

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXXI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G. C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. P.K. Sandhu
Joint Secretary

Sharda Prasad
Principal Chief Editor

Kiran Sahni
Chief Editor

Parmesh Kumar Sharma
Senior Editor

U. C. Pant
Editor

(Original English Proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi Proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof)

CONTENTS

Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXI, Twelfth Session, 2003/1924 (Saka)
No. 8, Wednesday, February 26, 2003/Phalgun 07, 1924 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
RE: SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR	1-23
Rally by workers against the economic policies of the Government resulting in unemployment	23-28
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 122, 124 and 126	28-354
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 121, 123, 125 and 127-140	28-65
Unstarred Question Nos. 1241-1433	65-354
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	354-357
STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	
Thirty-ninth to Forty-fourth Reports	357-358
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE	
Indian Council for Agricultural Research Society	358
RAILWAY BUDGET	
Shri Nitish Kumar	358-386
OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER	388-391
RE : DISCUSSION ON AYODHYA ISSUE	
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to ensure that the provisions of Forest Conservation Act do not come in the way of development of Adivasi areas in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat	
Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava	391
(ii) Need for construction of an over-bridge at Kutubgarh railway gate on Rewari-Narnaul Highway in Haryana	
Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha Yadav	392-393
(iii) Need to declare State Highway between Hanumangarh and Sujargarh via Ratangarh-Sardarshahar-Pallu-Sadulshahar as a National Highway in Rajasthan	
Shri Ram Singh Kaswan	393
(iv) Need to convert narrow-gauge rail line between Billi Mora and Bahai into broad gauge in Gujarat and extend it up to Nasik	
Shri Mansinh Patel	393-394
(v) Need to enforce SEBI Regulations more effectively	
Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal	394
(vi) Need to construct a new railway station at Nedumbassery near Cochin	
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	394-395
(vii) Need to review sharing of revenues between Centre and States	
Shri Sunil Khan	395

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

(viii)	Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to meet drought situation in Anantpur district	
	Shri Kalava Srinivasulu	396
(ix)	Need for construction of a road over-bridge between Khagaria and Home-guard Fandi near Khagaria Railway Station in Bihar	
	Shrimati Renu Kumari	396-397
(x)	Need to construct flyovers in Bhubaneswar, Orissa for removing traffic congestion	
	Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani	397
(xi)	Need to conduct a comprehensive independent reassessment of performance of Bt. Cotton	
	Shri E. Ponnuswamy	397
(xii)	Need to amend the provisions of crop insurance scheme keeping in view the interest of farmers	
	Shri Haribhai Chaudhary	397-398
(xiii)	Need to set up a Regional Rural Bank for Travancore area in Kerala with head office at Kottarakara	
	Shri Kodikunnil Suresh	398
CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION BILL		401-458
Motion to Consider		
	Shri Anadi Sahu	401-403
	Shri P.H. Pandian	404-405
	Shri T. Govindan	405-406
	Shri Chandrakant Khaira	406-407
	Shri P.S. Gadhavi	407-409
	Shri Rupchand Pal	409-413
	Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	413-415
	Kunwar Akhilesh Singh	415-418
	Shri Kharabela Swain	418-424
	Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	424-430
	Shri Subodh Mohite	430-433
	Shri Prabodh Panda	433-434
	Shri G.M. Banatwalla	435-438
	Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	438-440
	Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale	440-441
	Shri Ramdas Athawale	441
	Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	442-443
	Shri Harin Pathak	443-446
	Clauses 2 to 28 and 1	447-458
	Motion to Pass	458

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 26, 2003/Phalgun 7, 1924 (Saka)

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

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

RE: SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

**Rally by workers against the economic policies of the
Government resulting in unemployment**

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, we have given notice for suspension of Question Hour. *...(Interruptions)* We have given notice for Adjournment Motion. *...(Interruptions)* Today lakhs of workers from all over the country have come to Delhi. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. I can make out as to what is being said if only one Member speaks. Sunil Khanji, you resume your seat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROJABAD): I have given a Notice of Adjournment Motion. Today lakhs of labourers from all over India are demonstrating on the roads of Delhi against the anti labour policy of the Government. One crore seventy lakh workers have lost their jobs during the last four years due to the anti-labour policy and almost six lakh, small as well as big factories, have been closed down due to this economic policy of this Government. It is a very serious matter. Profit making public sector undertakings are being sold leading to the unemployment of the workers. The most important point to be mentioned in this context is that the Prime Minister had announced from the Red Fort ramparts that the jobs for one crore persons in one year will be generated. Then the second Labour Commission was constituted. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should only explain as to why an Adjournment Motion be brought due to it?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: This Government is anti worker. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Adjournment Motion cannot be brought over it. You resume your seat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The interest rate on PF deposits has been lowered from 12 percent to 9 percent. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There cannot be an Adjournment Motion on this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Lakhs of workers are demonstrating on the roads of Delhi. I have given Notice of Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: You tell only this much as to how this can be an Adjournment Motion.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Union Government is trying to stifle the workers. I submit that a discussion be held on this issue by suspending all the proceedings. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, giving advance notice, lakhs of workers of the Central Trade Unions - INTUC, CITU, AITUC, ETUC and even HMS - have assembled today on the streets of Delhi to focus attention on the demands of struggling workers who are losing their jobs everyday under this Government. Till today, only in the State of West Bengal, more than one lakh people have become jobless because of the winding up of companies one after the other through the BIFR as a result of this Government's policy of disinvestment.

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR): What about Kerala?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am coming to that.

The same is the fate of Maharashtra, the same is the fate of Kerala and the same is the fate of the rest of India right from the textile units of Gujarat to the sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot make a speech, you are aware of that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, wages of workers of one of the major jute units of NJMC in West Bengal have not been reimbursed. The draconian recommendation of the National Labour Commission is posing

another threat to the working class. If the Government does not heed to the request of farmers and workers, whom they have been neglecting, the inner strength of the country will be destabilised and paralysed. The Prime Minister is present today. Since it was the Prime Minister who assured and promised that under his Government, not only one crore jobs would be generated but also that the existing jobs would be protected, I demand that he should respond to the cry of the workers who are now on the street.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Department of Arun Shourie and the Ministry of Finance are everyday taking away the bread of hundreds and thousands of workers. I want a comprehensive policy to restructure and rehabilitate the public sector units that have been closed and I demand that HPCL and BPCL should not be disinvested forcibly.

MR. SPEAKER: This is an issue of workers who are marching to Parliament today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we have given notice for Adjournment Motion. You allow us. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should give your ruling on the Notice of Adjournment Motion. It is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, I would like to inform you that I have given you permission to speak but you should try to understand that it is the time for the Question Hour in the House which I have to begin. You have given Notice for suspending the Question Hour. Hence I have given you permission, I cannot give permission to all the Members, else the Question Hour will not take place. All of you know this. The Members of treasury benches want the Question Hour to take place.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): We have given Notice for suspension of Question Hour.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that this is the first Government in fifty years to take care of the interests of the workers and

farmers. The Government in West Bengal and the Congress Government in states are doing injustice to the workers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The assurance was given by these people. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Today there is no 'Zero Hour'. I have permitted a few Members to speak because there is no 'Zero Hour' today. But one must understand that he must stick to only the point as to why this happens to be an Adjournment Motion. No other point can be discussed.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had assured me yesterday that you will allow me first to speak today. Today mine is the first name in the list of speakers, hence I would like to submit that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much sir, I would like to express my view in very brief. I am happy that hon. Prime Minister is in the House today. The workers from all over India are agitating on roads but it is very sad that though an assurance of providing employment to one crore persons was made and a committee was constituted by the Government in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Employment has been given to one and a half crore persons so far.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps Malhotraji don't read the figures because though a promise to provide employment to one crore persons was made, two to three crore persons have also been retrenched. Hon. Prime Minister had himself constituted a committee to suggest the ways for generating employment. The Committee has submitted its report and perhaps Malhotraji did not read that report. It is a very serious matter. The committee is of the view that the unemployment would rise by 3 crore by the end of 10th Five Year Plan. Today the names of 10-11 crore persons are registered in the employment exchanges. It will further add to the unemployment. On one hand the Government is rendering people jobless and on the other the profit making PSU's with an investment of billions of rupees of public are being sold. Hence I allege that this is the first Government, which has sold out the property of India. I won't take much time and conclude to say that the discussion be held on this

issue by suspending all other business. I would like the hon. Prime Minister sitting here to give a satisfactory reply. If the Government continues to pursue disinvestment the unemployment will also go on increasing and as such the Government will not be able to combat the problem of terrorists. They may make tall claim but the fact remains that they are eating into the vitals of the economy. Discontentment is brewing in the country. Hence serious thought be given to the issue of maintaining the integrity of the country and also the process of disinvestment be put to halt besides providing the opportunities of employment to the people. Hence, I want that discussion be held on it by suspending all the proceedings.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg of everybody in this House not to treat this matter as just a routine matter that the Opposition is raising.

I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister is here. This is a matter which not only we, as the Opposition parties, are raising, but many of the hon. Members in the NDA have openly supported several of the issues raised by us concerning the working class today.

As regards disinvestment, we have been saying that per se we are not objecting to it. But the question is, what is the result of this on the economy of this country? What is the position of the workers in this country? Privatisation for whose benefit? What is happening with the sale proceeds in this country? These are very serious matters. Now, how many jobs have been lost? What is the good of saying that 'we are giving one crore jobs'? There is a drop in the employment of workers by eight per cent in two consecutive years. More and more unemployment is coming. No new economic activity is there.

So far as the agricultural workers are concerned, they are facing the greatest problems. Every State is saying that. The other day my esteemed friend, Shri K. Yerrannaidu had very rightly referred to this issue. Other States are also raising it. ...*(Interruptions)*

There is greater and greater penury so far as the working class is concerned.

So, far as the provident fund is concerned, the interest rate has gone down. The Prime Minister knows that we are forwarding letters to him and also to the Finance Minister in this regard. All over the country, people are asking about it.

Imports are being allowed in an unlimited manner. Every section of the country today is suffering. We are raising it not just as a matter for the sake of criticising the Government.

People are feeling the impact of this. That is why lakhs and lakhs of workers, though they support different central trade unions, across the board, have come to Delhi to express their grievances to the Government of India.

The hon. Prime Minister of India is sitting here. I am requesting you, Mr. Prime Minister, that these are your citizens. They have come here to express their agony, to express their protest against the policies which are only aggravating the economic problems in this country. Who is benefited out of these programmes? The Government has to make their position clear.

Therefore, Sir, I would request all sections of the House not to treat this as a routine matter. The Government should not think that the Opposition is raising it for the sake of opposition. All over the country, people have come here. They are opposing their policies. ...*(Interruptions)*

I wish to say that if no action is taken by the Government on the Charter of Demands of these workers, they should not think that they can go on suppressing the workers, go on using POTA and dismissing the workers. They will never accept this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, let me also ask some questions. You allow us also. How many units have been disinvested in West Bengal? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I request the Government to wake up. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Prime Minister should make the position clear so that the reasonable demands of the workers can be accepted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I would like to know this. Every day they are getting up and speaking that Central PSUs are being dismantled. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now. Now, Shri Chandra Shekhar.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to ask the Government. If they want to react to this, they can do so. Otherwise, I will give my ruling.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I was drawing the attention of the Prime Minister only. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I would like to know

that whether any Central PSU has been privatised in West Bengal and if the West Bengal Govt. has sold of any state PSU? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he can be included in the Cabinet so that he can reply every day! ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I have no authority to include him in the Cabinet! ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, you can make such a suggestion! ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please put the House in order. They always behave in the same manner everyday in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Chandrashekharji is also standing. let him speak. It is not right.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, he may be wanting to become a Minister, but he says that I want to become a Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, please take it in a lighter vein.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Why is he saying like that? Is he not speaking like that to impress the leader. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, Shri Chandra Shekhar.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make one submission only. Hon. Prime Minister had said in the beginning that employment would be given to one crore persons every year which had a ray of hope in the country at least among workers but one crore persons are losing their employment every year. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should resume my seat since I am being repeatedly interrupted. I am speaking as you have given me the floor otherwise I don't want to say anything.

Khadi Gramodyog Commission has reported that a total of 40 lakhs persons have lost their employment in Khadi Gramodyog even if the figures of the weavers are taken. New rules are being framed every year. The public sector undertakings meant to create employment are either being closed down or being disinvested which is leading to rising discontent among the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, there is no translation.

MR. SPEAKER: I will just check it up.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I was just referring to the promise made or an assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister that one crore jobs will be created every year, but the reality is otherwise. Every year, more than a crore of people are getting unemployed.

In the Khadi Commission itself, more than 40 lakh people have been made unemployed, according to the report of the Khadi Commission. The public sector units are closing down or are being disinvested. It is resulting into more unemployment. The small-scale industries are not able to compete with the foreign imports and they are closing down. The situation is becoming grave.

If there is no dissatisfaction among the working class and if we do not take any measures to satisfy them, the situation may go out of hand. It will be difficult to run our institutions on democratic pattern if we have a dissatisfied lot of working class. This is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Government like to react to this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Prime Minister must respond. It is a serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI, SOUTH CENTRAL): Sir, workers are suffering loss. The disinvestment being done by the Government is affecting workers. The Government should have a clear policy in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEBACHARIA: Sir, please allow me. I have also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is Question Hour. I cannot permit each and every hon. Member to speak. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, please allow me.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me tell you that I have received on this issue of suspension of Question Hour, notices from seven hon. Members and on the Adjournment Motion, from 11-12 hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (ALWAR): Why do all of them stand together. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When I am speaking, why do you stand?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am explaining it to them. All the Members cannot be allowed to speak. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If 2-3 hon. Members want to speak, they can.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, you please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, please go back to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I can permit all the Members to speak on this subject. I will give permission to speak to two-three Members only. Thereafter Prime Minister will respond.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I cannot permit all the hon. Members to speak. Shri Basu Deb Acharya may speak. Shri Acharya, please finish it in two minutes only and not more than that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Today lakhs of workers have come to Delhi and they are demonstrating. There is a serious situation in our country. A large number of public sector undertakings like the fertiliser units in Gorakhpur, Barauni, Durgapur, Haldia, Talcher, Ramagundam - actually eight units of fertiliser plants - are closed down. Hindustan Fertilisers, FACT, Fertiliser Corporation of India, etc. have been closed down.

When we met the Prime Minister, he himself assured us that there should be at least one fertiliser unit in each State. But that assurance was not kept. All the units are closed down.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharya, we have not started a debate on this issue. Please sit down. You cannot go on giving a speech. Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

Shri Acharya, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The working class got their rights after many struggles. ... (Interruptions) All those rights are being withdrawn now. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a number of notices. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There is a proposal to amend the Industrial Disputes Act. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act is to be withdrawn - that was the proposal - so that the multinational companies can exploit the workers by engaging contract workers and give minimum wages. Interest rates have been reduced. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharya, please sit down. This is not a debate. You can only speak on why you want to press the Adjournment Motion, and nothing else. Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We demand that the Government withdraw the policy of disinvestment.
...(Interruptions) The Government should withdraw the policy and the Prime Minister should come forward with a statement.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the workers, labourers and Members of all trade unions from every nook and corner of the country are staging demonstration at Jantar Mantar. The unemployment is increasing in the country due to the anti-farmer and anti-worker policy of the Government. Unemployed people are getting ruined and the educated and uneducated people and youth of all classes are becoming unemployed. Due to this, there is an atmosphere of discontent and agitation all across the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasadji, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The burning question before the country is that the unemployment is increasing due to the anti-farmer, anti-worker and anti-people policies of the Government and the profit making public sector undertakings are being sold at throwaway prices to the private and multinational companies resulting in the drain of the country's wealth. The property of the country is being sold to benefit the foreigners. It is due to this that a very large demonstration is being staged at the Jantar-Mantar. The people are getting mobilized to oppose the policy of disinvestment of the Government and crores of persons of the country have reached the conclusion that the Government is working under the foreign pressure and is pursuing the anti-national policies.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Therefore, through you, I would like to ask the Government to immediately check its anti-farmer, anti-worker and anti-people policies. It is all I want to say.

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Vilas Paswanji, now you speak. However before you begin, I would like to call the names of those Members who have given notices -Shri Ajay Chakravarty, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Laxman Seth, Shri Rupchand Pal, Shri Hannan Mollah, Shri Sunil Khan, Shri Moin-ul-Hasan, Shri Probadh Panda, Shri Dasmunsi, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

[English]

These Members have given notices on this issue. Please remember

[Translation]

that the permission given by me to you is only to speak on the subject as to why the Adjournment Motion be brought.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise two points only. Persons from all the parties know that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, Shri Dasmunsi is sitting here, yesterday I was assured before him that I will be allowed to speak first but I have not been called so far. I request that my issue is more important than this one hence my view should be listened first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit you after the completion of this subject. Now, you resume your seat.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will be 12 O'clock by then and you will begin the railway budget.

MR. SPEAKER: I would complete this subject first and then permit you to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, railway budget should begin only after I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Paswanji, you start speaking quickly.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed anyone else to speak. Please resume your seat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will speak for one minute only. The important issue I would like to raise is that there was the provision of reservation in public sector undertakings for the persons belonging to SC and ST sections and now when these are being privatized this provision no longer exists there. When I was in charge of the Ministry, I had raised this issue every time and even the hon. Prime Minister and Arun Shourieji who are sitting here will acknowledge it. The lakhs of persons belonging to backward class and SC and ST sections of society who used to find employment in Sindri and Barauni factories situated in backward areas have lost their employment due to privatisation. This is ruining the people of weaker section and those living in backward areas. The most important thing is that so far properties worth Rs.29,000 crore have been sold. Nobody knows as to where is this money being invested. I would like to know as to why this money is not being spent for providing employment and training to those backward people and bring them at par with people of other sections of society. Firstly this policy of disinvestment itself is faulty, secondly

where is the money being raised from disinvestment is invested and thirdly how will the constitutional rights of the people belonging to the scheduled castes scheduled tribes and the backward classes will be protected?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, you may place your viewpoint only in two sentences and not more than that.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Sir, the working class in lakhs and lakhs is assembling in the capital of our country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not being given an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: His Notice is with me and I don't have your Notice.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: The working class is assembling in the capital to express its agony and protest against the anti-workers policies of the Government of India. One after other, all the public sector units are being transferred to private sector units. The Government of India is closing down even those public sector units which are making profits. Prestigious profit-making public sector units, like HPCL and BPCL, are being closed and thousands and thousands of the workers are thrown out of job.

In its last election manifesto, the BJP assured the people to provide one crore jobs every year. Instead of providing jobs, lakhs and lakhs of workers are thrown out of job. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not possible. More than enough Members have put their viewpoints.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Today, lakhs and lakhs of workers are assembling under the banners of all trade unions to express their agony and protest against the anti-workers policies of the Government of India. The Government should change its policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I cannot permit all the Members to speak. Please sit down. Let me have the reaction of the Government.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, undoubtedly the issue that has been raised by the opposition is serious. However it is also a fact that it would have been better if the opposition would have raised this issue after the Question Hour instead of raising it now. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not know how many unemployed have increased in half an hour, however I certainly know that we have spent half an hour for an issue on which there is unanimity in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The hon. Prime Minister is speaking, at least you please do not speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: There is serious problem of unemployment in the country. All political parties want to fight against unemployment, all parties want to generate employment opportunities, however the parties particularly the parties which are in power either in Delhi or in Calcutta know it well that there are problems in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* I am ready to ponder over those problems.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: By when?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: When you decide. However Somnath Babu, nothing is going to come out, the way things are being discussed. You have raised this issue and you may deliver speech among workers. I also did the same thing however, I found that the problem has not been solved. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You call it a profession however it is a principle for us.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Serious efforts are being made to generate employment opportunities. I would like to mention a figure. We had talked about one crore employment opportunities. Our target was one crore. Out of that one crore we could provide employment to 70 lakh people. ...*(Interruptions)* We are ready for the discussion. Come on let us hold a discussion on it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet. Please listen, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is factually incorrect. Let the Prime Minister make it clear as to which are the areas where these 70 lakh jobs have been created. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath ji you please submit your views, it will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

[English]

It will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: There is no meaning of the statement of hon. Prime Minister as the number of unemployed are continuously increasing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, I am on my legs. You have asked the questions and expressed your views and the hon. Prime Minister has given reply. I feel that this question is over now. I am asking Prabhunath Singh ji to ask his question, Prabhunath Singh ji you please ask your question.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Prime Minister is saying that 70 lakh jobs have been created. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not factually correct. ...*(Interruptions)* Just now the former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar has said that 40 lakh jobs have been taken away. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not the way.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask for a discussion on this subject. I will take it to the Business Advisory Committee and give you a discussion if the Committee agrees.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You can discuss this subject. Please sit down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no meaning of this statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please discontinue Doordarshan relay.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA): The hon. Prime Minister had told that every year employment will be provided to one crore people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement of the hon. Prime Minister has nothing to do with the reality. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we boycott the House on this issue.

11.37 hrs.

(Shri Ramdas Athawale then left the house.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Slogans should not be taken on record. No slogan should be taken on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This being an important issue, I am prepared to give you a debate on this issue. You can ask the hon. Prime Minister whatever you want. If you do not agree with him, you can discuss the issue. If you want a debate, a special debate can be arranged on this issue. I will take it to the Business Advisory Committee as early as possible. You can raise all these questions in the debate. The problem cannot be resolved by shouting in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I am taking up different subject I want to solve this question. It will be beneficial for you. I am giving you opportunity, that is why I am trying to find a way out.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is

a matter of great regret that the Prime Minister's observation showed total insensitiveness on the part of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not ready to listen to such things, what is this. When the Prime Minister has delivered his speech then what do they want to speak? After the speech of the hon. Prime Minister we are not ready to listen to them. Hon. Prime Minister has given correct reply, thereafter their problem should have been solved. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is this you are permitting them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you to speak on this issue. You can only tell me what is the way out. The way out is to have a debate on this and ask the Government to give a reply.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I do not know who is giving information to the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not ready to listen to such things. ...*(Interruptions)* what is this? When the hon. Prime Minister has given the reply then what are they saying. ...*(Interruptions)* We are not ready to listen to it. ...*(Interruptions)* After the reply of the hon. Prime Minister what is this going on? ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister has given correct reply. ...*(Interruptions)* There should have been solution after that.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, they are not questioning me; they are questioning you every minute. They are challenging the hon. Speaker every minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

What is this going on ...

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: In West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* How many time you will be given opportunity to speak? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Hon. Minister does not speak. You please be seated. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the language that has been used by him is not proper. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have made a suggestion in order to resolve the deadlock in the House. It is now the responsibility of both the Ruling as well as the Opposition Parties to see that the functioning of the House is not disturbed. I have taken the name of Shri Prabhunath Singh because he has to speak on an important issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. This is not the way in which the proceedings of the House can be conducted.

I have requested Shri Somnath Chatterjee to find a way out for resolving the deadlock. My only point is that I am not requesting him to speak on the item that is before us because that is already over. The hon. Prime Minister has given the reply.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he has not given any reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me complete. Shri Rupchand Pal, please sit down. I will not allow you to speak like this.

My only anxiety is that this being an important issue, I want a detailed debate on this. I can also understand the importance of unemployment in the country. The hon. Prime Minister has rightly said that every political party has tried to resolve this issue for several years but they have not been able to do so. Therefore, I would like to request the Opposition Parties to move a complete resolution on this issue and let us discuss that. There is no harm in discussing it. But at the same time, I do not want a debate to be started again on this issue. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, if you have any suggestion to make in this regard, you may do so.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister himself has admitted that the issue is very 'gambhir'. This is his own word. Even with my imperfect Hindi, I think, it is 'very serious'. We expected that the hon. Prime Minister - we have got the advantage of his presence today - would indicate as to how this serious problem will be solved.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How will it be completed in two minutes? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how

will the House run like this? ...*(Interruptions)* I appreciate him.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am appreciating the hon. Prime Minister that he has been kind enough to admit the seriousness of the matter.

Sir, we are not children that we will expect that in one sentence the hon. Prime Minister will solve everything.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give me your suggestion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we would like to have the direction from the hon. Prime Minister.

Sir, he has made two observations which have pained me. He considers that espousal of the cause of the workers is a 'profession'. I did not expect it from Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Secondly he. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You do not understand its meaning. ...*(Interruptions)* In Hindi 'Dhanda' means employment. ...*(Interruptions)* When you do not understand the language then how can you say anything about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You do not have to protect him.

Sir, if this is the way they are behaving, then you please stop the proceedings of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

I am only saying that he has given figures that there are 70 lakh new employment. I think, it should be plus and minus both, taking into consideration that new 70 lakh people have been given employment and some provision has been made for those who have lost their jobs. He has just been told or misled by somebody, I do not know. I am sure, he will not knowingly mislead the House. There are advisors who are misleading him and thereby the country is being misled. I am requesting. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Would you agree for a discussion?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He should take the initiative and take the country into confidence and tell the people as to how to solve this serious matter. The people have not come here for the purpose of enjoyment and merry

making. Lakhs of people are in Delhi. They have come here because they are anguished and they are facing the problem of their survival.

[Translation]

He is making mockery of the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have made a suggestion for a debate. If you agree for a debate, it is all right; otherwise, there is no item.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you responding to my suggestion for a debate on the issue?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister for his intervention in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want you to make comments on his remarks again. That is why I am saying that I will give you a debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is your suggestion now?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We are thankful to the Hon. Prime Minister.

11.46 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prabhunath Singh came and stood near the Table.)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me permission to speak. Please listen me also. Why will he speak? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please start. I give you permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.47 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Prabhunath Singh went back to his seat.)

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Prabhunath Singh may speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji you please start. I am giving you permission.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that. ...(Interruptions) they are not allowing me to speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, only will they speak? Please listen to us also. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can conclude; I cannot give you permission again and again.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You ask for a debate.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: They are not allowing me to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: First of all you please tell them to resume seat. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They will allow you provided you come to the point. You can just tell me what is your suggestion on the debate.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Please allow me to have my say. They continue to interrupt me. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): When we are not allowed to speak then we will also not allow them to speak. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: My demand is very simple. My suggestion to the hon. Prime Minister is also very simple. The hon. Prime Minister just stated that 70 lakh jobs have been created. This Government has completed three

and a half years in office. As per their promise to the nation, by now three and a half crore jobs, at the rate of one crore jobs per year, had to be created. But the Prime Minister came to the conclusion and disclosed to the nation that in these three and a half years, out of three and a half crore jobs, he has created only 70 lakh jobs. The former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar has stated that the official report of the Khadi Commission says that 40 lakh jobs have been taken away. Forget about our figure. Seventy lakh jobs, minus forty lakh jobs means thirty lakh jobs. Therefore, out of three and a half crore jobs that the Prime Minister had committed to the nation, he provided only thirty lakh new jobs.

I demand that the Prime Minister should place on the table the exact retrenchment of workers in the public sector undertakings and also the report where the jobs have been totally destroyed and retrenched. With these figures the Prime Minister must come to the House. It is a betrayal to the nation after promising one crore jobs per year. The total number of jobs that the Government has claimed to have created is not substantiated by the actual job opportunities available. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I have permitted Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

Prabhunath ji, now you please start.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the war was being fought on the border. ...(Interruptions) They are not listening. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Therefore, I feel the Prime Minister must make it clear to the nation that his Government has failed to fulfil the promise and took away more jobs than creating new ones. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak and only he will speak now. Others may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time when our jawans were laying their lives for the country the order for 500 caskets for transporting their dead bodies was placed by the Government of India. Out of that 150 caskets

were received and for that one crore and seventy seven lakh rupees was paid. There was controversy over the price of the caskets that these were purchased at higher price. The cost of one casket was fixed at 2500 US dollar and it was accepted by America and it was said that. ...*(Interruptions)* After the investigation it was found that Rs.2768.40 was paid for one casket. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed the request for suspension of Question Hour I have also disallowed the Adjournment Motion before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have written for returning of Rs.90 lakh, however during the election in Himachal Pradesh the leader of opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, against whom serious allegations have been levelled and against whom there are four serious allegations. ...*(Interruptions)* The first allegation is about educational qualification and citizenship* ...*(Interruptions)*

She undermined the dignity of the leader of opposition. ...*(Interruptions)** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would now go to the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 121. Shri Gajendra Singh Rajukhedi.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 122. Prof. Dukha Bhagat.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.52 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Wireless Telephone Facilities in Villages

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

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

(a) whether the Government propose to provide wireless telephones in the villages in the current calendar year;

(b) if so, the number of villages in each district likely to be provided the above facility, State-wise; and

(c) the criteria laid down for identifying these villages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) prepares a programme each financial year to provide Telephone connections in Rural Areas also. Some of these connections are based on Wireless Telephony. The target for rural WLL for financial year 2002-2003 is 3,40,000 connections and for 2003-2004, 4,61,000 connections. The target is not maintained on the basis of calendar year.

These connections are provided by setting up a network of BTSs (Base Trans-Receiver Stations) and rural exchanges which are planned on the basis of demand for telephone connections in the SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area). It is not possible to plan the exact number of villages which can be covered by a BTS due to the fact that wireless signal coverage depends on terrain, obstructions etc. Planning is done by fixing the number of BTSs and if some part of the waiting list is uncovered, alternative technological solutions are attempted.

(c) The villages within a distance of 5 K.M. from exchange are provided by land lines and for 5-25 KMs connectivity is given on WLL from the nearest BTS, if the line of sight is clear up to the village.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 123, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh ji, ask your question.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the workers have staged demonstration all over the country. Sir, since there is no order in the House, I am not able to ask this question. The entire opposition wants clear assurance in this

regard. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like that the hon. Prime Minister should say something on this issue pertaining to labourers. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir I would like to request you that you should maintain order in the House so that I may ask question on this serious issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever is objectionable will be deleted

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No.124. Shri A. Narendra.

[Translation]

Approval of Tenth Five Year Plan

*124. SHRI A. NARENDRA:

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the alternatives identified by the Government to increase the growth-rate; and

(c) the reactions of various State Governments to the strategy for growth adopted in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The National Development Council (NDC) approved the Tenth Five Year Plan on December 21, 2002.

(b) The alternatives identified by the Government to increase the growth-rate include the following:

(i) There is a large scope for realising improvements in efficiency, both in private and public sectors, as considerable stock of existing capital assets either remain idle or have not been used to their full potential;

(ii) Reduction of gestation lags of industrial and infrastructural investments is of considerable importance to reduce the Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR);

(iii) Full emphasis on completion of partially completed or on-going projects and upgradation of existing capital assets before starting new projects; and

(iv) Legal and procedural changes for facilitating quick transfer of assets, including such measures as the repeal of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, SICA, introduction of bankruptcy laws, accelerating judicial processes, etc.

(c) The Tenth Plan was unanimously approved by the National Development Council, which comprises the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs as Members.

11.55 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria and some other Hon'ble Members came and stood near the Table.)

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have agreed that whatever is objectionable will be deleted. Please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you that I will delete whatever is objectionable.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you. Whatever is objectionable will be deleted.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.56 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria and some other Hon'ble Members went back to their seats.)

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 125. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 126. Shri Pravin Rashtrapal.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.S. Gadhave.

Conversion/Replacement of Telephone Exchanges

+

*126. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to replace small telephone exchanges with C-Dot Exchanges;

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

(c) whether any time frame has been set up to accomplish this task;

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

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) At present, there is no such proposal as small telephone exchanges have already been replaced with C-DOT exchanges.

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

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Prime Minister is sitting here. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not taking on record if it is objectionable.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Excepting Shri Gadhave, nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has said that at present there is no such proposal as small telephone exchanges have already been replaced with C-DOT exchanges. ... (Interruptions) I would like to know whether the Minister would consider providing some more WLL facilities in my constituency. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: There has been great progress in setting up of telephone exchanges. As far as conversion to C-DOT exchanges is concerned, all exchanges have already been converted and 30 per cent of the exchanges. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Conference of Ayurvedic Doctors

*121. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recently concluded conference of Ayurvedic doctors held in London, the need for the formation of a 'Global Ayurved Watch' was stressed as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 20, 2003;

(b) if so, the specific concerns expressed by the assembled participants in this regard; and

(c) the way the Government propose to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government is aware that in a Conference held in London on 17th January, 2003, a resolution was adopted to create a body known as "Ayurveda Watch" with representatives from all countries where there is significant number of qualified Ayurvedic practitioners as well as local professional associations. One of the objectives of "Ayurveda Watch" will be to closely monitor the practice and marketing of Ayurvedic products in other countries so that any infringement of standards can be identified.

The specific concerns expressed in the Conference were (i) the number of hours for teaching of Ayurvedic system in any country should not be less than number of hours prescribed in India with the same course content, (ii) only qualified Ayurvedic doctors should be engaged in the teaching of Ayurveda, (iii) the products being exported from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Tibet alone should be described as Ayurvedic products.

