the larger interest, should be given specific social objectives and judged on criteria other than the purely mercenary?

3. How should strategic industries be defined? You have defined them in terms of a narrow construction of defence.

General Tripathi has raised an extremely important point that once they have gone into private hands, resources which are essential for our defence, might find themselves being taken out of the country. The example is of NALCO and I completely agree with him.

Not let us take the oil sector. Why were CALTEX and ESSO nationalised? Why was Burma Shell nationalised?

Today is the 18th December, 2002. General Tripathi on this day, 18th December, 1971, was not in our country. He had entered Bangladesh and was liberating that nation. The 31st anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh was day before yesterday. It is a moment of immense national pride. But did Burma Shell provide us with the aviation turbine fuel that we needed? Did not Burma Shell play a trick on us by offering us ATF which we could not use so as to prevent us from prosecuting the most just war in the history of humanity? We did not nationalise the oil industry because we had a penchant for nationalisation. We nationalised it because the 1971 war taught us that oil was a strategic industry. And Shri Arun Shourie's government does not think oil is a strategic product.

Take the case of IDPL, the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, a relatively minor public sector undertaking. It was started near the town where I was brought up, Dehradun. It was started after the 1965 War at Veerabhadra, outside Rishikesh. Why was it set up? it was set up because it was discovered during the 1965 War that our Jawans could not access elementary drugs and pharmaceuticals like antibiotics in adequate quantity in a time of war. Are we to regard drugs and pharmaceuticals as not a strategic product?

Therefore, my third question was — how does this Government, how does this nation, define a strategic industry and then say that these are strategic industries which we are not going to privatise because they are needed for the nation in the public sector.

We have the example in the oil area of the Kuwait Investment Office acquiring shares of British Petroleum when British Petroleum was about to be disinvested. As soon as the Government of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the greatest privatiser of them all, discovered that the Kuwait Investment Office, K.I.O., was acquiring large quantities of British Petroleum shares, they put a stop on it. They said — 'No, there is a limit beyond which K.I.O. cannot purchase BP Shares because if they do so we may be finding our national interest conflicting with those of Kuwait's. This was said by the Minister knowing that British Petroleum is going to be disinvested. If the British can be alert enough to think of the possibility of the great United Kingdom having clashing interests with this tiny oil sheikhdom, Kuwait, how much more necessary is it not for us to regard oil supplies to our country, which in the foreseeable future will be heavily import-dependent, to be regarded as a strategic industry?

Why can you not see that getting rid of BPL is not a matter of making some money in order to meet your fiscal deficits? We made BPL out of Burmah Shell. Do we want it to go back, put it under Burmah Shell? If so, why did we ever get angry with them in the 1971 War? Instead of liberating Bangladesh through Gen. Tripathi, we should have asked the Chairman of Burmah Shell to take over Bangladesh. I understand that these are serious questions and we need serious answers.

My fourth point was—what constitutes a core industry? Is it an enterprise which is engaged in economic infrastructure or also one which is crucial to our social infrastructure for example, an industry which is critical to our food security programme or our poverty alleviation programme? There is a company which was set up in West Bengal immediately in the aftermath of a huge refugee influx from East Pakistan which served a critical social purpose at that time. Now, whether today, in the year 2002 we should regard the refugee rehabilitation of people who come in from East Pakistan in 1950 to be a continuing concern is something which we can consider. But when you talk of a core industry, please do not think in terms exclusively of economic infrastructure. There may be aspects of social infrastructure that need to be taken into account.

My fifth question was—are manufacturing PSUs to be treated on par with PSUs in the social sector? It is a good question to ask because Mr. Arun Shourie, the writer—as distinct from the hon. Shri Arun Shourie, the Minister—has divested his heart over a series of articles about how rotten the public sector hotels are without having the integrity to compare the performance of the

public sector hotels last year with the private sector hotels last year.

He has not had the integrity to do that. But he has the journalistic skill to hit out at these public sector hotels one of which is the Ashok Hotel which has turned the corner and made an enormous profit and the gentleman incharge of that is being rewarded for his achievement by being moved out of his office.

18.00 hrs.

It is shameful. I want to know whether the Government intends treating the manufacturing sector PSEs on the same par as service sector PSEs. This is a question which needs a White Paper to answer.

Equally in this, there are Section 25 companies. At one time, when Shri Arun Shourie was advocating this whole philosophy of disinvestment and privatisation, he used to go on and on about the poor performance of the public sector. In doing this, he would include in his adverse figures all the flop cases of the private sector which we had to take over into the public sector, including the National Textiles Corporation. I am absolutely delighted to see the Minister of Textiles on roster duty here because he, the poor man, has to look after the National Textiles Corporation. What is the National Textiles Corporation except a showcase for the failure of the private sector? We had taken it into the public sector because the private sector could not run it. Yet, Shri Shourie, doubtless on the lessons he learnt in American universities and the World Bank, tells us that the private sector by definition is more efficient and the public sector by definition is less efficient. So, where do Selection 25 companies fit into his disinvestment policy? This is another part of the question that I raised two and a half years ago, to which I am awaiting a reply.

My sixth question was: Should a distinction be made between PSUs that pioneered new fields of industrialisation or new horizons of technology or new geographical areas of development, and PSUs which arose out of the failure of the private sector to run their enterprises properly, including the National Textiles Corporation?

My seventh question was: On what criteria should management control be transferred and under what circumstances should the transfer of ownership be considered? I also asked in what extreme conditions should Government relinquish both ownership and management. Is this an unfair question to ask? They are making their own decisions where strategic sale will take place, where they are going to give it out for public offer etc. I am asking him to tell us the criteria so that automatically, from the criteria, it flows as to which PSE is not going to be privatised, which one is going to be privatised in such a way that we lose management control, and which is going to be privatised in such a way that we lose ownership control also. What is their problem in telling us the criteria? If the criteria is going to be that they would give it up if Shri Ram Naik says 'yes' and they will not give it up if Shri Pramod Mahajan says 'no', this is not transparency. We can debate it fourteen times, Shri Tripathi, in this House. But unless you are clear about the criteria, there can be no transparency and therefore, the opaqueness does not lie in the inability of Shri Somnath Chatterjee to see the truth nor does transparency lie in the fact that you, Shri Tripathi are blinded by the truth. The opaqueness lies in the fact that criteria, on the basis of which decisions are taken, are not in the public realm; they are the private property of the gentleman called Shri Arun Shourie. Maybe, he shares this with his friends in 7, Race Course Road in exchange for every ministership that he is given, but certainly, the country does not know. On behalf of the country, I demand that in the White Paper, this seventh question which I have raised, be answered.

My eighth question is this. What are the objective criteria which should be put in place to determine whether a given unit should or should not be disinvested and whether PSUs with multiple units, such as the Steel Authority of India Limited, should be disinvested as a composite corporation or first de-segregated into the respective units and then considered for disnivestment, which PSUs should be divested to the general public, which to mutual funds, which to financial institutions, which should be put up for strategic sale, which should be rehabilitated, revived, restructured and which should be sold as irretrievable junk? When Shri Tripathi does not know how to sell irretrievable junk, clearly the BJP is out of touch with the *raddiwalas*.

There is a market even for rubbish. Therefore, the answer to this argument as to who will buy a loss-making unit is, "Well, look for him".

So, we need answers to these—the objective criteria on the basis of which you decide to do what. You say that this is in the executive realm. If we can have a discussion, preferably 14 times, and if Shri Arun Shourie can arrive here with that calculator that he has got not only in his hand but in his brain, and tell us everyday, like a computer, that he has answered 3,422 questions and preen himself as only a peacock and Arun Shourie know how to do, it does not constitute a discussion. There has been no discussion. He answers whatever he wishes; he leaves out what he does not wish to do, and

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

the really difficult questions which we, from the Opposition, put to him--not once, not twice, but 14 times, General Tripathy; again and again and again, we ask him-he does not answer them. What can we do? We had a walk out. When we walk out, it does not mean that we do not read waht he says. We read what he says and say, 'Thank God, we walked out! We had better things to do.' He does not answer our questions.

I then come to my ninth question. Should not one distinguish between persistently profit-making units and persistently loss-making units and a large number of units which fall in between, which are intermittently profit-making and intermittently loss-making?

You take SAIL. Back in the 1980s, SAIL was losing in terms of the rupees of those days it was losing one crore rupees a day. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi put Shri V. Krishnamurthy in charge. He turned it around and, within a year, SAIL was making a profit of one crore rupees a day. Now, is SAIL a profit-making or loss-making unit? When we were in office-I do not think it had to do with us, it had to do with a lot of factors-SAIL made a profit of Rs. 1,200 crore, on an average, per year during that period. Then, it went into a period where it was making enormous losses. Now, what has happened? The Minister of Steel of this Government sends, without our asking for it, *gratis*, this document "The Year of Resurgence in the Steel Industry", and it shows that the year of resurgence in steel started with SAIL, not with any of these private sector steel-making firms. If Essar has bankrupted so many of our public sector institutions running into tens upon thousands of crores, it is because under this dispensation, this private sector favouring dispensation, IDBI has been looted to enable Essar to survive. Essar's survival has been at the cost of the steel industry because the year of resurgence, says the Minister of Steel, has been led by SAIL. What would have happened if we had handed over SAIL to Essar? Just ask yourself this question.

Therefore, should we not be distinguishing between persistently profit-making an persistently loss-making and intermittently profit-making and intermittently loss-making companies, in order to work out a policy of disinvestment?

Our tenth question was, whether Navaratnas, whether they are maxi-*Navratnas* or mini-*Navratnas*, should or should they not be disinvested? After all, the *Navratnas* became *Navratnas* in Akbar's Court-I am sorry to mention a Muslim King of India-and we chose them because they are profit-making. Then, we said that their managements are simply outstanding, so let us give them much more autonomy; let them do their job because they have the personnel to do the job and they have the resources to do the job. Then, after we set up the maxi-*Navratnas*, we set up the mini-*Navratnas*. Should they not be given the position of *Navratnas*? Would you say that Emperor Akbar should have got rid of all his *Navratnas* in order to have a better *Durbar*? The *Navratnas* are supposed to be the diadem of the public sector, so I need to know the answer on this.

Sir, then I come to my eleventh question. Why should disinvestment proposals come from the Government? Why should they not come from the Boards of the PSUs concerned? After all, they know their companies better than anybody else. They have their companies' interest at heart. They can tell you whether they can be better run by being disinvested or not. They are a responsible people. If your Disinvestment Commission has suggested that, in principle, such and such units should be disinvested, why not refer the matter to the Board of that company and let them tell you, (a) whether they should be disinvested or not; (b) if yes, to what extent; and (c) through that methodology? It would help.

Then there was the twelfth question that I asked then. What should be done with the disinvestment proceeds? Should they go to the Consolidated Fund of India or to the Disinvestment Fund? Now thanks to the review that has been done by the Government-not because of my question, not because of this Parliament to which this Government does not have any respect, but because of internal pressures and quarrels-and they have now announced that they are going to set up a Disinvestment Fund, when for three years they were telling us as to why they could not do it and how constitutionally impossible it was to do so because the Constitution provides for the Consolidated Fund of India. Now they have brushed it all to one side to keep Shri George Fernandes happy and have announced that now they are going to have a Disinvestment Fund. But they have not told us as to what are the criteria on the basis of which the money that is being put into the Disinvestment Fund will be disbursed and to whom. We used to talk about the social sectors, but that is significantly absent in the statement that was laid before us a few days ago and which was read out by Shri Somnath Chatterjee here. They are now talking about retiring public debt, which is a very good way of funding their fiscal deficit. We need to know, what are the criteria on the basis of which the Government would make these disbursements? If we have other ideas, then we would tell them what those ideas are.

Sir, my thirteenth question was-which was a very crucial one-what needs to be done to render the public sector undertakings functionally autonomous? I had asked this question two and a half years ago, what changes

would this involve in regard to accountability to Parliament, to C&AG, to CVC, to CBI and to Government and of the public sector undertakings' relationship with us? Twice over I had asked Shri Arun Shourie this question. But he has not answered. Why should we not be thinking in terms of putting an explanatory note under Article 12 of the Constitution-which has been interpreted by the Supreme Court to say that public sector undertakings are the arms of the Government-to say that public sector undertakings are not the arms of the Government? The Government can consider this so that autonomy for the functioning of these institutions could be promoted, or put it in some such way that there is-it is not day to day interference-a general accountability in what they say to us. But this has not been considered.

Sir, these were the thirteen questions that I had asked two and a half years ago. I would like General Tripathi to take note of this that two and a half years ago, some thirty months ago, I had asked these questions but the Government has not answered these questions. But General Tripathi has given me an excellent fourteenth question to ask. The question that he had asked. It never occurred to me. I am deploy grateful to General Tripathi for this. It is a tribute to his abilities as a Chairman.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Why are you asking just thirteen and fourteen questions ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I know these Christian superstitions loom large in the minds of our Hindu patriots ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the fourteenth question is the one that was asked by General Tripathi on TRIMS-Trade Related Investment Measures. It did not occur to me. We have committed ourselves to the WTO. This question is absolutely vital for the defence of this country. If the Government disinvested NALCO, like it disinvested Centaur hotel, and they decided not to run NALCO and sold it to somebody else, how would the Government know that the country's limited alumina would not be exported? The same thing is happening in the case of M/s Hindustan Zinc where a very noble company, namely, Messrs Stelite-we know their ethical standards are the pride of the country-have bought over Messrs Hindustan Zinc and they have made it clear to all concerned that they will operate only in some of the mines and that they are going to close down the others and the Government can do nothing about it because it is no longer their property; it belongs to somebody else. In this sense, I think, the TRIMS question is very important.

The fifteenth question I now ask is the one raised by George Fernandes. What are you going to do about creating monopolies? You have it in IPCL. Petrochemicals used to be a public sector monopoly. Now it is virtually a private sector monopoly. Now, because Arun Shourie went to Syracuse University, he is going to teach me the difference between monopolies and oligopolies. We learned the same words in St. Stephen's College together. I may be inaccurate in referring to a private sector monopoly, but is private sector oligopoly any better? How is competition fostered by allowing one private sector company to become so dominant in so critical a field of national endeavour as petrochemicals?

Fortunately George Fernandes stood in the way of Arun Shourie. Otherwise, today the oiled sector would also be with the same set of companies which are monopolistically or oligopolistically running the petrochemicals sector. We have to be very very careful on this.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: It is nice to hear that you agree with George Fernandes in something.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I do not agree with George Fernandes, the Defence Minister, but there are matters on which we agree with George Fernandes.

There is another question, which is on valuation. Somnath-da has raised a number of important points in that regard; I endorse them. But I want to raise the most fundamental question about valuation. Shri Arun Shourie has befogged the Opposition also-this time it is not just his own colleagues-by using a very clever term taken out of management economics, saying that he has relied on the discounted cash flow method to determine what is the valuation. Now, Sir, expressions that come out of mergers and acquisitions of well-organised stock markets, between one private company and another private company, can hardly be the basis on which we determine the valuation of a paradigm shift.

There was a paradigm shift from the private sector to the public sector when we nationalised the banks. The matter had to go up to the Supreme Court. As a result of the Supreme Court judgment, we had to amend our laws. It was decided that it is not discounted cash flow methods, but it is the paradigm shift from private ownership of banks to public sector ownership of banks that is going to determine how the valuation will be undertaken. In exactly the same way, through the Act that Somnath Chatterjee was referring to a few minutes ago, when we took over Caltex, when we took over Esso, when we took over Burma Sell, we did not say to them

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]
that we will compensate them on the basis of their discounted cash flow. We decided that a paradigm shift requires a separate set of criteria.

When Shri Arun Shourie's Government loses control over a public sector undertaking, either management control or ownership control, when it is left impotent-as in the case of Centaur hotel where the man who has acquired it can make Rs. 32 crore in three months by selling it to somebody else-and when, to take the example given by Gen. Tripathi, we privatise NALCO to Sterlite or one of his friends and then they pick up the alumina and start exporting it abroad instead of utilising it within this country, there is such a significant paradigm shift that you cannot talk in terms of acquisitions and mergers; you cannot talk in terms of discounted cash flow.