The Government is aware that certain countries are proposing to start formal teaching of Ayurveda System of Medicine. The British Government has proposed to regulate herbal medicinal practices including Ayurveda, Chinese Medicine and other herbal practices. The Government has suggested to them to include core curriculum of Ayurveda covering at least 1666 hours of teaching and clinical exposure in the proposed herbal medicine regulatory course. The core curriculum suggested by the Government includes only core Ayurvedic portion and the teaching of essential modern subjects will have to be provided for in addition.

The Government have always been asserting that only qualified Ayurvedic teachers should be engaged for teaching Ayurveda abroad.

Hike in Treatment Fees in AIIMS

*123. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the treatment fees in AIIMS have been increased eight fold;

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

(c) the likely impact thereof on common man;

(d) whether the AIIMS management enjoys the freedom to take decisions in matters of expansion, appointments, promotions, pay disparities, purchase, revision in treatment fees, etc.;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the action taken by the Government to nullify the steep hike in treatment fees with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) On 1.1.2003, the AIIMS have revised the charges for various Radio-diagnostic investigations in the AIIMS hospital and centers attached to it. The increase in fee has become necessary because the cost of consumables involved in those investigations have increased substantially in the last 10 years. While increasing the charges, efforts have been made to ensure that increases are kept at reasonable levels.

As per a standing Committee decision in the AIIMS, the AIIMS clinicians are authorized to identify the genuinely poor and needy for the purpose of granting exemption from the payment of various charges. Over and above, the patients

below poverty line are provided assistance through the National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF). The AIIMS also receives grants from Government agencies and voluntary and charitable organizations through which the poor patients are assisted.

The competent authority to take decisions in AIIMS in regard to appointment, promotion, service matter, purchase, revision in fees etc. is guided by the Act, Rules and Regulations of the Institutions as well as the instructions issued by the Central Government from time to time.

The hike in fee has been brought out only in very few diagnostic investigations. The rates have been increased by the AIIMS in accordance with the in principle decision of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC)/Governing Body (GB)/Institute Body (IB) of the Institute to rationalize the charges.

[English]

Chief Ministers' Meeting on Population Control

*125. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have held any meeting of the Chief Ministers of some States to discuss and review their slow performance in implementing the Population Control Schemes in their States;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held alongwith the conclusions arrived at;

(c) whether population control constitutes one of the objectives of Tenth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister held a review meeting with the Chief Ministers and Health Ministers of four States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on 16th January, 2003 to discuss the issue of Population Stabilization in these States and to motivate the political leadership. The following strategy was decided at the end of the meeting:

(i) All the vacant posts of important health care functionaries like ANMs, medical officers, etc. should be filled up on a priority basis. Adequate

training should be given to all these functionaries immediately after their recruitment. Similarly, there should be visible improvement in the quality of health services. Towards this end, all the infrastructure gaps should be removed in a time-bound manner.

- (ii) Population stabilization, Health and Family Welfare should be made a People's Movement with the widest possible participation of all the institutions of civil society, especially voluntary organizations and cooperative bodies in these four States. The States are especially urged to make all programmes gender sensitive and make women's empowerment central to their strategy.
- (iii) Mobilize all the available media outlets, both governmental and privately owned, to launch an effective and sustained communication campaign to create mass awareness about issues of population, Health and Family Welfare and gender justice.

Through the above strategy, it is proposed to achieve the following monitorable targets identified for the Tenth Five Year Plan:

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

It has been agreed that the Chief Ministers will review the progress of the Family Welfare programme, on a monthly basis, as per identified action points (Statement). PM will hold regular meetings with the Chief Ministers to review the progress of these four States.

Statement

Points for Action

1. Filling up of vacant posts of ANMs, additional ANMs, Lab Technicians and Medical Officers, in Sub-Centres, PHCs and CHCs.
2. Maintain only four ANM registers and to orient medical officers at PHCs for their maintenance.
3. Identify eligible couples with two or more children for

permanent methods of contraception at sub-centre levels.

4. To fix a day for family planning clinics at all district, sub-district, CHCs and PHCs and to ensure that all qualified doctors are doing family planning operations.
5. To promote usage of IUD and condoms among eligible couples by ANMs.
6. To organize monthly RCH camps at all PHCs.
7. To prepare action plans at sub-centre levels for providing family planning and RCH services as per assessed community needs.
8. To train medical officers in PHCs and make them accountable.
9. To fix village wise monthly immunization day which shall be managed jointly by ANM, Anganwadi worker and the Village Panchayat Pradhan.
10. To place imprest money with ANM and Anganwadi workers for Referral Transport Scheme and National Maternity Benefit Scheme.
11. To fill post of consultants at State and District levels on a priority.
12. To allot sub-centres and PHCs to NGOs and private sector institutions, wherever the public health system is not functioning properly.

Expenditure on Health

*127. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the Indian chapter of the World Commission of Macroeconomics and Health has been formally launched on January 9, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Adviser to UN Secretary General has pointed out that India needs to spend more on health and the Commission would help Indian States to get more financial assistance from the International Agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether his Ministry has approached the

Finance Ministry to provide necessary funds for health sector; and

[Translation]

(f) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (NCMH) was formally launched by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare on 9th January, 2003. Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Chairman, W.H.O. Commission on Macroeconomics and Health and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General was the Guest of Honour. The proposed Commission is to be jointly chaired by Union Ministers of Finance and Health & Family Welfare. Necessary formalities to set up the proposed NCMH are under finalization.

(c) to (f) The need for increasing investment in the health sector in India was emphasized during the inauguration of the proposed Commission. The terms of reference of the proposed Commission will include identification of the priority areas for health intervention and the financing strategies to address these priorities. Based on the recommendations contained in the Report, as also the magnitude of financial resources required for scaling up essential health interventions, further details like domestic funding vis-a-vis external sourcing would be worked out.

Report on Disinvestment

*128. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has submitted any report to the Government recently;

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

(c) the total number of institutions recommended for disinvestment in the report and the number out of them already disinvested by the Government; and

(d) the norms fixed by the Government for giving priority in selecting the institutions for disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Disinvestment Commission constituted in the month of July, 2001 has so far submitted reports containing fresh recommendations in respect of fifteen companies and review recommendations in respect of four companies.

Report	Month	Name of the PSUs
1	2	3
No. XIII	Jan. 2002	1. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (Review) 2. Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. (Review) 3. Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd. (Review) 4. Projects & Equipment Corporation Ltd. (Review)
No. XIV	Sept. 2002	1. IRCON International Ltd. 2. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. 3. Cochin Shipyard Ltd. 4. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.
No. XV	Nov. 2002	1. Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. 2. National Projects Construction Corporation Ltd. 3. Semiconductor Complex Ltd.

1	2	3
No. XVI	Dec. 2002	4. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. 1. Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. 2. Indian Medicines Pharmaceuticals Ltd. 3. Jute Corporation of India Ltd. 4. National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd.
No. XVII	Jan. 2003	1. Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Ltd. 2. National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. 3. Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

So far, none of these companies have been disinvested by the Government.

(d) The priority for disinvestment is determined keeping in view market conditions, the nature of disinvestment and any other factor, which is likely to impact the realisable value.

[English]

Sports Talent Search Scheme

*129. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce a new scheme for searching sports talent at village level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up branches of Sports Authority of India (SAI) in every district of each State; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government of India, through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), implements a number of Schemes which operate to scout and nurture sports talent from everywhere, including the rural areas. Further, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports implements a Scheme of Rural Sports Programme, which too, helps in scouting sports talent from rural areas. As such, there is no proposal to introduce any new scheme for searching sports talent at village level.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Disinvestment of Profit Making Industries

*130. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are disinvesting profit making industries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the companies which are slated for disinvestment, their turnover and profit/loss during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All non-strategic PSUs irrespective of whether they are profit-making or loss-incurring can be disinvested upto a level of 26%, or lower, if necessary, on a case by case basis. Often PSUs are profitable more on account of administered pricing or monopoly status, rather than the efficiency of the operations. There have been many cases where profitable PSUs have become loss making after liberalisation and increased competition. The sale of loss making PSUs alone will not generate the resources required by the Government for modernisation and upgradation of PSUs, creation of new assets, generation of employment and retiring of public debt. Further, the disinvestment of non-strategic PSUs would insulate government finances from the commercial and business risk associated with owning a company, introduce a separation between the regulatory

functions of government and the production and supply of services and products.

decision has been taken and disinvestment is in progress. The turnover and profit/loss account of these companies during the last three years is given in statement enclosed.

(c) There are 45 cases in which disinvestment

Statement

Name of PSUs	Turnover (Rs. Crore)			Profit after Tax (Rs. Crore)		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	416.53	421.18	408.29	-23.07	-105.02	-39.06
National Fertiliser Ltd.	2302.21	2452.66	2808.74	41.15	34.89	27.31
Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	610.55	693.97	744.18	16.83	14.32	6.01
Braithwaite & Co.	117.63	62.04	111.84	0.41	-14.13	1.74
Burn Standard & Co.	199.89	164.88	166.3	281.63	-35.41	-45.22
Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.	214.56	125.52	256.69	0.94	-20.36	0.94
Engineering Projects India Ltd.	144.29	138.55	211.91	-34.19	-48.13	17.76
Fertiliser and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	1270.79	1547.61	1732.9	-48.26	-39.8	-151.95
Hindustan Salts Ltd.	5.35	4.83	5.24	-2.16	-2.91	-2.19
Hindustan Cables Ltd.	203.86	915.65	856.98	-138.73	-99.31	-71.41
Hindustan Copper Ltd.	667.23	511.46	655.87	-51.2	-147.46	-105.8
Madras Fertilisers Ltd.	1161.17	1230.04	1404.81	-25.74	24.98	-29.76
MECON Ltd.	207.93	235.04	274.47	-11.17	-20.27	-51.36
Minerals & Metal Trading Corporation	4289.64	4802.27	5338.37	18.07	14.97	12.39
National Aluminium Company Ltd.	1506.65	2142.32	2406.32	248.25	511.53	655.83
National Instruments Ltd.	2.99	2.94	5.35	-29.02	-27.03	0.09
NEPA Ltd.	91.6	97.68	130.79	-22.6	5.68	4.86
State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	2005.95	1321.17	1077.67	12.51	22.92	26.65
Shipping Corporation of India	2520.84	2542.76	2994.76	201.33	161.61	382.56
Tyre Corporation of India	52.55	59.24	36.6	-61.77	-60.62	-66.43
Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	31.31	31.18	38.57	3.06	0.08	0.07
Engineers India Ltd.	376.67	444.14	972.82	118.06	126.2	123.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Manganese Ore India Ltd.	118.27	134.11	165.22	13.71	11.73	20.05
Sponge Iron India Ltd.	21.69	20.68	29.29	-29.64	-14.7	6.64
Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	2.77	1.6	1.6	-24.58	-37.69	-37.69
Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (Mother Unit) Includes Palakkad unit which is disinvested separately.	126.88	124.48	106.74	20.65	-28.35	-34.52
Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	413.36	441.87	531.54	9.32	10.6	32.8
Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.(Note 1)	93.54	84.57	90.49	0.68	-1.6	-25.08
India Tourism Development Corporation (Note 2)	279.44	274.36	295.71	9.94	-27.33	-35.47
Bharat petroleum Corporation Ltd.	21599.78	33384.68	45932.07	706.02	701.64	820.12
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	23910.3	33830.87	48566.84	901.26	1057.41	1088.01
Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi	1.07	1.18	1.37	-0.3	-0.46	-0.07
Hotel Neelachal Ashok, Puri	0.46	0.27	0.36	-0.69	-1.03	-0.98
Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal	2.32	2.02	1.75	-0.36	-0.54	-0.57
Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati	1.86	2.27	2.83	-0.26	-0.41	-0.2
Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry	0.76	0.75	0.68	-0.12	-0.1	-0.25
Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar	0.51	0.68	0.7	-0.15	0.011	0.014

Note 1: Data given is of the Co. as a whole. However, 2 units of HCI at Centaur Hotel Airport, Delhi (including Chefair Delhi), Chefair Mumbai are being disinvested.

Note 2: Data given is of the Co. as a whole. However, 5 units of ITDC at Hotel Samrat; New Delhi, Jaipur, Palliputra, Bhubaneswar and Jammu are being disinvested.

Note 3: Residual share of Maruti Udyog Ltd is also expected to be completed in 2003-04.

**Functioning of National Institute of
Communicable Diseases**

*131. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

(c) whether the Union Government propose to review the functioning of NICD in order to make it more effective; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) investigates disease outbreaks in different parts of the country round the year on the request of State Health Authorities or as per epidemiological requirement. In most situations, the methods are well established and containment measures are advocated to the concerned State Government authorities. However, in

(a) whether the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) has not been able to provide timely diagnostic report of investigations during outbreaks of epidemics:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

some situations when the disease presentation is complex, in-depth advanced laboratory investigations are often required which is time consuming. In reported disease outbreaks involving new emerging pathogens of communicable diseases or due to non-communicable agents, NICD seeks support from other national and international agencies to diagnose and control the outbreaks, if required. The preliminary reports submitted by NICD after each investigation are timely and based on the clinico-epidemiological and field observations and diagnosed to the extent of taking immediate control measures which are communicated to the concerned State Governments immediately.

As per data available, NICD has responded immediately by investigating a total of 75 outbreaks or conducting health status assessments during 1997-2001 all over the country relating to different diseases on the request of various States Governments. During the year 2002, a total of 14 outbreaks have been investigated by NICD. As the Institute is performing its duties well, there is no proposal to review its functioning. However, certain plan schemes are envisaged during the Xth Plan to further strengthen the activities of the Institute.

SSI Growth Rate in Tenth Plan

*132. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a strategy to ensure the growth rate of 12 per cent for the small scale industry during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the targeted growth rate for SSI sector during the Ninth Plan period has been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the jobs created through it; and

(e) if not, the reasons for lower growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Taking into consideration the higher potential for growth in the Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector in terms of output, employment and exports, the strategy for Tenth Plan is to strengthen the sector to enable it to remain competitive in market-led economy and generate additional jobs. For achieving these objectives, the SSI sector would be provided proper and timely inputs like:

1. Adequate credit/loans from financial institutions/banks.
2. Funds for technology upgradation and modernisation.
3. Adequate infrastructure facilities.
4. Modern testing facilities and quality certification laboratories.
5. Modern management practices and skill upgradation through advanced training facilities.
6. Marketing assistance.
7. Level playing field at par with the organized sector.

Enhanced outlay of Rs. 2584 crore during the Tenth Plan for the SSI Sector as against Rs. 1982 crore in the Ninth Plan would facilitate in supporting the various Plans/Schemes.

(c) to (e) The targets and achievements of production and employment in SSI sector in Ninth Plan are as under:-

Year Terminal year of Ninth Plan	Production (Rs. in crores)		Employment (Lakh Nos.)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2001-02	7,25,000	6,90,316	185	192.23

There is marginal shortfall in the achievement of production target of SSI sector in the Ninth Plan because of over all depressed industrial situation both domestically and globally. However, the target for employment in SSI sector has been fully achieved in the Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

Cancer Cases

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

(a) whether there has been increase in the cases of uterus and breast cancer as compared to the lungs cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases of cancer registered during the last one year;

(c) whether any Nationwide Awareness Programme has been launched for the treatment of such patients in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Cancer Cervix and Breast are the commonest cancers in women whereas incidence of lung cancer is relatively much lower amongst them. According to the Population Based Cancer Registry (PBCR) Programme of the Indian Council of Medical Research, there has been a slight increase over time in the incidence of breast cancer. An overall decline in the incidence rate of cancer of the cervix has been observed in all registries in India. A table indicating incidence of cancers in various sites as compiled by the PBCR of the ICMR is given at statement-I.

(b) This information is not being centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) Under the National Cancer Control Programme, this Ministry is implementing various schemes aimed at creating awareness among the people and for facilitating treatment and research activities. The details of these schemes may be seen at statement-II. In addition, this Ministry has recognized 20 Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs to render treatment and undertake research activities. A list of these RCCs is given at statement-III.

Statement-I

Leading Cancers in the Population Based Cancer Registries under National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR, 1997, Females

Rank	Bangalore	Barshi	Bhopal	Chennai	Delhi	Mumbai
1.	Breast (14.0)	Cervix uteri (18.7)	Cervix uteri (12.7)	Cervix uteri (23.6)	Breast (19.8)	Breast (20.6)
2.	Cervix uteri (13.8)	Breast (7.5)	Breast (12.3)	Breast (21.4)	Cervix uteri (15.8)	Cervix uteri (12.1)
3.	Esophagus (3.8)	Esophagus (2.1)	Ovary (3.5)	Stomach (4.6)	Ovary (6.5)	Ovary (6.0)
4.	Stomach (3.1)	Ovary (2.1)	Esophagus (2.5)	Ovary (4.4)	Gall Bladder (5.6)	Esophagus (3.9)
5.	Ovary (2.9)	Gum (1.2)	Other & Unspecified Parts of Mouth (2.5)	Esophagus (4.2)	Lymphoma (2.3)	Trachea, Bronchus & Lung (3.0)

Figures in parenthesis are the Crude Incidence Rates per 1,00,000.

Statement-II

National Cancer Control Programme

Awareness Activities

1. District Cancer Control Programme

An ongoing scheme of district project (duration-five years) for health education, detection and pain relief measures under National Cancer Control Programme was initiated during the year 1990-91. In this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 15.00 lakhs is provided to

the State Government/UT administration for each district selected under the scheme with a provision of Rs. 10.00 lakhs per annum for each district for the remaining four years of the project period. After five years, the project is to be taken over by the State Government. This scheme is for creating awareness, prevention and early detection.

2. Financial Assistance to Registered Voluntary Organisations

Under the scheme assistance upto Rs. 5.00 lakhs is provided to the Voluntary Organisations for undertaking

health education and early detection activities in cancer on the specific recommendations of the State Government.

3. Regional Cancer Centres

This Ministry has recognised 20 Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs. The Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata and Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH), AIIMS, New Delhi have got a different funding pattern. Remaining RCCs are paid an amount of 75.00 lakhs annually. These RCCs extend treatment facilities and conduct research in the field of Cancer besides creating awareness for prevention and early detection of cancer in the region.

Other activities

- Modified District Cancer Control Programme - a health education cum survey drive carried out in four States.
- Postage stamp depicting a woman carrying out 'self breast examination' was brought out by Department of Posts on National Cancer Awareness Day in 2001
- Observance of National Cancer Awareness Day on 7th November every year and release of Newspaper advertisement on Cancer.
- Broadcast of health education audio material developed by Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, through FM Radio
- Outreach activities by medical colleges for early detection and awareness of cancer.
- Participation in Health Melas and distribution of health education material

Statement-III

List of RCCs

Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital,
Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute,
Kolkata, West Bengal

Kidwai Memorial Instt. of Oncology,
Bangalore, Karnataka

Regional Cancer Institute (WIA),
Adyar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer,
Centre for Cancer Research & Treatment,
Cuttack, Orissa,

Regional Cancer Control Society
Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Cancer Hospital & Research Centre,
Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

Indian Rotary Cancer Institute,
(A.I.I.M.S), New Delhi

R.S.T. Hospital & Research Centre,
Nagpur, Maharashtra

Pt. J.N.M. Medical College,
Raipur, Chhatisgarh

Regional Cancer Centre,
Thiruvananthapuram

Gujarat Cancer Research Institute,
Gujarat.

MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad,
Andhra Pradesh

Pondicherry Regional Cancer Society,
JIPMER, Pondicherry

Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute,
Guwahati, Assam

Tata Memorial Hospital,
Mumbai, Maharashtra

Indira Gandhi Institute of
Medical Sciences,
Patna, Bihar.

Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer
Trust & Research Institute (RCC)
Bikaner, Rajasthan

Regional Cancer Centre,
Pt. B.D. Sharma Post Graduate
Institute of Medical Sciences,
Rohtak, Haryana

Civil Hospital, Aizawl
Mizoram.

*[English]***Role of Foreign Players in Disinvestment**

*134. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have modified any regulations with regard to the modalities of involvement of foreign players in the disinvestment of PSUs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount realized through the foreign investors by way of Disinvestment of various PSUs in the last four years;

(d) whether the disinvestment process has been affected in the recent years due to the paucity of potential foreign investors;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to review and improve the situation;

(f) whether the Government have taken any decision with regard to the modalities of spending the amount realized through the disinvestment of PSUs in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in some cases the limit for foreign investment in disinvestment has been fixed lower than the present sectoral cap of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

(c) Only one of the ITDC Hotels, Viz. Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi, has been sold to a consortium of foreign companies, viz., M/s Silverlink Holdings Ltd., Flash Rise Ltd., Sharp Point Ltd., First Circle Holdings Pvt. Ltd. and Paranal Finance S.A of British Virgin Island for Rs. 76.41 crore. All other PSUs have been sold to Indian companies. However, Paradeep Phosphate Ltd., has been sold to a Joint Venture of an Indian company M/s Zuari Industries Ltd. and a Moroccan Company, M/s Maroc Phosphore S.A for Rs. 151.70 crore.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Government has announced on the floor of both

the Houses of Parliament on 9th December, 2002 that in order to provide complete visibility to the Government's continued commitment of utilization of disinvestment proceeds for social and infrastructure sectors, it would set up a Disinvestment Proceeds Fund. This Fund will be used for financing fresh employment opportunities and investment, and for retirement of public debt.

Banned Drugs Available in the Country

*135. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

DR. BALIRAM:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken cognizance of news reports to the effect that the drugs which have been banned abroad including Analgin and Furazolidone etc. are still being produced, stacked and sold in India;

(b) if so, the details of such drugs including their brand names;

(c) whether the drugs were banned abroad due to the serious side effects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ban the production and sale of such drugs in the country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMASWARAJ): (a) to (f) Recent newspaper reports have alleged that drugs like Analgin, Terfenadine, Astemizole, Lynestrol, Phenylbutazone, Phenolphthalein, Piperazine, Furazolidone, Nitrofurazone and Droperidol, though banned globally, are being marketed in the country.

News reports have also appeared expressing concern about the use of Nimesulide, (an anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic drug) following its suspension in some European countries. Safety aspect of this drug has been extensively evaluated in consultation with leading Orthopedicians, Gastroenterologists and Pediatricians in the country as well as the Indian Academy of Pediatricians (IAP). Medical experts have opined that the drug is safe and useful. As per orders of the Delhi High Court, this drug will be further reviewed by Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAD).

The status of these drugs is given in statement.

However, these news reports are misleading. Drugs like Analgin and Furazolidone are currently used in large number of countries including many developed countries. There is no system of global banning of a drug. Certain drugs and formulations banned in some countries at times continue to be marketed in other countries. The decision to do so is normally based on risk assessment process which is influenced by a number of factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug and the availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of a particular disease. There is also the overall awareness that administration of any drug is not absolutely free from side effects or adverse reactions in a statistically insignificant minority of the population.

The risk assessment of an approved drug begins with information about its review, restriction, discontinuation or ban in any country. The evaluation of the data is done in consultation with leading experts in the given specialization. Based on their advice, the matter is placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body which comprises of representatives from the medical profession, the State drug enforcement authorities, experts institutions agencies that advise Government on technical issues related to the implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, like whether or not to ban or phase out an existing drug. So far, 75 categories of drugs/drug formulations have been prohibited in the country.

Statement

Status of the Drugs Mentioned in Reports

Sl. No.	Name of Drug	Status
1	2	3
1.	Analgin	After extensive examination of its benefits-risks, ratio and the data available, experts had recommended for its continuous use except for its combination formulations with other drugs. The DTAB, therefore, did not recommend for its ban and this position was explained to Supreme Court of India in a PIL filed in 1994. The PIL has been disposed in February 2001 without any instruction to the contrary.

1	2	3
2.	Terfenadine	Based on the recommendations of experts, that better drugs are available in this category (anti-histaminic), the sale of this drug will be stopped by 31st March 2003. This drug is in use in some countries.
3.	Astemizole	The drug was reviewed in 1993 and continued marketing with label warning "Not to exceed 10 milligram daily dose" was allowed. The drug was again reviewed. It has been decided to stop its sale in India by 31st March 2003. This drug is in use in some countries.
4.	Lynestrenol	The drug has been reviewed by experts during early 90's and its continued marketing is considered appropriate for menstrual disorders.
5.	Phenylbutazone	The drug had been examined by the expert in the context of doses used in India and overall benefit-risk and recommended use in short term inflammatory disorders and for ankylosing spondylitis. The drug is permitted as a single drug formulation. However, its combinations with other drugs have been banned. This position was placed before the Supreme Court of India.
6.	Phenolphthalein	The drug continue to appear in British and India Pharmacopoeia as Laxative. Review is however, proposed to be undertaken in next sub-committee meeting in March 2003.
7.	Piperazine	The drug was examined by experts during 1992- 93 and was considered a cheap and effective drug for treatment of round-worms. This position was also placed before Supreme Court of India.

1	2	3
8.	Furazolidone	Examined by experts in early nineties and considered effective for treatment of gastroenteritis in the Indian context. The drug is permitted as a single drug formulation. However, its use in combination formulation has been prohibited in India. This position was also placed before the Supreme Court.
9.	Nitrofurazone	Examined by experts during early nineties. Used as Topical cream and was considered useful for superficial wounds, burns and skin infections. The drug is permitted as a single drug formulation. However, its use in combination formulation has been prohibited in India.
10.	Droperidol	As per the information available the drug is used as adjunct to Anesthesia in few countries. As per WHO new letter No.1, 2002, USFDA has directed for warning and precautions on the labeling.
11.	Cerivastatin	The drug was introduced in the country in year-2000 and was later withdrawn in 2001. No new permissions are being granted. Therefore, the drug is not presently marketed in the country.
12.	Nimesulide	A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug reported to be use in about 50 countries including India and is indicated for acute pain/inflammation and fever. Considering the media reports and suspension the use of Nimesulide in Finland, Turkey and Spain, a detailed examination is undertaken by an expert committee to deliberate on the issues concerning safety of Nimesulide, including its use in children. Majority of expert have confirmed the reliability of Nimesulide and no serious adverse reaction have been reported in the country.

1	2	3
13.	Quinolochlor	(Clioquinol, Iodochlorhydroxy-quinoline) This drug has been used for the treatment of intestinal amoebiasis and traveller's diarrhea etc. In 60s sub acute myelo-optico-neuropathy (SMON) was reported in Japan and the drug was withdrawn in many countries for oral use. However, the safety and efficacy of this drug was extensively examined by medical experts in India and considering its usefulness and local needs it was opined to allow its continued marketing in India. There have been no reports of SMON effect in Indian population. The drug is also used for local applications as an antibacterial in almost all countries. This clarification had also been filed in the Supreme Court in the matter of a PIL filed by Drug Action Forum and the explanation has been accepted.

[Translation]

Restrictions Over Experiments on Animals

*136. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to restrictions over experiments conducted on animals manufacture of medicines of dangerous diseases at cheaper prices is becoming difficult;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reconsider the removal of above restrictions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 does not prohibit the use of animals

for conducting experiments on animals for bio-medical research. However, certain provisions of the Rules, framed under Section 17 of the Act are adversely affecting Bio-Medical Research. They are enumerated as under:-

- (i) Procurement of animals only from breeders.
- (ii) Not allowing import of animals required for research.
- (iii) Banning contract research.
- (iv) Prior permission of Committee for the purpose of control and supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) needed for all experiments including diagnostic testing activities and the time taken in obtaining the permission.

All the issues relating to role of CPCSEA on medical research and amendments to rules, procedures etc. that may be needed, have been taken up with Committee of Secretaries.

Capital Investment in SSI

137. *SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

- (a) the details of capital invested in the small scale industries during each of the last three years and till date;
- (b) whether the export of goods manufactured by the small scale industries has recorded a remarkable increase;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the incentives contemplated by the Government to be given to the small scale industries; and
- (e) the number of new small scale industries set up last year?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) The estimated fixed investment for both the registered and the unregistered small scale industrial units at the end of the year 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (latest available) was Rs. 72633 crore, Rs. 79703 crore and Rs. 84329 crore respectively.

(b) and (c) The estimated exports in SSI sector were Rs. 54200 crore in 1999-00, which increased to Rs. 71,244

crore in 2001-02, showing a growth of 31.44% during the period.

(d) While development of SSIs is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, the Central Government has taken several steps to improve their performance by implementing various schemes such as Integrated Infrastructure Development, technology upgradation, marketing and entrepreneurial development etc. In addition, on 30th August 2000, the Prime Minister announced a Comprehensive Policy Package for the promotion and development of Small Scale Sector to enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally. The policy package consists of enhanced fiscal and credit supports, better infrastructure and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

(e) The number of registered small scale industries set up last year i.e. 2001-02 was 1,17,337.

[English]

Call for Peace by U.S.

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

- (a) whether the U. S. Secretary of State in a recent address to the World Economic Forum has urged India and Pakistan to strive for peace;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposals made by him; and
- (c) the response of Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a speech on 26 January 2003 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said that India and Pakistan should take risks for peace.

(c) Government believes that a permanent end to cross-border terrorism by Pakistan is essential for resumption of bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan and for advancing the prospects of peace in the region.

Role of NGOs in Population Control

*139. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to seek the assistance of Non-Governmental Organisations to control the increasing population in the country;

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

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be provided to each of them, during the next financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The National Population Policy, 2000, recognized the need to involve non-governmental organizations for complementing governmental efforts with a view to achieving the population stabilization goals laid down. Accordingly, the Department of Family Welfare designed a

programme under which NGOs having substantial resources and proven competencies were identified as Mother NGOs and provided financial assistance for undertaking the implementation of Reproductive and Child Health activities through field NGOs working at the sub-centre levels. The Department of Family Welfare is also providing funds to NGOs for undertaking health education among adolescents, empowerment of women and innovative interventions. Statements I, II and III give details of the state-wise releases to NGOs under these schemes.

During the current financial year, the guidelines regarding the MNGO scheme are under revision. Under the new guidelines, the MNGOs also expected to indicate in quantifiable terms services to be delivered in addition to advocacy campaigns. During the Xth Five Year Plan, Rs.130 crores have been earmarked for supporting NGOs.

Statement-I

State-wise details of financial assistance under the Mother NGO Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of MNGOs	Total financial assistance provided during the year 1997-2003 (Rupees in Lakhs)						
			1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7		40.00	75.65	92.36	94.84	12.39	315.24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1				10.00			10.00
3.	Assam	3		10.00	22.00	30.93	34.55	56.13	153.61
4.	Bihar	10		40.00	19.20	79.20	48.00	190.34	376.74
5.	Chhattisgarh	2		35.00	50.00	25.00	50.00		160.00
6.	Delhi	2	25.00	25.00	40.00	25.00	46.38	15.00	176.38
7.	Gujarat	4			40.00	10.00	30.76	54.47	135.23
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3		10.00		48.00	16.00	22.71	96.71
9.	Haryana	2		25.00	25.00	4.00	24.89	29.74	108.63
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3		25.00		32.05	10.00		67.05
11.	Jharkhand	5		10.00		44.00	24.00	27.05	105.05
12.	Karnataka	4		39.00	50.00	37.00		94.92	220.92
13.	Kerala	2		10.00 ^f	15.00	10.00	30.00	13.90	78.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1	25.00	95.00	124.68	34.99	110.00	73.10	462.77
15.	Maharashtra	4	25.00	70.00	65.00	69.06	45.24	40.00	314.30
16.	Manipur	2			24.00	34.94		79.87	138.81
17.	Nagaland	1				15.00		15.01	30.01
18.	Orissa	10		40.00	47.00	57.60	68.00	129.56	342.16
19.	Punjab							15.00	15.00
20.	Rajasthan	4		40.00	35.00		37.00	38.00	150.00
21.	Sikkim	1				10.00	10.00		20.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	5		80.00	89.65	64.79	86.45	25.98	346.87
23.	Tripura	1		10.00	10.00	15.00	15.00		50.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8		20.00	115.00	81.65	136.00	85.97	438.62
25.	Uttaranchal							33.97	33.97
26.	West Bengal	3	25.00	60.00	65.00	60.00	15.00	63.80	288.80
Total			100.00	684.00	912.18	890.57	932.11	1,116.91	4,635.77

Statement-II

State-wise funds released to NGOs under Support to Gender Issues project

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.39		14.78	8.08
2.	Bihar	34.11		10.31	23.66
3.	Chandigarh	14.44			
4.	Delhi	39.40	8.00	17.77	1.95
5.	Gujarat	6.00	7.80	15.74	8.50
6.	Kerala	10.42	15.76	1.39	8.67
7.	Manipur	29.16		20.44	9.06
8.	Orissa		6.80		4.57
	Punjab				2.97

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Rajasthan	3.20	18.53	14.84	8.50
10.	Tamil Nadu	13.05		20.44	9.75
11.	Uttar Pradesh	4.95		9.21	
12.	Uttaranchal				
13.	West Bengal		9.42		9.13
	Total	137.21	73.89	94.41	99.84

Statement-III*State-wise funds released to NGOs under Innovative scheme*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Assam				1.15	
2.	Chandigarh	12.85	8.06	12.11		
3.	Chhattisgarh		27.64	14.40		22.07
4.	Delhi	12.11	8.16	12.56	23.71	
5.	Gujarat		134.12		112.10	
6.	Haryana				14.56	
7.	Himachal Pradesh				2.44	
8.	Kerala			24.57		
9.	Maharashtra	7.00		33.32	30.00	34.75
10.	Madhya Pradesh	5.02	10.51	9.92	8.74	
11.	Orissa				27.00	13.04
12.	Tamil Nadu				9.06	
13.	West Bengal		14.91	26.09	7.00	55.72
	Total	36.98	203.4	132.97	235.76	125.58

*[English]***Population Control Measures**

*140. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

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

(a) the present sex ratio and mortality rate in the country according to the census of 2001, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware that some

States have shown dismal progress in adopting family planning methods;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The male and female ratio known as sex ratio is defined as the number of female per thousand males in the population. According to census 2001, the sex ratio stands at 933 for the country as a whole. As per

the Sample Registration System (SRS) carried out by the Office of Registrar General, India, the crude death rate stands at 8.5 per thousand population for the year 2000. The Statement showing State-wise sex ratio (Census 2001) and crude death rate (SRS 2000) is enclosed at statement-I.

There is a wide variation in adopting family planning methods in States. The information as per National Family Health Survey conducted in 1998-99 on the acceptance level of Family Planning Methods (Contraceptive prevalence rate) is enclosed at statement-II.

The main factors responsible for the slow progress in adopting family planning methods are prevailing high unmet needs for contraception especially in the states of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan due to lack of adequate infrastructure, availability of trained health care personnel etc. Other inhibiting factors include son preference, low levels of women's education and empowerment etc. The steps being taken by the Government to improve adoption of family planning methods are as follows:

- An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health that include Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception has been in operation. New measures of contraception - Copper T 380A and Emergency contraception pills for women have been introduced.
- Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February, 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization, with Community involvement in administering family planning services.
- Meeting the unmet needs of health infrastructure, health personnel and contraception and providing integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care.
- An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister for focused attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services in demographically weaker eight states, including family planning services.
- No Scalpal Vasectomy (NSV) is encouraged to bring in increased male participation in family planning programme.

Statement-I

Sex Ratio & Crude Death Rate

Sl. No.	State/UT	Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males) as per Census 2001	Crude Death Rate (Per 1000 population) as per SRS 2000
1	2	3	4
	India	933	8.5
I	Major States (Population > 20 million)		
1	Andhra Pradesh	978	8.2
2	Assam	932	9.6
3	Bihar	921	8.8
4	Chhattisgarh	990	9.6
5	Gujarat	921	7.5
6	Haryana	861	7.5
7	Jharkhand	941	9.0
8	Karnataka	964	7.8
9	Kerala	1058	6.4
10	Madhya Pradesh	920	10.3
11	Maharashtra	922	7.5
12	Orissa	972	10.5
13	Punjab	874	7.4
14	Rajasthan	922	8.5
15	Tamil Nadu	986	7.9
16	Uttar Pradesh	898	10.3
17	West Bengal	934	7.0
II	Minor States/UTs (Population < 20 million)		
1	Arunachal Pradesh	901	6.0
2	Delhi	821	5.1
3	Goa	960	7.4

1	2	3	4
4	Himachal Pradesh	970	7.2
5	Jammu & Kashmir	900	6.2
6	Manipur	978	5.6
7	Meghalaya	975	9.2
8	Mizoram	938	5.2
9	Nagaland	909	NA
10	Sikkim	875	5.7
11	Tripura	950	5.4

1	2	3	4
12	Uttaranchal	964	6.9
III Union Territories			
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	846	5.1
2	Chandigarh	773	3.9
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	811	7.8
4	Daman & Diu	709	6.6
5	Lakshadweep	947	6.0
6	Pondicherry	1001	6.5

Statement-II

India/States	Spacing methods (Modern)	Spacing methods (Traditional)	Terminal methods	Total	% Sterilisation by Couples with 2 children
1	2	3	4	5	6
All India	6.8	5.4	36.1	48.2	41.5
Major States (Population > 20 million)					
Andhra Pradesh	1.8	0.7	57.0	59.6	72.1
Assam	10.0	16.6	16.7	43.3	14.2
Bihar	2.2	2.1	20.2	24.5	17.8
Chhattisgarh	3.9	2.7	38.4	45.0	31.3
Gujarat	8.1	5.7	45.3	59.0	45.2
Haryana	12.5	9.2	40.8	62.4	34.6
Jharkhand	2.9	2.7	22.0	27.6	20.0
Karnataka	4.4	1.8	52.2	58.3	60.4
Kerala	5.1	7.6	51.0	63.7	66.6
Madhya Pradesh	4.7	1.7	37.9	44.3	31.5
Maharashtra	7.6	1.1	52.2	60.9	50.0
Orissa	4.7	6.5	35.6	46.8	36.1
Punjab	23.0	12.8	30.9	66.7	21.5
Rajasthan	5.8	2.2	31.3	40.3	28.7
Tamil Nadu	4.3	1.9	46.0	52.1	60.1
Uttar Pradesh	6.4	6.1	15.6	28.1	10.6
West Bengal	13.5	19.4	33.8	66.6	41.8

1	2	3	4	5	6
Smaller States (Population < 20 million)					
Arunachal Pradesh	12.2	2.7	20.7	35.4	19.4
Delhi	27.7	7.4	28.6	63.8	19.7
Goa	7.7	11.7	28.2	47.5	24.9
Himachal Pradesh	8.4	7.0	52.4	67.7	53.1
Jammu & Kashmir	11.1	7.4	30.7	49.1	20.2
Manipur	10.3	12.9	15.5	38.7	9.4
Meghalaya	9.1	4.7	10.7	20.2	2.4
Mizoram	11.7	0.7	45.3	57.7	24.6
Nagaland	12.0	6.0	12.3	30.7	15.1
Sikkim	16.6	12.5	24.8	53.8	31.6
Tripura	16.8	12.0	26.7	55.5	32.6
Uttaranchal	9.2	2.8	31.1	43.1	24.7

[Translation]

Adulteration of Edible Oil

1241. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some unscrupulous businessmen are adulterating edible oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per the information made available by the State/UT Governments except the State/UT Government of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Gujarat, Haryana, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry and Uttar Pradesh, 12899 samples of edible oils and fats were analysed during the year 2000 and 1413 were found not conforming to the standards (statement enclosed).

10116 samples were analysed in the year 2001 and 933 were found not conforming to the standards.

(c) The State Governments have been advised time and again to be vigilant and draw maximum samples and take necessary action as per PFA Rules, 1955.

Statement

Edible Oil Samples analysed and found adulterated by the States/UTs in the year 2000 and 2001

Sl.No.	State	Year 2000		Year 2001	
		Samples analysed	Samples found adulterated	Samples analysed	Samples found adulterated
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2856	252	-	-
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	26	1	37	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Assam	187	18	222	26
5.	Bihar	1748	251	1932	180
6.	Chandigarh	63	12	56	14
7.	Chhattisgarh	235	18	216	15
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		-	5	-
9.	Daman & Diu	5	-	8	Nil
10.	Delhi	235	34	358	45
11.	Goa	38	-	44	
12.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-
13.	Haryana	-	-		-
14.	Himachal Pradesh	81	13	26	4
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	85	20	-	-
16.	Jharkhand	192	15	55	4
17.	Karnataka	149	21	168	50
18.	Kerala	728	10	814	17
19.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-
20.	Madhya Pradesh	294	41	-	-
21.	Maharashtra	4410	509	4775	482
22.	Manipur	12	1	89	3
23.	Meghalaya	44	-	-	-
24.	Mizoram	48	-	9	-
25.	Nagaland	2		2	Nil.
26.	Orissa	210	70	-	-
27.	Pondicherry	-	-	-	-
28.	Punjab	-	-	284	28
29.	Rajasthan	689	109	-	-
30.	Sikkim	-	-	1	Nil
31.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	480	30

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Tripura	-	-	43	-
33.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-
34.	Uttaranchal	-	-	20	10
35.	West Bengal	562	18	472	25
Total Samples		128899	1413	10116	933
Percentage of adulteration			10.9%		9.2%

Upgradation of Post Offices in Gujarat

1242. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to upgrade Post Offices in Gujarat is under the consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, details thereof, place-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Two proposals to upgrade Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices into Departmental Sub Post Offices in Gujarat are under the consideration of the Department of Posts as detailed below:

Sl. No.	Category	Name of Place
1	Extra Departmental Branch Office (EDBO) into Departmental Sub Office (DSO).	VITHALGADH under Dasada Sub Office in Surendranagar Division
2	Extra Departmental Branch Office (EDBO) into Departmental Sub Office (DSO).	VERAVAL under Rajkot Bhaktinagar Sub Office in Rajkot Division

Rural Information Technology Network

1243. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the scheme regarding setting up of Rural Information Technology Network;

(b) whether any problem has cropped up in the first phase of the new project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology has implemented a scheme for setting up 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at Block Headquarters in the seven North-East States and Sikkim using Information Technology to accelerate socio-economic development of the region. The scheme is being implemented in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. 483 CICs have been setup till date. Barring the power problem, no major problem has been experienced. In addition, National Informatics Centre (NIC) provides Network backbone and E-governance support to all the State and Central Government Departments upto District level.

Vacant Posts in Postal and Telecommunication Sector

1244. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the expansion of Postal and Telecom. Sector, the different categories of posts are lying vacant in various circles;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR):

Department of Posts

(a) and (b) No post is lying vacant in different Circles on

account of expansion in Postal Sector. However, there are vacancies in Circles arising from time to time due to promotion, resignation, retirement, death etc. of the incumbents. The vacancy details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Filling up of the vacancies by direct recruitment and by promotion is an on-going exercise. Promotional vacancies are filled up as and when these vacancies arise. According to the existing instructions, direct recruitment vacancies can be filled up to the extent of 1/3rd of the direct recruitment vacancies arising in the year subject to a further ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department.

Department of Telecommunications

(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

Statement

Vacancies in Department of Posts

Name of the Branch	Vacancies (Gazetted Posts)	
	Group A*	Group B*
Postal Wing	47	50
Postal Civil Wing	13	14

* Group 'A' and Group 'B' (Gazetted) are all India Cadres and do not have State-wise vacancies.

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Vacancies (Non-gazetted posts)		
	Group B (Non-Gazetted)	Group C	Group D
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	17	1335	219
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	13	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	51	13
Assam	29	287	105
Bihar	27	1179	349
Chhattisgarh	11	405	130
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	7	0

1	2	3	4
Daman	0	2	1
Delhi	41	917	276
Diu	0	1	1
Goa	0	54	9
Gujarat	67	1532	352
Haryana	8	398	85
Himachal Pradesh	9	200	46
Jammu & Kashmir	0	167	100
Jharkhand	4	351	46
Karnataka	33	1347	309
Kerala	18	1327	247
Madhya Pradesh	0	53	14
Maharashtra	155	3088	987
Manipur	3	14	3
Meghalaya	1	190	31
Mizoram	0	16	19
Nagaland	0	31	5
Orissa	0	825	149
Punjab	15	958	161
Rajasthan	38	682	220
Sikkim	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	25	816	337
Tripura	5	72	16
Uttar Pradesh	77	2446	789
Uttaranchal	8	277	62
West Bengal	9	1641	417
Secretariat (Delhi)	2	51	19

Disinvestment of NTC and BIC

1245. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no takers for NTC & BIS as reported in the Dainik Jagran, dated December 30, 2002, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided against the disinvestment of the above mentioned companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) BIFR has sanctioned rehabilitation schemes for the sick subsidiaries of NTC and for BIC after exploring the possibility of privatization. The rehabilitation scheme involves closure of unviable mills and revival of mills found viable. The rehabilitation schemes are currently under implementation. Government has made substantial sacrifices including capital restructuring for these companies so as to make their net worth positive. However, if there are any offers for revival of any of these companies in private sector even at this stage, the same could be considered after securing necessary approvals from BIFR.

[English]

Life Expectancy in Women

1246. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of current life expectancy of women in India, State-wise;

(b) whether the life-expectancy rate of women in the country is much lower than other developing countries of Asia;

(c) if so, a comparative data of the same with reference to the countries i.e. China, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand and Philippines; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve life expectancy of women in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI

SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As per the report of the Technical Committee on Population Projections Constituted by Planning Commission 1996, the life expectancy of women in India, state wise for the year 2001-06 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) A comparative statement showing life expectancy of women as per UNFPA publication named 'The State of World Population' 2002 is given below:

India	64.9
China	73.5
Malaysia	75.5
Philippines	72.0
Sri Lanka	75.9
Thailand	73.8

(d) Major initiatives being taken to raise female life expectancy in the country include enhancing availability of basic Health Care Services, Essential obstetric care, Emergency obstetric care, 24 hour delivery services, Referral Transport for pregnant women, MTP facilities, Dai Training and RCH Camps.

Statement

Life Expectancy of Women

Major States/India	2001-2006
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	65.00
Assam	60.87
Bihar	64.79
Gujarat	64.10
Haryana	69.30
Karnataka	66.44
Kerala	75.00
Madhya Pradesh	58.01
Maharashtra	69.76
Orissa	59.71
Punjab	72.00

1	2
Rajasthan	62.80
Tamil Nadu	69.75
Uttar Pradesh	64.09
West Bengal	69.34
India	66.91

Source: Report of the Technical Group on Population Projection 1996

Software Parks in Rural Areas

1247. DR. M.P JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced any scheme for setting up of electronic software parks for Rural Development; and

(b) if so, the details of the districts alongwith the location for which assistance has been provided by the Government for setting up of such parks?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Cyber Grameen in Andhra Pradesh

1248. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first Cyber Grameen was launched in Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take similar initiative for bringing Internet Services and Computers to all the villages in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The first Cyber Grameen has been launched at Venkatachalam Village in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh (AP) on 17th January, 2003 by Swarna Bharat Trust, based in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This Centre will provide state-of-the-art Tele-medicine, Tele-education, Banking and Insurance, Agricultural Trading, Digital Theatre and Video-conferencing facilities and services. This initiative aims at creating local entrepreneurs, generating employment, developing small scale industries (SSIs), a good agricultural economy, etc. The cost of establishing the Cyber Grameen was around Rs.30 lakhs.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Department has established 483 Community Information Centres (CICs) out of 487 Block Headquarters in the seven NE States and Sikkim. This is in addition to the NICNET, which provides Network backbone and communication links in all district centres of the country. The CIC benefits the public in the Distance Learning programme, Web browsing, employment opportunities, public health awareness, disaster management and for interfacing with the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Assistance from Malaysia

1249. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Roads are proposed to be constructed in Orissa with the assistance from Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of these Roads;

(d) the actual amount likely to be obtained form Malaysia for the construction of these Roads; and

(e) the time by which these projects will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (e) This Ministry is mainly responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. No National Highway in the state of Orissa is proposed to be constructed with the assistance from Malaysia. Development of State roads is the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

[Translation]

Automatic Telephone Exchange in Maharashtra

1250. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of automatic and modern telephone exchanges set up in Maharashtra during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) the details of such exchanges proposed to be set up in Maharashtra during the current Calendar year;

(c) the details of the telephone exchanges whose capacities were expanded in the current financial year; and

(d) the details of telephone exchanges where waiting list for telephone connection has been cleared?

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

Reply in respect of Maharashtra by BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) :

(a) The district wise details of telephone exchanges set up in Maharashtra by BSNL during the last three years is given in statement-I. Location wise details of Maharashtra for the last three years is being collected from BSNL and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) The planning of exchanges in BSNL is done on financial year basis. It has been planned to set up 160 new electronic telephone exchanges during the current financial year in Maharashtra. This is subject to availability of resources.

(c) The district wise details of capacities expanded as on 31-01-2003 during the current financial year is given in statement-II.

(d) The details of telephone exchanges where waiting list has been cleared is given in statement-III.

Reply in respect of Maharashtra (Mumbai) by MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) :

(a) Automatic and Modern telephone exchanges set up in MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) Mumbai during the last three years is given in statement-I A.

(b) The proposed Modern telephone exchanges in MTNL, Mumbai during the year 2003 are given in statement-II A.

(c) The detail of telephone exchanges expanded during the financial year 2002-2003 up to 31-01-2003 is given in statement-III A.

(d) There is no waiting list in the jurisdiction of MTNL network in Mumbai.

Statement-I

Details of Telephone Exchanges set up during last three years

S.No	Name of District	No. of Telephone Exchanges Set Up during		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1	Ahmednagar	23	60	14
2	Akola	4	10	3
3	Washim	5	10	6
4	Amravati	11	18	8
5	Aurangabad	20	28	10
6	Beed	21	35	12
7	Bhandara	4	6	2
8	Gondia	6	10	4
9	Buldhana	9	21	3
10	Chandrapur	9	10	10
11	Dhule	6	11	4
12	Nandurbar	3	4	1
13	Gadchiroli	6	6	5
14	Jalgaon	16	32	6
15	Jalna	10	14	18
16	Thane	14	24	23
17	Kolhapur	12	122	3
18	Latur	14	37	17
19	Nagpur	7	16	14
20	Nanded	13	25	8
21	Nasik	13	24	6
22	Osmanabad	11	11	6
23	Parbhani	5	11	8

1	2	3	4	5
24	Hingoli	5	9	3
25	Pune	44	59	40
26	Raigad	8	20	7
27	Ratnagiri	20	33	18
28	Sangli	34	101	8
29	Satara	13	51	16
30	Sindhudurg	13	16	2
31	Solapur	19	66	23
32	Wardha	5	10	5
33	Yeotmal	13	27	11
Total		416	937	324

Statement-II

Details of Number of Exchanges expanded during 2002-2003

S.No	Name of District	No. of exchanges Expanded during 2002-03
1	2	3
1	Ahmednagar	158
2	Akola	18
3	Washim	12
4	Amravati	32
5	Aurangabad	47
6	Beed	9
7	Bhandara	7
8	Gondia	16
9	Buldhana	31
10	Chandrapur	15
11	Dhule	30
12	Nandurbar	15
13	Gadchiroli	1
14	Jalgaon	78
15	Jalna	21

1	2	3
16	Kalyan	49
17	Kolhapur	85
18	Latur	31
19	Nagpur	15
20	Nanded	31
21	Nasik	65
22	Osmanabad	19
23	Parbhani	19
24	Hingoli	8
25	Pune	70
26	Raigad	25
27	Ratnagiri	17
28	Sangli	72
29	Satara	47
30	Sindhudurg	21
31	Solapur	51
32	Wardha	9
33	Yeotmal	28
Total		1152

Statement-III

Details of exchanges where waiting list for telephone connections has been cleared

S.No.	Name of SSA	No. of exchanges where waiting list for telephone connections has been cleared
1	2	3
1	Ahmednagar	4
2	Akola	6
3	Amravati	27
4	Aurangabad	13
5	Beed	3
6	Bhandara	2
7	Buldhana	8

1	2	3	1	2	3
8	Chandrapur	17	20	Parbhani	12
9	Dhule	94	21	Pune	126
10	Gadchiroli	14	22	Raigad	10
11	Jalgaon	27	23	Ratnagiri	5
12	Jalna	0	24	Sangli	85
13	Thane	14	25	Satara	9
14	Kolhapur	36	26	Sindhudurg	0
15	Latur	29	27	Solapur	7
16	Nagpur	15	28	Wardha	1
17	Nanded	22	29	Yeotmal	15
18	Nasik	61	Total		666
19	Osmanabad	4			

Statement-I-A

New Exchanges Commissioned during last 3 years in MTNL Mumbai

Sl. No.	Exchange	Parent Unit	Capacity in K from	to	Type	Gross Cap.	SCR Cap.	WR Cap.	WNR Cap.	Net Cap.	Date of Comm.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Exchanges Commissioned during 1999-2000											
1	Khar-2		0.000	4.000	OCB	4000	0	0	0	4000	29.07.99
2	Tagore Ngr. RSU	PW1	0.000	7.000	OCB	7000	0	0	0	7000	24.08.99
3	Marol-1		0.000	2.250	OCB	2250	0	0	0	2250	09.09.99
4	Sita Estate RSU	MK3	0.000	5.500	OCB	5500	0	0	0	5500	08.09.99
5	Ghatkoper-1		0.000	3.000	E-10B	3000	0	0	0	3000	15.11.99
6	Prabhadevi-2		0.000	28.000	EWSD	28000	0	0	0	28000	18.12.99
7	Sakinaka RLU-2	MR1	0.000	1.000	E-10B	1000	0	0	0	1000	02.02.00
8	Samta Nagar-2		0.000	3.000	OCB	3000	0	0	0	3000	24.03.00
9	IIT Powai RSU	I'W1	0.000	2.000	OCB	2000	0	0	0	2000	28.03.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10	CorDECT (MRL)		0.000	1.000	WLL	1000	0	0	0	1000	30.03.00
11	IL&FS RSU	BD3	0.000	1.000	OCB	1000	0	0	0	1000	31.03.00

Exchanges Commissioned during 2000-2001

1	Mahape RSU	TB2	0.000	2.000	OCB	2000	0	0	0	2000	01.06.00
2	Godrej Soaps RSU	PW1	0.000	1.000	OCB	1000	0	0	0	1000	30.06.00
3	Wockhardt RSU	BD3	0.000	0.500	OCB	500	0	0	0	500	11.07.00
4	Nerul-1		0.000	15.000	OCB	15000	0	0	0	15000	29.09.00
5	Mazgaon-2		0.000	6.750	OCB	6750	0	0	0	6750	30.09.00
6	Fountain-1		0.000	12.000	EWSD	12000	0	0	0	12000	30.12.00
7	Wipro RSU	MR1	0.000	1.000	OCB	1000	0	0	0	1000	28.02.01
8	Jogeshwari-1		0.000	6.000	EWSD	6000	0	0	0	6000	31.03.01
9	Versova-3		0.000	6.000	EWSD	6000	0	0	0	6000	31.03.01
10	Union Park RSU	MK3	0.000	1.000	OCB	1000		0	0	1000	31.03.01
11	Kashi Mira RDLU	BH1	0.000	5.000	EWSD	5000	0	0	0	5000	31.03.01
12	Uttan RDLU	BH1	0.000	3.000	EWSD	3000	0	0	0	3000	31.03.01
13	BSE RSU	CT1	0.000	3.500	OCB	3500	0		0	3500	31.03.01
14	MMRDA RSU	BD3	0.000	2.750	OCB	2750	0	0	0	2750	31.03.01

Exchanges Commissioned during 2001-2002 (Main & Remote Exchanges)

1	Wagle Estate-2		0.000	5.000	EWSD	5000	0	0	0	5000	29.09.01
2	Panvel-2		0.000	2.000	EWSD	2000	0	0	0	2000	31.10.01
3	Marol Darpan-1		0.000	18.000	EWSD	18000	0	0	0	18000	19.01.02
4	Ghatkopar-5		0.000	6.000	EWSD	6000	0	0	0	6000	31.01.02
5	Cooperage-2		0.000	6.000	EWSD	6000	0	0	0	6000	27.03.02
6	Wadala-1		0.000	4.800	SESS	4800	0	0	0	4800	28.03.02
7	Worli-1		0.000	6.000	EWSD	6000	0	0	0	6000	30.03.02
8	Bandra-1		0.000	9.000	EWSD	9000	0	0	0	9000	31.03.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	Mulund-1		0.000	5.000	EWSD	5000	0	0	0	5000	31.03.02
10	Saki Vihar-1		0.000	12.000	5ESS	12000	0	0	0	12000	31.03.02
11	Dahisar-1		0.000	24.000	5ESS	24000	0	0	0	24000	31.03.02
12	Mankhurd-1		0.000	5.000	EWSD	5000	0	0	0	5000	31.03.02
13	NSE RSU	BD3	0.000	1.000	OCB	1000	0	0	0	1000	25.04.01
14	Times of India RSU	CT1	0.000	0.750	OCB	750	0	0	0	750	15.05.01
15	MET RSU	BD3	0.000	0.500	OCB	500	0	0	0	500	30.06.01
16	Hiranandani RDLU	WE2	0.000	1.800	EWSD	1800	0	0	0	1800	15.10.01
17	Lokmanya Nagar RDL	WE2	0.000	7.000	EWSD	7000	0	0	0	7000	31.10.01
18	JNPT RDLU	PV2	0.000	3.000	EWSD	3000	0	0	0	3000	31.10.01
19	Sahayog Complex	WE2	0.000	3.000	EWSD	3000	0	0	0	3000	22.11.01
20	Income Tax RDLU	VP4	0.000	3.584	EWSD	3584	0	0	0	3584	14.12.01
21	Nirlon RDLU	MD1	0.000	12.000	EWSD	12000	0	0	0	12000	19.01.02
22	Tata Technopolis	MD1	0.000	10.000	EWSD	10000	0	0	0	10000	31.01.02
23	Magthane RDLU	BO1	0.000	12.000	EWSD	12000	0	0	0	12000	28.02.02
24	Shimpoli RDLU	BO1	0.000	10.000	EWSD	10000	0	0	0	10000	28.02.02
25	Deep Plaza (Kurla)	GH5	0.000	12.000	EWSD	12000	0	0	0	12000	28.02.02
26	BPCL RDLU		0.000	0.500	EWSD	500	0	0	0	500	20.03.02
27	Glory House RDLU	VR1	0.000	9.000	EWSD	9000	0	0	0	9000	31.03.02
Exchanges Commissioned during 2002-2003 (Main & Remote Exchanges)											
1	RCF CNE	SI2	0.000	0.500		500	0	0	0	500	19.04.02
2	Chembur-2		0.000	1.500	OCB	1500	0	0	0	1500	31.05.02
3	Bhandup RSU	MU4	0.000	3.000	OCB	3000	0	0	0	3000	31.05.02
4	Bayer CNE	TC2	0.000	0.250	OCB	250	0	0	0	250	10.05.02
5	Vakola-1		0.000	11.500	EWSD	11500	0	0	0	11500	07.06.02
6	HLL CNE	MZ2	0.000	0.256	OCB	256	0	0	0	256	29.06.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7	Global RSU	TB2	0.000	1.000	OCB	1000	0	0	0	1000	31.08.02
8	Provident Fund RD	BD1	0.000	6.640	EWSD	6640	0	0	0	6640	21.09.02
9	Comsatmax RSU	TB2	0.000	0.500	OCB	500	0	0	0	500	24.09.02
10	CorDECT Mankhurd		0.000	1.000	WLL	1000	0	0	0	1000	25.09.02
11	CorDECT Bandra		0.000	1.000	WLL	1000	0	0	0	1000	25.09.02
12	CorDECT Cherai		0.000	1.000	WLL	1000	0	0	0	1000	15.08.02
13	CorDECT Gokuldham		0.000	1.000	WLL	1000	0	0	0	1000	15.08.02
14	Riverwood RDLU	WE2	0.000	0.500	EWSD	500	0	0	0	500	27.09.02
15	Mazgaon-3		0.000	2.000	EWSD	2000	0	0	0	2000	30.09.02
16	ATC Darpan RDLU	MD1	0.000	2.000	EWSD	2000	0	0	0	2000	10.10.02
17	Sakinaka RSU	MR5	0.000	1.000	OCB	1000	0	0	0	1000	19.10.02
18	Tata Power CNE	MK3	0.000	0.250	CNE	250	0	0	0	250	03.01.03
19	Cumbala Hill-1		0.000	20.000	OCB	20000	0	0	0	20000	15.01.03

Statement-II-A*New Telephone Exchanges Proposed during 2003*

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Type	Gross Cap.
1	2	3	4

Main Exchanges

1	Cumballa Hill-1	OCB	20000
2	Charkop-1	OCB	15000
	Sub Total		35000

Remote Exchanges

1	Santa Cruz (E) RDLU	EWSD	10000
2	Saki Naka RSU	OCB	4000
3	Charkop RDLU	EWSD	12000

1	2	3	4
4	Chuna Bhatti RDLU	EWSD	5500
5	Vashi Sector-19 RSU	OCB	4000
6	Uran RDLU	EWSD	6000
7	Parsik Hill RSU	OCB	2000
8	Bhandup Village Road	EWSD	10000
9	Garodia Nagar OCB	OCB	8000
10	Kopri	OCB	4000
11	Tata Power CNE	OCB	250
	Sub Total		65750
	Grand Total		100750

Statement-III A

Exchanges Expanded During 2002-2003

Sl. No.	Exchange	Parent Unit	Capacity in K		Type	Gross Cap.	SCR Cap.	WR Cap.	Net Cap.	Date of Comm.
			From	To						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
April '02										
1	Ghatkopar-5		6.000	7.000	EWSD	1000	0	0	1000	01.04.02
2	Uran CNE	TB2	1.000	1.250	OCB	250	0	0	250	06.04.02
3	Belapur RSU	TB2	4.000	4.250	OCB	250	0	0	250	10.04.02
4	Union Park RSU	MK3	2.000	3.000	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	20.04.02
5	Diva Rly. Stn.	TC3	0.500	1.500	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	25.04.02
6	Wagle Estate-2		5.000	6.000	EWSD	1000	0	0	1000	30.04.02
Total						4500	0	0	4500	
May '02										
1	Union Park RSU	Mk.'	3.000	5.000	OCB	2000	0	0	2000	25.05.02
2	Rabale RSU+CNE	TB2	6.506	7.506	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	27.05.02
Total						3000	0	0	3000	
June '02										
1	Belapur RSU	TB2	4.250	5.250	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	06.06.02
2	Rabale RSU+CNE	TB2	7.506	8.506	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	14.06.02
3	Nerul-1		20.500	21.500	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	27.06.02
4	Nirlon RDLU	MD1	12.000	13.600	EWSD	1600	0	0	1600	29.06.02
Total						4600	0	0	4600	
Qtr. 1 Cumu. Total						12100	0	0	12100	
July '02										
1	Nirlon RDLU	MD1	13.600	14.000	EWSD	400	0	0	400	17.07.02
2	Santacruz RSU	KH2	12.800	14.800	OCB	2000	0	0	2000	28.07.02
Total						2400	0	0	2400	
August '02										
1	Marol Darpan-1		18.000	19.000	EWSD	1000	0	0	1000	02.08.02
2	Bhandup RSU	MU4	3.000	12.000	OCB	9000	0	0	9000	14.08.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	Marol Darpan-1		19.000	20.500	EWSD	1500	0	0	1500	17.08.02
4	Glory House RDL'I	VR1	9.000	12.000	EWSD	3000	0	0	3000	17.08.02
5	Sion-2		32.250	34.950	OCB	2700	0	0	2700	26.08.02
6	Marol Darpan-1		20.500	21.000	EWSD	500	0	0	500	28.08.02
7	Lokmanya Nagar RDLU	WE2	7.000	8.000	EWSD	1000	0	0	1000	28.08.02
8	Thane Cheral-3		12.000	14.000	OCB	2000	0	0	2000	29.08.02
9	City-1		21.500	39.500	OCB	18000	0	0	18000	30.08.02
Total						38700	0	0	38700	

September 2002

1	Rabale RSU + Simence CNE TB2		8.506	9.506	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	21.09.02
2	Marol Darpan-1		21.000	22.500	EWSD	1500	0	0	1500	21.09.02
3	Marol Darpan-1		22.500	23.000	EWSD	500	0	0	500	27.09.02
Total						3000	0	0	3000	
Qtr.2 Cumu. Total						44100	0	0	44100	

October 2002

1	Turbhe-2 + 3 CNE		16.250	16.750	OCB	500	0	0	500	14.10.02
2	Miraroad RSU	KV4	15.000	16.500	OCB	1500	0	0	1500	14.10.02
3	Vashi Rly Stn. RSU	TU2	1.000	1.500	OCB	500	0	0	500	26.10.02
Total						2500	0	0	2500	

November 2002

1	Union Park RSU	MK3	5.000	12.000	OCB	7000	0	0	7000	19.11.02
2	Panvel-2		2.000	4.000	EWSD	2000	0	0	2000	26.11.02
3	Nerul-1		21.500	22.000	OCB	500	0	0	500	27.11.02
4	Khar-2		8.000	30.000	OCB	22000	0	0	22000	28.11.02
Total						31500	0	0	31500	

December '02

1	Sakinaka RSU	MR5	1.000	2.000	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	13.12.02
---	--------------	-----	-------	-------	-----	------	---	---	------	----------

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2	Fountain-1		15.500	25.500	EWSD	10000	0	0	10000	28.12.02
	Total					11000	0	0	11000	
	Qtr. 3 Cumu. Total					45000	0	0	45000	
January '03										
1	Sakinaka RSU		2.000	3.000	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	18.01.03
2	Sion-2		34.950	55.950	OCB	21000	0	0	21000	24.01.03
3	Provident Fund RDLU		6.640	8000	EWSD	1360	0	0	1360	25.01.03
4	Sakinaka RSU		3.000	4.000	OCB	1000	0	0	1000	28.01.03
5	Mankhurd-1		5.000	22.000	EWSD	17000	0	0	17000	30.01.03
	Total					41360	0	0	41360	
	Qtr. 4 Cumu. Total					41360	0	0	41360	
	Cummulative Total					142560	0	0	1E+05	

*[English]***NAM Summit-2003**

1251. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Summit of the Non-aligned Movement is slated to be held in Kuala Lumpur from 20th to 25th February, 2003;

(b) if so, the names of the countries which are likely to participate in the Summit; and

(c) the details of the list of subjects to be taken up for discussion during the said Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, the meeting of the XIIIth Summit of the Non-aligned Movement and preparatory meetings are being held in Kuala Lumpur from 20-25 February, 2003.