That is why, again and again this country feels it has been robbed and cheated-not by Arun Shourie filling his pockets are already too heavy to be filled any more. We are not talking about his personal inegrity. We are saying that the nation's assets are being liquidated in a manner unacceptable to us which is why-I am coming to a conclusion because I can see that you are looking at me rather sternly-we need a Standing Committee on Disinvestment. It is this body to which proposals for disinvestment should be taken. It is this body which should approve eventually-because after all Government will have a built-in majority-the methodology for disinvestment. Most important of all, it will follow up on the consequences of disinvestment. That is why we need this.

I would request you to please go back to what the Congress has said. The Congress has had no policy on disinvestment. The 1999 Manifesto did not have a section on the disinvestment. We had a section on the restructuring of the public sector in which disinvestment was one paragraph. Therefore, we do not conceive of disinvestment as a way of dismantling socialism and ending the public sector.

We see disinvestment as one possible way in certain circumstances and in specific cases, of being able to strengthen the public sector. There are these two superb documents that have been lying on Shri Arun Shourie's desk unread for two-and-a-half years. They are written by the top managers who belong to his Government's undertakings. They are his managers. They are the best and the brightest minds in the public sector, that is the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises. In September, 2000, they prepared this document called, 'Disinvestment and Privatisation of Indian Public Sector'. They followed it up in January, 2001 with this document 'Scopes-Views on Disinvestment'. They submitted both to this Minister. He has not even cared to acknowledge the existence of the views of his own managers. I plead that this be done. This is the only way in which we will be able to move ahead with confidence on such restructuring of the public sector that might incidentally involve disinvestment.

Sir, my last word, I plead with this Government that the most important thing for this economy is investment for the poor and not disinvestment in favour of the rich.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The speech of Shri Kuppusami should be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

*SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate, on behalf of my party DMK, in the discussion regarding disinvestment of public sector undertakings.

After globalisation, because of World Trade Organisation impact and liberalisation, successive governments have started disinvesting and privatising public sector units. However, no comprehensive policy in respect of disinvestment which would make the economic reforms less painful, with human face, has not been evolved.

Sir, as the House is well aware, public sector has played a pivotal role in the planning economic and industrial development of the country. It was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who said, it would reach the commanding heights of economy and is also called the Temple of Modern India.

Sir, we have seen how some attempts are being made to sell even strategic units, profit making units which are commercially viable and are efficiently being run with dedication and commitment of workers.

Transport Sector:

Sir, you will be shocked to know that the State of Tamil Nadu Government is having a proposal to even privatise transport undertakings which are providing essential service catering to the people who are mostly daily wage earners, under-privileged, students, Physically handicapped people, freedom fighters and others. It is a public utility unit providing service at cheaper cost, affordable to the people and these units are being run in a most efficient manner and on profitable lines. The transport workers in public undertakings in Tamil Nadu

*Speech was laid on the Table of the House.

come to around 1,25,000 and they are giving their dedicated service round the clock to the State. They have given properties worth thousands of crores of rupees to the transport undertakings, for which no equity was provided by the Government. The Supreme Court has also said that such activities should be considered as welfare and progressive measure. So, I would appeal to the policy makers to be more transparent and keep these things in mind while taking any decision about off loading of Government shares in those undertakings.

If those State transport undertakings which are giving very good service to the general public, which are running on profit, are taken to the path of privatisation, then it would be a suicidal attempt on the part of the Government, since the general public would be put to lot of hardships and more than 2 lakh workmen and their families would be on the street. The general public will be fleeced by the private transport people as we have seen in other sectors.

Salem Steel Plant (SAIL):

About Salem Steel Plant, it was conceived during the period of DMK Government, when Dr. Kalaingar was the Chief Minister in the '70s. SSP was doing well and has produced quality steel for surgical and export purposes also. If it is converted as integrated project by starting Alloy Plant there, Salem Steel Plant would become commercially viable and competitive in the market. I would appeal to the Government to consider so that the economy of the State, the ancillary industries which are depending on this Plant and the interests of workers would be protected.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.:

Sir, Neyveli Lignite Corporation is the pride of the nation whose new expansion unit is being dedicated to the nation today by our hon. Minister of Coal and Mines, Kumari Uma Bharati. On this occasion, I congratulate the entire work force of NLC and I thank the hon. Minister for inaugurating this unit. By this they would be increasing the generation capacity to 2490 mega watt per annum. They have earned a net profit of Rs. 819.20 crores, registering a growth of 12.85%, declaring a dividend of 13.5%.

As environmental protection measure, they have planted 170 lakhs of trees and reclaimed 165 hectares of land. They are providing quality education for 40,000 children through 34 schools and a college; Medicare with 369 bedded hospitals and dispensaries. They have also undertaking social costs, by providing drinking water to surrounding villages and irrigation water to 20,000 acres in nearby villages.

Now, even this sort of golden egg laying undertaking is also unfortunately targetted for disinvestment by the Government. I would only appeal to the Government that since there is already a policy that strategic companies and profit making undertakings should not be disturbed, undertakings like NLC should be given all support and encouragement to stand on their own feet and Government should not burn its finger unnecessarily.

NLC is generating power at the most optimum level and offering to various States at a minimum cost of Rs. 1.64 per unit and with this, it is possible for the State Governments to provide electricity at cheap tariff to domestic consumers and farmers. The past experience of privatising the power project is also bitter, as you have seen Enron, Dabhol power project. Even the consumers would be put to hardship sine they have to bear heavy burden, since the Government would pass on the extra cost on them.

As we have seen in the last one decade, no tangible results were achieved by the Government by privatising most of the public sector units, rather it invited criticisms from all quarters. So, I would appeal to the Government to reconsider the whole disinvestment policy and in PSEs involving strategic considerations, the Government should continue to retain majority holding. Profit making undertakings should not be privatised since the benefits would be taken away by the private people, and with the result the workers and the general public would face the consequences.

The Government has also committed in various pronouncement made right from 1991 Statement of Industrial Policy, the workers shall be protected in all cases. I would therefore urge upon the Government that wherever the workers were dislocated/affected due to the disinvestment policy of the Government, their interests should be fully protected.

However, in ground reality, nothing is happening. Thousands and lakhs of workers are facing the problems and the Government machinery is not serious in protecting their interests, nor have they been rehabilitated. In the New Economic Reforms process, the workers are the worst sufferers and they are left to fend for themselves. It is creating frustration and unrest in the society. If this situation continues, it may explode any time, leading to law and order problems and social conflicts.

[Shri C. Kuppusami]

I would therefore, appeal to the Government to pay attention to the labour aspect also so that their interests are well protected and some social security net is provided to them.

DR. B.B. RAMALIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many hon. Members have made very exhaustive speeches on the issue of disinvestment, which is being repeatedly talked about every year. All of them have agreed in principle that we have to do it but they have given different suggestions on the methodology as to how it should be done.

When we took up this disinvestment issue in 1991, that was the time when the Government felt that this was an absolutely necessary policy for this country. They have invested nearly Rs. 2,74,000 crore in public sector and a substantial amount is the borrowed amount, whether internally or externally. We find that the return on this is not adequate either to reply it or to take up the possible expansion and development. That is the stage when disinvestment policy was started in 1991.

Shri Tripathi has mentioned that in 1991 it started with some push of Rs. 3000 crore and sometimes it went down while at other times it has gone up. In 1994-95 it went up to Rs. 4,800 crore and in 1998-99 it was Rs. 5000 crore. Ultimately, on 24 July, 2002 the total amount realised out of disinvestment was only Rs. 29,000 crore as against the projected target of about Rs. 78,000 crore. Anyhow, the question is how to take it up.

At the moment, we have taken up this issue when there is going to be a lot of restrictions on this sector. They have already liberalised and have given a sort of freedom for the management. They have started an MoU system. The system is adopted to give more freedom for the operation of the experts to see that their capabilities can be shown. Earlier, for everything, they required permission. You had to move from one place to other. A man from Bangalore has to go to Delhi and do a lot of things. If he has to take some borrowing or some technology, there are restrictions there. That has been substantially liberalised and they are asked to show their performance. Also, asset and manpower is provided in a number of public sector units.

While we are making this sort of a system, we find that some units are doing better while other as not able to do. So, this sort of categorisation also started. What we had seen earlier, we were able to improve some of the performances because of high duty protection. The methodology which we used is called as the administrative price system.

That is slowly coming down in the present system. We have now opened up to competition and we are facing competition. So, naturally protection is coming down in every direction. Here is the time when we have to show our real abilities. Sometimes we have to see whether we can merge some units; whether we can open up some sectors by improving their capabilities and by reducing their overheads and by seeing to their more efficient operations. That is why, only a few days back we have replaced the world monopoly with competition. Here we would like to bring in judiciary, commerce, and different expertise so that they should be able to take our suggestions.

Everyone is more interested about the evaluation. The most important point is transparency. What is equally important is whether there is transparency in how we are disinvesting some units. Transparency, opening up have to come in and confidentiality has to go out. That is very important. Any other suggestion by which we can have more transparency, opening up and better price realisation than what we are getting today is most welcome. The only way we can think of it is to leave it to the experts committee.

The stock market is fluctuating very much. This is the time when we have to study it very carefully. SEBI has to take things under its control and give proper guidance. We need some sort of a system by which we can ensure transparency here also.

Disinvestment Ministry should completely keep away from the strategic industries. I think the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment will be able to take care of it. They must be already doing some exercise and we have to rely on their wisdom.

Another important point is how you are going to utilise the amount that is coming out of disinvestment. We are giving VRS at a number of places. This amount is spent largely for that only. But, this amount has to be used in some of the places where we find that some units have to be closed down for various reasons beyond our control and we need to give VRS to the workers. We will have to take care of those people to see that somehow or the other they are able to survive. Workers' interest must be taken care of. We have to take enough care for their protection and security. Everyone of us think about welfare measures. We can use this money for giving better health and education and for meeting other social obligations. This is where we need to spend and help this country prosper. Here, suggestions given by all the hon. Members, by the Experts Committee on Disinvestment, Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment and others too play a very

important role. With the involvement of more and more people we can categorise as to which are the sectors to be strengthened, where we have to come down to 26 per cent and where we have to maintain at 45 per cent. The number of sectors also should be worked out and a clear-cut policy has to be announced.

I feel disinvestment is absolutely essential. We have to go ahead. The only caution to be exercised here is that we have to see that proper methodology is applied, there is transparency and involvement of experts at every stage.

With these few words, I thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Khiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issue of disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, portraits and idols of various great leaders of the country who struggled for India's freedom, are placed in Parliament House. We have established their idols here. This House has changed the fate of Hindustan and Hindustanis. I am at loss to understand whether the path shown by our elders was right or the one on which our present Government is leading us, is right.

Today, we have to decide whether the beginning was wrong or the present path on which we are moving today is wrong. We got freedom after giving several sacrifices. Thereafter, we started moving on a set direction. Under that direction. India had moved towards a planned economy and set up several PSUs which became backbone of our economy. But under the present circumstances, these important PSUs are being sold out one by one. Though the Government is calling it a disinvestment but as per the facts revealed by the newspapers, it is not disinvestment rather distress sale. It is a step takes by a weak and frustrated Government which is working in an arbitrary manner.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, an agenda was formulated in our Constitution for the upliftment of people living below the poverty line and to provide them justice. However, the present Government has changed that agenda. Now the only working agenda of this Government is to play compartment politics only and to raise the issue of terrorism again and again to get political mileage and power. What more we can expect from those who have changed the working agenda of this country ? Today the failures of this Government are emerging before us. The Government is posing terrorism as an issue which is the result of present Government's policies only. A reference has been made here that international trade terrorism is spreading world-wide and the social economic and political situation of our country is also being affected by it. Instead of taking some concrete steps, they decided to sold the companies which are backbone of our country and have given a recognition to the nation, through distressed sale.

India has a big market and multinational companies are trying to enter this market at any cost. The Government have failed to organise the big market as resources. The situation is that the pressures from outside the country has weakened the economy of our companies. Their weakness is being taken as a basis to disinvest these companies so that Government could get some funds to make up the budget deficit, and other requirements.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that India had immense potentialities. Even the country like America used to say that India is a sleeping God. The day it will wake up, it would become a challenge for the entire world. Where that challenge and those potentialities have gone? Simply I want to say as I have stated earlier also in the House that prior to moving towards the economic reforms, we should bring administrative and judicial reforms so that the responsibility of the officers and the staff who run PSUs could be fixed. As my previous speaker was mentioning, responsible administrative officers are being deputed to convert the loss making PSUs into profit earning one. Such examples are coming before us. However, the Government is pursuing towards economic reforms without paying attention towards administrative misperformance, administrative negligency etc. Government is not taking any potential step to increase the per capita productivity income and efficiency so that the country could progress economically. Government has taken a decision which they called a hard decision to sale out the important PSUs. The funds raised thereby would be utilised elsewhere.

Sir, as has been stated, this issue has been discussed in the House several times, but the attitude of the Government has not changed at all. This is the situation today. The process of disinvestment was started with a view that the loss making PSUs be made profit earning one through a strategic partner but it could not be achieved. Later on it was decided that some PSUs would be sold out to make up the losses. However, that target was also not achieved. Thereafter, it was decided that the loss making PSUs be clubbed with profit making PSUs to make up the losses.

The Member who spoke before me was stating that during his tenure, disinvestment was only a part of

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

Government's economic policy but the way present Government has made it a main part of their economic policy, it seems that Government has deviated somewhere from its path. Now it is becoming clear that powerful middleman lobby has been formed in the functioning of the Government. Several examples regarding selling of undertakings are coming to light. Recently, Batra hospitalities brought an hotel but they did not run it the way the Government was expecting. They resold it. It is now proved that touts have emerged who are moblising the entire process. I would like to quote something which came to my notice and also published in newspaper.

[English]

> "Even Mr. Shourie has admitted to the existence of Corporate tentacles in the Government and the critical roles they play."

[Translation]

I do not think anything is left to be spoken on the issue. We started from a particular point but reached to some other point. We began with an aim to make India a self-reliant and the largest democracy on earth but ironically the Government is selling out the establishments which were set up with our hard work. Now even some Members from ruling side are also opposing this policy. Various important Ministers of the Government, organiser of RSS, Shri Sudrashanji and some intellectuals have raised questions on this policy. Today, we should consider a fresh whether the path we are following is right or wrong. Is reform the only target of the Government is considerate about the wishes of the people.

I would like to mention clearly that the rate of economic development in India has declined since the parties started playing the compartment politics especially by creating a Hindu-Muslim compartment in the country. Even newspapers have also mentioned it. On the one hand, we are following a path where economic losses are being incurred, on the other hand, Government is trying to sell the PSUs who have been the backbone of the economy of the country.

Sir, we have to seriously consider as to what was our aim in the beginning and where we stand today. One thing has been stated very emphatically as how the money raised from disinvestment would be spent. In the document, it has been mentioned that the productivity of the illiterate poor people of the country would be raised and they would be made them self reliant. In the next two three years, the whole world is going to be TRIPS complaint. Each and every Indian will have to monitor their productivity to become a productive force otherwise they would be out of the production system.

Sir, is it not a challenge before us that we ponder upon as to how to uplift the people living below poverty line, to make them self-reliant and literate, to provide them with health care and to generate employment potential for them? We have been apprised in the House that since the process of liberalisation has started in the country, several thousands of small scale industries have been ruined and 15-20 lakh people have been rendered jobless. Today the educated youth of the country has no job and are wandering aimless. Country's development has been hampered and I regret to say that Government is not taking adequate steps to fulfill the constitutional commitments and the money raised for the disinvestment which were proposed to be spent on the welfare of poor people and to raise their standard of living by the Government are being used to bridge the budget deficit. Government has given Rs. 14,500 crore to compensate the loss of UTI suffered on account of security scam. Government has failed to do anything for the crores of youth who are the backbone of country's future.

Sir, keeping all these things in view I would like to say that this Government has not only digressed from its responsibilities but it has also led the entire country astray and the direction in which India is heading at present has led the credit rating agencies based abroad the place India in 'B' Grade category and this is a said truth for our country. This country is not sate in the hands of this country.