(b) The XIIIth NAM Summit of the Non-aligned Movement is expected to be attended by Heads of State or Government, Ministers and Officials of the 114 Member States of the Movement.

(c) The theme of the Conference is "Continuing the Revitalisation of the NAM". In addition, there would be a review

of the international political and economic situation and the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the 21st century.

Infant Mortality Rate Reduction Mission

1252. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Infant Mortality Reduction Mission in some States;

(b) if so, when and the States where such Missions have been set up and the allocation of fund made by the Union Government to each Mission during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the achievement made by each Mission in reducing the Infant Mortality rate during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Even though no Infant Mortality Reduction Mission as such has been set up, the Government is fully alive to the need to reduce the rate of Infant Mortality. The Government in order to reduce the rate of Infant Mortality, is implementing the Reproductive and Child Health Programme through out the country.

Under this programme the following activities are carried out:- (i) Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases viz. Childhood Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Measles and Tetanus, (ii) Treatment for prevention of deaths due to acute respiratory infections and dehydration due to diarrhoea (iii) Essential newborn care (iv) Promotion of exclusive breast-feeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices. (v) Programme for prophylaxis against Vitamin 'A' deficiency and iron deficiency anaemia.

These interventions are being carried out through a vast net-work of Primary Health Care System. Reproductive and child health care is provided through 137271 Sub-centres, 22975 Primary Health Centres, 2935 Community Health Centres and 1748 First Referral Units. Besides there are, district hospitals, general hospitals and teaching hospitals that provide secondary and tertiary level care.

In addition to the above, in order to further improve the outreach, some other schemes have also been initiated viz., (i) Organisation of Reproductive Child Health Camps under the Reproductive Child Health Outreach Schemes and (ii) Dai Training Programmes in order to ensure safe delivery by a trained birth attendant in the villages.

As a result of these efforts the Infant Mortality Rate has reduced considerably. As per the Sample Registration System 2000 the Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 80 per thousand live births in 1991 to 68 per thousand live births in 2000.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Bihar

1253. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened in the rural areas of Bihar during the last three years and current year, location-wise;

(b) the number of post offices computerised during the said period;

(c) the impact of the computerization on employment in these post offices; and

(d) the number of employees declared surplus after the computerization in these post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The number of post offices opened in rural areas of Bihar during the last three years and current year is given below. Details of their location are given in statement-I.

Year	No. of Post Offices opened
1999-2000	51
2000-2001	71
2001-2002	38
2002-2003	2

(b) The number of post offices computerised during the last three years and those which are targeted to be computerised during the current financial year are given below:

Year	Number
1999-2000	23
2000-2001	7
2001-2002	3
2002-2003 (Current Year)	4
Total	37

(c) Computerisation of various operations in the post offices has yielded savings in terms of manpower which have been redeployed in other needy areas.

(d) Post Office-wise details of manpower saved due to computerisation is given in statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Post Offices opened during Plan Year 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Division	Name of Post Office
1	2	3	4
1.	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	1. Raghi 2. Jhikti
2.	Gopalganj	Siwan	3. Barkagaon 4. Neori

1	2	3	4
3.	Siwan	Siwan	5. Machhata
4.	Madhubani	Madhubani	6. Amanja
5.	Nalanda	Nalanda	7. Gossain Math
			8. Basaman Bigha
			9. Pachloa
			10. Pachawra
6.	Darbhangha	Darbhangha	11. Sadikpur
			12. Matunia
			13. Mahull
			14. Sihaul
			15. Maheshwar
			16. Karhatiya
			17. Baskati
7.	Vaishali	Vaishali	18. Sidhopura
			19. Bhankaul
			20. Belkunda
			21. Hargahindpur
			22. Chaksaid
			23. Chak Singar
			24. Sherpur Chhatwara
			25. Chak Jamal
			26. Gaura Uri Govindpur Debi
			27. Anjali
			28. Bothaha Mahadat
			29. Meenapur Rai
			30. Saral Dhanesh
			31. Karwadug
			32. Saidpur Dumra

1	2	3	4
			33. Chakalya
			34. Milki Urf Chakwa ke
Khigerpur			35. Zafarpatti
8.	Palamu	Palamu	36. Jainagara
9.	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	37. Birhai
			38. Gijra
10.	Giridih	Giridih	39. Bedwara
11.	Khgaria	Begusarai	40. Siswa
			41. Saharaun
12.	Samastipur	Samastipur	42. Raniparti
			43. Basudewa
			44. Buzurg Daur
13.	Madhepura	Saharsa	45. Shajkarpur Madhelli
14	Ranchi	Ranchi	46. Rugadi
			47. Shukurda
15.	Jamua	Munger	48. Pathak Chak
16.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	49. Bhimdas Tola
17.	Sheikhpura	Munger	50. Shahari
18.	Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh	51. Banghara

Details of Post Offices opened during Plan Year 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Division	Name of Post Office
1	2	3	4
1.	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	1. Bhaugawan
			2. Azamgarh
			3. Kakka
2.	Begusarai	Begusarai	4. Damdama
3.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	5. Monga Chak
			6. Kumri
			7. Bhikhampur

1	2	3	4
4.	Banka	Bhagalpur	8. Rajpur
5.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga	9. Sahtoll
			10. Tarwara
			11. Sahari
			12. Kamrouli
			13. Belhi
			14. Ratanpura
			15. Sunsari
			16. Chaila
			17. Alimabad Mirsuli
			18. Mahata
			19. Bishanpur NDSO
6.	East Champaran	East Champaran	20. Narainpur
7.	Gaya	Gaya	21. Bhaule
			22. Kalanpur
8.	Gopalganj	Siwan	23. Jhirwa
			24. Behralia
			25. Durg Matlhania
9.	Jamui	Munger	26. Tehba
10.	Khagaria	Begusarai	27. Amni
			28. Patel Nagar
			29. Bharra
			30. Chak Prayat
11.	Madhubani	Madhubani	31. Sikashatta
			32. Brahmapur
12.	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	33. Pagahia Asima
			34. Kumha
			35. Pakari Basarat

1	2	3	4
			36. Mehasi
13.	Nalanda	Nalanda	37. Bajitpur Khira
			38. Chhatiana
			39. Aksari
			40. Sadarpur
14.	Nawada	Gaya	41. Pachara
15.	Patna	Patna	42. Doma
16.	Rohtas	Rohtas	43. Massua
			44. Pararia
17.	Siwan	Siwan	45. Bhikampur
			46. Sultanpur Kala
			47. Pakari
18.	Samastipur	Samastipur	48. Kollan
			49. Alaria
19.	Sheikhpura	Samastipur	50. Kamta
			51. Sheikhpura
			52. Devla
			53. Bhadamni
			54. Junkidih Baldami
20.	Sitamarhi	Sitamarhi	55. Garehia
			56. Basatra
21.	Vaishali	Vaishali	57. Ramauli Urf Bishanpur
			58. Tokyasi
			59. Bishanpur Rajkhan
			60. Juranwanpur Barai
			61. Nalatar
			62. Bishanpur
			63. Panchasamia

1	2	3	4
			64. Kajari Buzurg
			65. Mainha
			66. Chasaha Kala
			67. Chandralaya
			68. Basantpur
			69. Govindpur Gokhula
			70. Dilunapur Gohalhan
			71. Shastrapur

Details of Post Offices opened during Plan Year 2001-2002

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Division	Name of Post Office
1	2	3	4
1.	Munger	Bhagalpur	Siwan Sisua
2.	Munger	Munger	Masoudha
3.	Nawada	Gaya	Chhatthar
4.	Vaishali	Vaishali	Shahpur
5.	Munger	Munger	Chuskuri Sasbamna
6.	Nawada	Gaya	Koshla
7.	Jamui	Munger	Karahua
8.	Sheikhpura	Munger	Sanaiya
9.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Chandrabhanpur
10.	Nalanda	Nalanda	Khaddi Lodipur
11.	Nalanda	Nalanda	Sakraurha
12.	Gaya	Gaya	Sithra
13.	Gaya	Gaya	Kharasin
14.	Rohtas	Rohtas	Sukul Pira
15.	Rohtas	Rohtas	Chhotki Chenari
16.	Jamui	Munger	Pataua
17.	Rohtas	Rohtas	Nishan Nagar Baddi
18.	Gopalganj	Siwan	Paikauli Bado
19.	Gopalganj	Siwan	Amarpura Tola
20.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga	Senimar Goopal
21.	Madhubani	Madhubani	Narendrapur

1	2	3	4
22.	East Champaran	Motihari	Chandrahia
23.	East Champaran	Motihari	Tola Mauni
24.	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	Beldam
25.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga	Sonhaun
26.	Saharsa	Saharsa	Rampur
27.	Katihar	Purnea	Panikamla
28.	Supaul	Saharsa	Gangapur
29.	Araria	Purnea	Rajganj
30.	Supaul	Saharsa	Mohania
31.	Madhubani	Madhubani	Gohhal
32.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga	Richighat
33.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga	Shiv Nagar Ghat
34.	Araria	Purnea	Fatehpur
35.	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	Sakariwara
36.	Gopalganj	Siwan	Rasoolpur
37.	Saran	Chapra	Fatehpur Chain
38.	Khagaria	Begusarai	Kharalte

Details of Post Offices opened during Plan Year 2002-2003

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Division	Name of Post Office
1.	Khagaria	Begusarai	Khargi Terasi
2.	Banka	Bhagalpur	Baniyan Kura

Statement-II

Names of Post Offices fully computerised with number of staff working before and after computerisation

Sl. No.	Name of Post Offices fully computerised	No. of staff working before computerisation	No. of staff working/ left after computerisation	No. of manpower saved after computerisation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Darbhanga HO	6	4	2
2.	Muzaffarpur HO	20	16	4
3.	Motihari HO	6	5	1
4.	Chapra HO	3	3	-
5.	Sitamarhi	6	4	2

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Katihar HO	7	6	1
7.	Bankipora HO	8	6	2
8.	Patna GPO	11	7	4
9.	Gaya HO	15	10	5
10.	Sasaram HO	18	17	1
11.	Hajipur	11	10	1
12.	Bhagalpur	7	6	1
13.	Munger	7	6	1
14.	Samastipur HO	5	4	1
15.	Gopalganj HO	10	9	1

*[English]***Ban on Drugs**

1254. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Astemizole and Terfenadine banned in foreign countries are still being manufactured and marketed by three pharmaceutical companies, Panacea Biotech, Dr. Reddy's Lab., and Ranbaxy in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The matter was taken up with the concerned manufacturers mentioned in the question. M/s. Panacea Biotech and Dr. Reddy's Lab. have stated that they do not manufacture and market any of the two drugs viz. Astemizole and Terfenadine within the country. However, Dr. Reddy's Lab is manufacturing Astemizole formulation for export only. M/s. Ranbaxy Lab. Ltd. have stated that they do not manufacture and market Astemizole in the country and have discontinued marketing of Terfenadine from January, 2003.

Vallarpadam International Terminal

1255. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vallarpadam Terminal has been approved by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including when it is expected to be commissioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) It has been decided to develop an International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Vallarpadam, Cochin. Cochin Port has already invited bids for this project on build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis. A container handling capacity of 1.5 million twenty feet equivalent units (TEUs) is likely to be created in the first phase of this project with an ultimate capacity of 3.3 million TEUs by the year 2025 involving an estimated investment of Rs. 2118 crores.

*[Translation]***Development Works in Chhattisgarh**

1256. SHRI R.P. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development works undertaken in the post and telegraph offices in Chhattisgarh during the year 2000 to 2002; and

(b) the details of the development works performed in the State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The details of development works undertaken in post and telegraph offices

in Chhattisgarh during the years 2000 to 2002 are given in statement-I.

(b) The details of the development works performed in the State during the current financial year are given in statement-II.

Statement-I

The details of Development Works undertaken in Chhattisgarh during the years 2000 to 2002

Description of development work	Year 2000-2001	Year 2001- 2002
New post offices opened	8	13
New Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras opened	56	42
New Letter Boxes installed	68	936
New buildings constructed	1. Korba HPO 2. Rajnandgaon HPO	1. Postal Stores Depot, Raipur 2. Vertical Extn. of Rajnandgaon HPO
New Speed Post Net facility provided	-	1
Post offices modernized	2	14
Post Offices computerized	17	26
Development in Telegraph Offices	Nil	Nil

Statement-II

The details of Development works performed in the state of Chhattisgarh during the current financial year

Description of development work	Current Financial Year (2002 - 2003)
1	2
New post offices opened	8
New Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras opened	54
New Letter Boxes installed	869
New buildings constructed	
Post Offices modernized	Proposed 30 *

1	2
Post Offices computerized	Proposed 3 *
Sub Post Offices converted into Mukhya Dak Ghar **	5
Development in Telegraph Offices	Nil

* Depending upon the completion of necessary formalities and availability of funds.

** The scheme came in existence from 01-04-2002.

[English]

Reserved Vacant Posts

1257. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees belonging to SCs/STs backward classes working in his Ministries;

(b) the number of vacancies vacant in these reserved categories; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up these vacancies?

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

Setting up of Trauma Centres

1258. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hospitals which received the Government assistance for setting up Trauma Centres during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend this facility all over the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the purpose for the financial year 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administration under the scheme, 'Assistance for Capacity Building' through the Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways. A statement indicating the financial assistance provided to the various States/UTs during the last three years is enclosed.

(d) Rs.20.00 crores has been earmarked for the scheme, 'Assistance for Capacity Building' during the year 2003-04.

Statement

Assam

1. Rs.150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency and Trauma Services in the Nalbari District Hospital, Nalbari during the year 2002-03.

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Rs.59.00 lakhs for establishment of accident and emergency care services at Pasighat General Hospital during the year 2000-01.

2. Rs.116.97 lakhs for up gradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Naharlagun during the year 2001-02.

Bihar

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

Chhattisgarh

1. Rs.109.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Unit at Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur during the year 2002-03.

Gujarat

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Nadiad, District Kheda during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 150 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident and Emergency Services in Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad during the year 2002-03.

Goa

1. Rs. 142.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Accident Unit at Hospicio Hospital, Margao during the year 2002-03

Haryana

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

Himachal Pradesh

1. Rs. 147.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Shimla and Zonal Hospital, Bilaspur during the year 2002-03.

Jammu & Kashmir

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

Kerala

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Ernakulam during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 142.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Medical College, Kozhikode during the year 2002-03.

Karnataka

1. Rs. 136.50 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Sanjay Gandhi Accident Hospital & Research Institute, Bangalore during the year 2002-03.

Madhya Pradesh

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

Mizoram

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

Manipur

1. Rs. 149.92 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of J.N. Hospital, Imphal during the year 2002-03.

Nagaland

1. Rs. 144.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Government Hospital, Medziphema during the year 2002-03.

Pondicherry

1. Rs. 78.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Mahe during the year 2000-2001.

Sikkim

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

Tripura

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

Tamil Nadu

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

Uttar Pradesh

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

Uttaranchal

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of Doon Hospital, Dehradun during the year 2002-03.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of Goverdhan Tiwari Base Hospital, Almora during the year 2002-03.

Indo-Sino Joint Working Group

1259. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of several meetings of Indo-Sino joint working group;

(b) whether the Government are hopeful of a breakthrough in resolving Indo-Sino border dispute following change of regime in China and visit of Indian Prime Minister to China; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Boundary Question has met fourteen times. The 14th meeting of the JWG was held in New Delhi on 21st November, 2002.

India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually

acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. We signed an agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China Border Areas in 1993 and a second agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in India-China Border Areas in 1996. These two Agreements provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas. The process of clarification of the LAC has started within existing mechanisms. Maps of the LAC in the Middle Sector have been exchanged. Discussions have commenced on clarification of the LAC in the Western Sector of the India-China boundary.

During the 14th meeting of the JWG, both sides reviewed the ongoing process of LAC clarification. They also continued discussions on further Confidence Building Measures. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Expert Group would be held in Beijing.

Both sides agreed to set up a new dialogue mechanism on Policy Planning in the two Foreign Offices. Both sides agreed, inter alia, on the need of substantially enhance trade and economic relations, cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Both sides also reviewed the functioning of the existing dialogue mechanisms such as on counter terrorism and security. Regional and international issues were also discussed. Chinese side conveyed that China sees its relations with India in a broader perspective and not only in the perspective of South Asia.

Establishment of UK Consulate Offices in India

1260. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether UK Government has opened consulate offices in Bangalore and Ahmedabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

National Population Stabilisation Fund

1261. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a National Population Stabilisation Fund;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the participation of the Chief Ministers of all the States is proposed to be included in this fund to give it the necessary importance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) At the first meeting of the National Commission on Population held on 22nd July, 2000, a decision was taken to set up a National Population Stabilization Fund (NPSF). Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Registration of the National Population Stabilisation Fund as an autonomous Society under the title "Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh" and constitution on General Body and Governing Board for managing the Fund in its meeting held on 13th February 2003. The fund shall be located in the Department of Family Welfare. The objective of the fund is to provide a window for canalizing resources from national voluntary organizations, the Corporate sector, industry, trade, organizations and individuals etc. to provide financial support to activities aimed at achieving the goals related to population stabilisation.

(c) to (e) Participation of Chief Ministers has not been proposed for inclusion in the fund as all Chief Ministers are already member of National Commission on Population.

Rehabilitation of Slum on Salt Pan Land

1262. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai Port Trust is considering any proposal to rehabilitate slums on the Salt Pan Land of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the proposal was discussed with Urban Development Ministry;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (d) A Group of Ministers headed by Urban Development Minister, Government of India, including the then Minister for

Shipping as also other Ministers of the State Government recently visited some salt pan lands at Mumbai to examine the possibility of development of immediately available Salt Pan Lands, which may help rehabilitation of slums on lands of Central Government agencies such as Railways, Airports, Mumbai Port Trust, etc. The detailed modalities for development of these lands are being worked out by the Department of Urban Development, Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation for consideration by Group of Ministers constituted for this purpose.

[Translation]

GRAMSAT Yojana for Tribal People

1263. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the amount spent on GRAMSAT scheme specially in the tribal districts during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the programmes aired under this scheme;
- (c) whether the Government propose to include tribal people also in these programmes with a view to promote tribal culture;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Details of amount spent on Gramsat scheme in tribal districts during the last three years, year-wise, state-wise are given in the statement.

(b) The programmes are focused on interactive training in Panchayati Raj, teacher training, health workers training, joint forest management, education, women and child welfare, rural development etc. in the field. The broadcast programmes are on literacy, health, agriculture and variety of social belief/practices.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The programmes are produced in the field in local language with the direct involvement of the tribals, so that the local culture is adequately projected.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of amount sent on Gramsat programme in tribal districts during the last three years, year-wise/ state-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Madhya Pradesh	471.19	160.00	80.00
North-East	-	-	70.00
Orissa	-	750.00	-
Common Infrastructure*	49.54	213.00	160.00

* Network establishment, operation and maintenance which are used by the users in all the states

Privatisation of Maruti Udyog Limited

1264. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to privatise the Joint Venture Maruti Udyog Limited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the production is likely to be affected on account of the privatisation of the said company; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to exit from Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) in line with their policy to exit from all non-strategic enterprises. The Revised Joint Venture Agreement (RJVA) amongst Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), MUL and the Government provides for two-phase disinvestment of Government's shareholding in MUL. In the first phase, a rights issue of Rs.400 crore has been completed with SMC subscribing to the total rights issue, including rights shares renounced by the Government in favour of SMC. SMC has also paid a sum of Rs.1000 crore as control premium to the Government for taking over management control. In the second phase, as per the provisions of the RJVA, the remaining shares of the Government are to be sold through public offer in two tranches.

(c) and (d) The Government do not envisage any negative impact of the current process of privatization on the production of the company.

[English]

Disinvestment of PSUs

1265. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria to decide the strategic sectors and non-strategic sectors, such as, Railways, Defence Production, Petroleum, Power, Fertilizers, Irrigation, Atomic Energy, etc.; and

(b) the reasons for the Government not treating the gas and petroleum sector as the strategic sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Government decided, on 16th March, 1999, that the following will be classified as the 'Strategic' industries:

- (i) Arms and ammunitions and the allied items of defence equipment, defence air-crafts and warships;
- (ii) Atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation and radio-isotopes to agriculture medicine and non-strategic industries);
- (iii) Railway transport.

Government has also decided that IOC, ONGC and GAIL be treated as flagship companies in the oil sector where Government shareholding would not be reduced below 51%. All other non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises can be disinvested.

(b) After dismantling of the Administered Price Mechanism, Government's role primarily should be that of a regulator. The Hydro-carbon Vision 2025 - also clearly identifies private sector participation in retail as a policy thrust. Government has already deregulated Exploration and Production, Refining, Pipelines and Retailing. There is now widespread private sector participation in Exploration and Production, Refining and Pipelines. The petroleum sector and consumers are expected to benefit as a result of such increased competition.

[Translation]

India-Tajikistan Joint Venture Task Force on Terrorism

1266. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Tajikistan have decided to set up a joint task force to combat terrorism;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any concrete action so far in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Sir, an agreement to set up Joint Working Group for Combating International Terrorism was signed between the Republic of India and Republic of Tajikistan on 30.1.2003 during the visit of Shri Yashwant Sinha, External Affairs Minister to Tajikistan.

(b) The meetings of the Joint Working Group will be held periodically. The first meeting is expected to take place by the end of 2003.

(c) Does not arise.

Missing of Imported Containers

1267. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Union Government to submit the status report regarding missing of imported containers full of hazardous substances;

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the Government to the Supreme Court;

(c) whether it is also a fact that about 133 containers full of toxic, oils, scrap of IIL batteries and other hazardous substances imported after violating the international norms were found missing from the ports in India; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) As per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had set up an Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri A. C. Wadhawan, Ex-Chairman, Hindustan Zinc Limited. The Committee

submitted its report in July, 2002. The Writ Petition No. 657 of 1995 is still pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The report inter-alia has made following observations with regard to missing imported containers full of hazardous substances:

- (i) Inquiry Committee found that except in case of Mumbai Port Trust and ICD, Bangalore, revised figures for the stocks lying at various Ports / ICDs/ CFSs have been furnished. The reasons cited for revising the figures from what was reported earlier in the report of the High Powered Committee (HPC), headed by Prof. M.G.K. Menon are non-availability of old records due to their manual upkeep at ICD, Tughlakabad and Kandla Port Trust (since computerized), errors in the computation of number of containers at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Nhava Sheva, and lack of awareness in the beginning at respective Ports/ ICDs/CFSs as to what precisely constitutes hazardous wastes as explained at Kolkata Port Trust.
- (ii) Kandla Port Trust furnished revised figures with the explanation that earlier figures were based on the general description of cargo as mentioned in the Import General Manifest (IGM) by the shipping agents without confirmation from the Commissioner of Customs, Kandla who is the competent authority to classify cargo as hazardous wastes or otherwise.
- (iii) Respective authorities at Ports/ICDs/CFSs continued to release imported consignments of zinc ash /skimmings, lead scrap, waste oil, etc., on the basis of EXIM Policy brought out by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in accordance with the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. Chennai and Kandla Port Trusts also reported release of waste oil as per the directions issued by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (Department of Revenue) dated 17.10.1997 to clear the congestion at respective ports.
- (iv) Authorities at Container Freight Station, Ludhiana reported release of large consignments of waste oil (2,334 containers containing 41,425 MT waste oil and 16,748 drums containing waste oil) in accordance with the orders of the Haryana and Punjab High Court under writ petitions filed by individual importers.
- (v) Kandla Port Trust authorities reported release of ISRI-grade waste material like zinc scrap (6902.929 MT), lead scrap (45961.195 MT) and

battery scrap (4657.08 MT) being free for import without any restriction under EXIM Policy.

(c) and (d) As far as the illegal import of 133 containers containing waste oil is concerned, these were seized at Nhava Sheva Port, District Raigarh, Maharashtra. The Department of Customs and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board have initiated legal action against the importers of seized containers.

[English]

Prediction of Earthquakes

1268. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Scientist of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala has claimed of developing a method of predicting earthquakes a number of days in advance;
- (b) if so, whether Government has ascertained facts about this invention;
- (c) whether it is proposed to be utilised in earthquake prone areas of the country; and
- (d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.

Ban on Experiment

1269. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that some American and DBT laboratories signed an agreement in 1987 allowing private American laboratories to experiment in India of products that were banned from experimenting in the USA;
- (b) if so, whether the Government reviewed the agreement;
- (c) if so, by when the review is likely to be done; and

(d) the details of experiments that have been done in India which are banned in the USA?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) *Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.*

Sale of Share of FACT

1270. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision for fresh expression of Interest (EOI) for disinvestment of 51% share holding in the Kerala-based Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have considered its financial restructuring; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Advertisement inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for strategic sale of 51% of Government's equity in Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) was initially issued on 6/8.11.2002 with the last date for receipt of EOIs as 4.12.2002. Subsequently, a number of policy initiatives relevant to the nitrogenous, phosphatic and complex fertilizer industry have been taken by the Government resulting into material change in the prospective business and operating environment of FACT. In view of the change, it was decided to issue re-advertisement inviting fresh EOIs for disinvestment in FACT. The advertisement was issued on 4-6.2.2003 with the prescribed last date for receipt of EOIs as 26.2.2003. Both the advertisements were released in all editions of The Economic Times, The Business Standard, The Financial Express, The Hindu, Malayala Manorama and Financial Times (worldwide).

(c) and (d) A proposal from FACT for financial assistance was approved by the Government in March 2002 and implemented by the Company. The reliefs extended consist of the following:

(i) Waiver of outstanding interest amounting to Rs.226.88 crores for the period from 1998-99 to

2001-02 on the loan drawn from the Government of India by FACT for its new Ammonia Project at Udyogamandal.

(ii) Moratorium on principal repayment by FACT up to 31.3.2002 on the balance loan amounting to Rs.378.20 crore drawn from Government of India.

(iii) Waiving levy of penal interest on FACT for past defaults in repayment of principal and interest of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) loan upto 31.3.2002.

[Translation]

Bijnor-Nazibabad-Kotdwar-Pauri Highway

1271. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widening and metalling work of Bijnor-Nazibabad-Kotdwar-Pauri highway from Meerut has been completed;

(b) if so, the date on which the said work was completed;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay therein;

(d) whether the Government have taken a decision to convert the said highway into four lanes; 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) to (c) Meerut - Bijnore - Najibabad - Kotdwar - Pauri is a State Highway. Widening and improvement of the section from Meerut to Najibabad has been undertaken by the State Government under World Bank loan assistance. Contract for this project has been awarded in April, 2002 and the work is in progress. Improvement of Najibabad - Kotdwar, in Uttar Pradesh and Kotdwar - Pauri in Uttaranchal has been approved by Central Government under the Inter-State Connectivity scheme of Central Road Fund in July 2002 and February 2002 respectively. The work on these sections is in progress.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]***Haj Pilgrims**

1272. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Haj pilgrims who visited Mecca during the year 2003 as compared to the previous two years; and

(b) the details in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The total number of Haj pilgrims who visited Makkah during the year 2003, 2002 and 2001 through the Haj Committee, Mumbai and Private Tour Operators are as follows:

2003	-	116,078
2002	-	118,759
2001	-	118,512

(b) State-wise information in respect of pilgrim who went through Private Tour Operators is not available. However the State-wise details of pilgrims who went through the Haj Committee, Mumbai is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

States	2001 No. of Pilgrims Proceeded	2002 No. of Pilgrims Proceeded	2003 No. of Pilgrims Proceeded
1	2	3	4
Daman Diu	23	30	27
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15	18	5
Goa	28	26	19
Gujarat	7082	5993	4351

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	3406	3282	2895
Chhattisgarh		210	287
Maharashtra	10682	10583	8900
Chandigarh	4	10	22
Delhi	2649	2456	2435
Haryana	720	577	480
Himachal Pradesh	39	25	44
Jammu & Kashmir	5746	6383	7701
Punjab	144	180	225
Uttar Pradesh/ Uttaranchal	12085	11749	12367
Rajasthan	4297	4202	3585
Andhra Pradesh	3711	4634	4841
Karnataka	4848	3900	3608
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13	31	2
Lakshadweep	216	156	156
Pondicherry	72	63	43
Kerala	6221	6780	7813
Tamil Nadu	2858	2682	2743
Assam	1067	1106	1102
Bihar	1771	1308	1508
Jharkhand		692	811
Manipur	198	173	132
Orissa	214	270	236
Tripura	9	47	16
West Bengal	2056	2278	1972
Govt. Quota/H.C.	959	432	1449
Total	71133	70276	69795

[Translation]

**Bringing Home Remains of
Kalpana Chawla**

1273. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to bring the mortal remains of Kalpana Chawla killed in the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster, to India;
- (b) If so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) This is a personal matter, which is for the immediate members of Kalpana Chawla's family to decide.

Irregularities in Construction of Express Highway

1274. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

- (a) whether several irregularities have been committed in the construction of the express highway on the Vadodara-Ahmedabad Highway;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken so far by the Government to punish the persons involved therein; and
- (d) date of the initiation of the above action alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No, Sir. A complaint alleging commission of irregularities in construction of Vadodara-Ahmedabad Highway was received. The complaint was investigated and it was found that there was no substance in any of the issues raised in the complaint. The matter has since been closed on the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka

1275. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of telephone exchanges working at present in Raichur district of Karnataka;
- (b) the number of persons awaiting telephone connection at present;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to open more telephone exchanges or increase the installed capacities of existing telephone exchanges to clear the waiting list;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The number of telephone exchanges working at present in Raichur district of Karnataka are 65 and the number of persons awaiting telephone connection at present are 2538.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. There is no proposal to open new telephone exchanges and to increase the installed capacities of existing telephone exchanges. The present installed capacity and the 6750 lines of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment planned for Raichur district would be adequate to clear the waiting list progressively during 2003-04, subject to availability of resources.

Corruption in MTNL

1276. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

- (a) whether corruption is on the rise in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;
- (b) if so, the number of persons found involved in corrupt practices including their names and designations during the last two years;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check corruption in this organization; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the last two years, 29 persons in Delhi and 51 persons in MTNL, Mumbai were found involved in corrupt practices. The

details are given in statement-I and statement-II respectively.

(c) The steps taken by the Government are given in statement-III.

(d) Above steps have resulted in detection of cases and booking the culprits as in (a) and (b) above. The preventive and punitive measures have resulted in improving the scenario.

Statement-I

Details of persons involved in Corruption in MTNL, Delhi

Cases detected in the year-2001

Sl. No.	Name of the officials/officers	Designation	Action Taken
1	2	3	4
1	Shri D.C. Mishra	JTO	CBI Trap case pending in the court of law.
2	Shri Pooran Singh	R/M	CBI Trap case pending in the court of law.
3	Shri Om Narain	C/S	CBI Trap case pending in the court of law.
4	Shri Y.D. Sharma	Sr.TOA(G)	Fraud case pending in the court of law.
5	Shri S.S. Yadav	TO	CBI case pending in the court of law.
6	Shri Narender Kumar	GM	Suspended on the basis of CBI case.
7	Shri Shahbaz Ali	DGM	Suspended on the basis of CBI case.
8	Shri Vineet Saxena	DGM	Suspended on the basis of CBI case.
9	Shri M. Ram	DGM	Suspended on the basis of CBI case.
10	Shri Sarup Singh	SS(O)	Suspended on the basis of CBI case.
11	Shri R.K. Gupta	SDE	CBI case pending in the court of law.
12	Shri Ram Kishan	SDE	CBI Trap case pending in the court of law.
13	Shri Rajesh Pradhan	DGM	Administrative warning issued.
14	Shri N.K. Verma	AGM	Recordable warning issued.
15	Shri Anar Singh	TTA	CBI case pending in the court of law.
16	Shri R.B. Singh	TO	CBI case pending in the court of law.
17	Shri S.K. Sharma	Tech.	CBI case pending in the court of law.
18	Shri S. Hasan	SDE	Recordable warning issued.
19	Shri V.N. Sharma	L/M	CBI case pending in the court of law.