Sir, I request all my colleagues, especially those sitting on the treasury benches that the path we are following is not in consonance with the Indian ethos though many of them have pitched their voice of dissent and they have realised that the policy of the Government in this regard is not transparent and its implementation is also dubious. I urge upon them to ponder over it with open eyes and an open mind.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) :Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on disinvestment being held today on behalf of my party Shiv Sena. The day before yesterday, I had extensively dealt with it when a question was asked on this issue. Just now, Shri Ravi Prakash Varmaji was saying that the Central Government has a responsibility that it should generate employment. We have also a duty to create employment opportunities at local levels. This has been going on for the last 50 years. Shri Manishankar Ayyar rightly said that this is being done in case of Burma Shell and Indian Oil etc.

18.45 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Now it is high time to think as to where we are going after the nationalisation of banks. Most of our dedicated workers in Maharashtra are working in Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum, Centur Hotel etc. and many other such companies which are in the process of being disinvested. Our fellow Marathi workers are working in these units in large numbers and it is a question of their lives, and their livelihood and their world is being shattered.

We met Shri Ram Naikji when the employees of Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum approached us. Right now 'dada' spoke very well. He had sought an appointment with the hon. Prime Minister and the delegation also included the MP's from Shiv Sena. This is a common concern of thousand of workers. This is a very serious issue and the Members of Shiv Sena are also seriously pondering over it. Though, we are part of the Government, yet, it is a matter of concern for us also. Hon. Balasaheb Thakre had said on the occasion of Vijayadashmi ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is a question of the country ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDAKANT KHAIRE: That is why I am speaking. We are making clear our stand here. The House should think over it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Khaireji, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Dada has said that the entire House should raise this demand because it is the question of national assets. I had also raised the same question that day as to whether they have ever pondered over the reasons why PSU's are incurring losses? Right now, he was talking about Steel Authority of India Ltd. Today someone informed me that the officials are having the way for disinvestment in collusion with the big companies? How are they doing so? The officers and directors of SAIL, though I do not want to name anyone, in collusion with somebody are curtailing the production by 50 percent so as to clear the way for the disinvestment of SAIL. ...*(Interruptions)* They are yet to disinvest it but in the next Cabinet meeting the proposal for disinvesting SAIL would be brought forward citing the reason of incurring losses as has just now been mentioned by Ravi Prakash Varma ji that they are doing so in order to make up the deficit. The latest document reveals that though Rs. 12000 crores were targeted to be mobilised through disinvestment during the current year's budget but so far only Rs. 3022 crore have been mobilised. It further stated that it is impossible to achieve the target of Rs. 12000 crore what is the need for us to indulge in this sinful act at the cost of our working class.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due respect to you and Shri Ram Naik, I would like to submit that an H.M.T. company is situated in my parliamentary constituency, Sambhaji Nagar, Aurangabad. When the Cabinet moved passed the proposal of selling the said HMT, I met you and Shri Ram Naikji. You said that the proposal was passed in the Cabinet but it was not. At that time you were the Chief Minister and I was the Cabinet Minister. The proposal after having been cleared by the Cabinet was sent back for its reconsideration. At that time our officers suggested that the HMT be sold off. I vehemently opposed this move despite being the Member of the same party. I sat on a dharna when the officers of the HMT and Maruti were present in you premises. At that time you had assumed that you would hold discussion with all the officers in this regard. Still the officers did not support my view and they were in favour of the sell off. When I opposed the move, you threw up a challenge that the company should turn into a profit earning unit. The company should profit in one year. Why don't they do so in the co-operative sector. ...*(Interruptions)* Today, Hindustan Petroleum's and Bharat Petroleum. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why don't you stage a dharna there? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: There are several companies like Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum etc. I would speak on NALCO ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is also a conspiracy ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Now, the efforts are on to disinvest NALCO.

NALCO has utilized its potential more than hundred percent and has earned a profit of Rs. 1153 rupees in the last ten years out of which has paid Rs. 2295 crore as Tax to the Government of India besides making a reinvestment of Rs. 3994 crore. Why the company is

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

being disinvested ...*(Interruptions)* Some Ministers of the NDA Government are opposed to it ...*(Interruptions)* I had asked Shri Rambabu Naik to resume his seat. He also shares our views on it but he is being pressurised and all this is being done under pressure. Our Government have some responsibility ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Khaireji, don't address the opposition, address the Chair. You also have very good prospects, you address the Chair.

SHRI SHYAMCHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): Gurui has been left alone in the entire ruling coalition. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am here.

[English]

I am sufficient for everybody.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I would not say anything about the Government but you have come to understand its BALCO was discussed in detail here. We also voted in their favour but BALCO company was sold around Rs. 500 crore. Today, how much profit is it earning? Sterlite company invested money in it but I would like to know as to how much money this Sterlite company is contributing to the Government officers in the shape of excise and other duties. I this almost nill. A unit of Steralite company is situated in my area. It indulged in an evasion of excise duty worth Rs. 67 crore within the span of one and a half year. We would have to think as to should we whether sell our companies to such tax evaders ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over. Ten minutes allotted to you are over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Some day back I had asked hon. Minister as to how many transactions have taken place. He told-

[English]

"In the last two years, 34 transactions have taken place for disinvestment. Out of these, 26 companies were loss making".

[Translation]

All right. I would understand that it is going in loss. Wherein his Disinvestment Department or any other department concerned, had ever realized as to why companies are running in loss? That day also, I had told that Managerial staff, CMD and ED are responsible for it. I was not happy with the reply to a question given by the Minister. Employees and officers are rendered surplus. The company purchasing the stake is in favour of giving VRS to employees. I have not read the policy of disinvestment, my ancestors might have read. I am not sure whether the policy of disinvestment contain any provision to protect employees. Whoever has purchased it has no right to sell it. I will go explain further. Hon. Minister has said.

[English]

"Workers are responsible for the condition of the Government enterprises." ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

It means companies are in loss ...*(Interruptions)*. There was no fault of workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: They did not submit accounts in the Parliament for years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANTRAKANT KHAIRE: I want to tell that CMD ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can you tell the name of book from which you are quoting at the moment?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: What the Minister has said to my question, day before, yesterday, regarding disinvestment of Centaur Hotel, contained everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whether his reply is authentic?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: He has submitted printed version of his reply.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the reply of Arun Shourie ji's.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Yes Sir, the reply given by Shri Arun Shourie is also here. I would like to submit that it is the responsibility of the Government of India to create employment and to explore more possibility of it. All predecessor Governments carried out same responsibility whereas present Government are selling out everything. While disinvesting at least we should ...*(Interruptions)* I had given notice for Half-an-hour discussion, which you have disallowed and you have

allowed to speak in today's discussion. So, I have to speak for half-an-hour.

MR. SPEAKER: How can it be half-an-hour? You were allotted 10 minutes whereas I have given you 12 minutes. Now you conclude. There is no rule, which provides that since Half-an-hour discussion has been disallowed, Member would speak for more time on that issue. Now you come to the important points you want to raise.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I would like to disclose the bungling being committed by big industrialists who purchase these undertakings. Our policy should be employment oriented.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will reply at 7.30 p.m.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we are ready to sit upto 9 O'clock.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: While going in for disinvestment it is our responsibility to keep the welfare and future of employees in mind. But, the Minister has said nothing in this regard. The staff has no protection from Government. Now I would like to tell ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen Sir. Three employees of Centaur Hotel have died since disinvestment process started in it. Hon. Minister had told that the Government had taken steps to protect the interest of employees but the company which has bought it is compelling the staff to opt for VRS. That day also I had told that three employees have died. He explained the reason also but that is not right. Though anyone may fall sick but employees are apprehensive of their future. Families of all the 550 employees had assembled at the bungalow of hon. Bala Saheb Thakre by taking out a Morchand prayed him to save them. The fact is that we also want to give them protection, however, I will not say anything against the Minister personally our Dada has also said the same thing. He is a very good person and a man of letter but he is selling the companies through disinvestment. We have been elected by the people whereas he is a nominated Member. He is a great personality, a legend. I am a grass-root worker and often keep meeting with the people. People ask us as to why the Government are selling companies. It is immaterial whether there are 10 or one thousand employees in a company. Whenever we go to most people they tell us that these companies are being sold out. On behalf of Shiv Sena, I want to tell that why should we give a chance to opposition parties to speak against us. No, we should not give them a chances. If the companies are running in loss, the Government should bail them out. Has the Government not helped UTI? Anyway, I want to tell that some sort of aid should be provided to these companies also.

I would like to say that even hon. Bala Saheb Thakare has told on Vijaydashawin that there has been something wrong in disinvestment of Centaur Hotel. I would like to tell that disinvestment of Centaur hotel was undertaken through Hotel Corporation of India.

19.00 hrs.

I would like to tell something about disinvestment of Centaur hotel and I hope hon. Minister to clarify it in his reply. Two bidding took place for it. First bid took place in November, 2001. Hotel Corporation of India was approached by 37 parties. At that time a condition was imposed that only those party would pre qualify for the bidding which are related to hotel industry. This condition reduced the number of parties to 28. Four parties out of that filled up EMD for Centaur hotel. Subsequently, three parties did not participate in financial bid and ultimately the hotel was sold to Batra company. All these three parties may have come together with Batra and may have formed Syndicate and remained silent. Batra company bought out the hotel for Rs. 65 crore. Later on, it approached CCD and reduced lease premium of Airport Authority from six per cent to two percent. One party may have quoted price below the bid and in such case Tender should have been invited again. But it was not done.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you may conclude.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me ten more minutes since I had also demanded Half-an-hour discussion on this issue. I am not pointing out mistake of hon. Minister but am pointing out mistake of his department. Why the department did not observe transparency? Office of his Ministry are misleading him as well as the Government then why do not he takes action against them? His department reduced lease premium from 6 to 2 percent which resulted in loss of crore of rupees to the Airport Authority. As per my estimate the hotel was to earn a profit of Rs. 17 crore in 10 years and Rs. 51 crore in 30 years. When the premium was reduced form 6 to 2 percent,the bid should have been inreased to Rs. 100 crore. They purchased it for Rs. 83 crore and resold it to Sahara group within 4 months. How Sahara group has come in scene? Do they have any experience in hotel industry. Why they gave Rs. 35 crore extra, this should also be examined. Why the Government did not get that money? That day also

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

I had raised this issue that since the Government are resorting to disinvestment to help loss making units and to increase its budget then why this money did not reach Government exchequer? Batra company earned Rs. 39 crore within four months and it should be inquired by CBI. How did Shara group come into the scene and how the company capitalized such a big amount? The cause of my anguish against the group is that on the one hand it paid Rs. 39 crore more and on the other forced 650 employees to sign VRS. After that, they employed some contract labour? Leaders of our unions were present there and they know everything. This Sahara company can spend money on cricket players, but it cannot spend money on VRS. Prior to it banks also implemented VRS wherein 15-16,000 employees opted for it. That time also, I total them not to take such measures but they did not listen to me. Later on, it was said that this amount will be deposited in banks. Today, condition is very bad. Many, who opted VRS, suffered heart attack.

My submission is that this entire affair should be inquired into. An agreement was entered into with the company wherein it was provided.

[English]

"Neither this agreement nor any benefit nor any burden under this agreement shall be assignable by either party without the prior written consent of the other party."

[Translation]

Now how they struck this deal? Did they ask the Government? Did they take comment of the Government after entering into agreement with Sahara? No, they did not take consent and the condition of Centaur hotel is very bad now. I would like to tell that a request has been made to our hon. Member Mohan Rawale about Centaur hotel, Juhu. Many employees told that one more company named Tulip is doing the same thing. That company should not act like this. But it is everywhere the same story, be it BALCO, VSNL. How much profit VSNL may be earning? Shri Suresh Jadhav had raised a question after disinvestment of VSNL. I told him, since it is our Government so do not make much fuss. ...*(Interruptions)* How much profit VSNL is making now, after it has gone to Tata? What was CMD, ED and people of supervisory category were doing before disinvestment time? Therefore, my submission is that the country should have a policy. Inquiry of officials should be conducted before disinvestment and that too by CBI. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now please, conclude. I can not give you more than twenty minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, where have the Minister gone? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As you know, a single Minister constitute a full Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: (Mumbai South Central): Marathis are working in that hotel and they are under paid. Their salary is inadequate to make both ends meet. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government should cancel this deal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: There is one point of pertinence. The Minister who is in-charge of the enterprises, which are going to be disinvested, is not present. Not a single Minister of them is present except their guardian. This method, which is being adopted by the Government, is not correct. It is against the rule.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I want to conclude now ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: According to the rules of business, there is no guardian in the Ministry except the Prime Minister. Is the Minister of Disinvestment the guardian of all the Ministries? ...*(Interruptions)* How?

[Translation]

Does guardianship work in the Ministry?

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Many Ministries are being disinvested. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I would conclude within half-a-minute. We are Member of NDA. We face ire of people when we go out to the constituencies for what the Government are doing. should we tell the Government every time to be transparent. The Government are telling that it is observing transparency in every deal, then why it all happened in the case of

Centaur Hotel. An inquiry by CBI should be conducted about it. The deal has been struck in violation of agreement. The deal clinched with Sahara should be cancelled immediately, otherwise it should again be handed over to Hotel Corporation of India. Whatever dealing has taken place should be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: I want to raise a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The issue of disinvestment is being discussed here and Minister of Disinvestment is present here so, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: This is the point which he should respond.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the floor to him.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: How is he going to take charge of the Hotel Corporation of India which is coming under the Ministry of Civil Aviation?

MR. SPEAKER: It is coming under the Ministry of Tourism.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: He is authorised by the hon. Prime Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I know it is a nodal Ministry.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The Prime Minister has authorised him.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: All disinvestment matters come to him. It is a nodal Ministry. Every Minister is not required to present here for the discussion on disinvestment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has been fully authorised to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: He has been empowered as a guardian.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you have to finish it in 10 minutes' time. I am giving everybody 10 minutes' time.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, the House has been discussing frequently the issue of disinvestment and now it has reached villages even. Disinvestment has become a talk of the town in villages. As far as I know, whenever we go in for elections, every party prepares its manifesto and on the same lines NDA too fought elections with a manifesto and I have won election on NDA's manifesto. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar had asked 15 questions on Disinvestment. Not 15, but I too will ask 2-4 questions to hon. Minister. Somnath Chatterjee ji has spoken at length on it. I would like to ask hon. Minister as to what was there in Election manifesto of NDA regarding disinvestment? In no country of the world, Ministry on Disinvestment exists. This country has been ruled by different Governments during the last 55 years but so far no Disinvestment Ministry was formed. These days Disinvestment Ministry is called Ministry of Sale, means-whatever comes ahead, sell it. Why has he accepted this Ministry, he will be known as Minister of Sales. For the first time this Ministry has been created in our country.

Sir, profit making as well as loss making undertakings both are being sold out. These undertakings belong to whom-to Prabhunath Singh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, or Arun Shourie or to the people of the nation. If these belong to the public then whether any referendums to this effect was hold before selling them. If it was not done then it means these undertakings belong to the public of the country. And if it is so, then who has a right to sell them? A peculiar situation has been created. Opposition as well some allies of NDA are against it. Just now a Member of Shiv Sena was speaking against it. We, too, are a small partner in it. I am also expressing my views. In a telecast on T.V. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra a spokesman was telling that there is no dispute over disinvestment in NDA. It will be clear only at the time of voting when the outcome may go against. Our sentiments itself is a kind of dispute. So, Arun Shourie ji, Government cannot be run with the force of power. People in country are not in favour of it. Even more that half of the Ministers in the Cabinet are not in favour of it. Even more that half of the Ministers in the Cabinet are not in favour of it. Minister of Petroleum too was not taken into confidence and even he is not in its favour. Several M.Ps. in BJP are against it. It has been proved by the fact that many Members of BJP have gone out leaving hon. Minister alone to face discussion. It means even they are not in favour of it. If anyone is in favour of selling out undertakings, it is only Mr. Arun Shourie. Arun Shourie alone cannot mean complete India and he is not the

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

owner of all undertakings of the country. These people are clapping, I would give them a befitting reply. Arun Shourieji, through Lok Sabha I warn the Government that our party will withdraw the support if our sentiments are not respected. If the party does not withdraw support then Samta party will face its consequences. We may be forced to face elections but we cannot accept that and we convey this message to public of this country.

We are not ready to accept that. Why the Public undertaking, incurring losses, are being sold? In villages, we see that property is sold only in crisis or emergency. Land and property is sold only when somebody is sick or during marriage of a family member or on death of the aged when no other option is left. Whether the circumstances have been deteriorated to such an extent in the country and if not, then what is the need to sell those public undertakings. You say that these are incurring losses and if so, who will improve their condition? What are the reasons behind this loss, why this point has not been considered seriously?

Sir, just now, one of our colleague was saying that strong will power is needed to make these units viable if these were running in losses. Do you think that economy of the country will be improved by selling property of the country ...*(Interruptions)* You propose to sell companies like HPCL and BPCL which earned profit worth of Rs. 173 crore and Rs. 218 crore in 2001 and 2002 respectively. Why the public Undertakings, which were earning that much profit one-year ago are being sold? Where this money will be invested? Please tell us where this funds is being spent-on safety of public, Health facilities, education of poor children or transport facility. These Public Undertakings should not be sold but made viable. Have you ever thought about the future of people working in these undertakings? There is no need to think about that as the public themselves will ask you about it. There is a saying in my Village "Jantata hai chilam, jis par charhta angora". Ramvilas Paswanji, you have come here but we have to face the public in our constituency, so we have to deal with it firmly. The hon'ble Minister is in Delhi but we have to face people's queries in villages. This is a matter of fate.

Sir, through you I would like to say to the Government that opposition has to play a significant role while respecting sentiments of NDA, and realising dreams of Public and opposition parties. Today Public have sent them in opposition, though they were in ruling party earlier and position may change if such mistakes are committed by this Government. We may not be affected much but through you I warn the Government that ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should not forget the war of 1971. Perhaps in 1971 itself the then Prime Minister late Shrimati Indira Gandhi nationalised oil companies, coal mines and banks. At that time she was termed incarnation of Goddess Durga as she was doing nationalisation and enhancing the assets and source of income of the country. Now those assets are being sold. What the people of this country will say? Shrimati Indira Gandhi can be termed Goddess Durga due to nationalisation. ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: These words will not go on record.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: This is not an unparliamentary word.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not proper to say so.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: When 'Durga' is not an unparliamentary word then how come this can be dubbed unparliamentary? If word 'Ram' is Parliamentary then 'Ravan' is also a parliamentary word.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot make personal assault.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: They have also tried to sell public undertakings.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We do not praise them. In case of statue also we said that there is some irregularities in that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in total 230 small and big companies have been disinvested so far. Our party convened a conference in Rajkot from 29th October to 31st October. I would like to quote some part of this conference-"National council of the party would like to clarify its position regarding issue of disinvestment and privatisation. Party does not oppose the policy of disinvestment and privatisation. There are some economic reasons behind disinvestment. But there should not be any scope of doubt in the process of disinvestment. The process of disinvestment should be transparent and should not deviate from its main objectives. The recent example in this regard is a matter of concern. This year in February Centaur hotel of Mumbai was sold to Batra Hospitality for Rs. 83 crore and within six months Batra Hospitality sold this hotel to Sahara Group for Rs. 125 crore and earned profit of Rs. 32 crore. In this period of recession, such a big amount of profit in such a little period creates doublet regarding the price fixed for disinvestment.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. You can take 2 or minutes more. Shri Raghuvansh Babu has yet to speak. We have to conclude it by 8 O'Clock.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Allright. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Samata Party has expressed its opposition in regard to their working. As hon'ble Somnathji has told that Standing Committee has reviewed all the points before submitting it to the Government but they did not consider the recommendations of the Standing Committee as well. We want to know whether this is being done to strengthen the financial position of one industrialist. Whether officials are being transferred and dismissed at the instance of Reliance Group? After leaving these public Undertakings, they join this company for Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 2 lakh per month. Whether any inquiry will be conducted by the Government in this regard? It is stated about the Reliance Group that-"Reliance is such a company of the country which has used all tactics, be it foul and fair, to ruin a person who raised his voice against it or any industry which tried to compete it. Whether be it is a case of Kapil Mehra, Nusali Wadia, Ruia, ISSAR Group or TATA Group. It has a history of ruining its competitors by adopting mean tactics like; getting raids conducted, exposing matters related to tax, by putting pressure through media and by physically assaulting and eliminating their competitors.

The then Home Minister had also stated in Lok Sabha regarding Reliance that during the course of investigations, it has been found that President of Reliance Group Limited has some links with Mafia don Romesh Sharma whom Delhi Police has arrested. This matter is still under investigation.

But what investigations have been undertaken till now. The entire drama is being played to benefit the company. It seems that the Government is playing in the hands of this company and is working like a plaything in the hands of this company. I would like to draw your attention towards some important points regarding Reliance.

One of the most important point regarding Reliance is that it is the only company which has maximum number of cases of tax evasion and fraud against it. No other company can compete with it in this regard. The way this company is ignoring the economic law to gain success, a common opinion has been formed in the country that this company has links at high level and political patronage also.

Reliance has never been faithful towards its shareholders. The company is involved in share scam of Rs. 1 lakh 45 thousand crore in which various cases of cheating adopting different modus operandi have come to light. It has made huge losses to shareholders. A large part of media is under Reliance's control and it has been the tendency of this company to fabricate stories to let down the other industrial houses and to pose themselves superior. The real face of this company was exposed at that time also when the news items regarding duplicate shares same was published in newspapers and it had gone to an extent of delisting the Mumbai Stock Exchange. I do not want to raise other points as the discussion is not taking place on Reliance. I would like to clarify that the manner in which this Government is working, it seems that it is deliberately adopting wrong methods and selling out public sector undertakings to benefit this company. I would like to state in clear terms that since Pakistan is posing challenge before us and terrorists have created an atmosphere of terror in the country, the Government will certainly be duped in time of crisis if it sells out public sector undertakings especially the oil companies to private hands. Therefore, I warned the Government to be vigilant about the safety of the country and to reconsider the disinvestments of the oil companies especially. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our party has 182 Members. Is no one from our side would be allowed to speak? It seems that the entire House is against us and we are helpless. However, we are not helpless. Please give opportunity to the members of our party also. Members belonging to a small party with 2-3 members speak here and treat us to divide the NDA Government. They are threatening us. You please give us the opportunity to speak. It is inappropriate to give opportunity to others but not us.

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked the question regarding the time. The House should know about it. I would like to tell something to the Members. My endeavour is to allow at least one Member from each party to speak. You will notice that I have tried to do justice in this regard. Your Party member whose name was on the top has been called and has made his speech. Hon'ble Minister will also reply. Only one Member from your Party-Shri Vijyender Pal Singh's name is with me and I am going to call his name. At least one representative of each party should be given the opportunity. The point has been raised regarding the time. There is nothing to get annoyed it. You can rely on me. I will never do injustice and I do not want to do so. Members from Congress Party are also there in the list. I have told them the samething.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Normally, you decide these things. ...*(Interruptions)* When the first round is over, again, you can consider. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am not accusing you. I have full faith in you. However, the way debate is going on here, it seems we are helpless and no one except the hon'ble Minister is with us.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right. I can understand.

[English]

SHRI RRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I will share with my dear friend only on one point. In all the debates, it is a system that Members from every party speak, but proportionate time should be given to the Parties who have Members in large number. If one Member is allowed to speak from each party, whether small or large, then, it is not justice. That is what is my point.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to reply to your point also. Every party, considering the time given to the debate, has been considered. But suppose, if the first Member, who rises to speak, only takes the entire time of the party, the other Members will not be permitted to speak. That is done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What if the debate is extended?

MR. SPEAKER: You also know the rules. If somebody points out to me the rule, I will have to be very perfect on that.

Sometimes, considering the importance of the subject, we allow more time. However, as per the rules, every party has been allotted some time. I have got the complete record and I am prepared to read it out to the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Nobody understands the agony of the person sitting in that Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Except you, nobody understands it because you had suffered that agony.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: We have full faith in your judgment and in your discretion. You are trying to do justice to everybody. The only request we would like to make is that while giving time to all the Members, it should be seen that a small party having one Member are speaking on every subject for ten minutes. It is not that they should not be given the time. However, the Chief Whips of those parties, who have large number of Members, have received complaints from their respective Members that they are not getting the time to speak. It is only a request, and I know that you alone cannot help in this matter; the Whips and we, all Members sitting here, have to help you.

MR. SPEAKER: I am fully seized of the matter. There are a number of Members who are individual Members and they have not been given time at all. It is not that major partners get less time, but there are individual Members also and, sometimes, they must be given an opportunity. I have to look after them also.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Some time back, it was said that it would be interesting to make a study as to who are all the Members who speak in every debate, irrespective of the support of two or three Members that they have.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody knows the names of such Members.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of disinvestment has been discussed almost in every session. Shri Tripathy has stated that the House has discussed this 14 times. Hon'ble Prime Minister of the country has stated several times within and outside the House that they want to administer the country on the basis of a broad consensus. However, a broad consensus may or may not be there but I think that the country is being run without even a narrow consensus within the NDA's itself. There is a need to consider whether the country would be sold out or it would remain safe.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, time and again, I tell them to stop selling out the country, it is not their property but they are not listening. That is why I am saying that the discussion on this issue would be continued till the Lok Sabha is in session and we will also continue to fight for this sake. It is the failure on the part of the opposition that they are successful in selling out the country. They should not be allowed to sell the country. Government has applied a trick and they named this selling in English as disinvestment but in Hindi it is Vinivesh. People in rural areas are not aware of it. Economists have hatched

several conspiracies and looted the country in the name of No Performing Assets. Rural people are not aware of NPA also. Government is playing trick. The word disinvestment seems a little good but the country is passing through a serious danger. Opposition is unanimous on this issue and is against it. This issue has been discussed in the House for 14 times. Leader of major parties of the ruling alliance including member of Shiv Sena also have spoken on this issue. Shri Prabhunath Singh has spoken in this regard. He mentioned that a meeting of Ministers was held at Prime Minister's House in which they showed their dissent on it. Is the Government bent upon to sell the country? We all are against it. Farmer can sell a cow which is no longer able to give milk. He would not feed it though its cow dung is used in various ways. However, selling out a cow which is a healthy one and is yielding much milk is beyond understanding. Just now Shri Prabhunath Singh has stated that a person is compelled to sold out cow, ornaments, arable land and at least his own house when the family is on the verge of starvation. This Government is doing in the same manner as if some other country is ruling us and is selling out our country. H.P.C.L. is a profit making company which was nationalised in 1974. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): It was not nationalised rather it was purchased after negotiations.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes, it was purchased and legislation to this effect was enacted in Parliament. The Act was passed in the Parliament.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Act was passed in the Parliament.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUNVASH PRASAD SINGH: It was created by the Act of Parliament and now it is said that it is being sold. They will ruin the Parliament and finish everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Someday, they will sell the Parliament even.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is a profit making unit, it's turnover has increased from 14 crore to 50 crore. The people who formulate strategy are saying that the security of country is paramount. In the name of security many private companies like ESSO, Burma Shell were nationalised through unfair means, then it was said these companies should be owned by the Government, but common people are discussing it everywhere as to why they are doing so. People are openly talking about Reliance. Earlier, we also used to hear that Reliance is involved in it. The Government is functioning on the dictates of Reliance. Today, it has been exposed. All this is being done for the progress of Reliance. Shri Prabhunath Singh was saying that Minister and Officers are re-instated as per their directions. We are against the people who are selling the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the example of Centaur Hotel is before us. What is Government's reply is this regard? Why the Government are avoiding CBI's inquiry in this regard. The Government are repeatedly saying that there is transparency in their working, they are working well, then why are they avoiding CBI inquiry. The entire world has come to know all this. The Hotel which was sold by the Government for Rs. 80 crore, after 2-3 months it was repurchased by somebody else by paying Rs. 40 crore more, the amount may be more than this. The Government have sold 230 companies. Many big scams have been there. It has become talk of the town that Government are selling public undertakings at throw away prices.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to cite an example. Loard Buddha was enlightened at Bodh Gaya. The State Government gave 60 acres of land over there to the Union Government. The State Government gives land to the Union Government for constructing an institution on that land. The State Government gave 60 acres of land to ITDC for running the Hotel. They sold if for Rs. two crore one lakh. Such is the fate of land of Bodh Gaya where the international airport is going to be constructed, I would like to raise two questions. Does the Union Government have the right to sell State Government's land. They did not consult the State Government. How can they sell land over there? It may lead to constitutional crisis. The State Government and people over there will fight for it and it will pose danger for Centre-State relations. The people over there are ready to sell the land. They did not even ask and sold the land for Rs. two crore and one lakh. What is the cost of that land, what is the cost of Hotel. They are selling it like Centaur Hotel. The State Government have registered a protest, how are they selling it. Recently a news about an Officer in ITDC named Lohani was published in famous dailies like The Hindu, the Hindustan Times etc. His performance was good and due to his work, ITDC was earning a good profit. Shri Jagmohan is a Member of Cabinet. He wrote that he should be allowed to continue, made permanent and reinstated. Moreover, he was against disinvestment. The foreign dignitaries stay in Hotel Samrat,

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Government arranges their stay in Hotel Ashoka or Hyderabad House. He said that Samrat Hotel should not be sold, it is not proper to sell it. He was running the Hotel in profit. The lobby which was interested in its selling pressurised P.M.O. and the matter was send to P.M.O. and it was said that now Lohani will no longer hold the post. It has been published in the newspaper. The hon'ble Minister should give reply as to what is the reality. After reading this in newspaper, it appeared to me that the lobby interested in selling or brokers want that Government's property should be sold at throw away prices and the capitalists may get its profit. It appears to me that the Government has formed sinister alliance with the capitalists. But, they are selling the country for their vested interest. Earlier they were selling the undertakings which were running in loss. Then they saw, that they are not getting good price for the undertakings which are not viable and now they are selling the viable units. The Ministers of their Cabinet who are holding other portfolios are opposing it. We listened to Shri Ram Naik that all parties are saying, it is inappropriate to sell it. But the Government turns a deaf ear to all these suggestions. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri George Fernandes, many other Ministers and allied parties were also opposing it. ...*(Interruptions)* When Shri Ram Vilas Paswan observed, he is not being heard on that side, he changed the side. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: K.P. Singh Deoji, why are you prompting him? He can speak himself.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They, this portfolio was assigned to Shri Arun Shourie, because none else was ready to accept Disinvestment's portfolio. He is helpless and he has been elected as a Member to Rajya Sabha and has become Minister on recommendation. We have been directly elected by the people and we represent people and we heard that the politics and economic policy of the country is being decided under the pressure of World Bank and I.M.F. Therefore, the country is likely to face a big danger. So, we should collectively oppose the Disinvestmet policy and the Government should not ditch the people. The Government represents the people. The people have supported you and at present you are running NDA Government. You should not ditch the people. It means, selling the property of the country. Clever people talk about transparency and proper process-there is total fraud in this process. Tenders are invited to sell anything. In the same way traders form organisation and do the biding and the genuine person cannot participate in it. Therefore, these people are conspiring to sell the Government property at throwaway prices.

This disinvestments is nothing and this will not benefit the country in any way. Working class is suffering. It is written that the HPCL employees will go on a total strike. It is a big danger. They are saying, as soon the Government will proceed towards disinvestment, they will go on strike till the Government rolls back its decision. There is resentment among the working class. NDA partners and all of the opposition parties are against it. Parliament is against it. Only some brokers are in favour and they have their own vested interests. Therefore, we oppose it and will never tolerate this act of selling the country. If the NDA's allied parties will change the side, then there will be no issue.

With this words, I conclude.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Sir, this subject of disinvestment like King Charles's head has been appearing, disappearing and again reappearing for the last three years that I have seen. I have seen that even those who are opposing disinvestment today were Members of two successive Governments before this Government. Disinvestment has been on the agenda of the Government since 1991-92 and nobody seriously objected to it ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Whether he is also in favour of selling the country?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: I am in favour of utilising the Capital of the country properly.