Cases detected in the year-2002

Sl. No.	Name of the officials/officers	Designation	Action Taken
1	Shri Iqbal Singh	L/M	Delhi Police trap case pending in the court of law.
2	Shri Megh Singh	JTO	CBI Trap case pending in the court of law.
3	Shri A.K. Rohila	TTA	CBI case pending in the court of law.
4	Shri S.P. Sahu	JTO	Minor penalty imposed.
5	Shri H.S. Haider	AE(Civil)	CBI case pending in the court of law.
6	Shri Naresh Pal	ASW(C)	CBI case pending in the court of law.
7	Shri Mahabir Pd. Sharma	SS	CBI case pending in the court of law.
8	Shri Kamla Prasad	R/M	CBI case pending in the court of law.
9	Shri Gama Tiwari	L/M	CBI case pending in the court of law.
10	Shri Raghubir Singh Meena	JE (Civil)	CBI case pending in the court of law.

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Name S/Shri	Design.	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1	Satis Wani	Sr. TOA(G)	Subscription fraud case in RC 41(A)/99 dtd. 16.10.2001
2	Arvindam Sen	AO	-do-
3	N. Balasubramanian	AO	-do-
4	M.S. Ragini	AO	-do-
5	A.K.Chutke	TOA (G)	-do-
6	A.K. Rao	SSS	-do-
7	P.P. Hathode	SSS	-do-
8	E. Sayanna	AP	Subscription Fraud case in RC 32(A)/2001 dt. 02.01.2002
9	Jayaraman	SDE	-do-
10	B. Rajeshwar Rao	SDE	-do-
11	Arvinda Kumar	SDE	-do-
12	A.N. Yadav	SDE	-do-
13	Om Prakash Singh	SDE	-do-

1	2	3	4
14	P.S. Pawar	JTO	-do-
15	R.S. Mishra	PM	-do-
16	S.H. Rajkotwala	C.O.	Demanding and accepting gratification case in RC 3(A)/2002 dtd 30.05.2002
17	R.G. Jadhav	Sr. TOA(G)	-do-
18	S.A. Singh	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 20(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.2002 and RC 30(A)/2000-Mum dtd 16.10.2002
19	A.N. Bhutani	DE(Retd)	Irregularities in RI works in RC 20(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.2002 and RC 30(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.2002
20	Daya Shankar Prasad	JTO	Irregularities in RI works in RC 20(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.2002
21	B.A. Rao	DGM	Irregularities in RI works in RC 20(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.02 RC 32(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.02 RC 31(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02 RC 33(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02 RC 30(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02 RC 38(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02 RC 29(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02
22	E.B. Lad	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 32(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.02 RC 31(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02 RC 33(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02
23	B.K. Srivastava	DE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 32(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.02 RC 31(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02 RC 33(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02
24	H.S. Roorkwal	DGM	Irregularities in RI works in RC 32(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.02 RC 31(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02 RC 33(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02
25	M.S. Hussain	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 32(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.02 RC 31(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02 RC 33(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02
26	D.C. Das	DE (Retd)	Irregularities in RI works in RC 32(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.02 RC 31(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02
27	C.S. Kore	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 31(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02

1	2	3	4
28	R.M. Joshi	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 31(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02
29	G.S. Singh	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 33(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02
30	I.R. Shukla	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 30(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02
31	H.R. Shukla	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 30(A)/2000-Mum dtd 21.08.02 RC 29(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.09.02
32	B. Ramakrishna	DE	-do-
33	V.S. Dwivedi	JTO	-do-
34	A.P. Singh	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 30(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02
35	P.S. Retewade	Sr. AO	Irregularities in RI works in RC 30(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02 RC 38(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02 RC 29(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02
36	A.K. Takkar	DGM	Irregularities in RI works in RC 30(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02
37	S.D. Pandey	SDE	Irregularities in RI works in RC 38(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02
38	J.P. Baghel	SDE	-do-
39	Surendra Singh	SDE	-do-
40	R.K. Srivastava	SDE	Irregularities in RI works RC 29(A)/2000-Mum dtd 30.10.02
41	M.M. Khan	SDE	Irregularities in RI works RC 46(A)/2000-Mum dtd 29.11.02
42	G.G. Sarin	SDE	Irregularities in RI works RC 46(A)/2000-Mum dtd 29.11.02
43	B.P. Barkar	DE	-do-
44	K.D. Singh	DE	-do-
45	S.N. Chaudhari	SDE	-do-
46	R.A. Yadav	SDE	-do-
47	D.S. Shalkh	SDE	-do-
48	A.N. Despande	SDE	-do-
49	K.R. Mishra	LM	Illegal Gratification case in RC 10(A)/2002 dtd 8.10.02
50	Radrigoes	AO	Illegal Gratification case in RC 38(A)/2000 dtd 29.11.
51	Smt. J.J. Koregaonkar	Sr. TOA(P)	Pecuniary loss in RC 1(A)/2001 dtd 14.2.02

Statement-III

- (i) Checking of corruption is a continuous exercise. There is already a well established mechanism to prevent and check corruption in MTNL in line with Government Policy. Surprise checks, surveillance, training and seminar on vigilance awareness are being done on a regular basis.
- (ii) Assistance of CBI/CVC is taken whenever required to prevent and detect corrupt practices. Dedicated CBI cells have been created in MTNL Delhi and Mumbai amongst other metros exclusive for detecting and checking telecom related Frauds.
- (iii) Fraud Management Control Center is being commissioned both in Delhi and Mumbai to check revenue leakages and detect malpractices. Threshold monitoring is being done more effectively in all Exchanges so as to prevent cases of revenue leakage.
- (iv) Agreed lists in respect of suspicious officers with doubtful integrity are prepared in consultation with CBI and conduct of such officials/officers is kept under constant watch and monitored.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of AI and IA

1277. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

YOGI ADITYA NATH:

SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India have been removed from the list of Disinvestment;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has been asked to prepare a draft report for the Cabinet to clear the confusion over the privatisation of two airlines;

(c) whether both Indian Airlines and Air India have been asked to inject more funds in order to purchase more aircraft; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Proposed disinvestment of the two airlines is the subject of Inter-Ministerial review at the present time. Withdrawal by bidders

and depressed conditions of the aviation sector after 9/11 terrorist attacks have necessitated the review of the Government's decisions regarding disinvestment of the two airlines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) This will depend on the outcome of Inter-Ministerial review referred to in (a) above.

Telephone Exchanges in Aligarh Mandal

1278. SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to increase the capacity of Sansani, Jaraira, Maho and Hsayan telephone exchanges under Aligarh Mandal and plan to lay cables of these exchanges in rural areas is under consideration;

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There is no exchange named as Sansani, Jaraira & Maho in Aligarh mandal as mentioned in the question. However, names of the exchanges working in Aligarh Mandal are Sasni, Jalali, Manmaha & Hsayan. The details regarding capacity, expansion proposed is given as below:

S.No.	Name of the Exchange	Capacity	Expansion Proposed
(I)	Sasni	1K RLU	Expansion 1K to 2K
(ii)	Jalali	1K C-DOT	Not required
(iii)	Manmaha	256 C-DOT	Not required
(iv)	Hsayan	256 C-DOTx 2 (K stands for '000)	Not required

(b) The work for expansion of exchange at Sasni and cable laying wherever required, shall be done during 2003-04 subject to availability of resources.

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

[English]

Construction of Roads with Hot Mix Plant

1279. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the roads were to be constructed with Hot Mix Plant from the grant, aid or loan received from the World Bank in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons for not following the norms laid down by the World Bank in this regard; and

(c) the measures taken to construct the roads only with Hot Mix Plant in Bihar and in other parts of the country including Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) As per conditions of the World Bank funded projects, latest technology is to be used in construction of the roads. Hot Mix Plants are being used in Bihar for construction of roads funded by the World Bank.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Use of Hot Mix Plant is mandatory in road works on all National Highways.

[Translation]

Repair of Damaged Roads

1280. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests from states for giving assistance for repairing the roads damaged due to floods and rainfall;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide any assistance in this regard; and

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

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 State-wise details of funds demanded and allocated for restoration of damages on National Highways due to rains/floods during 2002-2003 are enclosed as statement.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of States	Demand	Allocation*
1	Andhra Pradesh	650.00	400.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	18.75	
3	Assam	1641.80	650.00
4	Bihar	5259.00	1300.00
5	Chhattisgarh	500.00	500.00
6	Goa	109.98	100.00
7	Gujarat	800.57	100.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	1300.00	300.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	28.40	
10	Jharkhand	519.45	100.00
11	Karnataka	1050.00	500.00
12	Kerala	1600.00	500.00
13	Madhya Pradesh	500.00	500.00
14	Maharashtra	823.13	500.00
15	Manipur	578.95	200.00
16	Meghalaya	444.75	200.00
17	Mizoram	525.14	200.00
18	Nagaland	180.10	100.00
19	Orissa	4401.63	1000.00
20	Tamil Nadu	320.00	200.00
21	Uttaranchal	492.00	100.00
22	Uttar Pradesh	2620.00	800.00
23	West Bengal	1500.00	600.00
Total		25863.65	8850.00

* Funds are allocated on the basis of the overall availability of funds, assessment of damages by Ministry's officers and for temporary restoration of the damages.

[English]

Fees for Radio-Diagnostic Tests

1281. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the AIIMS raised fees for radio-diagnostic test rendering the poor patients from availing the treatment at AIIMS;

(b) if so, the fees hiked by AIIMS viz-a-viz other Central Government hospitals in the capital;

(c) whether any directives have been issued by the Government to AIIMS authority for reversing the existed fees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been set up as an Institute of National Importance under an Act of Parliament. The charges of a few of Radio-diagnostic investigations have been increased due to increase in the cost of consumables and drastic upsurge in the patient load and it is not comparable with other Central Government hospitals.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

National Illness Association Funds to AIIMS

1282. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is receiving aid from National Illness Association Fund for helping poor patients;

(b) if so, the amount received by AIIMS during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the extent to which the amount was utilized during the period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of aid received from the National Illness Assistance Fund and their utilization during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount Received	Amount Utilised
	Rs.	Rs.
2000-01	33,32,200	37,42,917
2001-02	1,86,55,000	1,66,45,461
2002-03	59,50,000	77,91,565

Survey of Medical Hospitals

1283. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the MCI regulations for granting permission for running medical colleges;

(b) whether the patient admittance rate in the hospitals of private run medical colleges is much below their capacity;

(c) if so, whether the MCI has conducted periodical surveys of these hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years alongwith the reports thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The detailed procedure for granting permission for starting a medical college is given in the "Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999" brought out by the Medical Council of India.

(b) As per Medical Council of India Regulations, 1999 on Minimum Standard Requirement, the average occupancy of indoor beds shall be a minimum 80 percent per annum. For maintaining the standard of medical education, the Medical Council of India (MCI) carry out inspections of the medical colleges for recognition/increase in seats/starting of new medical college/renewal of permission etc. During the inspection, the availability of clinical material in the hospital is assessed and medical records of the indoor admissions is checked and after satisfying itself that on an average 80% bed occupancy is available, the Medical Council of India recommends to the Central Government for recognition/starting of the medical colleges.

(c) and (d) According to MCI, periodical inspection of recognised medical colleges and their attached hospitals are

conducted after every five years to assess the facilities available for training the students. During the last three years inspection of 38 medical colleges has been carried out by MCI. List of these colleges, State-wise, is enclosed at statement-I. The inspection reports are voluminous running into several hundred pages and are available with MCI/ Government.

Statement

Assam

1. Gauhati Medical College, Gauhati.

Gujarat

2. Parmukhswami Medical College, Karamsad

Kerala

3. Government Medical College, Kottayam

Karnataka

4. BLDEA Medical College, Bijapur
5. Kasturba Medical College, Manipal
6. Mysore Medical College, Mysore.
7. Sri Siddhartha Medical College, Tumkur.
8. Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore.
9. Al-Ameen Medical College, Bijapur

Madhya Pradesh

10. M.G.M. Medical College, Indore.

Maharashtra

11. D.Y. Patil Medical College, Navi Mumbai
12. D.Y. Patil Medical College, Kolhapur
13. Grant Medical College, Mumbai
14. J.N. Medical College, Swangi, Wardha
15. Armed Forces Medical College, Pune
16. Bahusaheb Govt. Medical College, Dhule
17. Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur
18. Govt. Medical College, Nanded

19. Seth G.S. Medical College, Mumbai
20. Dr. V.M. Medical College, Solapur
21. LTM Medical College, Mumbai
22. M.G.M. Medical College, Navi Mumbai
23. Govt. Medical College, Miraj
24. T.N. Medical College, Mumbai
25. Govt. Medical College, Aurangabad
26. P.D. Medical College, Amravati
27. S.R.T.R. Medical College, Ambajogai
28. B.J. Medical College, Pune
29. Rural Medical College, Loni.
30. Bhartiya Vidyapeeth, Pune

Tamil Nadu

31. Stanley Medical College, Chennai
32. Chennai Medical College, Chennai
33. Kilpauk Medical College, Kilpauk
34. Chengalpattu Medical College, Chengalpattu
35. Madurai Medical College, Madurai
36. Tirunelveli Medical College, Tirunelveli
37. P.S.G. Medical College, Coimbatore
38. Tanjavur Medical College, Thanjavur

Non-Payment of Wages/Salary

1284. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers and employees of Kolkata Dock Labour Board have not been paid their salaries/wages for the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the statutory deductions from their wages/salaries are not being properly credited;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether pension is not being paid to retired workmen; and

(f) if so, the remedial step being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Due to acute financial crisis, the Kolkata Dock Labour Board has not been able to pay salary and wages to its employees and workers by due date. There has been a time lag of 2 to 3 months in making payments.

(c) No Sir.

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

(e) Due to acute financial crisis, there has been time lag of 2 to 3 months in payment of pension to retired workmen.

(f) The Kolkata Dock Labour Board, which is statutory and autonomous body consisting of representatives of Government, employers of Dock Workers and Dock Workers, has taken several steps for reduction in wasteful expenditure and intensification of activities for increasing its income. The proposals of the Board seeking financial assistance for implementing a special Voluntary Retirement Scheme and for payment of outstanding dues of pensioners are under consideration of the Government.

Opening of CGHS Hospitals in Orissa

1285. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from Orissa Government for opening of CGHS Hospitals in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Polio Antibodies in Goats

1286. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that scientists of National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) have detected antibodies of polio in goats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether subsequent analysis by the Enteroviruses Research Centre in Mumbai showed that a mutated form of the strain that is currently being used in vaccine strain has reverted to wild type;

(d) if so, whether it necessitates a review of polio eradication strategy by the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the detection of Polio like antibodies by the scientists of National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) in goats and not of any Polio antibody.

(c) The Enterovirus Research Centre, Mumbai had analyzed the stool samples of human cases and these results have confirmed the presence of the vaccine strain of polio virus and not of the wild type or of any mutated form.

(d) Experts have been consulted on the subject who have specifically advised that there is no need or necessity to review the present Polio Eradication Strategy.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Population Stabilisation Funds

1287. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) whether the Government have made an announcement in regard to creation of a National Population Stabilisation Fund of Rs.100 crore in July, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 50 crores of the National Population Stabilisation Fund have not been transferred to the public account so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. At the first meeting of the National Commission on Population held on 22nd July, 2000 a decision was taken to set up a National Population Stabilization Fund (NPSF).

The Planning Commission made a provision of Rs. 50 Crores in RE 2000-01 and the remaining Rs. 50 Crores in BE 2001-2002. The Expenditure Finance Committee had approved the issue of contribution of Rs.100 crores as seed money to the NPSF.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), at its meeting held on 13.2.2003, approved the Registration of National Population Stabilisation Fund as an autonomous Society under the title "Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh" and constitution of General Body under the Chairpersonship of Hon. Prime Minister and Governing Board for managing the Fund. It was also decided to locate the Fund in the Department of Family Welfare.

[English]

Eradication of Blindness and Leprosy

1288. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) the Central assistance or grants provided to Maharashtra for eradication of Blindness and Leprosy during the current financial year;

(b) the funds released for the purpose so far during the current financial year;

(c) the time by which the remaining funds are likely to be released;

(d) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines for utilization of Central assistance or grants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The details of funds released to Maharashtra under National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) and National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) during current year are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Programme	Cash grant/ assistance to State Govt.	Grant-in-aid to Societies	Commodity Assistance	Total
NPCB	165.00	191.50	182.01	538.51
NLEP	10.00	200.97	27.12	238.09

(c) Funds are released as per requirement and on completion of the conditions for release.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The State is furnished with guidelines for utilization of funds to implement various activities under NPCB and NLEP as per existing pattern of assistance.

IT Hubs in Small Scale Cities/Towns

1289. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to convert small cities/town into IT hubs; and

(b) if so, the names of the towns to be converted alongwith the expected investment to be incurred on setting up of such hubs?

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

(b) Does not arise.

CGHS Dispensaries in Tamil Nadu

1290. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani, CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Chennai is the only city in Tamil Nadu where CGHS dispensaries are functioning. The list of dispensaries under CGHS, Chennai is available at statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) One Siddha Unit is attached to the CGHS dispensary, K.K. Nagar, Chennai and one Ayurvedic Unit is attached to the CGHS dispensary, Guindy, Chennai.

There is no proposal at present to open more Siddha/Ayurveda/Unani CGHS dispensaries/Units in Tamil Nadu.

Statement

List of CGHS Dispensary in Tamil Nadu with Addresses

1. Adyar dispensary, C.P.W.D. Quarters, Indra Nagar, Chennai-20.
2. Guindy Dispensary, Block No.6 BCG Quarters, Guindy, Chennai-32.
3. K.K. Nagar dispensary, C.P.W.D. Quarters, K.K. Nagar, Chennai-78.
4. Meenambakkam dispensary, DGQA Complex, Meenambakkam, Chennai.
5. R.A. Puram dispensary, 6, Kamaraj Salai, Chennai-28.
6. Gopalpuram dispensary, 1, First Street, Gopalapuram, Chennai-86.
7. Triplicane dispensary, 54, Akhar Street, Triplicane, Chennai-5.
8. Nungambakkam dispensary, Block 'B&C' Shastri Bhawan, Chennai-6
9. Annanagar dispensary, Central Revenue Qrs., Ranganathan gardens, Annanagar, Chennai-13.
10. Royapuram dispensary, 108 & 109, Mannarsamy koil street, Royapuram, Chennai -13.

11. Perambur dispensary, 28, perambur High road, Chennai-12.

12. Vepery dispensary, 143 perambur barracks road, Vepery, Chennai-7.

13. George Town dispensary, 64, Thathamuthiappan Street, G.Town, Chennai-1.

14. Nandambakkam dispensary Block C 16 to 19 DAD Residential Complex, Nandambakkam, Chennai-600 089.

15. Siddha Unit, CGHS dispensary, CPWD quarters K.K. Nagar, Chennai-78.

16. Ayurvedic Unit, CGHS dispensary, Guindy, Block No.6 BCG quarters Guindy, Chennai-82.

Hardships of Small Scale Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers

1291. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Drug Control Authorities are strictly enforcing the impracticable provision of Schedule T of Drugs & Cosmetic Act, 1940 thereby putting the small Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers into hardship;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to alleviate the problems of the small scale ayurvedic drugs manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The requirements laid down under Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) are not stringent. The genuine difficulties of small manufacturers and need for quality medicines were duly kept in view. A buffer period of 2 years was also provided to help small manufacturers attain GMP.

A scheme has also been approved for granting assistance to small units to upgrade facilities and create in-house testing facilities to achieve GMP.

Recognition to Traditional Games

1292. SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

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

(a) whether many Indian traditional games have not been included in Asian and Olympic Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to get some of them included in the Asian Games events; and

(d) the funds allocated for the promotion of traditional games during the last three years with extent of the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Except Kabaddi, which got recognition in Asian Games, no other Indian traditional games have been included in the Asian and Olympic Games.

(c) For including disciplines in Asian Games, Government of India has no role to play. It is the concern of the concerned National Sports Federation and the Indian Olympic Association. The latter has informed that at present Asian and Olympic Games are over crowded and that the International Olympic Committee is debating on the question of reducing the number of sports events in these Games.

(d) No specific funds are allocated for the promotion of traditional games. However, during the last three years, an amount of Rs. 89.68 lakhs has been sanctioned in favour of recognized Federations of Kabaddi, Atya Patya, Kho-Kho and Tug of War for holding national and international championships and for participation in international events. In Kabaddi, India has won a Gold Medal in the recently concluded Asian Games held at Busan.

Telephone Service at Railway Stations

1293. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that telephones installed at various railway stations for enabling the passengers to enquire about the railway timing etc. are very inadequate;

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

(c) the action the Government propose to take to improve the situation?

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

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Theft of Telephone Cables

1294. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of theft of telephone cable reported in various State especially in Jharkhand during the last one year;

(b) the names of places where such incidents took place and loss suffered due to these thefts; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check incidents of cable theft and the outcome thereof?

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

Rashtriya Sam Yojana

1295. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects undertaken under the Rashtriya Sam Yojana, State-wise;

(b) the details of the works performed under various programmes of the Yojana, state-wise;

(c) whether the Government monitor this Yojana;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are satisfied with the performance of the Yojana; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA

MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana initiated in the current year has three components: (i) the Backward Districts Initiative; (ii) the Special Plan for Bihar; and (iii) the Special Plan for the undivided Kalahandi - Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa.

Under the Backward Districts Initiative, 25 districts have been identified on a pilot basis for assistance in the current year which is to be used for schemes which fulfil the main objectives of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, namely, to address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. The State Governments were requested to prepare District Plans for each of the districts. These plans have been received and examined in the Planning Commission and funds have been recommended for release as per the approvals of the Empowered Committee on the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

Under the Special Plan for Bihar, thrust areas such as power, irrigation, roads, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, etc. have been identified for funding using innovative delivery systems so that the prevailing bottlenecks in these sectors can be overcome and basic infrastructure provided for the future development of the State.

The Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa aims at ameliorating the continuing poverty in these districts through concerted action in identified critical areas which would ensure drought proofing, livelihood support, better health facilities and assistance to disadvantaged groups.

(c) to (f) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has in-built mechanism for monitoring. However, as the District Plans under the Backward Districts Initiative and the projects under the Special Plan for Bihar have been approved recently in the current year itself, the question of monitoring at this stage does not arise. The monitoring of the Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa is a continuous process. The Plan was last monitored by the Committee of Secretaries in 2001-02 and the Review and Action Taken Report had been laid in both the Houses of Parliament in the Budget Session 2002.

[English]

Sale of Profit Making PSUs

1296. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Corporate India is opposed to the strategic sale of profit making public sector "Navaratnas";

(b) if so, whether the president of FICCI has

suggested for conversion of profit making public sector undertakings into autonomous corporation run by professional management;

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

(d) whether the value of assets of these undertakings cannot be scientifically evaluated or estimated; and

(e) if so, the Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested that:

- Government should emulate the UK model of privatisation programme, wherein most of the bigger British PSUs were offered to the public rather than to the individual strategic owners.
- Disinvestment should be done through IPO route and Government could think of placing shares in the New York Stock Exchange and a good portion in the domestic market with some reservation for employees.
- PSUs can well become board managed companies which should be able to function independently as professionally managed commercial entities.
- The real worth of the PSUs does not come out in auctions or valuations by the merchant bankers.

(c) The policy on disinvestment has evolved over time keeping in view national interests. Emulating the example of any other country, as has been suggested, is not desirable as the objective conditions may be very different. Experience shows that the sales realisation is maximised in the case of strategic sale as the private investor pays a premium for the transfer of management control. If the Government sells its majority shares through a public offer there will always be the possibility that a private investor may acquire the company cheaply, through "creeping acquisition", or the purchase of shares in small lots from the public, without paying a control premium. It also needs to be kept in mind that the majority of PSUs are not listed, even in the domestic stock exchanges, and considerable effort and time would need to be spent to bring them to a state of preparedness for listing prior to public offer. A disinvestment strategy relying on public offer of shares must also be viewed in the context of the size, depth and level of integration of the domestic capital market with the international capital markets. Keeping these factors in view,

the Government has adopted a flexible disinvestment strategy, which adopts both strategic sale and public offer of shares in the domestic and international market, as is appropriate, on a case by case basis.

(d) and (e) In keeping with the best market practices, the four methodologies viz., Discounted Cash Flow Method, Balance Sheet Method, Transaction Multiple Method and Asset Valuation Method are used for the valuation of PSUs. These valuation methodologies are internationally recognised. On the basis of the results obtained using these four separate valuation methodologies, the reserve price is determined. The actual sale price, however, is determined through a process of competitive bidding, which allows the market determined valuation, at that point of time, to be revealed.

Allocation of Funds to AIIMS

1297. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual central allocation of funds to AIIMS and the annual expenditure thereof;

(b) whether the Government have directed the All India Institute of Medical Sciences to generate revenue to meet its deficit;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) If not, whether the Government propose to enhance its annual allocation to AIIMS; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The following allocation of funds have been made during the last 3 years both under Plan and Non-Plan:

Year	Allocation		Expenditure (in crores)	
	Plan	Non Plan	Plan	Non Plan
2001-02	95.00	155.00	104.10	192.31
2002-03	105.00	123.50	64.15 *	186.68 *
2003-04 (B.E.)	105.00	167.18	-	-

* upto January, 2003.

(b) to (e) No specific instructions have been issued by the Government of India to the Institute in this regard. However,

the Institute is expected to generate its own internal resources for meeting a portion of the Non Plan expenditure. The allocation of funds is made for approved Plan Schemes and on availability of funds. There is no proposal at present to enhance the annual allocation to the Institute.

Special Purpose Vehicle Projects

1298. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of projects undertaken through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) route under the National Highways Development Project, Project wise;

(b) the number of ports to be connected with nearest National Highways under NHDP; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to ensure time bound execution of all the projects under NHDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) As in the statement enclosed.

(b) Ten major ports are proposed to be connected with nearest National Highways. However, these projects are not dealt with separately and not under National Highway Development Project (NHDP).

(c) Steps taken to ensure time-bound execution of projects under NHDP are as under:

- (i) the contracts for works provide for bonus for early completion and penalty for delays;
- (ii) close monitoring of the projects by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Ministry;
- (iii) speedy completion of pre-construction activities like land acquisition, tree cutting and shifting of utilities;
- (iv) speedy-decision making;
- (v) prompt payment to contractors; and
- (vi) regular interaction jointly with consultants, builders and NHAI at Minister's level.

Statement

The progress of projects undertaken through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) route under the National Highways Development Project:

Sl.No.	Name of Project	National Highway	Length (In Km.)	Progress as on 31.01.2003
1	Jabalpur Bypass Phase-II	8	34	20.01%
2	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway Phase-I	8	34	Completed
3	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway Phase-II	8	50	34.10%

Besides above, the following port collectively projects are taken up through SPV route: Mormugao, JNPT, Haldia, Visakhapatnam, Chennai & Ennore, Cochin, Tuticorin, Paradip and New Mangalore. The status of these projects is as under:

(i)	Total length	307 km.
(ii)	Under implementation	113 km.
(iii)	To be awarded	194 km.
(iv)	Target date of completion	December, 2005.

Diabetes Patients

1299. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of diabetes patients in India during the last three years;

(b) the present cost of the medicines consumed by a diabetic patient during a month;

(c) whether any request has been received from any quarter for reducing tax on medicines for diabetes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the percentage of the disease per lakh of population in this country; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to spread awareness about this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Nation wide data regarding number of diabetic patients in India is being maintained. However, according to rough estimates based on occasional survey done in urban & rural areas, the number of diabetic patients in the country in the year 2000 is about 25 million and there is epidemiological evidence showing increase in prevalence of diabetes, particularly in urban areas of the country.

(b) According to ICMR, the cost of Diabetes in India (CODI) study done in 1999, the following estimates per month were made for cost of Drug Therapy.

All Diabetics Rs. 188

Type I Diabetics (Insulin Dependent) Rs. 317

Type II Diabetics (Non Insulin Dependent) Rs.162

(c) and (d) Request for reduction of taxes on medicines are being received in this Ministry from time to time.

(e) It is estimated that there are 2500 diabetics per lakh population which is 2.5%. As per a Study conducted in the major cities of Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Delhi, the prevalence of Diabetes in the age group of 20-39 years was 4.6% which is significantly less than the prevalence of Diabetes above 40 years of age which was 23.80%.

(f) Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) has strategies/programmes including use of powerful electronic media to spread health messages to increase Public Health Awareness about Diabetes. 'Health Melas' also contribute to Public Awareness in this regard. Indian Council of Medical

Research also IEC Activities and Public Awareness campaigns stressing on Healthy Dietary and Physical Activity measures.

[Translation]

Bridge on National Highway No.7

1300. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Public Works Department has invited tenders for constructing Mehar Railway Over Bridge on National Highway No.7 in Madhya Pradesh through B.O.T.; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Load Norms

1301. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided any policy adhering to prescribed load norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite changes in the law, basic

issues relating to overloading, road safety, vehicular pollution, nationalisation of taxation structure, national permit, standardisation of bus body design remain unsolved; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) The Load norms for different categories of transport vehicles have been prescribed as per details enclosed as statement. The enforcement of the provisions of load ceilings falls totally under the purview of Governments of respective States/Union Territories.

(c) and (d) In the 30th meeting of the Transport Development Council held on 16.1.2003, all the States agreed to strictly enforce the provisions relating to overloading. The Rationalisation of Motor Vehicle Taxation was also discussed in the meeting. The States, however, did not favour the rationalization of taxes on grounds of revenue loss.

During the meeting, the States also agreed to the need for regulating the bus body building activity based on Standard Code of Practice for Bus Body Design. In respect of National Permits, the States agreed to strictly enforce the use of security printed water mark paper with hologram for issue of national permits and provision of separate receipts for bank drafts presented by an applicant for national permit on similarly printed receipts. For pollution control, it was agreed to introduce measurement of Hydrocarbon emissions, as also to tighten emission norms, in respect of post 2000 new generation vehicles.

All three aspects of road safety, namely, education, enforcement and engineering are being vigorously pursued.