[English]

The basic point is that disinvestment as a policy was devised by the Government which was headed by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao of which Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister. Since then that has been on the agenda. There had been two UF Governments and after that the present NDA Government but nobody has seriously questioned this. So, it is interesting to see that so many people who never opposed it at that time when they were sitting on the Treasury Benches are now vocal against disinvestment.

First of all, if you go through the Budget speeches of all these Finance Ministers or the Economic Surveys from 1991 onwards, every year there has been disinvestment. Disinvestment has been very boldly mentioned as one of the primary objects of the

Government. Now, Sir, the Government in its wisdom set up certain undertakings in the core sector or heavy investment sector since 1950. There is nothing wrong in it. It was very appropriate at that point of time. During sixties and seventies the Government nationalised certain undertakings as a part of the public policy sometimes and sometimes in order to save some of the undertakings from going into liquidation, because they had been brought to near liquidation under the private sector management. So, the Government felt its duty to protect employment and to take them over. That is why we came up with a very mighty impressive public sector system where a number of units have been floated by the Government, like the Steel Authority, some of the oil sector companies, like the Indian Oil, ONGC and all that. Also, some companies like the Hindustan Cycles, Modern Bakery, National Textile Mill were taken over by the Government when under private sector management many of the companies were going into near ruin or almost total liquidation. Managing public finances is not different from managing our own family budgets. Wherever there is money which is lying deployed in a certain way which is not productive, which is not giving anything in return, the owner has a right to redeploy.

Let us look at the assets invested in the total public sector system. I wanted to make a calculation, a rough projection about three to four years ago. It ran into something like Rs. 5 lakh crores. The State sector firms are also included in it. So, that is the amount which is lying invested in the public sector system. We talk of the NPAs in the banking sector. Nobody talks about the NPA in the public sector or Government. If only this critical mass could give a yield of 10 or five per cent, even then the Government's financial position will be much better today. But that has not been the case. Year after year except for a few companies like the Oil sector companies which take advantage of the monopoly and some other companies which because of professional efficiency, efficiency of the professional management like BHEL or NTPC have been steadily giving returns, all others have been by and large non-performing units, not giving any return to the Government but year after year drawing money by way of Budgetary support. This state of things cannot go on for all times to come.

Therefore, if we have to prevent near collapse of the entire economic system, as happened in the Soviet Union in the 1990s, disinvestment is a must. We have to take out money from certain areas and redeploy it elsewhere. In any case, a Government that cannot provide drinking water supply to each village in this country, a Government that cannot supply free primary education to the people, which is a Constitutional injunction has no right to get so much money locked up in the public sector system, the unproductive NPA without getting any return but on the other hand giving a lot of budgetary support every year just meeting the cash loses.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon. Member. If you start disturbing each and every Member, it would not be fair. Shri Nitish Sengupta, please address the Chair; do not pay attention to each and every Member.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: In that process there may be sometimes some omissions and commissions. There is no doubt about it.

In this debate certainly one was very sorry to see how Members of the Treasury benches could go whole hog against the disinvestment system, even to the extent of threatening withdrawal of support. Perhaps NDA leadership would do well to sort out these things within the NDA, before allowing some people to wash dirty linen in public. I would say this is a good lesson. The NDA leadership should take these things seriously and make sure that the people of the Treasury Benches do not go into the Parliament and openly announce the withdrawal of support unless their policies are not accepted.

On the issue of the Centaur Hotel, I simply say while there might have been some mistakes, for instances discounted cash flow as a method of share and asset valuation of a company is not a very standard practice even in the private sector accounting. I would advise the Minister not to rely too much on the discounted cash flow as a method. But, anyway, certain valuations were arrived at. As far as I can see, it was all done quite in the open with a lot of transparency. There is a differential of only about Rs. 18 or Rs. 28 crore between the price at which the party bought it and eventually sold if off.

Recollecting the situation of that time, one can say that the Centaur Hotel sale was decided shortly after the situation caused on the 11th September 2001. After that, tourism really went for a spin. Tourism just went down completely. Therefore, hotel industry was in shambles. In that situation a certain valuation was done. With the resumption of the normal situation later on if the valuation improved, I do not see anything wrong in it. The matter could be however looked into. We do not know whether the particular party, the Batra Hotels, which acquired it initially had effected any improvement in the property. We do not know any of those details. They might have effected some improvement in the property and that might have led to higher valuation. But I do not think it would be fair to unnecessarily criticise the Government. Initially Centaur Hotel was a part of the Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. and its divestment process started long before. Ultimately Government took over the disinvestment process. Unless we know the full facts of the case I think it is not fair to criticise the authority as if they helped Batras in making an unconscienable profit.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Our colleagues from the Shiv Sena are sitting here. They would tell everything. They have told in detail. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): As the Government to provide all the papers regarding Centaur Hotel sale. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Nitish Sengupta, have you finished?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: If you want me to finish, I will finish.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not asking you to finish. But you have to address the Chair if you want to continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have my full protection. You can go ahead.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Once a company has been sold off, whether the new owners had effected any improvement in the property or whether they better packaged the property than the public sector system was able to do it before, is very difficult to say. I do not think it would be right to attribute any motives to it.

The point is, disinvestment is an inevitable and irreversible process. If we have to prevent the collapse of our economy as the soviet did in 1990 or 1991, I think we need to pool our resources, take a lot of money from the places where it is lying in an unproductive and locked up manner and then use it elsewhere.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Soviet economy and Indian economy are not the same.

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over; will you please conclude now?

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Well, thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I have risen for the first time in the House to participate in the discussion. I was not willing to participate as this is not my subject, but I would like to draw the attention of the House towards two-three points that have not been raised. Hon. Members have said many things. I feel there are many members of category, I belong to who are sitting here. The main issue of disinvestment involves three things-privatisation, liberalisation or globalisation and ultimately it will lead to 'open competition'.

Shourieji, during my tenure in the Cabinet, I had personally said you that in 'open completion', a big fish swallows small one, big capitalists prevail upon smaller ones and multinationals instead of working with the Indian capitalists would wipe them out. The most important point of concern is that poor persons cannot compete in open competition. Today, as per the Government figures public properties worth 29 thousand crores have been disinvested in which there is no share of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward classes. However, they were getting at least 50 per cent of reservations-twenty two and a half for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and 27 per cent for the OBCs in the jobs in those companies. Now since those undertakings have been privatised, there is no reservation in the jobs there. During my tenure in the Cabinet, I use to fight that a policy should be made under which the provision of reservation is maintained even if a public undertaking in privatised. Under the present policy if an undertaking is privatised there will be no reservation in the jobs there for people of reserved category and they will have to through open competition, free competition and on the basis of merit only.

19.57 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

How would the boy from a rural area, or a poor family or a Scheduled Caste or a boy belonging to Backward class compete in this 'open competition'. There are a number of call centres in Gurgaon, where Indians deal with American. When anyone makes a call from America for making queries regarding his bank account etc. the call is transferred to Gurgaon and Indian employed there gives response in the same American accent. The person in America does not even come to know that his call is being operated from Gurgaon. How can a boy from poor family acquire such quality? Till date, poor boys used to get jobs through reservation. Even toady in organisations like Doordarshan one can find 10-12 per cent people compete through reservation. Now a number of channels and electronic media have come up where poor persons do not get any place except on the basis of merit. A boy of poor family cannot get place in a private company. It is a fact that no party will permanently remain in power but I would like to submit

that the money earned from disinvestment should be used for providing training, education to children of poor family living belong poverty line irrespective of caste and creed by constituting a fund instead of using it to make up budgetary deficit.

20.00 hrs.

Its better if we think over the points as to how to generate employment for children of poor family. How to make them competent.

I had raised a point with regard to Banks when the Bill regarding privatisation of banks was introduced, the total deposit in banks are of Rs. 12.40 lakh out of which 70 per cent of the money belong to the common people and rupees 80 thousand crore are outstanding against affluent persons. All private banks have failed. There are 19 nationalised banks that are earning profit. They have earned a profit of rupees 10 thousand crore this year. When all banks would be privatised what would happen to the Government's policy which says that farmers would get loan or subsidy on agriculture. Today in countries like America, an average farmer has 200 acres of land. And in our country, a farmer has merely one and a half acres of land. The farmers in America get a subsidy of rupees 4500 crore per diem, but here we are reducing subsidy given to farmers.

Ranaji is sitting here. Now subsidy has been withdrawn from handloom. Now they want to replace it by automatic machine and would manufacture cloth by automatic machines then what will be the fate of labourers. Now the Government say that it would import redymade garments, what would the tailors or people engaged in tailoring do then! The impact of one profession would be on the other.

Hon. Prime Minister has said that the Government would give employment to one crore persons in one year, but how is this possible! I have always raised this issue with Shourieji when the case of Coal India Ltd. was being discussed. I should not disclose it but I had asked him to give one year's time in the matter of Coal India Ltd. The Coal India Ltd. suffered losses since 1995-96 it was rupees 3 crore, which increased to rupees 9 crore then rupees 13 crore and it reached to rupees 1500 crore in the year 2001. I took over the change of the Ministry in September and during my talks with him, I had requested him not to hold discussion on this issue, we must first take the working into confidence. And when I went there I found that the workers do not even have shoes then I assured them to provide shoes of Bata Company. Then workers demanded for hat, I said alright I will provide it. Then they asked for miners light, I assured them to provide it. Then after they said that while working inside mine they contact diseases such as T.B. etc. and no one is there to take care of them. I talked to Mr. Pratap Reddy the owner of Apollo Hospital in this regard. I have a land in Bilaspur and a house there which I offered them for this purpose. Coal India Ltd. has a ready land, it required 25 per cent extra contribution of labourers. That much of budget was available, so I offered it and they accepted it. After acquiring the land ...*(Interruptions)*. I am just concluding. I have spoken for 10 minutes.*

I asked them to acquire land which they did. I met the representative of trade union there. The House will be surprised to know that the representative of the trade union told me that section 28 is in force under which a worker can be retrenched without giving any notice. I asked them as to why they do not talk with the management to repeal this section. They said there is nobody to do so, then I said alright I will repeal this section from today itself and that section was annulled with effect from eight O'Clock the same night. And it is the same Coal India Ltd., which has suffered a loss of rupees 1500 crores, has, within seven months, earned a profit of rupees 1750 crore. The management there was involved in all kinds of bungling, has connection with coal mafias and was involved in misappropriation in the name of linkage and was deeply involved in corruption. The same management was done away with.

Rupees 3200 crore were to be paid to the coal workers out of which I made a payment of rupees 2800 crore. Our management as also officers and staff are no less competent then any other officer in the world. Cure can be meted out through higher echelon only. There is just lack of care. If Gangotri remains polluted, the water of Ganga can never remain clean. And the water of Ganga is clean because its bed contains herbal plants.

Shri Mohan Rawale is present here. In 1991, he was in the Opposition and I was in the National Front Government. We had gone to Mumbai as there was some problem in the Railways. The Railways Employees were shouting slogans against the authorities. The officers asked us not to go there as the employees were agitated. But we went there and the matter was discussed and resolved. Within two minutes slogans were changed. Rawaleji was there and he knows about this. The demands of the poor are very meagre but instead of considering them, we resort to pressure tactics and forced retrenchments or VSS.

Just now, the issue of Barauni Fertilizer factory in Bihar has been raised here. This was the sole factory left in Bihar and now it has also been closed down. Only

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

kidnapping industry is flourishing there and poverty is the reason behind that. Every day we read in newspapers about kidnappings in Bihar. What poor people will do in such a situation. People are on the verge of starvation in the absence of employment as there is no industry. Raghuvansh Babu knows about that. He is in the Chair at present. He knows very well about the actual condition of Bihar. At the time of division of the State only Barauni Fertilizer factory was left with Bihar and now a decision has been taken to close that. The day after tomorrow which means or 20th the employees will be asked to accept VSS. Just now I was asking Shri Basu Deb Acharia and Somnath Babu about the difference between VRS and VSS and he told me that after 20th there would be retrenchment. No one knows what people will do afterwards. AAIFR is a higher organisation than BIFR and it has given the judgment to refer it again to BIFR and that will take four months. I do not agree with them. I have a copy of judgment with me. It has been made a question of prestige that it would not be sold but closed down. A 'Rail roko' movement was also launched for it in Bihar. Labourers will create havoc on knowing that the factory has been closed. Act, fact and tact are three different aspects. This matter should be dealt tactfully. The Act was enacted and the Government stated that it was enacted in 1991. At that time also we opposed it. Reservation policy has been formulated for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes and with such closures, the policy will be rendered totally redundant. When public Undertakings will not remain how will they get the benefits of reservation. Thus, poor people are affected by this. It will divide the country. I do not want to say so but the fact is that only some parts of the country are enjoying the benefits of development. Out of total foreign investments, seventy percent has been invested in Southern states namely Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and remaining 30 percent investment is spread over other parts of the country. On the one hand some states and urban areas will develop and on the other hand villages will be ruined. When I was the Minister of Communication the private sector was given the responsibility for installation of telephones in the villages. A target to cover one lakh villages was fixed but not even one thousand villages were covered because it was not profitable. Private sector will not construct roads, canals, lay railway lines in the rural belt but they will prefer to take up such and other works in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai as it will be profitable.

I would like to make one point. The government sector also suffer losses as well as earns profit, as Telecom Department earns profit in Delhi and uses that in Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa where it incurs losses. If an element of competition amongst the private players is brought into play in this sector then telephones will be installed in Delhi in on large scale and people of Delhi will be able to make calls to US on internet at a rate of Rs. 1.20 whereas the villagers will have to pay more price for that. What is happening in case of Lodhi Hotel, Centaur Hotel etc. What did VSNL get? Rs. 1400 crore and Rs. 800 crore have been taken out of that. A company is sold for Rs. 2000 crore and later on capital worth Rs. 2200 crore is eked out of that. What is all that? Being in the Government he may try to protect this policy but the people in the villages are agitated over this issue.

Alright, they have won elections, in Gujarat and got a plus point. But it is just an effervescence in a cup of coffee, where actual quantity of coffee is quite less but the bubbles and gas exaggerate its presence. The reality will be known during coming elections in 11 States. I, therefore, request that interests of poor people like small shopkeepers, tea-sellers should be protected as basic question before us is that what is being done in the name of open competition is against their interests. Akhileshji and Choudharyji is present here. While coming by train, a common man reminded us of a saying in the rural area that forefathers worked hard and acquired property and incapable children are selling the family silver. This is the situation. I discussed the issue with the MP from Katihar and also with Hussainji. I do not want to criticize the Government. I would only like to say that this issue should be taken seriously. The Government should formulate policies in favour of villagers, working class and poor people. No one will remain here for ever.

Na raja rahega, na rani rahegi,

Yeh mitti hai, mitti sabki kahani kahegi.

The sigh of the poor is dangerous. Poor people should be satisfied with the policies of the Government rich people can find out their path on their own.

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support the Disinvestment Policy being pursued by the Union Government. Let me start with the remark that the world is changing and is changing constantly. What was good 50 years ago may, today, become or have become obsolete policy wise or otherwise. In the changing times, you have to adapt yourself to the changing situations. Otherwise, you will become a relic of the past, a relic only in the history.

Sir, even China and Russia-and they are the mentors of Somnath Babu-have also relished this and the realisation dawned on these countries that they must disinvest. It is also true that West Bengal is also disinvesting. When we talk of the 1950s, immediately after the Second World War and in the post-colonial era, nationalisation and putting up public sector units were being done throughout the world.

Most of the countries were doing it. Our honoured Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, also followed that. That was a time when the public sector units really came up. There were very many reasons that I do not really want to elaborate just now. But the 80s saw a real sea-change, a pragmatic shift and a paradigm shift in the policies. That was the time that necessitated that the public sector units must be disinvested.

It was also mentioned here that the champion of the disinvestment and denationalisation was Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of England. What we are facing today, she was facing in the House of Commons to the extent that her own Chancellor of Exchequer, Mr. Geoffrey Howe, opposed it. Here we call the Finance Minister whereas in England, they call him the Chancellor of Exchequer.

Shri, Mani Shankar Aiyar was talking about selling family silver. That is where it has come out. That is where Geoffrey Howe himself stood up against Mrs. Margaret Thatcher. But she stood here ground. Whatever England is today, it is because of that 'Iron Lady'. She pursued this policy of disinvestment. That is why the Pound Sterling is strong today. ...*(Interruptions)* I did not disturb anybody.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: (Mahasamund) Margaret Thatcher did not allow the shares to be sold to large shareholders. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: I will come to that. It is a very valid point being made by the hon. Member that she sold these shares in the open market. Now, we could also have done that. But we would not have realised the amount that we are doing it today because we do not have the liquidity to strengthen the market to pick up the shares at the rate that we should. That is why we have followed a policy that is a little different. But tomorrow, we would get the strength in the stock market. We would get liquidity in the stock market. We will also be able to do the same thing. There is nothing wrong in what you are saying. This is what exactly a lot of people have been talking about.

Let me also remind a few hon. Members who have been raising this point that we have been selling the family silver. To whom does it belong? The people have been talking that the Government is the custodian of this family silver. Let me also put it here that it is not just the Government. It is the taxpayer's money that is involved. When the taxpayer's money is involved, we must get the profit. Shri Paswan was talking about the profit. What does the profit mean? If you earn Re. 1, that is a profit. If you earn Rs. 2, it is a profit. If you earn Rs. 20, that also is a profit. What we have been really getting is pittance. If we have a comparison with the same type of industries, which are in the private sector, we would realise that we are getting only two per cent return out of the money that is being borrowed at the rate of 12 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Why are you disturbing me. Please listen to my point. I have not disturbed you. Please have patience to listen to my points. I also know Hindi language.

[English]

Let me also get to the point that even in my constituency, there was a public sector unit and it has been quoted here that the Hindustan Zinc Limited is not doing well. It was not doing well, and once it was disinvested-it was disinvested only to the extent of only 26 per cent-they have not refurbished and renovated it, but they have put in so much of new technology and new techniques of management that once it was a loss making public sector unit but now it has come into profits.

Let me also talk about Centaur Hotel, which has been much talked about here. What is it? There has been a transparency. Everybody is talking about that no other Minister has been so transparent as Shri Arun Shourie. Everybody agrees to it. He has not had any vested interest. Nobody has accused him of having any vested interest in the deal.

What has happened? Somebody makes Rs. 30 crore, somebody can make more. How did it happen? Now, what happened was that there was a bid and the highest bidder got the hotel? An opportunity comes. In Mumbai, the Sahara Group has got lot of planes. The hon. Minister of Aviation is here. He knows about it and he will agree that they have lot of staff in Mumbai whom they wanted to accommodate, and that was an opportunity. When it came to a hotel, they grabbed it. They were not getting any hotels.

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore]

[Translation]

The simple fact is that when the demand is high

[English]

the market value might be high, you have to pay a little more, and not just a little more but even more to grab that, and that is exactly an opportunity. Now, in the private sector, there are opportunities one does not miss. They are going to make money even after having paid Rs. 30 crore more. That is exactly what happened. When Sahara was not in a position to bid for this hotel, they were not in the market. That was the time that they did not bid for it. You cannot really judge the whole scenario by one deal. Certainly, an opportunity has come.

What about the VSNL? You have had a loss. It was sold for Rs. 200 per share. Now it is Rs. 80 per share. how, what do we do about that? Somewhere you have a profit, somewhere you have a loss.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while concluding I would like to say that when the Government turns into a trader the people of the country become paupers.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman Sir, I have been taking part in this debate for the last so many occasions and today I will be too brief because I have said what I could say in the matters of oil sector. In the last debate, unfortunately, it could not be replied due to lack of quorum.

Let us understand the thing in objectivity. Let us understand what is the reflection of the Government, which is determined to disinvest the oil sector. It is an NDA Government. We are discussing very frankly and let us understand the composition of the Government. The constituent which is outside, that is, TDP is opposed to this disinvestment of the oil sector.

One of the important constituents within the Government, Shiv Sena have taken a public position and within the Parliament opposed disinvestment of this type. There is a component called 'Samata Party'. Its President within the Cabinet and its MPs in the Parliament opposed the disinvestment of this type. There are parties like JD (U) and DMK which opposed publicly but unfortunately they did not take part in this debate today. There is a party, TMC-whatever form it could be. I do not know how Dr. Nitish Sengupta has talked about it, and if Kumari Mamata Benerjee comes to know the contents of his speech, I do not know whether he will stay in the party or not because Kumari Mamata Banerjee took a public position against the whole policy.

So, what is NDA? Within the BJP, I admire and salute the courage and conviction shown by our Petroleum Minister, Shri Ram Naik, not for any reason but for the genuine reason of national security, country's assets and the contribution of the officers, workers in the petroleum sector. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Ram Naik at least tried to share his opinion.

Shri Arun Shourie is a Minister. Can he first explain one point as to why he thought to review the whole matter and change his pattern of disinvestment in oil sector from the strategic sale to public sale of shares? It was because of our consistent opposition from the Opposition parties and consistent opposition from within NDA and also from within the Cabinet. Do you not agree to that? If you agree to this, then do you not understand and interpret what does it mean? He will not share.

We are not here to question your *bona fide*. You are here in the Government. You have every right to bring your programmes and policies, and get them endorsed by the Parliament. Therefore, NDA, as a constituent of the Government, with overwhelming majority, is opposed to disinvestment of this type, and specially the oil sector. If you say, 'No, you are bullying us.', I am not bullying. Let the Prime Minister come with a proposal on this in the House. You bring a motion to get rid of all the controversies. Let the NDA Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee move a motion in the Parliament, whether the Parliament is endorsing the disinvestment of the profit-making public sector and that too of the oil sector in the manner as the Minister is proposing. You can issue a three-line whip. All right, you do not issue the whip and you can ask the Members to vote on their free will. If the Parliament, on the vital matter of the national interest, gives the endorsement to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's motion, we will not say anything. If it does not give the endorsement, we will not construe it as 'no confidence' and we will not say, "Shri Vajpayee, you resign." Rather we will admire him. The *Navaratna* companies are not only the pride of the Government but also the pride of India. The point-India can do a miracle-has been proved by ONGC, Indian Oil, BPCL and HPCL. On this particular matter only, if the Prime Minister comes with a motion and if the House says, 'No, Shri Arun Shourie is right', then we will not say anything.

You are not discussing the issue with an open heart. You think that everything should be done in terms of majority. This is not correct. This is not correct for your

side or for our side. If the Congress had done some mistake, will you say, "We will repeat that mistake"? For everything you say, "It is you who showed us the path." You abuse us 10 times. Who will be preventing you from doing it? You can accuse us. When we were attempting to liberalise our economy and trying to make an experiment whether two per cent or three per cent could be disinvested, even then there was a public furore. Did you all-Shri Ram Naik, Shri Vajpayee, and Shri Advani-not address from this side and also outside in the *Swadshi Manch* that it was wrong?

The people gave you the mandate. Now, sitting here you are making a volte-face. How do you justify? A Member of the ruling Party is threatening to withdraw the support. He is from the Samta Party. Shiv Sena MPs are asking honestly and sincerely how do they go to face their electorates. You still consider that this can be manageable. The word 'manageable' can be used in all matters. If that is an issue of no confidence on the Government, we are not bringing any No-Confidence Motion. We are not questioning the *bona fide* of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the Prime Minister. We are trying to argue a point that at this critical situation when US ship is on way to Iraq, when the Gulf is entirely surcharged with the likely attack by the United States of America, when Pakistan is insisting on its efforts to destabilise India, when everything is not quiet on the front and after having learnt the lesson from Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1971, do you still consider that it is the fit and proper occasion to disinvest the public sector oil companies in the oil sector? If you rationally think and if the Cabinet Committee on Security also thinks, yes, that it is the fit occasion, then why does the Prime Minister not come with a proposal and share with us? If the majority of the House says, Mr. Prime Minister, no, it is not correct, then, let the Prime Minister honour the sentiment of the House. This is only my first appeal.

Mr. Chairman, this is my second appeal. I was thinking that the Speaker would be in the Chair, but this is my appeal, through you, to the hon. Speaker. The Speaker can still save the situation. How? The Speaker can give a direction to the Government saying let the proposal of disinvestment of the oil sector and other profit making Public Sector Undertakings be brought before the Standing Committee on Finance by the respective Department Secretaries. Let the Standing Committee examine this and send back its report to the Government. That report be tabled in the next Session of Parliament. Then, let the Government act sensing the mood of the House. If that direction goes at least we will feel that the mood and sentiment of all the Parties in the House and the people as reflected through the Standing Committee would, at least, be responded. Is it against democracy? If the Parliament gives you the mandate to take away Burma Shell, Caltex, and ESSO, and if it tells you to do it in this way, then who is Shri Arun Shourie or the Cabinet which is ignoring the Parliament? You can dispose such a vital issue without the knowledge and sanction of the Parliament? You can dispose such a vital issue without the knowledge and sanction of the Parliament. This is such a vital issue. These are the matters I thought of bringing it to you. Therefore, I demand that the proposal should be brought to the Standing Committee immediately. From now onwards, if the Government is so transparent, it can do this. You cannot give a green signal to every disinvestment proposal unless it is screened by the Standing Committee and placed before the Parliament. You make a policy. It could be the policy of the NDA. What is wrong with this?

There was a situation when Air India was to be sold. The people of Air India met and requested us to give them a chance. They said that within a year they would show profit. Today Air India is making profit. The Minister was happy to inform this in the House the other day. Therefore, this is not a battle between Shri Arun Shourie, as an individual and the Opposition. We have no personal thing against Shri Arun Shourie. The other day I was telling this that if Shri Arun Shourie had left the Cabinet and joined the newspaper, he would have exposed this scam and sent it to a news digest column. This is only my appeal because I cherished his writings.

I will now come to only one point regarding Centaur Hotel. It is a scam. I cannot explain to you what is the magnitude of this scandal. The details have been stated by many of our friends, especially, from the Shiv Sena. The bid was rejected because he quoted Rs. 65 crore. While we have the second bid, did you call for the tender again? Can the Minister tell us this in the House?

Did you make a public pronouncement through newspapers that the second bid was open? You did not do that. If my information is wrong, the hon. Minister may correct me and I would correct myself. Before the second bid was opened, two things happened. There was a six per cent turnover levy as it was arbitrated in favour of the Hotel Corporation of India through the Airports Authority of India. All the hotels in the Airport Authority's land, whose custodian is Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, have got this six per cent annual turnover levy. The Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment brought it down to two per cent after the first bid was lost. When it was brought down to two per cent Shri Hussain's Department suffered and the Airports Authority suffered. The

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

appreciation of price of the property would have been more than Rs. 100 crore. The reserve price was Rs. 78 crore. Without any tender and again without any publicity through newspapers, the letters were sent out clandestinely to three of those who lost their earnest money deposit earlier knowing full well that only Shri Batra would come to bid.

Shri Batra first gave the bid in the name of AB Hotels along with the Radisson Hotel. ...*(Interruptions)* I am giving out only the facts. The hon. Minister may later clarify whether I am right or wrong. AB Hotels was not listed and so Batra quoted later as an individual. The guideline is that there should be a turnover worth Rs. 25 crore. The stake of Shri Batra, while quoting in the name of AB Hotels along with Radisson Hotel was six per cent. When he quoted as an individual, his share of the turnover was less than Rs. 25 crore. Yet, he was favoured as an individual and he sold it over to Shahara, making a huge profit. This violated the Central Vigilance Commission's guidelines; it violated the basic norms of the tender-bid process; it violated the basic principles of pricing.

In the case of the ITC Hotels, you may have seen in many places that they were evaluated by four banks. They determined a particular price but when the CPWD was asked to do the pricing, it was more than price fixed by the four banks. If you take the State Government's evaluation, you would find it different from the evaluation of the four banks. Did you consult the Government of Maharashtra about the land price, the market price and so on of the Centaur Hotel Complex? Did you get it evaluated by the CPWD? Who evaluated the price? I do not like to take the name of officials because they cannot defend themselves here in Parliament. The kind of correspondence that went on between the Tourism Secretary and the Disinvestment Secretary is unfortunate but they decided just to punish one officer, Shri Lohani, because he was of the conviction that this should not be disinvested.

It is not Shri Arun Shourie who is our target. I do not like to malign him. He is unfortunately placed to carry out all the sins of the NDA Government.

20.38 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I was taking your holy name. You inspired me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But I will not give you more time because of that!

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would just conclude again by making my request to you. I appeal to the hon. Speaker to save the situation. Many times, in the House of Commons, when the Government was confused and the Parliament was confused, it was the Speaker who came to save the situation. Therefore, I appeal to you to give a direction that between the Winter Session and the Budget Session the proposals of disinvestment of profit-making public sector units and those in the oil sector should be placed before the Standing Committee on Finance. Let that Committee consider the proposals and present a Report. After that, the Government may come out with a Motion, whether such a disinvestment should be done or not and let Parliament decide on that. If this is done, the nation would be protected.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you for giving me the time.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the paucity of time, I rise to make only points as I am aware of the time constraint. My first question is about the logic of the disinvestment. So far I understand from the deliberations made by the hon. Members in this august House that nobody has questioned the disinvestment of the loss-making enterprises. But the question is whether the profit-making public sector undertakings would be under the process of disinvestment or not. So, my point is that what would be the attitude towards the public sector? This should be thought out first as to what should be our attitude.

Some hon. Members of the Treasury Benches rightly pointed out that this policy has been initiated since 1991. Yes, I do admit it. But that was not the disinvestment indiscriminately. Now, the Government of the day is pursuing the disinvestment policy vigorously with a greater zeal and without any discrimination.

A new idea has come up a strategic and non-strategic. So, my point is what is strategic and what is non-strategic? Who is to decide it, how to decide it and what is the parameter to assess what is strategic or non-strategic? Even defence is strategic or non-strategic? This should be sorted out first.

In 1997, the Government had identified 11 Central public sector undertakings as *Navratnas*. I think, 46 enterprises categorize as mini-*ratnas*. Now, all sorts of *ratnas*-whether maxi-*ratnas* or mini-*ratnas* or *Navratnas* are under the process of disinvestment.

It is very rightly pointed out that the asset of our country is not the asset of a person or of a definite Ministry, but it is an asset of our country, as a whole.

Our hon. Prime Minster often talks about the consensus. What is to talk about the consensus in regard to the disinvestment of the public sector enterprises? So, it is a very pertinent question now a days. Yes, I do agree that there are some lapses and some shortcomings. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabodh Panda, we have to finish the debate now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, please give me one more minute. I will conclude soon. The public sector undertakings are facing various problems like low productivity, poor-project management, lack of technological upgradation and so on and so forth. So, what should be our attitude-whether we should try to strengthen them to overcome all these shortcomings or shall we throw them out? Shall we throw out the baby with the bath water? It would be the attitude now a days of our country. So, all these things should be considered and all these things should be taken for an in-depth study.

Sir, I am not being given more time. ...*(Interruptions)* I think the Government will think over it. I would like to mention only one point. It has been said by Gen. Tripathi that we have discussed this point 14 times.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia to speak now. Shri Acharia, I will be able to give you only two minutes. You can only make one or two suggestions.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, my point is that we could have discussed it for 14 times or 100 times; but what was the Government doing; have they taken cognizance of the discussions? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you may speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I am not being given more time. I conclude my speech at this point.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. During every debate on disinvestment that I participated I wanted to know one thing from the hon. Minister of Disinvestment. He has stated a number of times that one of the objectives of disinvestment is to revive the sick public sector undertakings and to spend on health, education and social welfare. The Government has, so far, received Rs. 29,000 crore out of the proceeds of the disinvestment, sale of public sector undertakings. We wanted to know the break up of figures as to how much has been spent so far on health, education and social welfare. What we have seen is that in the current year's Budget, the allocation has been reduced in these three sectors than what was allocated in the earlier year.