Statement

The Gazette of India: Extraordinary

[Part II-Sec. 3(ii)]

Ministry of Surface Transport

(Transport Wing)

Notification

New Delhi, the 18th October, 1996

S.O. 728(E).- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 58 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988), and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Surface Transport, No. S.O. 479(E), dated the 4th July, 1996, the Central Government hereby specifies that in relation to the transport vehicles (other than motor cabs) of various categories detailed in the Schedule below, the maximum gross vehicle weight and the maximum safe axle weight of each axle of such vehicles shall, having regard to the size, nature and number of tyres and maximum weight permitted to be carried by the tyres as per rule 95 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, be—

- (i) vehicle manufacturers rating of the gross vehicle weight and axle weight respectively for each make and model as duly certified by the testing agencies for compliance of rule 126 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, or

- (ii) the maximum gross vehicle weight and the maximum safe axle weight of each vehicle respectively as specified in the Schedule below for the relevant category, or
- (iii) the maximum load permitted to be carried by the tyre(s) as specified in the rule 95 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, for the size and number of the tyres fitted on the axle(s) of the relevant make and model, whichever is less:

Provided that the maximum gross vehicle weight in respect of all such transport vehicles, including multi-axle vehicles shall not be more than the sum total of all the maximum safe axle weight put together subject to the restrictions, if any on the maximum gross vehicle weight given in the said Schedule:-

Schedule

Transport Vehicles Category		Max GVW Tonnes	Maximum Safe Axle Weight
1	2	3	4
I Rigid Vehicles			
(i)	Two Axle One tyre on front axle Two tyre on rear axle	9.00	3 tonnes on Front Axle 6 tonnes on Rear Axle
(ii)	Two Axle Two tyres on each axle	12.00	6 tonnes on Front Axle 6 tonnes on Rear Axle
(iii)	Two Axle Two tyres on front axle and Four tyres on rear axle	16.2	6 tonnes on Front Axle 10.2 tonnes on Rear Axle
(iv)	Three Axle Two tyres on front axle and Eight tyres on rear tandem axle	25.0	6 tonnes on front axle 19 tonnes on rear tandem axle
II Semi Articulated Vehicles			
(i)	Two Axle Tractor Single Axle Trailer Tractor: 2 tyres on front axle 4 tyres on rear axle Trailer: 4 tyres on single axle	26.4	6 tonnes on Front Axle 10.2 tonnes on Rear Axle 10.2 tonnes on Single Trainer axle
(ii)	Two Axle Tractor Tandem Axle Trailer Tractor: 2 tyres on front axle 4 tyres on rear axle Trailer: 8 tyres on tandem axle	35.2	6 tonnes on Front Axle 10.2 tonnes on Rear axle 19 tonnes on Tandem axle
(iii)	Two Axle Tractor Three Axle Trailer Tractor: 2 tyre on front axle 4 tyres on rear axle Trailer: 12 tyres on 3 axles	40.2	6 tonnes on Front Axle 10.2 tonnes on Rear Axle 24 tonnes on 3 axles

1	2	3	4
(iv)	Three Axle Tractor Single Axle Trailer Tractor: 2 tyres on front axle 8 tyres on tandem axle Trailer: 8 tyres on single axle	35.2	6 tonnes on Front Axle 19 tonnes on Rear Axle 10.2 tonnes on single Axle
(v)	Three Axle Tractor Tandem Axle Trailer Tractor: 2 tyres on front axle 8 tyres on tandem axle Trailer: 8 tyres on tandem axle	44.0	6 tonnes on Front Axle 19 tonnes on Rear Tandem Axle 19 tonnes on Rear Tandem Axle
III Truck-Trailer Combinations			
(i)	Two Axle Truck Two Axle Trailer Truck: 2 tyres on front axle 4 tyres on rear axle Trailer: 4 tyres on front axle 4 tyres on rear axle	36.6	6 tonnes on Front Axle 10.2 tonnes on Rear Axle 10.2 tonnes on Front Axle 10.2 tonnes on rear axle
(ii)	Three Axle Truck Two Axle Trailer Truck: 2 tyres on front axle 8 tyres on rear tandem axle Trailer: 4 tyres on front axle 4 tyres on rear axle	45.4 (restricted to 44.0 tonnes)	6 tonnes on Front Axle 19 tonnes on Rear Tandem Axle 10.2 tonnes on Front Axle 10.2 tonnes on rear axle
(iii)	Two Axle Truck Three Axle Trailer Truck: 2 tyres on front axle 4 tyres on rear axle Trailer: 4 tyres on front axle 8 tyres on rear tandem axle	45.5 (restricted to 44.0 tonnes)	6 tonnes on Front Axle 10.2 tonnes on Rear Axle 10.2 tonnes on Front Axle 19.0 tonnes on rear tandem axle
(iv)	Three Axle Truck Three Axle Trailer Truck: 2 tyres on front axle 8 tyres on rear tandem axle Trailer: 4 tyres on front axle 8 tyres on rear tandem axle	54.2 (restricted to 44.0 tonnes)	6 tonnes on Front Axle 19 tonnes on Rear Tandem Axle 10.2 tonnes on Front Axle 19.0 tonnes on rear tandem axle

The Gazette of India: Extraordinary

[Part II-Sec. 3(ii)]

Ministry of Surface Transport
(Department of Road Transport and Highways)
(Transport Wing)
Notification

New Delhi, the 26th May, 2000

S.O. 517(E).-In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 58 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (59 of 1988), the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Surface Transport (Transport Wing), No. S.O. 728(E) dated the 18th October, 1996 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Sec. 3, sub-section (ii) dated 18th October, 1996, namely:-

In the schedule to the said notification under the heading "II Semi Articulated Vehicles" after item (V) the following shall be inserted namely:-

1	2	3	4
(vi)	Three Axle Tractor	49.0	
	Three Axle Trailer		
	Tractor:		
	2 tyres on front axle		6 tonnes on Front Axle
	8 tyres on tandem axle		19 tonnes on Rear Tandem Axle
	Trailer:		
	12 tyres on 3 axles		24 tonnes on 3 Axles

[F.No. RT-11042/3/2000-MVL]

K.V. Rao, Jt. Secy.

ISD Operation by BSNL

1302. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has entered into ISD operations;

(b) if so, whether VSNL has sought any agreement with BSNL on this matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. BSNL has been granted license on 29-01-2003 to establish, install, operate and maintain International Long Distance Services network and to provide ILD service. BSNL is yet to start the ISD service.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Eradication of Measles

1303. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that half of the Jarawas people, a tribal community in Andaman & Nicobar Islands suffer from measles;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance given to these tribals by the Union Government; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The problem regarding prevalence of measles in Andaman & Nicobar Islands is not very serious. As per the data available, measles cases reported in Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 1999-2001 are as follows:-

Year	No. of cases
1999	160
2000	182
2001	010

(c) For prevention and control of epidemic-prone communicable diseases, a central sector health programme i.e. National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases (NSPCD) is being implemented since 1997 by National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) which is the nodal agency for monitoring and supervision of the programme, which is in operation in 101 districts of the country including Port Blair of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The aim of NSPCD is to generate early warning signals of diseases outbreaks and rapid response thereto.

International Connectivity to Cochin

1304. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether international connectivity using 34 Mbps lines is being provided at Delhi, Mumbai and other important metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether any such connectivity is being planned at Cochin also;

(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) to (d) As per available information, International Connectivity using 45 Mbps lines at Delhi, Mumbai and other metropolitan cities including Cochin is being provided through undersea cable system.

Trauma Centres

1305. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka regarding setting up of a Trauma Centre at Hassan on the Bangalore-Mangalore National Highway No. 17;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A proposal seeking financial assistance for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Sri Jaya Chamarajendra Hospital, Hassan under the Pilot Project for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities of State Hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways has been received. The proposal has been examined and certain additional information has been called for from Government of Karnataka, which has not been received so far.

Condition of National Highways

1306. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national highways are not in traffic worthy condition; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) National Highways are maintained in traffic worthy condition as per available resources.

(b) 4/6 laning of about 13500 km. lengths of National Highways has been taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and Port Connectivity Programme. Subject to availability of funds upkeep of balance length of National Highways has been taken up in the form of improvement of riding quality.

VPT and WLL in North-East Region

1307. SHRI K. A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the VPT with WLL system has been completed in the North-East Region particularly in Nagaland as per the Government's policy to give connection to all the villages by the end of 2002;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

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

(b) As the SACFA (Standing Advisory Committee for Frequency Allocation) clearance to install WLL based VPTs was not given by the security agencies earlier in North-East Region, part of the equipment received was diverted and utilised elsewhere. Fresh equipment is now under procurement.

(c) It is planned to provide telecom facility on WLL in all the remaining technically feasible villages of North-East Region including state of Nagaland by December, 2003 subject to availability of resources.

Development of Sports

1308. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether considerable inputs had been provided to various sports for the national and international events;

(b) if so, the details of total expenditure made since the last Olympic games, game-wise;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the results achieved in each game;

(d) if so, the details of achievements in each of the games;

(e) whether the Government have launched any corrective action plan and initiated preparations for the next national and international sports events; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of total expenditure made since last the Olympic games (last three years), game-wise are at statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Achievements made by the Indian Sports-person/teams in the Commonwealth (since 1958) and Asian Games (since 1951) are at statement-II.

(e) and (f) This is an ongoing process. However, as part of the preparations for the forthcoming National/International competitions, Sports Authority of India (SAI) is finalizing Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, eminent sportspersons & training method experts.

Statement-I

Details of Expenditure during the last three years game-wise under the scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

Sl. No.	Name of the Federation	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-03 (As on 24.2.03)
		Total	Total	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Aero Club of India	0	0	0
2	All India Carrom Federation	630233	1220211	1355582
3	All India Chess Federation	6386777	5277322	10556426
4	All India Football Federation	0	1832000	2795514
5	All India Karate-Do-Federation	0	0	0
6	All India Sports Council of the Deaf	769729	635166	871899

1	2	3	4	5
7	Amateur Athletics Federation of India	0	7961000	9069998
8	Amateur Baseball Federation of India	825000	1080768	650000
9	Amateur Handball Federation of India	6093637	337500	1475000
10	Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India	0	1286000	1037015
11	Archery Association of India	0	1967000	2156274
12	Atya Patya Federation of India	1059600	1192000	1100000
13	Badminton Association of India	0	9496000	9727575
14	Ball Badminton Federation of India	675000	1017100	1250000
15	Basketball Federation of India	2098428	2762478	2807963
16	Billiards & Snooker Federation of India	0	1423000	2017245
17	Bridge Federation of India	0	0	0
18	Cycle Polo Federation of India	344655	813778	994713
19	Cycling Federation of India	870428	2107919	2340253
20	Equestrian Federation of India	0	1156000	6145634
21	Federation of Motor Sports Club of India	0	0	0
22	Fencing Association of India	766037	3142793	2831680
23	Gymnastics Federation of India	2112286	6704411	7646326
24	Indian Amateur Boxing Federation	0	7198000	8321971
25	Indian Body Building Federation	0	0	50000
26	Indian Golf Union	0	0	2713716
27	Indian Golf Union	0	1003000	0
28	Indian Hockey Federation	0	17088000	5334819
29	Indian Kayaking & Canoeing Association	1167772	701030	2086136
30	Indian Olympic Association	8253992	177050	44395362
31	Indian Polo Association of India	106717	113186	176913
32	Indian Powerlifting Federation	600000	675000	1100000
33	Indian Weightlifting Federation	0	2705000	2818713

1	2	3	4	5
34	Indian Women Hockey Federation	0	10419000	4177147
35	Judo Federation of India	2632334	5725366	2384011
36	Kho-Kho Federation of India	950000	840000	1450000
37	Korfball Federation of India	0	600000	1134539
38	Lawn Tennis Association of India	1875874	3843898	5405760
39	National Rifle Association of India	0	0	17398052
40	National Rifle Association of India	0	19117000	
41	Netball Federation of India	650000	1125000	1200000
42	Rowing Federation of India	6390736	5216284	3312641
43	School Games Federation of India	627280	2022809	1484869
44	Sepak Takraw Federation of India	0	1176000	450000
45	Shooting ball Federation of India	0	1950000	0
46	Softball Federation of India	625000	825000	150000
47	Squash Rackets Federation of India	1358160	3500789	9646888
48	Swimming Federation of India	3151945	3525660	4302717
49	Table Tennis Federation of India	6372784	5954016	6791925
50	Taekwondo Federation of India	0	0	826563
51	Tenni-Koit Federation of India	525000	1165200	900000
52	Tennis Ball Cricket Federation of India	150000	600000	1150000
53	Throwball Federation of India	600000	175000	0
54	Tug of War Federation of India	450000	1200000	1150000
55	Volleyball Federation of India	2461336	3703156	4055489
56	Women Cricket Association of India	0	38000	300000
57	Wrestling Federation of India	0	10167000	7792112
58	Yachting Association of India	6676106	8279739	9001048
59	Wushu Association of India	0		750000
60	Winter Games Federation of India	0		212000
Total		68256846	172241629	219252508

The details of Medals

Discipline	1951			1954			1958			1962			1966			1970			1974		
	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B
Archery																					
Athletics	10	12	12	5	3	6	5	2	2	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	5	4	7	4
Badminton																			0	0	1
Basketball																					
Billiards																					
Boxing							0	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	2
Cycling	0	1	2																		
Equestrian																					
Football	1	0	0							1	0	0				0	0	1			
Golf																					
Hockey							0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Judo																					
Kabaddi																					
Kayaking & Canoeing																					
Rowing																					
Shooting										0	0	1							0	1	0
Swimming	4	2	5	0	0	1										0	1	0			
Taekwondo																					
Tennis													0	0	1						
Volleyball							0	0	1	0	1	0									
Wt.- Lifting	2	2	2																		
Wrestling				0	1	1				3	6	3	0	1	5	1	1	3	0	0	4
Yachting																0	0	1			
Total	17	17	21	5	4	8	5	4	4	10	13	10	7	3	11	6	9	10	4	12	11
Year wise Total	55			17			13			33			21			25			27		

Won by India in Asian Games

1978			1982			1986			1990			1994			1998			2002			Total		
G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B
8	7	3	4	9	8	4	2	3	0	4	2	0	1	2	2	6	7	7	6	4	63	73	69
			0	0	5	0	0	1													0	0	7
															2	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2
0	1	2	1	2	3	0	4	5	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	0	1				5	13	21
																					0	1	2
			3	1	1	0	0	2							0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	5
																					2	0	1
			2	1	0													1	0	0	3	1	0
0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	10	2
						0	0	4			0	0	1								0	0	5
									1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0
												0	0	1							0	0	1
			0	0	1				0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	9
1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	2	8	7
			0	0	1	0	1	0													4	4	7
																		0	0	1	0	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0				0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	4	1	1	2	3	2	10
						0	0	1													0	1	2
			0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	3	0	1	0				2	6	10
2	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	1	1							0	0	1	8	6	23
0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2				0	1	2	1	4	8
11	10	7	13	19	25	5	9	23	1	8	14	4	3	16	7	11	17	11	12	13	106	132	192
28			57			37			23			23			35			36			430		

[Translation]

Loan by World Bank

1309. SHRI C. N. SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has sanctioned a loan for Road Network project in Uttar Pradesh recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the phases in which the said project is likely to be completed ?

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

(b) The loan envisages upgrading of 973 km. and major maintenance of 2574 km. of State roads. In addition, loan funds will be utilised for social and environmental measures, institutional development of Government of Uttar Pradesh, a pilot project for road safety etc.

(c) The project is to be completed in two phases. In phase I, upgrading and major strengthening has been provided for in 374 km. and major maintenance in 808 km. of State Highways and major district roads while the remaining length is provided for in phase II. Four by passes and five major bridges are also provided for in phase II.

[English]

Medical Colleges in Karnataka

1310. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of medical colleges being run by the Government of Karnataka till date, place-wise;
- (b) the present intake for MBBS and PG seats in each Government Medical College in Karnataka, College-wise;
- (c) whether these Government Medical Colleges have sufficient teaching staff and other infrastructural facilities as per MCI norms;
- (d) the amount being spent per student per year in each college;
- (e) whether the Government had earlier reduced the intake of Under-graduate and PG seats in these colleges;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the Union Government have received any proposal to curtail the intake in these colleges; and
- (h) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE ,
AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI

SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There are four medical colleges being run by the State Government one each at Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli and Bellary.

(b) The present intake of MBBS course and PG courses in the medical colleges and other institutions being run by the State Government is as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Medical College	Present intake in	
		MBBS	PG
1.	Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore	150	151
2.	Mysore Medical College, Mysore	100	84
3.	Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli	100	103
4.	Vijayanagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Bellary	100	55

(c) All the above medical colleges/institutions are recognised by the Medical Council of India (MCI). Before recognition the MCI satisfy themselves about the infrastructural facilities available. However, the MCI conducts periodic inspections to ascertain the facilities available for conducting the MBBS/PG courses.

(d) The Central Government have no such information. However, as per a study commissioned by MCI in 1998, the average cost of medical education per student in Government medical college was about Rs.3.15 lakhs per annum at under graduate level during the period 1994-95 to 1996-97. As per an earlier report of 1994, the cost of medical education per postgraduate student ranged from Rs.71,000/- to Rs.1.46 lakhs per annum in Government medical colleges.

- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.
- (g) No, Sir.
- (h) Does not arise.

National TB Control Programme

1311. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

YOGI ADITYA NATH:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding tuberculosis patients in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have sanctioned/

released funds to each State to implement the National Tuberculosis Control Programme during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first nation-wide survey to find out the prevalence of cases suffering from Tuberculosis of the lungs was conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research in 1955-58. The survey was conducted in six zones and about 3 lakh persons aged 5 years and above residing in a sample of 150 villages, 6 cities and 30 towns were investigated. They were subjected to mass miniature X-Ray of the chest followed by sputum examination for the presence of TB causative organisms. The survey findings revealed that about four out of every thousand population were suffering from infectious TB of the lungs. The proportion of people suffering from TB was found to be similar in the different zones and also in rural & urban areas. No state specific survey has been conducted.

A nation wide tuberculin survey has been conducted in 2000-02 to find out the percentage of people that acquire new tuberculosis infection every year. The result revealed that about 1.5 to 2% of the population in various zones acquires new tuberculosis infection every year.

(c) and (d) A statement indicating state-wise details of funds released under the National TB Control Programme during the last 3 years is enclosed.

Statement

Details of funds released to the States during the last Three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	23.59	405.61	175.5
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	45.97	62.28
Assam	14.37	8.09	35.05
Bihar	32.92	17.98	88.75
Chandigarh	0.00	18.05	8.39
Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	36.22
Delhi	194.04	111.06	100.00
Goa	0.00	0.00	7.82
Gujarat	205.91	270.93	285.67
Haryana	86.78	14.05	56.84
Himachal Pradesh	53.07	233.29	113.5

1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	54.37	25.3
Jharkhand	22.90	5.10	54.65
Karnataka	33.80	173.68	234.78
Kerala	74.49	83.02	324
Madhya Pradesh	43.38	89.30	202.6
Maharashtra	189.72	765.97	919.51
Manipur	13.10	125.85	81.9
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	7.82
Mizoram	0.00	0.00	9.6
Nagaland	0.00	49.99	90.39
Orissa	0.50	0.00	245
Pondicherry	0.50	0.00	2.4
Punjab	0.00	38.74	145.34
Rajasthan	370.79	627.64	478.47
Sikkim	0.00	46.61	28.94
Tamil Nadu	324.44	617.24	324.77
Tripura	0.00	0.00	12.47
Uttar Pradesh	211.03	156.37	393.89
Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	15.42
West Bengal	480.24	330.78	428.41
Total	2375.57	4289.69	4995.68

[Translation]

Agreement with MNC

1312. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation has received proposals for entering into agreement with Multinational Companies for joint production and marketing of small sized satellites;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the benefits likely to accrue to ISRO due to said agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION,

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. A few international space industries have shown interest in developing alliances with Antrix Corporation, which is the marketing arm of Department of Space for jointly manufacturing and marketing small/medium satellites.

(b) and (c) In the context of exploring possibilities for internationally marketing the capabilities developed by ISRO, Antrix is in touch with leading space industries such as Lockheed Martin and Boeing Space Systems of USA, Alcatel Space Industries of France for forging suitable alliances.

(d) The alliance with leading international space manufacturing industries would result in synergy and provide opportunity to enter into highly competitive global market for satellites developed in India. It also expands the opportunities for launch services and mission support services by ISRO in the international market.

Post Offices in Panchayat Level

1313. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new post offices at panchayat level in rural areas in Bihar in view of inconveniences being faced by common man; and

(b) if so, the list of new post offices proposed to be set up in Bihar, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir. New post offices are opened under Plan scheme, subject to the fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

(b) The district-wise details of new post offices targeted to set up in Bihar during 2002-2003 is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Name of Districts where Post Offices are targeted to be set up during 2002-03

1.	Bhojpur	1
2.	Rohtas	1
3.	Nalanda	1
4.	Nawada	1
5.	Aurangabad	1
6.	Munger	1
7.	Bhagalpur	1
8.	Muzaffarpur	2

9.	Saran	2
10.	Sitamarhi	2
11.	Darbhanga	1
12.	Begusarai	1
Total		15

[English]

Disinvestment of SAIL

1314. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for valuation of this company;

(c) whether the guidelines of CVC and his Ministry have been followed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Death Toll of Haj Pilgrims in Mecca

1315. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Haj pilgrims from India who visited Mecca recently have died;

(b) if so, the number of Haj pilgrims who died as well as those injured alongwith names, addresses and other details thereof;

(c) whether some relief, facilities and compensation has been provided to the next of kin; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Out of 116078 Indian pilgrims who went for Haj 2003, 119 died in Mecca and Madina till now. This figure includes 4 pilgrims who were killed in Minna stampede on 11th February, 2003. A statement giving details of names, addresses etc. of all deceased Indian pilgrims till 21.2.2003 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) No.

Statement

S.No.	Name	C.No.	ADD.	PP. No.	Age	Sex	Date of Death	M.No.	C.O. Death	P.O. Death	State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Mariam Ben Dauva	G.J.586/2	Tokariya TA-Palampur Badarpur Takanwada Banaskantha District Gujarat	18177	66	F	1/11/2003	30	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	Gujarat
2.	Maqbool Hasan	MH 2534/1	Room No. 41, 2nd Floor Nasheman, SHG. Society Surti Mohalla, Vasil Khan Marg, Mumbai	11970	60	M	1/14/2003	49	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Maharashtra
3.	Fathima Bi	International Passport	Islampur, Sangli Dist. Maharashtra	E-3327471	70	F	1/14/2003	13	Acute Miodcardial Infarction	Makkah	Maharashtra
4.	Chittayagadan Hassainar		Chittayaganadan House Odianchola, Edakkara post Mallapuram Distt., Kerala	E-0112421	73	M	1/17/2003	16	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
5.	Sabiya Begum Mathana Mira	International Passport	41/1, Bypass Road, pettal, Thiruvannur Distt. Tamil Nadu	E-2939893	49	F	1/19/2003	37	Respiratory Failure	Makkah	Tamilnadu
6.	Abu Backer Shahul Hamid Mariakar		No. 3 First Street, Neuvaseempenpet, Madras-8	A-1908878	71	M	1/20/2003	26	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Tamilnadu
7.	Abdul Moltashim	UP-2174-2	Chalan Compound, Rasalgari, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh	71836	82	M	1/21/2003	30	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	U.P.
8.	Halima Bai Abdullah	G.J-714-2	Behind Dhal Road Masjid Juna, Garhi, Pin 362001	18632	48	F	1/23/2003	49	Pulmonary Kocio, Pneumonia Bronchial Asthama	Madinah	Gujarat
9.	Paktran	KL 1927/10	Palakandiyil, Post Pollur Thuvakkunni	41473	68	M	1/23/2003		Cardiac Arrest & Respiratory Failure	J.H.T Jeddah	Kerala
10.	Din Mohammad	U.P. - 2368-3	319F, Shahab Nagar, Kalyanpur Kanpur, U.P.	72311	36	M	1/24/2003	26	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	U.P.
11.	Sohrab Ali	BR-356-9	Miya Bazar Purnia City Purnia	43656	70	M	1/24/2003	47	T.A. Polytrauma (Haemorrhagic Shot)	Makkah	Bihar
12.	Ali Mohammad Bhat	JK-261-6	Sonawar Bagh, Srinagar	57851	75	M	1/26/2003	31	Acute Cardio- Pulmonary Arrest	Makkah	J.K
13.	Shaikh Chand	MH-4156-2	Sadar Bazar, Near Chhote Masjid Nagpur (Maharashtra)	14134	78	M	1/26/2003	14	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Maharashtra
14.	Haleema	J K.-728-6	Villas Batagund, Dist. Putwama J.K.	60197	57	F	1/26/2003	31	Rombocytopenia with Diabetes Mellii	Makkah	J.K.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
15.	Ali Husien Chikani	G-J-334-2	Ali Manzil, Modiwad Gate Pin-361001 Jamnagar	17241	66	M	1/26/2003	2	Cardio-Respiratory Failure	Makkah	Gujarat
16.	Abdul Wahid	TN-298-9	17, East State Mangalam Peth, Cuddalore Tamil Nadu	32069	78	M	1/26/2003	8	Acute Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	Tamil Nadu
17.	Mordeen Kutty	KL-667-9	Village Arikulam Post Arikulam Dist. Kozhikode Kerala	36800	78	M	1/26/2003	25	Respiratory Failure	Makkah	Kerala
18.	Abou Backer Kutty Hassankath	Pulikkal	P.O. Niranmarthur, (Tirur (via) Malappuram Kerala	B.3221847	72	M	1/26/2003	16	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
19.	Mohammad Isaac	International	Chirayin Keegilhu, Trivandrum	E-3093235	67	M	1/26/2003	62	Acute Myocardial Infarction	Madinah	Kerala
20.	Zahid Ali	U.P.-3813/3	21 Ahmad Nagar, Doodhpur Civil Lines, Aligarh, U.P.	76193	65	M	1/27/2003	14	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	U.P.
21.	Fazal Ahmad	U.P.-722-3	88/68, Chamanganji, Peshkar Road, Kanpur, U.P.	66948	75	M	1/27/2003	22	Acute M.I.	Makkah	U.P.
22.	Zubaida Khatoon	BR-134-5	Vill. Barh, Via Chakand Gaya Bihar	42905	65	F	1/27/2003	56	Cardio-Pulmonary Failure	Makkah	Bihar
23.	Mohammad Naki	U.P.-1776-10	Nihargarh, Jagdishpur, Village, Dist. Sultanpur, Pin 227809 U.P.	70345	62	M	1/28/2003	39	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Madinah	U.P.
24.	Abdul Gani Mir	J.K.-717-9	Achagaja Kaller, Distt. Purnama J.K.	60128	62	M	1/29/2003	31	Intra Cerebral Haemorrhage (C.V.A.)	Makkah	J.K.
25.	Pulakuziyil Mohammad	International Passport	Pulakuziyil House P.O. Vellila Marlead Via. Malappuram. Kerala	A-7803899	44	M	1/29/2003	5	Head Injury (due to Road traffic accident)	Madinah	Kerala
26.	Mulla Veetil Imbich Ahmed Haji		Velluthodath House, Nallalam Bazar. P.O. Nallalam, Distt. Kozhikode Kerala	E-403521	88	M	1/29/2003	5	Head Injury (Spot Death due to R.T.A.)	Madinah	Kerala
27.	Noor Mohammad	RJ-959-2	642, Bisatyon Ka Mohalla, Near Masjid Ramgani, Jaipur Rajasthan	79901	66	M	1/30/2003	47	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Rajasthan
28.	Abdul Aziz Kochey	J.K.-1215-7	Ranipora Distt.- Anantnag (J&K)	63043	70	M	1/27/2003	30	Head Injury (due to road traffic accident)	Makkah	J.K.
29.	Armina	International	Rose Mahal, Poylikavu, Edakkulam, Dist. Kozhikode-673306 Kerala	E-2894423	72	F	1/31/2003	22	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Madinah	Kerala
30.	Kadhar Meeral	TN-647-8	5-77, Main Road, Polaipudur Tumelveli (Tamilnadu)	33339	69	F	1/31/2003	31	Acute Myocardial Infarction	Makkah	Tamil Nadu
31.	Zainaba Aziz Puthuvellie	International	Puthuville House Ponnunnam Chirakkadam Post Kottayam Dist. Kerala	V.112254	55	F	1/31/2003	22	Cardio-Pulmonary Arrest	Madinah	Kerala

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
32.	Valiyadil Mohammed	International	Valiyadil House, Kallano Kappu Mannojakkad Cottage, P.O. Palakkad Distt. Kerala	E.3819750	67	M	1/31/2003	16	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Madinah	Kerala
33.	Imarni	U.P.-130-3	124, Tarda, Naya Goan Bulandshahar, U.P. India	65010	53	M	2/1/2003	47	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	U.P.
34.	Mohammad Subhan Sofi	J.K. 364-8	Aranpura Qammarwari Srinagar	58322	63	M	2/1/2003	30	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	J.K.
35.	Thottumoochikkal Mariyamma	International	23-279A, Thottumoodhikkal House, Kanyam P.O. Palakkad distt. Kerala	E.2656791	55	F	2/1/2003	14	Cardio Pulmonary Arrest	Madinah	Maharashtra
36.	Abdul Sattar Shaikh Ahmad	Ashraf Haj Umra	Muglai Bazar, Paratwada Amrawati, Maharashtra	E.3281556	73	M	2/1/2003	23	Cardio Pulmonary Arrest	Madinah	Maharashtra
37.	Mohammed Arif	U.P. 1814-1	P.O. Sangla, Khalia, Village-Thitki Deoband Dist., Saharanpur, U.P.	70489	65	M	2/2/2003	22	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	U.P.
38.	Shaikat Ali	International	Mohalla-Laomanpura, Kiratpur Dist. Bijnor, U.P.	E.0017745	73	M	2/3/2003	61	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	U.P.
39.	Haleema Bee	A.P.-92-3	House No. 17-2-1137/3, Rein Bazar, Yakuthpura, Hyderabad A.P.	26353	67	F	2/3/2003	25	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	A.P.
40.	Abdus Sattar Khan	U.P.-1748-1	Mohalla Subhan Toll, Zamania Ghazipur, U.P.	70227	73	M	2/3/2003	14	Cardio Pulmonary Arrest	J.H.T. Jeddah	U.P.
41.	Gulam Mohammed Abdul Hameed	International	223 Salai-St. Aiyampetta-P.O. Parasam-TK, Tanjore Tamilnadu	E.1306467	61	M	2/4/2003	37	Acute Myocardial Infarction	Makkah	Tamilnadu
42.	Shakoor Ahmad	International	Mohalla Azad Nagar, Mandi Samete Road, Distt. Saharanpur U.P.	E.1125718	74	M	2/4/2003	49	Respiratory Failure	Makkah	U.P.
43.	Qayamuddin	1403/10	Village Paras Kara Distt. Kausambi, U.P.	69148	70	M	2/4/2003	62	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	U.P.
44.	Nasirudin	International	Mohalla Tehai, Mawana Kalan Meerut U.P.	E.2878116	71	M	2/5/2003	23	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	U.P.
45.	Ghulam-Uddin	J.K.-946-7	Syed Karim Sahib, Baramulla Jammu & Kashmir	61528	64	M	2/5/2003	57	Cardio Pulmonary Arrest	Makkah	J&K
46.	Mayan	KL-582-6	Basheer Ghar, Kadirpur, Kannur Dist. Kerala	36446	60	M	2/5/2003	58	Cardio Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
47.	Shamshad Ahmed Shaikh	MN-2306-8	666, Tranit Camp, Chawi No. 15, Room No. 002 B.J. Marg, Mumbai, Maharashtra	11380	60	M	2/5/2003	13	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	Maharashtra
48.	Sheerin Shaikh	MH-630-4	Pesh Imam Chawi R.No.1, L.B.G Marg, Opposite Ashok Mill Mumbai	5763	25	F	2/6/2003	15	Acute Renal Failure	Makkah	Maharashtra