We know that a number of public sector undertakings have been closed down. We demanded that the MAMC, a very important public sector undertaking in West Bengal is to be revived. To revive this undertaking an amount of Rs. 425 crore is required. But that fund was not provided. Sir, you are aware of the National Instrumentation Limited. A number of times I took delegations to you. Even the BIFR recommended for its revival and asked the Government to provide funds for the revival of the National Instrumentation Limited. Uptil now no funds have been provided for the revival of National Instrumentation Limited. Similar is the case with BOGL-Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited. How much money is required for its revival? An amount of only Rs. 25 crore is required. That fund was not made available to it either.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K.P. Singh Deo to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Singh Deo, you have to speak; otherwise I will go to the next Member.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, just a minute. Every time the hon. Minister says and today also he will say the same thing. What happened after the disinvestment of BALCO and Modern Foods?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I will not take on record what you are speaking. Shri Singh Deo to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is very important. Nobody has pointed it out. Please allow one sentence.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Singh Deo, after his one sentence, you may speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What happened to the workers after the disinvestment of BALCO? What was to

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*Not recorded.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]
be done by the private management, Sterlite Company? There was an agreement that three would be no retrenchment. There was enmass displacement of employees which is forcing them to accept indirect retrenchment. Hundreds of workers were forced to take VRS. Those who have not taken VRS are retrenched. What about the service conditions? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Singh Deo, please speak now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Shri, there are four very important points.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I may not be able to allow you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, nobody has pointed out these things.

MR. SPEAKER: You write to the hon. Minister.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will take only one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: You will make injustice to others.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there was to be no change in service conditions. The service conditions have already been changed. There was to be no closure of any establishment or unit. The company, at their sweet will have closed down their Vidhan Bagh unit in West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak on some other occasion. Shri Singh Deo, do you not want to speak?

SHRI K.P SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, I want to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, just a second. They have closed down their Chennai office and they have closed down their regional offices. They have violated all the agreements after disinvestment of BALCO.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister to speak now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, just a second. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, when he will replies, about all these things. He may clarify these points because after disinvestment of BALCO the Sterlite Company has violated all the agreements. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister will speak now.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I also want to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: If the Members do not want to observe discipline, what else can I do?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I am maintaining discipline. I should not be penalised.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, You speak.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful for having been given this opportunity. After three years, this is the first time that I am getting an opportunity of speaking on it. What are we discussing today? We are discussing something which has taken us 50 years to build up by investing Rs. 2,40,000 crore in 240 public sector units. Public sector has been pivotal, has been substantial to our economic development as well as to our standing in the world as an industrialised nation. It has provided jobs and employment to more than 20 lakh people. What are we trying to do? We are trying to sell it off in the name of disinvestment. Where we are keeping 26 per cent share, we are not standing by the labour and the work force which has brought it up to this level. Where it is strategic, where the Government has more than 51 per cent share, it is only there that the worker is to be safeguarded.

Sir, as a student of Geology, I had opposed it in 1972 when I was in the other House. Our iron ores and other ores are going out. Instead of empowering our own States, we export them to, say, Australia, Japan or elsewhere where we provide jobs to the youth of those countries and then, we buy back the finished products. I had my first field work in Jarandi Coalfields and Kargalli Washeries, where today the Bokaro Steel Plant stands. It was in 1958. The same thing is going to happen to NALCO which is there in my constituency, in my State. An amount of Rs. 2,408 crore was invested in it which came out of euro-dollars and French loan and not a single penny was spent by the Government of India.

In the year 1981, Shrimati Indira Gandhi wanted to empower socially as well as economically the mineral-enriched Orissa because Rs. 74,000 crore worth of bauxite ores are there. We will be able to exploit the ores of Panchpatmalli in Koraput district for 100 years. It has got uranium content. Yet, Govt. say that it is not strategic. Shri Shivraj Patil was a Minister when I was still in service as a military man. Policy is decided by the Government, strategy is decided by the Armed Forces headquarters and tactic is decided by the field commanders. Now, the Government wants to decide policy as well as strategy. They are not equipped for deciding strategy.

Out of 6,600 people who are employed, 30 per cent are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who are the poor people whose land had been taken ostensibly for the establishment of public sector units. We have befooled the Government of Orissa and we have befooled the people of Orissa. They have given up their lands. Some of them, about 1,700 families, have not been resettled as yet. Yet, it has brought prosperity to our country, to our State and to our district in the form of exports or in the form of saleable aluminium and peripheral development. It has given down-stream products and fabrication material and provided wages and income. We are selling it off without enforcing the safety net for the workers.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Shri Ram Naik as he has tried to understand Marathi sentiments. This Government is doing the nonsensical thing of cutting up hen in search of egg. I would like to submit that there is no need to do so.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I recall my mother. My father died when I was only six months old. A number of people tried to deprive us of our land. A witch in my local language is called Bhutali. And my mother, Rahibai Shankar Mahale was even called by that name by the people who were trying to get our land. They even took out procession but she remained adamant and did not part from her land. I would say that a household is like a nation in many ways. Shri Arun Shourie, your name indicates light but you disseminate darkness, what type of Arun are you? He is not elected, he has not gone through the rigorous of election. Only a mother knows the pains of child bearing. I would never occupy his place. I may not be able to do that even if I try my best. I would have relinquished the post of Minister, even if I was able to become a Minister. I am telling you the truth. This is not proper. Once upon a time Shri Vasant Dada Pawar was in Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*. I was in opposition. A Committee was constituted to deliberate on the procedure of rehabilitation. People from five divisions were called and confidence was created among them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahale, please sit down now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: The Government should also strive for such confidence. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Eglnlsih]

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you are the last speaker. Please take only one minute to make your points.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government, since its inception, is destroying the temples of modern India one by one. Instead of building, this Government ...*(Interruptions)*. Please try to understand it. These factories are nothing but the sacred temples of modern India. These sacred temples are being continuously destroyed and this work is being done through Shri Arun Shourie. I used to read his thought provoking articles, I used to get the impression that he is talking about bridging the revenue deficit of the country through balance in earnings and spending and cutting expenditure. Through the policy of disinvestment, only Rs. 29,000 crore have been collected. When I try to compare his writings with his action, I feel that either he is not doing justice with his writings or is doing injustice with his post.

We did not raise the issue of Centaur hotel, it was raised by the Government's colleagues belonging to Shiv Sena in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The properties that are being sold off is not ours or theirs but they belong to the people. I am not levelling accusation of taking bribe but if an item worth Rs. 100 is being sold at Rs. 75 or Rs. 60, then somewhere we are not doing our duty? I am quite sure, that in the case of Centaur hotel, the hon. Minister has not done his duty and the charge of dereliction of duty stands provided against him. The sale and purchase of Centaur hotel prove that if some of the people sitting in Government had done their duty, then the huge gap between purchase on one hand and its sale on the other hand, would have come to the coffers of Government ...*(Interruptions)* I will conclude in two minutes ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you only one minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I want your protection. I have always got your protection. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that he is only promoting regional inequality by selling off factories and allocating the proceeds to particular regions. The fertiliser factory in Gorakhpur is lying closed. By implementing the VRS, the Government is forcing the workers to come out on roads and create anarchy. In Uttar Pradesh, about two dozen viable sugar

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]
mills are lying closed in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. I would like to say that if they need fund, they should arrange it through planning in agricultural and agro-based industries ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: If funds are made available for those two dozen sugar mills, then 24 lakh workers would directly get jobs which include farmers, labourers and tractor owners. Again I would like to humbly express ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What Kunwar Akhilesh Singh is saying now will not go in record.

...*(Interruptions)**

21.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Sir, I am deeply grateful to all the hon. Members, specially those hon. Members and particularly the senior Members who have stayed on till the end of this debate. As has been mentioned by several speakers, in the last two and a half years, in the two Houses, this is the 14th time that a discussion is taking place on this subject. The discussion on the eleventh and twelfth debate, that had taken place in the other House, had to be discontinued for want of quorum. I think, it is a matter of some progress that actually you can see the level of interest now and that everybody feels that he or she has spent his or her fervour and anger so that the attendance has become so thin in these matters.

Sir, the object of disinvestment has been exactly what everyone says it should be, that is, optimal use of national resources. That has been our purpose in this. In spite of the things that have been said here, I make bold to say that there is consensus in practice.

Sir, it is probably a surprise to most of us to learn that eleven States are today in the process of disinvesting their enterprises. In this case no distinction is being made even in States like Punjab, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh between profit-making and loss-making enterprises. I can read out to you the names of the profit-making enterprises in these States-in which other Parties and other combinations are in power-that are being disinvested. Today we can even look them up in the websites of those States. None of them has brought out any White Paper as one of my friends keep saying and refers to what he had said two and a half years ago. No valuation has been done by any of these Assemblies, not one after answering those questions. None of those things, as was being mentioned by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, has been brought to the Standing Committee and then a direction given that it should be done only after passage of a resolution. On the contrary. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): You talk about the Central PSUs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has not yielded. You must listen to the Minister.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the Petition Committee had said no to the disinvestment of NALCO ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, on the contrary, in each one of those instances, the position has been the opposite. The Government of Tamil Nadu had written to us, the Punjab Government has written to us and only yesterday I have received a letter from the Government of Sikkim. There is only State Government, Shri Somnath Chatterjee knows that, that is not following the template, procedure and the structure that has been evolved in a transparent manner, in a thorough manner after an extensive discussion with the best experts in the Centre.

Sir, one State after another has come to us to get the structure perfected, to get the bidding procedure perfected. They have been so kind as to bring their advertisements. The Government of Punjab is also included in this. The Madhya Pradesh Government, not ruled by the BJP or the NDA, has asked for a loan of Rs. 100 crore from the Asian Development Bank so as to start the process. The Government of Kerala, which again is not ruled by the NDA, has sent a team, you can read it in the newspapers, to the Asian Development Bank for a loan of Rs. 1800 crore. The first thing that they are going to do in the reforms package is privatisation in this way.

The Chief Minister of Karnataka has stated his disinvestment policy by saying, "We will privatise all public

*Not recorded.

sector units and those which we cannot privatise, we will close down." If you want, Sir, I will now go through the list of public sector undertakings disinvested in West Bengal, which they will not let me read. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We are not in any State Assembly. This is a discussion in Parliament.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am saying that there is a compensation practice ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Respond to the points we have raised.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am coming to that. Please be patient. I have heard pertinently for five hours.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: If you don't want to listen say, so, I will stop. I also listened when you were speaking.

[English]

We heard you for four hours.

[Translation]

It is not proper to first speak for four hours and then disturb when others speak for only five minutes.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, it is late in the evening. I do not know why the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should interrupt like this. You yourself have said that it is so late. I am only saying that we are waiting to hear the Minister's replies to the points raised.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am coming to that, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are talking as if you are inspired by the State Assemblies.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Give me the written text, I will read out from it.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Shri Somnath Chatterjee speaks for one hour and we have to listen to that with great respect. How can we not ...*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I have permitted you. You are exactly going as per the requirement of the speech of a Minister. Please go ahead.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If you think we have talked without sense, do not reply.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No, no, you have made important points. The point of law that you made is a very important point.

Sir, many of the criticisms are based on complete misconceptions, I can only use the word 'misconceptions'. For instance, one hon. Member said, "Look here! IDPL was set up for providing drugs to defence personnel. If it is disinvested to a private company, how will the defence personnel get drugs?" The point is, almost all units of IDPL are long closed. Its paid up share capital is Rs. 117 crore. Its accumulated losses till two years ago were Rs. 1,425 crore. The situation has become further worse now. I have figures of 2001 March. Its net worth has come down to minus 1,095 crore rupees. Almost all the plants are closed. Yet, an argument is fabricated, or put together, on that basis.

In NALCO, Gen. Tripathi's point was directly put up by other friends, saying, "Look here! What would happen if it is privatised?" I am not on the point of privatisation. I am on the point of the argument that was given; precisely, the point that was being made. Gen. Tripathi said, "if somebody buys it, a foreigner buys it, and then does not make aluminium or aluminium products, what will happen? What will happen if he starts exporting alumina?" It will come as surprise to you that is precisely the condition of NALCO today. Sixty -one per cent of its revenue comes because it does not process alumina. It just sells alumina as it is. It does not even make aluminium metal from it, far from making any product. In case of a sister company in India like Hindalco, one hundered per cent of its revenue comes from aluminium metal and aluminium products. It does not sell any alumina. That is the condition! I do not want to go to other things. That is why, the profit after tax to income ratio of NALCO is 16 per cent, and of Hindalco it is 32 per cent.

The same is the case with HMT which was given as a great example. You yourself know actually, I do not have to narrate the figures, the difficult circumstances in which it is. A rehabilitation package, because of your great initiative, of Rs. 347 crore was given to it. In spite of that, its accumulated losses are Rs. 302 crore. Its net worth has come down to minus 90 crore rupees.

In Centaur Hotel, the same kinds of things have been said. I have great affection and honour for some of the Members who have made this important point, and their concern for labour is evident. As you know, the other day also it was said that workers have died. The

[Shri Arun Shourie]
other day the number given was five, today it was reduced to three. I have got information in writing from these people. They say that indeed, after disinvestment in June, three persons have died.

Just listen what has happened. I am reading it out. If I am wrong and the Members have other information, they will please correct me. I will get back to the person who has supplied this information.

"Shri Gajanand Tukaram Pahwa, who was a senior Utility Worker, died suffering from Cirrhosis of the Liver."

Do you know how that is caused? ...*(Interruptions)* What has it to do with the disinvestment? It is a long-term disease and has nothing to do with the disinvestment.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Lack of protein is also responsible for this disease.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Shri Chandrakant Sawant, then Captain, whose name was mentioned the other day when you were in the Chair, was diabetic and was advised dialysis in May, 2002, before disinvestment.

It is such a big cause. Then, for us to build the entire argument and link it with all this. ...*(Interruptions)* I am just beginning. Please be patient.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: In my speech, I had said that hon'ble Minister mentioned about the list. He got a shock during the debate on procedure of VRS and disinvestment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khaire, please listen. Hon'ble Minister, which is the third name?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will just tell you.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: VRS was forcibly implemented there. There PF is compulsorily deducted from salary.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Everything should be taken care of.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The unions, including the Shiv Sena Union, were writing to the Hotel Corporation.

[Translation]

It was not even known that all this was on behalf of Hotel Corporation of India.

[English]

It is the subsidiary of Air India. Therefore, all the advertisements and other things were put up by the Air India. As you say, one person went so far to say that the officers of my department have done this and others, but we did not even find out that the officers of our department did not have anything to do with the processing of the case. When everything had been done and the financial bids had to be called, we were called in. We do not find that out and make an allegation using the great privilege of this House.

Other than that, it is the Air India which did this. Supposing, in the case of VRS, the Hotel Unions were writing, 'introduce VRS before disinvestment'. Then they said, make sure that VRS clauses are there in the Share Purchase Agreement. We made sure of that. They then took VRS. Supposing, somebody says that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: If Air India has done this, let the Civil Aviation Minister speak ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I plead that I be allowed to speak.

[English]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: He was in the bidding process only. He is absolving himself of the scam. It is okay.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: No, I am not. It is the Government's responsibility. I will explain every single point. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: If the Minister says that Air India has done it, then let the Civil Aviation Minister respond ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you go ahead with your argument.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Under our laws, as you know since you have worked with the labour, Members have worked with labour, we have very important people from Left also who have worked with the trade unions, if any such injustice is perpetrated on the workers, there are

remedies in Labour Courts. Nobody has gone there. Shiv Sena had a powerful union in that place. Shiv Sena is a very powerful body in Mumbai. How is it that they have not taken it up on the ground and prevented this?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: It was prevented. Under VRS Rs. 1.80 lakh was to be offered. He had taken a loan of Rs. 3-4 lakh from HDFC. Therefore, he should get Rs. 7-8 lakh Medical facility is being withdrawn.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Centaur hotel is a prime property, but it was not disinvested. This was a prime property in Mumbai also. It was property of Airport. If the property was so valuable,

[English]

how is it that the average losses in the last eight years were Rs. 3.24 crore per year?

Secondly, in Delhi, Centaur property has not been disinvested.

Therefore, there is nobody to force anybody. But out of 1,162 persons in Chef Air and Centaur Hotel, 676 have taken VRS. Tomorrow if somebody says they were forced to do it, you have to prove your charge also. I would now mention the sequence of events in Centaur Hotel, which is like this. In fact, in the first bid the Government is being accused of favouring some Batras. Actually, this Batra's bid was rejected. As has been rightly pointed out, there were 37 parties. Everybody was at par. Then somebody said Jet Airways was rejected and Sahara was also rejected. Sahara never applied and Jet was allowed to continue. Of the 37 bidders, 28 survived; eventually four survived and only one bid came to us. Far from favouring that fellow, that bid was rejected. And then the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment, CCD, asked us that we go and re-examine the terms and come back to it and say whether the terms can be made more attractive. You remember that in Hindustan Zinc this had to be done. We rejected the bid and then we were asked to re-examine the whole process. Sir, you had been a member of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment; so I do not have to mention these points. We then gave three options to the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment. They chose this particular option.

I do not want to speak everything because the hon. Speaker was himself a member of the CCD at that time. Therefore, I am not going to go into the details of the CCD proceedings. We gave three options and this business of reducing the list from six persons to two persons was then communicated to all the four qualified bidders even though they had not bid. That is the standard procedure that we have been following in each of these instances.

Very strong words were used that his was done surreptitiously. Actually, the fact that the bid had been rejected was announced; that the CCD was going to re-examine the manner was also announced; that the CCD came to a decision, we went back to all the bidders even though there was absolutely no need.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Can I seek a clarification on this?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Maybe, after I finish.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Chair has permitted me. Usually, when some after is given, all the tenderers are not given this opportunity. That is the point.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There is a certain procedure in the CCD; it may not be up to your approval. But that is the procedure that has been adopted. We followed exactly the same procedure.

The second point is, very strong comments were made. I think you are completely justified in saying that there was a pause for three months. That arose because senior members felt that we should re-examine the policy. The result of that re-examination has been read out by me in the House. But now you make fun of it saying that this is no re-examination. I do not want to say anything about individual Ministers or anybody else. But the Ministers who had mentioned these points were present in the Prime Minister's meeting. The Prime Minister asked them a question, not on one, but thrice, whether this was the unanimous view. Everybody said yes, unanimous. He then directed me to go and use that word. 'Then I went outside and that is how I reported it. Now, for a person from a Party supporting the NDA Government, whose leader was present in the meeting, to say this and to almost threaten that unless the policy is changed, Samata Party will break away, is an internal matter for them to sort out. It is not something that I need to go into.

I believe that actually many of the concerns that have been expressed are important matters and they have been in the forefront of our concern also:

[Shri Arun Shourie]

[Translation]

Paswan Saheb said one thing very eloquently. He said ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: SC, ST along with labour ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, I stopped only for your order. There are so many workers. They constitute 91 per cent. They still have 21 years of service. But they are being pushed out forcibly. They are being given only Rs. 1.80 lakh and there is already a debt of Rs. 3-4 lakh on them. They will have no option but to come on road. They are being pushed out. The Government had said that the interest of the workers would be protected. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How much more time do you require, Mr. Minister?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I will take another 20 minutes, if you want me to continue. Otherwise, I would wind up.

MR. SPEAKER: You can take as much time as you want.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister's reply is not complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: After Batra, Sahara was sold and thus Rs. Three crore was earned. This amount could have come to the Government. Is it not so? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Please let me speak. Please let me conclude ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: If Batra could earn through hospitality, then why the Government officials of Disinvestment Department could not do self promotion properly. This is what Bala Saheb Thackery wishes to know ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Please allow me to ask the question later on.

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, we were having the fullest co-operation from leading trade unions. We will come with a surprise to you. The reason for this is, actually they have been watching us and I will read out something to you from a letter which is not fabricated, on which a CBI inquirty was ordered and was pursued by other Members. I will read to you a letter from the head of INTUC on these matters. But the reason why the workers have been working with us is that, in these very enterprises which have been privatised and disinvested, you will find that the wages have gone up. In BALCO, Shri Acharia said that this and that has happened to the workers. Actually, the wagers of workers have gone up by 20 per cent and eight allowances which had been discontinued have been restored. In Paradip Phosphates, the wage revision which had not been done since 1997 has been done now and the wages have been increased by 30 per cent. The wages per employee, on an average, have now become Rs. 12,400 per month. In Modern Foods, the wages have gone up by Rs. 1800 per month.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What has been the number of employees at that time and now, and how many have been forced to take VRS? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will come to that. It is very interesting. You will be surprised to know that in BALCO plant which is in Korba. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete his reply.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, they have been forced to take VRS. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Such is the care of the officers for their workers in the Korba plant that 134 of them were taken not in Korba but in Delhi. That is the point.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why was Korba unit closed? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Both of us can shout like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How many workers were forced to take VRS? You tell us on that point.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, you were all allowed to speak. Now the Minister is replying. You may like it or may not like it. But you cannot protest like this. There are other matters of protest for you. This is not the way to protest in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: In the case of the great care that the public sector is taking of the workers, it will

come to you as a surprise that even the Provident Fund contributions of Rs. 1578 crore had not been deposited in the Provident Fund Account till we found out. And in the case of ITDC, all these hotels which you were so concerned about, the Provident Fund dues which have not been put in which is a criminal act was Rs. 367 crore. It is only because of us that these figures were found out and the amounts have been deposited.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I want to ask a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If the Minister yields, only then you will be allowed to ask.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How many thousand crores worth of NPAs are there and who are responsible for this? About Rs. 200 and odd crores are there by the private sector. Are we children sitting here? And you can say anything you like just because you are eulogising the private sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: In the case of HPCL and BPCL, the President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) wrote to us to kindly disinvest them by strategic sale. That is what he has exactly written in two letters to the Prime Ministers with copies to me.

It is because they have seen that production has doubled, expansion plans afoot, workers' wages etc. have gone up. The other point which was made, and made repeatedly was about profit-making units.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take long because the points which were made were really repetitive and the answers have also been given. I will take up only three points. The first is about profit making companies. The figures are startling. From 1991 to 2000, thirty-nine companies were disinvested. Thirty-seven of them were profit making companies. Only two out of thirty-nine were making losses. Now, in 2000-2002, thirty-four transactions have taken place. Twenty-six of them, that is, two-thirds of them were making losses. I just do not understand how these figures keep going. We still keep saying that we are selling profit making companies. There was another that is being done. In the case of State Governments, if you want I will give you the list of enterprises which are profit making. In Karnataka, it is Karnataka Soaps and Detergents, Karnataka Vidyut Karkhana, Karnataka State Construction Corporation, Karnataka State Electricals Development Corporation. In Madhya Pradesh, there are six companies. In Punjab there are two companies. I can just read them out. So, where is this great debate that is always taking place.

SHRI RUP CHAND PAL: How is the nation going to be benefited as a result of selling the profit making oil majors? Please convince this House.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will come to the oil sector also. Some important points were being made. You will yourself be surprised. A point was made about creating monopolies and so on. It is again a mis-conception. A point about IPCL was specifically mentioned, that it has been given to Reliance and that it is almost a monopoly in this vital sector and so on. Actually, probably, it will surprise everybody to know that all petro chemical items are on Open General Licence. The way to break anybody's misuse of the market dominance is by allowing imports. The Government has put them in OGL. In fact, to put the buyers under pressure, the duty was reduced from 35 per cent to 20 per cent. The Finance Minister had announced that it would be reduced further. You have yourself passed just the other day the Competition Bill in the Lok Sabha. In that you have yourself said, this House has said, that the test shall not be market dominance, but the abuse of market dominance for which you have provided an entire mechanism to check it. What is the problem in checking this monopoly? In IPCL, it is very interesting.

In BALCO, Shri Jogi is the strongest supporter of BALCO privatisation today because the Company is now implementing an expansion programme of Rs. 6,000 crore, which will provide jobs all over. In IPCL, they have announced an expansion programme of Rs. 1,000 crore. When I bring these facts to your attention, you say that I am an advocate of the private sector. In these cases, it is an important fact to realise, irrespective of disinvestment and so on, many of our companies, though they look large in the Indian context, are minuscule. NALCO is a minuscule scale and you will find it impossible to compete with giants abroad. You have to expand them. You have to raise the resources one way or the other for their expansion which is the purpose of this entire exercise.

In the case of oil, the matter has been thoroughly discussed. The fact is that, as you know, the successive Governments have opened up exploration. Foreign companies are there. Private companies are there. But no threat to security! They are mapping your sea bed. But no threat to your security! Refining has been opened up; and ports and terminals have been opened up. They get access and have permanent presence in our ports. But no threat to security! But if somebody acquires petrol pumps, then that is going to be a threat to our security. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he is ridiculing the Opposition. We are walking out in protest.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we demand that CBI inquiry should be held into the Centaur Hotel scam. ...*(Interruptions)*

21.29 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, the hon. Minister speaks in terms of derogation. Can a Minister do like this? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Truth is always bitter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, questions will not be permitted. I am sorry.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not be able to permit questions. No more questions are allowed after the debate.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We are not asking questions. I have raised two points.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: The Parliament, in its wisdom, has just passed the Petroleum Regulatory Bill. The Petroleum Regulatory Bill has strict provisions for take over of the companies by the Government in national emergencies. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand you are asking me to finish quickly and on the other hand they are interrupting frequently ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We met hon. Prime Minister a number of times regarding reservation for SCs and STs in the private sector. What is happening to funds that are flowing into the private sector?

MR. SPEAKER: Can you not ask that question later on.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You do not allow asking questions either before or later on. It will not do ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Please tell me if it is done in any other Department.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Hon. Minister, please tell us whether the workers are being compelled to opt for the VRS or not ...*(Interruptions)*. You said that workers would be supported ...*(Interruptions)* and the Government are not yet satisfied ...*(Interruptions)*. Others are not getting the opportunity ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You are asking the question now, why did you not ask it earlier ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister is now replying and I will not permit anybody to speak in between.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Hon. Minister is not replying to my question.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: You have placed the Bill.

[English]

That has provisions as far as this is concerned. Similarly, when crude is being imported by the Government, the security is not threatened. The security lies in not protecting the individual petrol pumps but in doing something about them which the Government is doing. One of the ways in which it is doing is by holding the road shows in the rest of the world to invite foreigners to come and do exploration, refining, to lay pipelines and terminals. When we do these things, these are not a threat to the security of the country. This kind of an item is always being brought up. It has been thoroughly discussed and reported to you. A unanimous decision was taken. I will take only two more points and then I will finish my speech.

One very important point that my dear colleagues raised was about the legality of the sale of the Centaur Hotel. The second point was about the legality of these companies and so on being sold by the Government. Shri Somnath Chatterjee wanted to know about the fact of the matter? In the agreement between the Hotel Corporation of India and the Batra Hospitalities, it had provided that neither this agreement nor any benefits or burdens under this agreement shall be assignable by either party without the prior written consent of either party. Similarly, in the lease agreement between the Airports Authority of India and the Batra Hospitalities, it was provided that if the lessee wants to part with the lease, he has to get the written permission of the Airports Authority of India. In these transactions, the Batra

Hospitalities did not ask for or obtain the written consent of either the Hotel Corporation or of the Airports Authority. I have checked up that. So, we have referred the matter to the Law Ministry. If there is any illegality committed, naturally the Government will take remedial action.

Now I come to the final point and I will conclude with that. This is a point that can mislead many persons. When a company has been nationalised under an Act of Parliament, can the Government disinvest or not? This is the point which Shri Somnath Chatterjee made at great length. When you nationalise a piece of land under an Act, what happens after that is not governed by that particular Act unless there was a restriction in the Act itself. For instance, in the case of coal nationalisation, a restriction was put in the Coal Nationalisation Act that no private party shall be allowed and this business shall be conducted only by the Government. In the case of bank nationalisation, the Act provided that the Government shall not lower its equity beyond 51 per cent. We have examined the law and this is the position. Therefore, these were then incorporated as companies and their meetings were held according to the provisions of the Companies Act, including the enlargement of shares and the disposition of shares.

This is the central point. Today, we are talking about HPCL and BPCL. He was quoting the Act pertaining to nationalisation. The fact is that today 49 per cent shares of HPCL had already been disinvested by the Congress Government. How did they part with those shares without amending the Act because what applies to 100 shares applies to one share also? In BPCL, 34 per cent of the shares had already been disinvested. In VSNL, Shri Pramod Mahajan steered the whole process and 40 per cent shares had already been disinvested and 60 per cent remained with the Government. In IPCL also, 40 per cent had already been disinvested.

So, this was being done. But the best case is that of Maruti. Maruti, as you know, Sir, was a private company and you handled it. It was nationalised in 1980, by an Act of Parliament and 100 per cent of its equity was with the Government. In 1982, 26 per cent of the shares of Maruti was given to Suzuki without amending the Act. In 1984, that 26 per cent was increased to 40 per cent, again without amending the Act. In 1992, when the Congress party was in power, Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister and Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister, 50 per cent of the shares were given to Suzuki, the Government shares were reduced to 49.7 per cent and it was made a private company, without amending the Act. There is a reason for that. That is why, I requested the Lok Sabha Secretariat to provide me with the Constitution.

Sir, article 298 is the important article here and I will conclude after quoting that. With Shri Somnath Chatterjee's eminence as a lawyer, these things can be taken seriously, more seriously than they should be taken. Article 298 of the Constitution says:

> "The executive power of the Union and of each State shall extend to the carrying of any trade or business and to the acquisition, holding and disposal of property and the making of contracts for any purpose:..."

It is an executive function. That is why, these pseudo arguments are being given, but, in any case, since Dr. Manmohan Singh had raised this point in the other House, we had referred the matter to the Attorney General for his opinion.

Sir, once again, on the issue of Centaur Hotel, I gave two assurances. One was that I made diligent enquiries on the deaths that had been reported. As you know, it is like this. One was a case of cirrhosis of liver and the other person was on dialysis. If there is anything wrong with that, I would be grateful for that information and I would correct it. The second assurance was that on the question of legality of the sale, I am awaiting ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: You didn't say anything about VRS. ...*(Interruptions)* Force is being used in the matter and their rights are being withdrawn.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There is a Union. You can go to labour court on these matters.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: What can you do? You had said that workers would be protected. How are they being protected?

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I will make a full enquiry about that. Thank you very much.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we sat here for so much time and a very important issue has been raised by the hon. Minister at the fag end of this debate. When I am sitting here and when that important issue has been raised, if I do not say anything contradicting it, a wrong impression will go. So, I seek

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

your indulgence now. I will not take more than two minutes to make my point and I seek a reply from the hon. Minister.

If it is possible for him to reply now, he can do so. He can also reply afterwards. The point is that there is a difference between the executive powers and the legislative powers. The provisions to which a reference was made related to the executive powers. If anything has been done by using the executive power, the executive authority can undo it. But if anything has been done by using the legislative power, it is the legislature that can undo it. Let us understand this simple principle. The article to which a reference was made related to the executive power and not the legislative power. That is one thing.

If a company has been brought into existence under the Companies Act by the executive orders, they take the decision in the Cabinet. They create a company and its shares can then be given by that company. The Air India, the Indian Airlines and others were brought under the Government's control by passing a law. That was the law that was passed for their nationalisation. What has been done by the Government of India by passing a law in this House cannot be undone by the executive without coming to this House.

The third point is that if you create a statutory institution by passing a law, even that cannot be given up by the Government. But these are the legal points. I am not saying that my word is final. But let it be clearly examined by you. We do not accept your proposition that the executive order can undo the legislative order. The executive is responsible to the legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank, you have made your point.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The executive is responsible. What is really happening there is that Members sitting here are opposing it. The Members sitting on your side are opposing it. Even some members of the BJP are also opposing it. Where is the majority? Where is the support?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, it is a very important point. As he has rightly said, there is a different interpretation that they have. We had studied the law carefully and taken proper legal advice. But, in any case, the matter has been referred to the Attorney-General. I will be faithfully putting forward the views of the Attorney-General to the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment whenever HPCL and BPCL cases come up before that Committee. The Cabinet Committee would certainly be apprised of the viewpoints that Shri Shivraj Patil has expressed. This is very important.

21.43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 19,2002/ Agrahayana 28,1924 (Saka).

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