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
49.	Idrisa Khatoon	International	House No. 104-B, Bhagpal Gate Maqsood Ali Chowk, Meerut U.P.	E. 1755796	64	F	2/6/2003	25	Sudden Cardio Arrest	Madinah	U.P.
50.	Kamaluddin	MH-499-6	Gururwarpath, Near Maghal Talkies, Miraj, Sangli Maharashtra	5334	58	M	2/7/2003	22	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	Maharashtra
51.	Sugrabi Bashir Inamdar	International	Arianiksha Hsg. Complex C-1/104 Pimri, Pune	E. 3839819	53	F	2/8/2003	23	Acute Myocardial Infraction	Makkah	Maharashtra
52.	Mohammad Ramzani Ahmad	International	House No. 30, Gali No. 17, Ahmad Nagar, Kanchal Pool, Lakhapura Road, Meerut, U.P.	A. 3883876	49	M	2/8/2003	23	Cardio Pulmonary Failure	Makkah	U.P.
53.	Sheikh Mohammad Siddique	International	C/o Gulab Nabi, Tigra Colony Post-Sonepur Jabalpur (M.P.)	E. 3472077	71	M	2/8/2003	62	Cardio Arrest	Makkah	M.P.
54.	Mohammad Abdul Khaliq	International	Baruigram, Nilam Bazar, Karim Ganj, Assam	E. 3770200	65	M	2/8/2003	62	Cardio Arrest	Makkah	Assam
55.	Hasan Bhairu Sallubhai Malek	International	Narim Lekwas, Khapkhina Kakol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat	E. 4068192	75	M	2/8/2003	39	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	Gujarat
56.	Alavi Vattaparambil	International	Vaita Parambil House, Jain Temple Road, P.O. Varadur Wayanad Distt. 673121 Kerala	E. 2967978	63	M	2/8/2003	37	Sudden Cardio Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
57.	Nasiban	RJ-610-9	Mohalla Kassaban, Subhash Road, Bikaner (Rajasthan)	55448	90	F	2/8/2003	57	Septic Shock	Makkah	Rajasthan
58.	Mouhammad Ali Marecar	International	Plot No. 29 French Teacher Street, Karaikal Pondicherry	A-5317881	63	M	2/8/2003	37	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	Pondicherry
59.	Aboubacker	KL-427-4	Pullaniyili House, Pattambi Distt. Palakkad Kerala	35830	61	M	2/10/2003	50	Cardiac Arrest	Muna Tert Muna	Kerala
60.	Ahmed Pasha Mohd.	AP-1229-2	House No. 23-1-593, Moghul Pura, Bibi Bazar, Hyderabad A.P.	29861	49	M	2/10/2003	50	Cardiac Arrest	Al-wadi Hosp. Muna	A.P.
61.	Sultan Ahmad	MH-4046-3	Bhaji Mandi, Kamptee, Distt. Nagpur, Maharashtra	13716	54	M	2/10/2003	14	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Una General Hos. Muna	Maharashtra
62.	Chand Bee	AP-460-5	House No. 5-5-274/70/1 Patel Nagar, Nampally, Hyderabad A.P.	27429	69	F	2/11/2003	47	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Muna Camp Pedestrian Road	A.P.
63.	Sarwar Fatima	A.P.-460-5	House No. 5-5-274/70/1 Patel Nagar, Nampally, Hyderabad A.P.	27428	45	F	2/11/2003	47	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Near Maktab Nagar, Muna Pedestrian	A.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
64.	Khaled Mohammad Farooque Ansari	International	281, Hazar Khuli, Malegaon, Maharashtra	E.3196161	52	F	2/11/2003	25	Cardio Respiratory Failure	Near Maktab Hospital Road	Maharashtra No. 26 Muna
65.	Mohammad Farooque	U.P.-907-5	D-28/77, Pandey Haveli, Bengali Tola Dist. Varanasi (U.P.)	67485	66	M	2/11/2003	58	Massive Myocardial Infarction	N-Jessar Hospital Muna	U.P.
66.	Munni Begum	U.P.-3133-9	Village Mastallipur, Thakurawara Raghoo Wala Distt. Moradabad	74574	65	F	2/12/2003	62	Cardio Pulmonary Failure	Makkah	U.P.
67.	Abdul Lateef	U.P.-1153-10	Mohalla Madeena Masjid Kolkadar, Bijnour, U.P.	68288	65	M	2/12/2003	14	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Muna Pedestrain Road	U.P.
68.	Munawar Ali	U.P.-335-2	512/519, Ka Nishat Ganj, Ilind Lane Lucknow, U.P.	65660	74	M	2/12/2003	23	Cardiac Arrest	Muna Camp, Maktab No. 23	U.P.
69.	Rahman Ali	AS-14-2	South Saranai, Guwahati-781007 Dist. Kamrup, Assam	44034	66	M	2/12/2003	50	Cardio Pulmonary Arrest	Maktab No. 50, Muna	Assam
70.	Mohammad Noorul Hoda	BR-564-2	Chinnapur, Lalganj, Vaishali Pin. 844121, Bihar	46192	65	M	2/10/2003	31	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Bihar
71.	Bukhari Isammuddin	International	Sabashiv Nagar, Belgum-590001 Karnataka	B.5350735	70	M	2/9/2003	16	Cardio Pulmonary Failure	Makkah	Karnataka
72.	Mordeen Vadakke Kunnoth	International	Aminia Villa, P.O. Kadaloor, Via Koyilandy Distt. Kozhikode Kerala	E.0617910	73	M	2/11/2003	13	Cardio Arrest	Maktab No. 13, Muna	Kerala
73.	Sakina Bai Mohammed Sait	KA-525-4	8/3 Rathan Singh Road, Frazer Town Bangalore	23915	65	F	2/12/2003	25	Cardio Respiratory Failure	Muna Tent No. 106/B-A	Karnataka
74.	Vatakenetti Parambi	International	House No. AP IX/442 P.O. Aroor, Allappuzha, Kerala	A-3914348	71	M	2/12/2003	13	Cardio Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
75.	Nahoor Meeran Labha	KL-641-6	Markode Chitha, Kollam, Kerala	36714	70	M	2/12/2003	62	Cardio Pulmonary Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
76.	Khalidur Rahman	AS-46-2	Santipur Mosque Main Road Bharalumukh Dist. Kamrup, Guwahati, Assam	44166	71	M	2/3/2003	50	Cardio Pulmonary Arrest	Muna	Assam
77.	Abdul Lateef	GQUP-248-3	12/1825-26, Sarai Hishamuddin Lakhigat Shaharanpur, U.P.	78251	70	M	2/12/2003	15	Acute Myocardial Infarction	Jamarat	U.P.
78.	Fida Hussain	U.P. 433-7	Mohalla Bhaley Bai Khan Sarai Tarni, Moradabad, U.P.	65959	64	M	2/13/2003	16	Cardiac Arrest	Muna	U.P.
79.	Majidhemissa	MH-808-6	Vapi Transport Near Kurla Garden, L.B.S. Marg, Kurla-W Mumbai	6361	55	F	2/11/2003	22	Cardio Respiratory Failure	Muna	Maharashtra
80.	Avaran Thayathuchira	International	Othukkungal, Distt. Kozhikode Kerala	E.2659411	62	M	2/13/2003	37	Heart Attack	Muna	Kerala

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
81.	Eritsham Ali Ansari	U.P.3353-2	No.16, Latouche Road, Aminabad, Lucknow, U.P.	75042	59	M	2/13/2003	23	Cardio Respiratory Failure	Muna	U.P.
82.	Abul Hasan	T.N. 747-1	357, C.L. Road, Khaderpet, Vaniyambadi Vellore Tamilnadu	33626	68	M	2/13/2003	8	Cardio Respiratory Failure	Makkah	Tamilnadu
83.	Anwari	U.P.-854-2	Noriadhi, Phoolpur, Dist. Azamgarh, U.P.	67343	55	F	2/14/2003	23	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	U.P.
84.	Abdulla Kuitly	KL-1283-2	Thalanchery House, Malappuram Kerala	39320	68	M	2/14/2003	50	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
85.	Khadeeja Kizhakkethli	International	Valampur, Dist. Malappuram Kerala	A.6295521	80	F	2/14/2003	25	Cardio Respiratory Failure	Makkah	Kerala
86.	Mohammad Bashir	U.P.-2471-6	574, Purani Sabzi Mandi, Dist. Faizabad, U.P.	72664	77	M	2/14/2003	31	Cardio Respiratory Failure	Makkah	U.P.
87.	Pathumthi Abdul Kader	International	Kobbankudi House, P.O. Pavoor Via-Marjeshwar Dist. Kasargod, Kerala	E.3797313	70	M	2/12/2003	10	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
88.	Kunji Moythi	International	Theval Kunnumol, Marjanyam RD, Peramtera, Dist., Kozhikode Kerala	B.3872979	68	M	2/14/2003		Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Madinah	Kerala
89.	Majeed Bundo	International	Vill. Nagal Rajput P.O. Lakshnauti PS, Gangoh Saharanpur U.P.	E.2879722	70	M	2/13/2003	Mohammed Ahmed	Post. Craniotomy Epidural Haematoma	Makkah	U.P.
90.	Modh. Abdul Aziz	1187-3	House No. 5-1-156, Shanti Nagar Ward No. 23, Khammam	29739	70	M	2/11/2003	21	Cardiac Arrest	Al Heera Hospital	Hyderabad
91.	Kunamathin Kutty	International	Chekkaran Kode, P.O. Chemmanur Kasargud, Distt. Kerala	B.0488743	75	M	2/15/2003	13	Sudden Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
92.	Shakila Begum	International	No. 8/1 8th A Cross Kempaiah Block Mubarak Mohalla, J.C. Nagar, Bangalore	A.4886416	65	F	2/15/2003	56	Cardio-Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	Karnataka
93.	Mahtab Khan	U.P. 2743-7	Satpera, Nasirabad, Distt. Raigarhi (U.P.)	73459	70	M	2/16/2003	21	Respiratory Failure	Makkah	U.P.
94.	Mullaamadayan Ayyoob	International	Mullan Madyan House Uphill P.O. Malappuram, Distt. Kerala	E. 2296817	70	M	2/16/2003	62	Diabetic Ketoacidosis	Jeddah	Kerala
95.	Mullaamadayan Ayyoob	International	Mullan Madyan House Uphill, P.O. Malappuram, Kerala	E-2296817	70	M	2/16/2003	62	Diabetic Ketoacidosis	Jeddah	Kerala
96.	Jam Mohammad	U.P.3688-1	Jaleypur, Hathigarh, Gonda, U.P.	75890	65	M	2/17/2003	31	Cardio Respiratory	Makkah	U.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
97.	Syed Ali Qasim	AP-443-6	House No. 16-628, Happy Nook, Musherabad Hyderabad (AP)	27366	62	M	2/17/2003	50	Cardio Pulmonary Arrest	Makkah	A.P.
98.	Amena	MH-1827-7	House No. 733 Khusamad Pura, Malegaon, Nasik	9951	54	M	2/17/2003	22	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	MH
99.	Umar Ahmed Karani	International	Mangleshwar Road Mota Salaya, Mandvi, Kutch	E-1820978	66	M	2/17/2003	39	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Gujarat
100.	Abdul Khair	UP-2429-1	Azad Nagar, Kanpur Road Chillaawan, Manishnagar, Lucknow (UP)	72534	75	M	2/12/2003	23	Hemiplegia (Right)	Makkah	UP
101.	Abdulla	KL-1476-10	CP IV, 156, Nai Marmoola, Vidyannagar, Dist. Kasargod 671123, Kerala	39989	59	M	2/17/2003	58	Massive Myocardial Infarction	Makkah	KL
102.	Sheikh Rashida Mohammad Umar	International	Amma Manzil, House No. 226 Bharaskar Colony, Laitaki Ahmed Nagar, 414001	E-3460423	69	F	2/17/2003	13	Cardio Respiratory Failure	Makkah	MH
103.	Kadeja Angliath	International	Angliath House, P.O. Kunthimangalam Kannur 670309, Kerala	E-2659130	75	F	2/17/2003	22	Respiratory Failure	Makkah	Kerala
104.	Ameenuddin	International	No. 9814, 1st Main Road 5th Cross Okaltapuram Bangalore-560021 Karnataka	B-2749088	68	M	2/17/2003	12	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Karnataka
105.	Mohd. Sofi Sheikh	International	Shaikh Hussain, Vili. Devukh, Dist. Raichur, Mysore, Karnataka	P-589898	70	M	2/18/2003	26	Myocardial Infarction	Makkah	Karnataka
106.	Hadisunnisha	MH-2309-3	181 Kasam Haji Wali Chaal R.No. 5, Ahmed Umar Street Mumbai-400008	11392	60	F	2/18/2003	13	Acute Cardio-Respiratory Failure	Makkah	MH
107.	Rindani Adam Hasan	International	89191, Daba Bhaji Mansion, Arif Usman, Bazar Building, 4th Floor, R. No. 22, Mumbai	E-1025533	16	M	2/14/2003	16	Cardio Respiratory Failure	Makkah	MH
108.	Kasam	MH-4086-5	Gawli Pura, Road No. 1 Karanjalad, Dist. Washim Maharashtra	13866	68	M	2/18/2003	47	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	MH
109.	Katheeb Raouf Abdul Subhan	International	No. 19, Vankat Raman Havildar Street, Kasba, Vellore Tamil Nadu	A-6939705	64	M	2/19/2003	26	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	Tamil Nadu

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
110.	Ghulam Rasool Ahangar	JK-1058-6	Rengpath, Qaziabad Dangiwacha, 193303 Dist. Kupwara (J&K)	62208	70	M	1/28/2003	30	Polytrauma Road Traffic Accident	Makkah	J&K
111.	Abdul Hamid	International	House No. 9-5-449 Khudwal Nagar, Nanded, Maharashtra	E-3280100	79	M	2/19/2003	23	Respiratory Failure	Makkah	MH
112.	Jamalulla Basha Shaik	AP-1390-4	House No. 22-6-129 Machlikaman, Hyderabad, AP	30309	66	M	2/19/2003	50	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Jeddah	AP
113.	Mohammad Ismail	UP-2352-8	Village Chhahwa, Bhinga Dist. Shravati U.P.	72268	66	M	2/19/2003	39	Cardio Respiratory Arrest	Makkah	UP
114.	Ahmad	KL-296-6	Valli Ammad, Adukath PO Kuttidi Kaliikut Kozhikode	35242	65	M	2/20/2003	25	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Kerala
115.	Syed Azeem	MH-1006-6	AI & PO Sabona Taluka, Partur Jalna Pin 431502	7105	70	M	2/12/2003	13		Muna Camp	MH
116.	Ismail Hasrajee Chalki	International	Vohnwad P.O. Bodhan, Tal Mandvi, Dist. Surat 394140- Gujarat	E-4071057	61	M	2/20/2003	5	Cardiac Arrest	Makkah	Gujarat
117.	Akbar Ali Sardar	WB-188-8	Jhinka, Bhasla, North-24 Pargana, West Bengal	47368	63	M	2/20/2003	62	Broncho Pneumonia	Makkah	West Bengal
118.	Mohammad Ilyas	DL-420-2	B-19, Arun Nagar, Majnu Ka Tila Civil Lines, Delhi	50426	52	M	2/21/2003	30	Cardio Pulmonary Arrest	Makkah	Delhi
119.	Kunjumma	KL-367-6	Thazhathery House	35568	77	F	2/15/2003	50	Cardiac Arrest	Jeddah	Kerala

Functioning of Bhagalpur Telephone Exchange

1316. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Exchanges in the country especially in Bhagalpur, Bihar, are making optimum utilization of their capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of the said telephone exchanges;

(c) the number of applications pending for new connections with these telephone exchanges; and

(d) by when all these pending applications are likely to be cleared?

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

(SHRIMATI SUMTRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, utilization of telephone exchange capacity is dependent upon several factors such as immediate demand, growth of demand after installation, standard sizes of telephone exchanges etc. As a result, the general expectation is 70% utilization within one year in rural areas and about 85% utilization within one year in urban areas for proper utilization of exchange capacity. In general, these criterion are met in the country including in several exchanges of Bhagalpur.

(b) The list of urban and rural exchanges, which do not meet the above general expectations are given in statement-I.

(c) The number of applications pending for new connections in the telephone exchanges in Bhagalpur Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) is given in statement-II.

(d) The waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by March, 2004.

Statement-I

List of Urban Exchanges having capacity utilization < 85% (Bhagalpur SSA):

Sl. No.	Exchange	SDCA	Type of Eqpt.	Status as on 31-01-2003			Utilization (%)
				Capacity	DEls	W/L	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Amarpur	Amarpur	MBM 2K	2000	933	21	46.65
2.	Banka	Banka	1.4K+1 K SBM	2400	1794	17	74.75
3.	Mirjanhat	Bhagalpur	OCB RSU	2000	1280	80	64
4.	Nathnagar	Bhagalpur	RLU	3000	2013	8	67.1
5.	Sultanganj	Bhagalpur	RLU	2000	1128	22	56.4
6.	Tilkamanjhi	Bhagalpur	OCB RSU	2000	1235	45	61.75
7.	Kahalgaon	Kahalgaon	MAX XL+SB M	4800	2772	32	57.75
8.	Saral	Bhagalpur	RSU 2K	2000	55	16	2.8

Bhagalpur SSA*List of Rural Exchanges having Capacity utilization less than 70%*

Sl. No.	Exchange	SDCA	Type of Eqpt.	Status as on 31-01-2003			Utilization (%)
				Capacity	DELs	W/L	
1.	Bharko	Arnarpur	C-256 PX2	336	200	14	59.5
2.	Sambhuganj	Amarpur	1 KSBM	1000	642	28	64.2
3.	Vijay Hat	Amarpur	C-256 x 2	336	229	13	68.2
4.	Kalajore	Banka	C-256 P	152	60	17	39.5
5.	Akabarnagar	Bhagalpur	1 KSBM	1000	604	43	60.4
6.	Fatehpur	Bhagalpur	C-256 P	152	102	76	67.1
7.	Kodanda	Bhagalpur	C-256 P	152	96	28	63.2
8.	Puraini	Bhagalpur	1 KSBM	1000	563	15	56.3
9.	Sahjadpur	Bhagalpur	RLU	1000	481	30	48.1
10.	Gauripur	Kahalgaon	C-256 P	152	101	33	66.4
11.	Ghogha	Kahalgaon	SBM 1 K	1000	485	53	48.5
12.	Madarganj	Kahalgaon	C-256 P	184	91	48	49.5
13.	Mathurapur	Kahalgaon	CRSU	500	328	85	65.6
14.	Sanokhar	Kahalgaon	C-256 x 2	336	193	47	57.4
15.	Jaipur	Katoria	C256P	152	77	17	50.7
16.	Katoriya	Katoria	1 KSBM	1000	459	19	45.9
17.	Sahebganj	Katoria	C256P	152	61	30	40.1
18.	Saldpur	Naugachia	SBM 1 K	1000	627	146	62.7
19.	Jhandapur	Naugachia	SBM 1K	1000	674	250	67.4

Statement-II

*Status of waiting list in telephone exchanges
in Bhagalpur SSA as on 31.1.03*

S. No.	Exchange	Status as on 31/01/2003
1	2	3
1.	Amarpur	21
2.	Bharko	14
3.	Dhoriya	25
4.	Fullidumar	20

1	2	3
5.	Harchandi	18
6.	Khesar	58
7.	Kulhariya	9
8.	Kumarapur	20
9.	Logain	11
10.	Makduma	22
11.	Rajoun	27
12.	Sadpur	12

1	2	3
13.	Sambhuganj	28
14.	Vijayhat	13
15.	Banka	17
16.	Barahat	13
17.	Baunsi	20
18.	Kalajore	17
19.	Panjwara	15
20.	Bhagalpur	230
21.	Dariyapur	21
22.	Akabarnagar	43
23.	Fatehpur	76
24.	Jamsi	43
25.	Kajraili	11
26.	Khiribandh	39
27.	Kodanda	28
28.	Mirjanhat	60
29.	Nath Nagar	8
30.	Pithna	39
31.	Puraini	15
32.	Raghuchak	33
33.	Sabour	19
34.	Sahjadpur	30
35.	Sajour	21
36.	Shadhund	38
37.	Sultanganj	22
38.	Tilakmanjhi	45
39.	Sarai	16
40.	Borohiya	79

1	2	3
41.	Dighi	25
42.	Gauripur	33
43.	Ghogha	53
44.	Ishipur	13
45.	Kahalgaoon	32
46.	Madarganj	48
47.	Mathurapur	85
48.	Pirpanti	77
49.	Sanhaula	21
50.	Sanokhar	47
51.	Chandan	28
52.	Jaipur	17
53.	Katoriya	19
54.	Sahebganj	30
55.	Suiya	31
56.	Naugachia	79
57.	Saidpur	146
58.	Jhandapur	250
59.	Narainpur	276
60.	Kharik Bzr.	101
61.	Gauripur	58
62.	Rangra	117

Universal Funds for Telecommunication Sector

1317. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any universal fund from the contributions made by private and public sector telecommunication companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to utilize the funds;

(d) whether the Government have also received licence fee from the public sector company namely BSNL;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to give any relaxation to BSNL keeping in view its services to urban and rural areas throughout the country; and

(g) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Steps have been initiated for setting up of universal service fund from the contributions made by private and public sector telecommunication companies. The percentage of universal service levy has been fixed as five percent of the adjusted gross revenue. The guidelines for utilization of universal service fund have also been publicized by the Government.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. License fee amounting to Rs. 1725 Crores (inclusive of universal service levy) has been received till 21-02-2003 for the financial year 2002-2003.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. Government does not propose to grant any relaxation to BSNL in terms of implementation of the universal service support policy.

NGOs Role in AIDS Control

1318. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of NGOs working in the field of AIDS control programme, State-wise;

(b) the details of the financial assistance given to each one of them during the last three years, till date; and

(c) the manner in which their work is monitored by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) List is at statement-I.

(b) The funding of NGOs for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control has been decentralized to the respective State AIDS Control Societies since April 2001. National AIDS Control

Organisation sanctions grants to NGOs directly only for Community Care Centres in low prevalence States. NACO is currently funding only five Community Care Centres.

A statement indicating the funds sanctioned to NGOs by National AIDS Control Organisation during the last three years and till date, is placed at statement-II.

(c) A detailed monitoring and evaluation system has been built into the process of implementation. A Computerised Management Information System and a Programme Finance Management System have been developed by the National AIDS Control Organisation. These systems and procedures ensure regular feed back from the NGOs through State AIDS Control Societies in respect of diverse parameters evaluated at regular intervals. Additionally, regular visits are made by the officers of State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) and the NGO Adviser.

Besides, NGOs are required to submit detailed activity reports and audited statements of expenditure. The accounts of the NGOs funded are also subject to audit by the Controller Auditor General from time to time.

Statement-I

NGOs working in the field of HIV/AIDS Prevention & Control as of 31.12.2002

S.No.	State	Total No. of NGOs
1	2	3
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4
2	Ahmedabad	21
3	Andhra Pradesh	91
4	Arunachal Pradesh	3
5	Assam	25
6	Bihar	14
7	Chandigarh	14
8	Chennai	27
9	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
10	Delhi	14
11	Goa	12
12	Gujarat (DFID) Funded	100

1	2	3
13	Haryana	8
14	Himachal Pradesh	10
15	Jammu & Kashmir	1
16	Karnataka	30
17	Kerala	46
18	Madhya Pradesh	23
19	Maharashtra	25
20	Mumbai (MC)	33
21	Manipur	35
22	Meghalaya	3
23	Mizoram	25
24	Nagaland	23

1	2	3
25	Orissa	21
26	Pondicherry	2
27	Punjab	20
28	Rajasthan	20
29	Sikkim	7
30	Tamil Nadu	113
31	Tripura	19
32	Uttar Pradesh	37
33	West Bengal	49
34	Uttaranchal	1
Total		877

Statement-II*Funds Released to NGOs Directly by NACO in 1999-2000*

S.No.	Name of the NGO/Orgn.	Area of work	Total amount released (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Delhi			
1	Prayas New Delhi	Intervention project for Health/ STD/HIV/AIDS amongst street children in Delhi	7,07,044
2	Drishtikon New Delhi	For promoting reproductive health including HIV/AIDS/STD in women and their sexual partners in the project modern	9,47,500
3	TORCH New Delhi	NACO Telephonic counselling	4,95,100
4	Sahara New Delhi	Community Care Centre	11,88,500
5	Salaam Balak Trust New Delhi	Model HIV Counselling Centre	6,36,000

1	2	3	4
6	Sulabh International New Delhi	Project on effective intervention of STD/AIDS by distribution of condoms	51,000
Karnataka			
7	Freedom Foundation Bangalore	Community Care Center	11,88,500
8.	Snehadaan Bangalore	Community Care Center	9,74,370
Manipur			
9.	Shalom Manipur	Community Care Center	11,89,240
10.	Leprosy Patients Welfare Society Imphal	Community Care Center	11,89,240
Maharashtra			
11.	Bel Air Hospital Panchgani	Community Care Center	26,01,900
Bihar			
12.	OSERD Patna	Telephonic Counselling	4,13,036
<i>Funds Released to NGOs Directly by NACO in 2000-2001</i>			
Delhi			
1	Drishtikon New Delhi	Model Reproductive Health Center	5,31,000/-
2	Naz Foundation New Delhi	Model HIV/AIDS counselling centre, SJ Hospital	3,18,000/-
3	TORCH New Delhi	Tele-counselling center	7,90,600/-
4	NICD-Torch Delhi	Voluntary Blood Testing Centre	5,24,000/-
5.	Sahara Delhi	Community Care Centre	7,59,500/-

1	2	3	4
6.	Prayas New Delhi	Intervention project for Health/ STD/HIV/AIDS amongst street children in Delhi	2,57,099/-
Karnataka			
7.	Freedom Foundation, Bangalore	Community Care Centre	15,19,000/-
8.	Snehadaan Bangalore	Community Care Centre	6,63,520/-
9.	Freedom Foundation Bellary	Community Care Centre	11,89,240/-
Manipur			
10.	Shalom	Community Care Centre	7,58,760/-
11.	Leprosy Patients Welfare Society Imphal	Community Care Centre	7,59,500/-
Assam			
12.	ILA Trust Guwahati	Community Care Centre	11,89,240/-
Maharashtra			
13.	Bel Air Hospital Panchgani	Community Care Centre	14,21,900/-
Andhra Pradesh			
14.	Freedom Foundation, Hyderabad	Community Care Centre	11,89,240/-
Bihar			
15.	OSERD Patna	Telephonic counselling	3,50,000/-
<i>Funds Released by NGOs Directly by NACO in 2001-2002</i>			
Delhi			
1.	Sahara New Delhi	Community Care Centre	Rs. 15,19,000/-

1	2	3	4
2.	Chelsea New Delhi	Community Care Centre	Rs. 8,23,740/-
Kerala			
3.	Mar Kundukulam Memorial Research & Rehabilitation Complex Trissur	Community Care Centre	Rs. 7,85,000/-
Pondicherry			
4.	SFDRT Pondicherry	Community Care Centre	Rs. 11,89,240/-
<i>Funds Released to NGOs Directly by NACO in 2002-2003 (unto 31st Jan. 03)</i>			
Delhi			
1.	Sahara New Delhi	Community Care Centre	Rs. 15,19,000/-
2.	Chelsea New Delhi	Community Care Centre	Rs. 13,41,820/-
3.	Action India New Delhi	Community Care Centre	Rs. 11,89,240/-
Kerala			
4.	Mar Kundukulam Memorial Research & Rehabilitation Complex Trissur	Community Care Centre	Rs. 14,62,000/-
Pondicherry			
5.	SFDRT Pondicherry	Community Care Centre	Rs. 6,00,314/-

Upgradation of Hospitals

1319. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any

proposal from Uttar Pradesh for allocation of more fund for the upgradation of hospitals in the State; and

(b) If so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A State Health System Development Project for upgradation and modernization of secondary level facilities has been under implementation in the State w.e.f. 1.7.2000 for 5½ years with World Bank assistance. The total cost of the project is Rs. 484 crore. No fresh proposal has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Opening of CGHS Dispensaries in Maharashtra

1320. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to open CGHS dispensaries in all the districts of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details and location thereof;
- (c) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared; and
- (d) the details of decision taken by the Government in regard to treatment availed by the CGHS beneficiaries during emergency from the recognized private hospitals in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The CGHS dispensaries are already functioning in the cities of Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune in the State of Maharashtra.

At present there is no proposal to open more CGHS dispensaries in Maharashtra State.

(d) CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) have the option of availing general/specialized treatment and diagnostic procedure at private hospitals/ diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS in various CGHS covered cities after obtaining the recommendation regarding line of treatment from the specialist of CGHS/Government Hospital/CMO In-charge of the dispensary and prior permission from the concerned office/Department in the case of serving employees and from the CMO In-charge of CGHS dispensaries in the case of pensioner beneficiaries.

However, during emergency, a CGHS beneficiary can take treatment in any recognised/unrecognised private hospital without obtaining any prior permission from the Government.

[English]

New Financial Services in Post Offices

1321. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have introduced a series of new financial services such as instant money transfers in the year 2001;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the response of the public thereto;
- (d) the number of post offices at present where these facilities are available and increase/decrease in such services, State-wise; and
- (e) the total earnings made by Indian post offices after the introduction of these services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In the year 2001, the Government has introduced a series of new financial services from the Post Offices such as International Money Transfer Service, Distribution of Mutual Fund and Bonds and Electronic Funds Transfer.

(c) The member of the public have enthusiastically availed of the new financial services from the Post Offices.

(d) These services available from Post Offices across the country have shown growth in the States. The number of the Post Offices Offering these services state wise is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) The Post Offices have earned more than Rs. 3 crores after the introduction of these schemes.

Statement

State	No. of Post Offices
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	375
Arunachal Pradesh	03
Assam	24
Bihar	13
Chhattisgarh	20
Delhi	158
Goa	125
Gujarat	347
Haryana	56

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	43
Jammu & Kashmir	18
Jharkhand	24
Karnataka	348
Kerala	399
Madhya Pradesh	147
Maharashtra	481
Manipur	02
Meghalaya	04
Mizoram	03
Nagaland	03
Orissa	21
Punjab	85
Rajasthan	172
Sikkim	02
Tamil Nadu	534
Tripura	05
Uttar Pradesh	540
Uttaranchal	25
West Bengal	255
Total	4232

Workshop of Female Foeticide

1322. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two day workshop was organized by the Centre for Advisory and Research to focus on India's alarming record on female foeticide;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the steps proposed to further strengthen the enforcement of the provisions of the recently amended pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994;

(c) whether the Centre had directed all the State

Governments to send quarterly report on the strict enforcement of the Act; and

(d) if so, the manner and extent to which the provisions of the Act have helped in eradicating the menace of the sex detection tests of the child?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Regional workshops have been held at Bangalore, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Pune, Nagpur and Hyderabad to sensitise the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 regarding the problems related to female foeticide and legal aspects of the Act, and to initiate communication between the Appropriate Authorities and the service providers, law enforcing agencies and general public.

In addition, a two day workshop was organised by the Centre For Advocacy and Research on 30th and 31st January, 2003 at New Delhi in which journalists from leading newspaper and other media persons, NGOs, social activists, Government officials and international organization/medical associations etc. participated. In the workshop, the participants were sensitized on the condition of the girl child, the influence of deciding sex ratio in various States in India, the necessity for implementation of the law for curbing the practice of female foeticide.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per the directions of the Supreme Court all the States and Union Territories have been advised to send quarterly reports on the progress of implementation of the Act indicating, inter-alia, information on the action taken to create public awareness; survey of clinics including search and seizure of records; action taken against persons violating the provisions of the Act, etc.

(d) According to reports received from various States/UTs, so far 360 cases have been filed in the Court/Police and 230 machines seized and sealed for violation of various provisions of the Act.

Modernisation of Medical Colleges

1323. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to provide assistance to the State Governments for the modernization of the medical colleges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides financial assistance to a maximum of Rs. 1.50 crores to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the 'Pilot Project for providing financial assistance to the selected Government Medical Colleges for strengthening of diagnostic facilities'.

[Translation]

Mal-Functioning of Telephone Exchanges

1324. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Exchanges under Thekama and Lalganj in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh are not functioning properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the guidelines being issued by the Government for improving condition of exchanges and providing good quality service to the subscribers especially in Thekama and Lalganj exchanges in Azamgarh district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. Telephone exchanges at Thekama and Lalganj in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh are functioning properly.

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

(c) Maintenance schedules are issued from time to time by BSNL HQ for keeping the exchanges in good working condition and to provide good quality of service to the subscribers.

[English]

Teleconsultation Centre at Kozhikode

1325. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for linking Primary Health Centres/Community Health Centres and Secondary Level Hospitals with the Teleconsultation Centre at Medical College, Kozhikode;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala has sent a proposal for introduction of Telemedicine in Malabar Area with Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode as Tele Referral Centre. As per the State Government, the project would cost Rs.58.00 lakh with a recurring expenditure of Rs.5.00 lakhs per annum.

Overcharging of Rent

1326. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Department is over charging rent from the subscribers in rural areas of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. The Department of Telecom is no longer a Service Provider of Telecom Services in the country. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), as a Public Sector Unit, is now providing telecom services in Maharashtra except in Mumbai (Metro), where Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) provides telecom services. The rent charged by BSNL from the rural subscribers of Maharashtra Circle, except Mumbai, is as per the tariff applied to rural areas in the rest of the country, within the ceilings set by TRAI. In case of Mumbai, under the jurisdiction of MTNL, there is no rural area.

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

India's Role in Peace Talks

1327. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has approached India to mediate between the former and Maoists for the proposed peace talks;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government have agreed to initiate the said peace talks;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when these talks are likely to start?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Government is aware of ongoing contacts between representatives of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Maoists. There is, however, no formal announcement of the schedule of the proposed peace talks.

Bill for HIV/AIDS Patients

1328. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of indifferent attitude of some Hospitals towards patients suffering from AIDS;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring in a legislation to penalize doctors who refuse to treat those, infected with HIV/AIDS;

(c) whether Delhi has about 30,000 HIV positive people;

(d) if so, whether the Government have drafted such a legislation in conformity to World Health Organisation ethical guidelines for HIV/AIDS patients; and

(e) by when such a legislation is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the Government has initiated intensive advocacy sensitisation and training programmes for the medical and paramedical staff so that people living with HIV/AIDS are not discriminated, stigmatised or denied services.

(b) No, Sir. The Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, duly notified and published on 6.4.2002 clearly states that no physician shall arbitrarily refuse treatment to a patient. The Medical Council of India can impose punishment on medical professionals who violate these Regulations.

(c) The number of HIV infections in Delhi is estimated to be 29,002 in the year 2001.

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

BPL Families

1329. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN:

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in most States the total number of BPL families identified by the Planning Commission are less as compared to the number of families estimated by the State Governments;

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

(c) the reasons for the difference in estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The comparable estimates of the number of BPL families estimated by the Planning Commission and BPL families identified by the State Governments are not available. The Planning Commission estimates poverty for the years for which NSS data on household consumer expenditure from the large surveys is available and the latest such data is available for the year 1999-2000 (55th Round). The State Governments estimate BPL families at the beginning of the Five Year Plans. Latest BPL estimates made by the State Governments are available for the year 1997. Moreover, Planning Commission estimates poverty on individual basis whereas State Governments' estimation is made on household basis.

(b) The state wise estimates of percentage of persons living below poverty line as calculated by the Planning Commission for the year 1999-2000 and the percentage of families identified to be living below poverty line by the State Governments for the year 1997 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Statement**State-Wise Percentage of Families/Persons
Below Poverty Line in Rural Areas**

S.No.	State/U.T.'s	State Govt. Estimates* 1997 (Families)	Plan. Com. Estimates 1999-2000 (Persons)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39.91	11.05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	78.39	40.04
3.	Assam	60.00	40.04
4.	Bihar	49.64	44.30
5.	Goa	17.01	1.35
6.	Gujarat	35.45	13.17
7.	Haryana	24.25	8.27
8.	Himachal Pradesh	27.59	7.94
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	57.92	3.97
10.	Karnataka	33.99	17.38
11.	Kerala	36.56	9.38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	43.87	37.06
13.	Maharashtra	35.07	23.72
14.	Manipur	67.54	40.04
15.	Meghalaya	55.48	40.04
16.	Mizoram	67.07	40.04
17.	Nagaland	60.39	40.04
18.	Orissa	65.47	48.01
19.	Punjab	27.90	6.35
20.	Rajasthan	30.99	13.74
21.	Sikkim	-	40.04
22.	Tamil Nadu	29.16	20.55
23.	Tripura	66.81	40.04

1	2	3	4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	36.91	31.22
25.	West Bengal	44.40	31.85
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	21.25	20.55
27.	Chandigarh	-	5.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65.67	17.57
29.	Daman & Diu	3.68	1.35
30.	Delhi	-	0.40
31.	Lakshadweep	10.26	9.38
32.	Pondicherry	47.37	20.55
All India		41.05	27.09

* - Source is Ministry of Rural Development

[Translation]

Disinvestment of Fertilizers PSUs

1330. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to privatise some fertilizer plants in the country;

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

(c) whether it has been decided to sell 51 per cent shares of the National Fertilizer Limited;

(d) if so, whether the NFL has been evaluated by any institute for the above sale;

(e) if so, the amount spent on this evaluation;

(f) the institute which made the evaluation and when; and

(g) the arrangement made to safeguard the interests of the serving employees after the disinvestment in the National Fertilizer Limited?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) in the Fertilizer sector, which have been identified for disinvestment by the Disinvestment Commission, are (i) Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL); (ii) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL); (iii) Fertilisers & Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT); (iv) Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL); and (v) Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF).

(b) Disinvestment in CPSUs is being undertaken as per the declared policy of the Government to bring down its equity in non-strategic CPSUs to 26% or below in generality of cases. The non-strategic CPSUs are those, which are not

in the areas of arms & ammunitions and allied items of defence equipment, defence air crafts and warships, atomic energy (except in the areas related to the generation of nuclear power and applications of radiations and radio-isotopes to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industries) and railway transport. This policy is applicable to profit-making as well as loss-making CPSUs. In accordance with the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, the Government has decided to disinvest its equity in the above-mentioned CPSUs as they operate in the non-strategic sector. Disinvestment in PPL has been completed during the year 2001-02. Disinvestment process in respect of NFL and FACT is in progress; process in respect of MFL is in the initial stage and for RCF, the process is yet to commence. The disinvestment structure in these PSUs is as under:-

S. No.	Name of PSU	GOI equity	Disinvestment structure
1	Paradeep Phosphates Limited	100% (before disinvestment)	Strategic sale - 74% (already disinvested)
2	National Fertilizers Limited	97.64%	Strategic sale - 51 % Offer to Employees at concessional rate - 2%
3	Fertilisers & Chemicals Travancore Limited	97.38%	Strategic sale - 51 % Offer to Employees at concessional rate - 2%
4	Madras Fertilizers Limited	59.50%	To bring down Govt. equity to 26% through strategic sale.
5	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited	92.50%	(Proposed) Strategic sale - 51 % Offer to Employees at concessional rate - 2%

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Business valuation of NFL has not yet been carried out. The exercise would be undertaken by the transaction Advisors viz., M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd. at appropriate time and would be submitted to the Government at the time of receiving financial bids. For the purpose of disinvestment in any Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU), its business valuation on going-concern basis is done in accordance with the 4 prescribed valuation methodologies, i.e., Discounted Cash Flow method, Balance Sheet method, Transaction Multiple method and Asset Valuation method for arriving at a range of valuation figures in order to determine the indicative benchmark or reserve price. The asset valuation is done by an independent Asset

Valuer appointed by the Government. The transaction Advisors undertake the business valuation exercise with further improvements in the value arrived under DCF and Asset Valuation methods as per approved guidelines.

(g) The process of finalising the Shareholders Agreement to be executed with the prospective Strategic Partner is on. Provisions for adequately protecting the interest of employees would be kept in the Agreement.

[English]

Scientific Breakthrough by Scientists of SINP, Kolkata

1331. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scientists of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata achieved a 99.995 per cent concentration of Helium;

(b) if so, whether this breakthrough is likely to benefit the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this breakthrough is going to boost cryo-technology in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The scientists of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP) have achieved 99.995 vol % purity of helium from thermal spring gas containing 1.4 vol% helium. This would help the development of cryo-technology in the country. However, the available source of helium bearing raw gases from thermal springs is limited and cannot meet the national demand.

[Translation]

CBI Raids in AIIMS

1332. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any raids have been conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the Eye Centre of the AIIMS recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of Doctors, Nurses and Lab Officials found guilty in the raid; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) On 10.12.2002 a team from CBI visited the Flourescein Angiography Lab in the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS and searched the premises and also interviewed the staff posted in Flourescein Angiography Lab. Action will be taken by the

Government after receipt of report from the CBI and on the recommendations made thereon in this regard. The Chief, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences has also constituted a committee to enquire into the issue.

[English]

Number of Public Telephone Booths

1333. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public Telephone Booths functioning in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether most of these Booths remain out of order;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make them functional;

(d) the number of Public Telephone Booths closed during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Mumbai and the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when these Public Telephone Booths are likely to be reopened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Total number of Public Telephone Booths functioning in the country as on 31.12.2002 is 12,97,188. Details are given in statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Most of the Public Telephone Booths are functioning properly. As and when fault complaints are received, these are attended to on priority.

(d) 69,667 Public Telephone Booths in the country and 5,211 in Mumbai were closed during the last three years. Details are given in the statement. These Booths were closed on account of subscriber request, non-payment of bills and misuse by the franchisees.

(e) Public Telephone Booths closed due to non-payment of bills can be re-opened after payment of outstanding dues and completion of necessary formalities by the franchisees. Public Telephone Booths closed due to misuse can be considered for restoration by the competent authority after receipt of representations from the concerned franchisees on the merit of each case.

Statement			
Sl. No.	Name of Circle/ District	Number of Public Telephone Booths functioning as on 31.12.2002	Number of Public Telephone Booths closed during last three years
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	653	18
2	Andhra Pradesh	122852	17957
3.	Assam	13408	251
4.	Bihar	38217	4726
5.	Jharkhand	10513	258
6.	Gujarat	80598	4750
7.	Haryana	24093	1146
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7835	139
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	11362	23
10.	Karnataka	87977	3525
11.	Kerala	55911	1540
12.	Maharashtra	144384	6781
13.	Madhya Pradesh	40085	2838
14.	Chhattisgarh	5501	1391
15.	North-East I	3126	234
16.	North-East II	3602	292
17.	Orissa	21174	838
18.	Punjab	39548	2941
19.	Rajasthan	46816	2649
20.	Tamil Nadu	91212	4552
21.	U.P. (East)	64736	0
22.	U.P. (West)	41700	985
23.	Uttaranchal	8227	87
24.	West Bengal	23464	359
25.	Kolkata Telephones	49618	2969

1	2	3	4
26.	Chennai Telephones	65404	102
27.	MTNL, Delhi*	69244	3105
28.	MTNL, Mumbai*	126128	5211
Total		1297188	69667

* Figures of functioning Public Telephone Booths shown against MTNL Delhi and Mumbai are as 31.1.2003

National Highway Development Project

1334. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway Authority of India has raised over Rs. 4,500 crore from market during this fiscal year to part finance the ambitious National Highway Development Project of Rs. 58,000 crore;

(b) the total amount collected by the NHAI during the current fiscal year as a cess on petrol and diesel to part finance the said project during the current fiscal year;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to enhance the cess on petrol and diesel; 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) During the financial year 2002-2003 (upto January, 2003), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has raised Rs. 5275 crores from market (through issue of capital gain tax exemption bonds under Section 54 EC of Income Tax Act) to part finance the National Highway Development Project (NHDP).

(b) During the financial year 2002-2003 an amount of Rs. 2000 crore has been allocated to NHAI from cess funds to part finance NHDP.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has proposed to levy an additional cess of 30 paise per litre on petrol and diesel for funding of second phase of the NHDP.

Accidents on Highways in Night

1335. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of increasing number of accidents on National Highways in the night;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) This Ministry does not compile data in respect of road accidents on National Highways separately for day and night.

(c) Some of the important measures being taken besides highway design to reduce the road accidents on all roads are as under:

- (1) Provision of refresher training to drivers of heavy motor vehicles.
- (2) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (3) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.
- (4) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.
- (5) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/ individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (6) Organising All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.
- (7) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.
- (8) Widening/ improvement of roads. etc.

[Translation]

Eradication of Leprosy

1336. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of leprosy patients in the country at present;

(b) whether the number of leprosy patients has increased in the country during the last two years;

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

(d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to control this disease in the country; and

(e) the extent to which the Government have achieved success in eradicating it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The number of leprosy patients on record in the country, as per reports received from the States/ UTs, till the end of December, 2002 is 3.41 lakh.

(b) No, Sir. In fact there has been a declining trend in so far as the total number of leprosy patients are concerned.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(d) The Government of India is implementing the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) to check the disease in the country. NLEP is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme with the objectives of achieving the elimination of Leprosy i.e. prevalence of less than 1 case per 10,000 population at National level by the year 2004-05.

The details of the programme are:

- (i) Decentralization and institutional development under which State Leprosy Societies have been formed in 27 major States and District Leprosy Societies in all the districts in the country.
- (ii) Integration of leprosy services with General Health Care.
- (iii) Two rounds of Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaigns (MLEC) for case detection throughout the country during 2001-02 and 2002-03.
- (iv) Early Leprosy Case Detection and Free Multi Drug Therapy to all patients through all Government Primary Health Centres, dispensaries and Hospitals in the country.
- (v) Special Action Projects for Elimination of Leprosy (SAPEL) and Leprosy Elimination Campaign (LEC) for difficult / inaccessible/under served rural and urban areas, respectively.
- (vi) Intensified Public Awareness Campaigns.
- (vii) Training of Health Staff in disability prevention and care.
- (viii) Training of General Health Care Staff in leprosy.

(e) The National Leprosy Eradication Programme has been successful in reducing the prevalence of leprosy from 57.6 cases per 10,000 population in 1981 to only 4.2 cases per 10,000 population by March, 2002. 12 States and UTs have already achieved elimination of leprosy whereas 6 more States and UTs are close to achieve elimination. Since the introduction of Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) in 1983, India

has cured 10.08 million leprosy patients by March, 2002. There is further decline of leprosy situation in the country and as per reports received till December, 2002, the prevalence rate of leprosy is only 3.2 cases per 10,000 population.

[English]

Assistance Grants for Diseases

1337. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance/grants provided to Karnataka for the eradication of AIDS, Blindness and Leprosy diseases during the last three years and the current year;

- (b) the funds utilized so far;
- (c) the reasons for under-utilisation, if any; and
- (d) the directions issued by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached.

(c) and (d) In view of the allocated amounts and utilization thereof it was not considered to necessary to issue directions by the Union Government in this regard.

Statement

Assistance/Grants for Diseases

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	AIDS		Blindness		Leprosy	
	Funds Released	Utilization Reported	Funds Released	Utilization Reported	Funds Released	Utilization Reported
1999-2000	801.67	555.03	352.20	227.51	247.98	172.99
2000-01	398.65	533.57	290.20	330.84	302.75	300.73
2001-02	893.15	783.35	309.20	348.98	196.05	286.74
Total	2093.47	1871.95	951.60	907.33	746.78	760.46
2002-03	700.00 (As on date)	489.95 (Up to December 02)	217.45 (As on date)	108.12 (Up to December 02)	113.36 (As on date)	66.93 (Up to December 02)

Potentiality of Communication Industry

1338. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any rules and regulations for the private telecommunication companies with regard to the tariff and rental for landline and mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the potentiality of communication industry and the merits and demerits of having private telecommunication companies in the business; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been established to regulate the telecommunication services and to protect the interests of service providers as well as consumers of the telecom sector so as to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Further, TRAI prescribes rates for telecommunication services including different rates for different persons or class of persons for similar telecommunication services while ensuring transparency in exercising its powers. As per T.R.A.I.

Act, the Government seeks the recommendations of T.R.A.I. for need and timing for introduction of new service providers.

By Pass on NH-60

1339. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NH-60 has some weak culverts and bridges on the way from Bankura to Mejia in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether any bridge between Gobindadham and Amarkanjan is likely to be constructed;

(c) if so, the time schedule thereof;

(d) whether any by pass on NH-60 in the area of Gangajalghati is proposed to be constructed; and

(e) if not, the manner in which the widening of the road through Gangajalghati Bazar area is proposed to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) NH-60 is a new National Highway declared in 1999. This National Highway has weak culverts and bridges. A feasibility study to identify the requirement of improvements on this National Highway has been sanctioned during the current year. Rehabilitation and construction of the bridges including those between Gobindadham and Amarkanjan would be considered based on the outcome of the feasibility study depending on the availability of resources, traffic needs and inter-se priorities.

(c) It is too early to indicate the time schedule.

(d) and (e) At present no bypass in the area of Gangajalghati on NH-60 is proposed to be constructed. The manner of widening the road through Gangajalghati Bazar area would be finalized based on the outcome of the feasibility study presently in progress.

Mobile Telephone Service in Rural Areas

1340. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether mobile-telephone service has not been launched in rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some private operators create legal hurdles in the matter of starting of Government mobile service;

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

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to resolve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, as per the terms and conditions of the Licence for cellular Mobile telephone Service (CMTS), an operator is required to cover 90% of the Metro city Service Areas within one year and in other telecom circles 10% of district Headquarters within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/town to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% district Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of rural areas. However, the government operator, namely, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), who have been granted CMTS Licences covering whole of the country except for Delhi and Mumbai Metro City Service areas, envisages to cover the National Highways which will provide incidental limited coverage benefits to the rural areas falling enroute.

(c) At present, there is no legal hurdle in starting CMTS by the Government operators.

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

[Translation]

Declaration of National Highways

1341. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare more roads as national highways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to funds constraint. The Government may, however, consider declaration of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highway during the course of the Tenth Five Year Plan, keeping in view

the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

Shifting of CGM Office to Aligarh

1342. SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift the office of the Chief General Manager, Telephone Department, Western Uttar Pradesh to Aligarh;

(b) if so, the time by which the said office will be shifted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(c) It has already been decided to shift the office of the Chief General Manager, Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle to Meerut.

Express Highway Between Haryana and Delhi

1343. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposal for the construction of express highway between Haryana and Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) A proposal for constructing a Western Peripheral Expressway, a part of which passed through Haryana, was under consideration of National Capital Region Planning Board. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its interim order dated 06.12.2001 banned all goods vehicles from entering Delhi except for those whose destination is Delhi. Further, in its order dated 15.07.2002, the Hon'ble Supreme Court ordered that there can be no corridor or bypass joining different National Highways through Delhi, and that the corridor if and when proposed would have to bypass Delhi. Pending final decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the proposal for Western Peripheral Expressway has been dropped.

Meanwhile, the request of Government of Haryana to construct an expressway corridor within Haryana has not been found acceptable because the existing National Highway network along National Highway Nos. 71 and 71-A and the State roads have been found suitable for serving as a bypass.

[English]

Small Scale Industries Development Fund

1344. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Industry have recommended for setting up a Small Scale Industries Development Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the problems faced by small scale industries despite the package announced two years back; and

(d) if not, the action taken or proposed to be taken to protect them?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) The Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested for setting up a Small Industries Development Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 5000 crore for Technology Upgradation, building marketing and infrastructure facilities and extending assistance for rehabilitation of sick units.

(c) and (d) The Small Scale Industries (SSIs) face the problems of inadequate availability and high cost of credit, inadequate infrastructure, marketing bottlenecks, obsolete technology and enhanced competition due to globalisation, W.T.O. & removal of Quantitative Restrictions etc. While development of Small Scale Industries is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments, the Central Government has taken various steps to improve their performance. Apart from the Comprehensive Policy Package announced by the Prime Minister in August, 2000 to enhance the competitiveness of the SSI sector both domestically and globally, other measures for promotion and development of SSI sector include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, enhancing SSI investment ceiling for certain hi-tech export oriented industries, infrastructure development through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications.

Disinvestment of HOCL

1345. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 4.5 crore of DTC Employees Provident Fund is blocked in the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, a Public sector undertaking;

(b) If so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to refund the DTC Employees Provident Fund alongwith the interest before proposed disinvestment of HOCL; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to compensate the DTC employees?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of DTC Employees Provident Fund Trust investment in HOCL are as follows:

Sl. No.	Amount Invested	Due date for repayment of maturity amount
1.	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	14.12.2002
2.	Rs. 2,00,00,000/-	29.06.2002
3.	Rs. 1,50,00,000/-	31.07.2004

(b) and (c) HOCL has not been generating any cash surplus during the last three financial years ending March, 2002. Because of this, long term interest could not be serviced fully. Government has decided to disinvest 32.61 % equity in Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL) through strategic sale. Government has also approved a financial restructuring package for HOCL. The restructuring proposal would be effective only in case HOCL gets disinvested with consequent transfer of management control to the Strategic Partner. The disinvestment and the financial restructuring are expected to improve the financial position and the cash flows of the company.

Bilateral Ties with UK

1346. SHRI. K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have a proposal to establish better bilateral relations with United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard during the current calendar year; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Bilateral relations between India and the UK are already intense and diversified. Regular exchanges of high-level visits, including at the highest political level, have taken place. Cooperation in strengthening economic and commercial relations and building closer defence ties is continuing.

(b) and (c) Government of India is committed to further strengthening these relations based on the parameters of the New Delhi Declaration signed by the Prime Ministers of both countries on 6 January 2002. The Declaration established a roadmap for intensification of bilateral cooperation in counter-terrorism, peace and security, trade and investment, education and science and technology. UK has expressed its support to India's candidature for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council. Cooperation in combating international terrorism has been established through the Joint Working Group on Terrorism. Economic and commercial ties are growing. Cooperation in S&T has been boosted by the setting up of a joint Networking Fund to facilitate collaborative ventures while educational and cultural exchanges also continue.

[Translation]

Reserved Vacancy for SC/ST

1347. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain posts reserved for the candidates belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in different categories in the various departments and undertakings under his Ministry are lying vacant;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in these departments and undertakings have been granted promotions during the last three years and fresh recruitment also been made;

(d) If so, the year-wise and category-wise details in regard to fresh appointments made in various departments and undertakings during the said period and during the current year so far;

(e) whether prescribed rules have been followed

in recruitment and promotion of the candidates belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Changes in Gadgil Formula

1348. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are deliberating over bringing changes in the Gadgil Formula in regard to the distribution of Central assistance to the States;

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

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that the States performing well in tax collection and management of exchequer may not incur any loss as a result of such changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Planning Commission has received proposals from various State Governments to amend the existing Gadgil-Mukherjee formula for allocating Normal Central Assistance to State Plans. There is wide divergence in the views amongst the States in this regard. In general, while the advanced States have sought higher weightage for Performance, the less advanced States have sought higher weightage for Backwardness. This issue was considered in a meeting of the Full Planning Commission held on 27th & 29th June, 2001. Since revision in the Formula requires the approval of National Development Council (NDC), it was decided that given the difference of opinion among the State Governments and the sensitivity of this issue, it was necessary to discuss this further and evolve a consensus before alternatives are considered by the NDC.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Grants to NGOs

1349. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes under his Ministry for which grants are given to NGOs;

(b) the number of proposals received in this regard NGOs from Orissa during the last three years and current year; and

(c) the names of the NGOs out of these whose proposals were considered and accepted till now?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Grants are given to NGOs under the following Schemes of the Ministry:

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	No. of proposals received from NGOs from Orissa during the last three years and current year
1.	Promotion of National Integration	201
2.	Promotion of Youth Activities and Training	376
3.	Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure	01

(c) Proposals of the following NGOs have been approved out of the above till date:

(1) Promotion of National Integration

S. No.	Name of the Organisation	Name of the District
1	2	3
1.	Maa Kameswari Club	Puri
2.	People's Rural Organisation for Community Environment & Education Development	Mayurbhanj
3.	Arichalika Gramya Unnayana Parisad	Kendrapara
4.	Digadarshan	Dhenkanal

1	2	3
5.	National Institute of Social Research for Utkal Rural Tribals	Dhenkanal
6.	Development Initiative	Jharsuguda
7.	Pragati Voluntary Organisation	Puri
8.	Society for Integrated Human Development	Angul
9.	R.K. Mission	Kalahandi
10.	Ramkrishna Ashrama	Kalahandi
11.	Ramakrishna Ashrama	Angul
12.	R. K. Mission	Bhubaneswar
13.	All Orissa Research Institute for Development of Movement	Angul
14.	National Youth Integrated Centre	Puri
15.	Thanapally Millit Jubak Sangha	Khurda
16.	Societ for Universal Rural Technology Implementation	Cuttack
17.	Manab Seva Sadan	Dhenkanal
18.	Sri Sri Jadimahal Youth Club	Balasore
19.	Utkal Yuva Sanskrutik Sangha	Cuttack
20.	Sri Ramakrishna Seva Ashrama	Khurda
21.	Bharat Jyoti	Cuttack
22.	National Mahila Institute	Dhenkanal
23.	Mahila Vikas Samiti	Cuttack
24.	Jan Seva Sanstha	Kendrapara
25.	Kalyana	Jagatsinghpur

(2) Promotion of Youth Activities and Training "

1.	Utkal Vikas Kendra	Mayurbhanj
2.	Jaggannath Gems Association	Cuttack
3.	Social Welfare Org. & Research Group	Bhubaneswar
4.	Rovin Club	Dhenkanal

1	2	3
5.	Area Elite Society	Ganjam
6.	Maa Kameshwari Club	Puri
7.	Govinda Pradhan Samiti Sansad	Ganjam
8.	Ratnakar Rural & Urban Vikas Institute	Dhenkanal
9.	Kisan Club	Cuttack
10.	Basudev Pathagar	Cuttack
11.	Natural Instt. for Social Welfare	Jajpur
12.	Bhubaneswar Gandhi Pitha Social Organisation	Bhubaneswar
13.	National Instt. for Rural Development	Dhenkanal
14.	Regional Development Centre	Puri
15.	Bharat Jyoti	Cuttack
16.	Social Organisation for Voluntary Action	Dhenkanal
17.	Uday Bhanu Club	Dhenkanal
18.	Palli Bikash Samiti	Dhenkanal
19.	Gandhi Sansthan	Angul
20.	Better Institute for Rural Development & Action	Dhenkanal
21.	Upkar	Ganjam
22.	Jenamani Youth Club	Cuttack
23.	Voluntary Organisation for Rural Improvement	Keonjhar
24.	Research Academy for Rural Enrichment	Sonepur
25.	Rural Development & Social Service	Cuttack
26.	Adivasi Harijan Integrated Mass Social Agency	Kandhmahal
27.	WORLD	Dhenkanal

1	2	3
28.	Naba Jyoti Jubak Sangha	Khurda
29.	Jiban Bikash	Khurda
30.	SAPATH	Khurda
31.	Samanwita Gramya Unnayan Samiti	Kandhmahal
32.	Sishuraja Club	Dhenkanal
33.	ASHA	Dhenkanal
34.	Swaraj Bharti	Dhenkanal
35.	Vishwa Chetna	Dhenkanal
36.	Social Action for Rural Community	Sambalpur
37.	Subhadra Womens' Welfare Development	Khurda
38.	Udaynath Pathagara	Koraput
39.	Uma Mahesh Club	Khurda
40.	Utkaliya Ahimsa Manch	Cuttack
41.	Gandhi Yuvak Sangha	Mayurbhanj
42.	Shaheed Yuva Sangha	Khurda
43.	Bhairabi Club	Khurda
44.	Narayani Mahila Mandal	Khurda
45.	National Organisation for Mass Services	Cuttack
46.	VASUDHA Instt. for Development, Works, Training & Rehabilitation	Bhubaneswar
47.	New Light	Khurda
48.	Adarsh Shishu Mandir	Sambalpur
49.	Bose Scientific Technological, Socio-cultural Organisation	Puri
50.	Perpetual Reconstructive Instt. for Youth Activities (PRIYA)	Bhubaneswar
51.	RUPAYAN Society	Cuttack
52.	Village Poor Development Organisation	Kendrapara
53.	Nageshwari Foundation	Khurda

1	2	3
54.	Chachakhai Yubak Sangha	Jagatsinghpur
55.	Dist. Harijan Adivasi Dev. Organisation	Dhenkanal
56.	Jana Vikash	Puri
57.	Mother Teresa Sewa Pratisthan	Khurda
58.	Human Development Centre	Bhubaneswar
59.	Mukti	Dhenkanal
60.	VARSA (People Action Cell)	Khurda
61.	Voluntary Organisation for Integrated Development	Ganjam
62.	Jana Kalyan Club	Jagatsinghpur
63.	Bal Jagruti Association	Bhubaneswar
64.	Jana Bikash Parishad	Ganjam
65.	Society for Women Youth & Children	Khurda
66.	SOUPTRA	Cuttack
67.	Resource Development Centre	Nuapada
68.	AGRAGAMI	Rayagada
69.	Thanapally Millita Jubak Sangha	Khurda
<i>(3) Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure</i>		
Nil		

Release of Bangladeshi Leaders

1350. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangladesh Foreign Minister visited India recently and demanded that leaders of Awami League who were arrested by Kolkata Police be handed to them;

(b) If so, whether Bangladesh Minister bypassed the Union Government and took up the matter directly with the State Government;

(c) whether this attitude of Bangladesh Minister has irked the Government and;

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

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Disinvestment of PSUs

1351. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of PSUs which were disinvested during the last three years;

(b) the total revenue collected by the Government by way of disinvestment of these PSUs; and

(c) the number of PSUs proposed to be disinvested during the year 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Disinvestment is in progress in 45 public sector undertakings in respect of which disinvestment decision has been taken. Disinvestment is a continuous process which is dependent on a number of market related external factors which may cause delay. It is not possible to exactly identify which PSU will be disinvested in the next year.

Statement

*Amount realised through disinvestment during
1999-2000 to 2002-2003*

Name of PSUs	Proceeds realised (Rs. in crore)
1	2
Disinvestment proceeds realised during 1999-2000	
1. Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. - Strategic sale	105.45
2. BALCO Financial Restructuring	244.42
Total	349.87

1	2
Disinvestment proceeds realised during 2000-01	
1. Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO)	551.50
2. Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL)	148.80
3. Madras Refineries Ltd.(Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.)	509.33
4. Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL)	659.10
Total	1868.73

Disinvestment proceeds realised during 2001-02

1. HTL Ltd.	55.00
2. CMC Ltd.	152.00
3. India Tourism Development Corporation	
(i) Ashok Bangalore	39.41 @
(ii) Bodhgaya Ashok	1.81
(iii) Hassan Ashok	2.27
(iv) Madurai Ashok	4.97
(v) TBABR, Mamallapuram	6.13
(vi) Agra Ashok	3.61
(vii) Laxmi Vilas Palace, Udaipur	6.77
(viii) Qutub Hotel, New Delhi	34.46
(ix) Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	71.93
Sub-total	171.36

4. Hotel Corporation of India	
(i) Juhu, Mumbai	153.00
(ii) Rajgir	6.51
Sub-total	159.51*
5. IBP Ltd.	1,153.68
6. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	3,689.00**
7. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	40.00#

1	2
8. Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	60.00#
9. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	151.70
Total	5,632.25

Disinvestment proceeds realised during 2002-2003

1. Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	445.00
2. Maruti Udyog Nigam Ltd.	1000.00
3. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL)	1491.00
4. Hotel Corporation of India (HCL)	
(i) Centaur Hotel Airport, Mumbai	83.00
5. ITDC Hotels	
(i) Airport Ashok, Kovalam	40.39
(ii) Manali	3.65
iii) Khajuraho	2.19
(iv) Varanasi	8.38
(v) Aurangabad	16.50
(vi) Kanishka	92.37
(vii) Inderprastha	43.39
(viii) Chandigarh Project	17.27
(ix) Ranjit	29.28
(x) Airport Kolkata	19.39
6. Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. (residual share)	44.07
7. Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (Disinvestment of shares in favour of employees)	6.18
Total	3,342.06

* Proceeds to go to Air India

** Includes dividend of Rs 755 crore and special interim dividend and dividend tax of Rs. 1,495 crore.

Transfer of cash reserves

@ Inclusive of Minimum Guaranteed Annual Payment (MGAP), Security Deposit and Business Transfer Consideration etc.

Grants to Non-Government Cancer Hospitals

1352. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide one-time grants to various cancer hospitals in the Non-Government Sector in the country;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these hospitals do not violate the terms and conditions laid down for them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme one time grant-in-aid of Rs.1.00 crore is provided to the Non-Governmental Organisations for setting up of a Cobalt Therapy Unit. This grant-in-aid is released to the Charitable Organisations/Trusts which have undertaken cancer related activities for at least two years in the past. Applications with specific recommendations of the State Governments are considered by the Standing Committee on Development of Radiotherapy Programme headed by the Director General of Health Services. At the Time of release of grant-in-aid the concerned State Governments are requested to monitor and evaluate the functioning of the grantee institutions. The grantee institutions are also required to undertake to include representative of the Regional Cancer Centre and State Government in their Managing Committee.

Target Fixed for Disinvestment

1353. SHRI Y.V. RAO:

SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed, financial and fiscal for disinvestment during the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) the actual accruals;

(c) whether there is a wide gap between target and actual disinvestment;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to bridge the said gap;

(e) the number of companies expected to complete

the process of disinvestment during the next financial year i.e. 2003-2004; and

(f) the reasons for not completing the process in respect of other companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The target and the amount realised through disinvestment during the last three years and the current year are as follows:-

Year	Target	Amount Realised
(Rs. in crore)		
1999-2000	10,000	1,829.14
2000-2001	10,000	1,868.73
2001-2002	12,000	5,632.25 #
2002-2003	12,000	3,342.06

Inclusive of dividend, special dividend, dividend-tax, transfer from surplus cash reserves and lease rent etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Implementation of the disinvestment programme depends on a variety of factors including market conditions, industry wise business cycle fluctuations, interest of the prospective bidders, the adequacy of the price bid etc. Moreover Government does not sell its equity holding in distress. In cases where the value of land and buildings is significant, often the delay occurs because the property rights are unclear and legally establishing these property rights takes time, though it is necessary to do so to maximize the realisable value. In view of these factors, it has not been possible to meet the annual targets.

Government has taken a number of steps to realise the annual targets. Disinvestment procedures are continuously revised and standardized to reduce delays. Inter-Ministerial decision making has been formalised. A large shelf of potentially disinvestable case has been developed and action is being taken to complete the disinvestment in those cases.

(e) and (f) Disinvestment is a continuous process which is dependent on a number of market related external factors, which can cause delay. It is not, therefore, possible to exactly identify which PSUs will be disinvested in a particular year. Currently there are 45 cases in which disinvestment decision has been taken and disinvestment is in progress.

Impact of MNCs on SSI

1354. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the impact of MNCs on the Small Scale Industries sector in the recent years;

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

(c) the steps taken to protect domestic SSI units from the competition of MNCs?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) In accordance with the Industries (Development and Regulation), Act, 1951, non-Small Scale Industry (SSI), which include MNCs, can manufacture an item reserved for the SSI Sector until and unless it undertakes to export a minimum of 50% of its production. In addition, Government have put in place a series of measures to strengthen the SSIs to enhance their competitiveness, both domestically and globally, which inter-alia include easier access to credit, marketing support, improved infrastructure and support for technological upgradation.

Identification of National Highways

1355. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent proposals for identification of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have requested the State for sending the proposals again; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) All the proposals for conversion of State Highways into National Highways were returned to the respective State Governments including Andhra Pradesh for review as these proposals were to be based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways.

*[Translation]***Ayurvedic Colleges**

1356. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Ayurvedic Colleges in the country at present State-wise;

(b) the number of proposals of the State Governments pending with the Union Government for opening of such colleges in the country, State-wise; and

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) List of Ayurvedic Colleges is enclosed as statement.

(b) No such proposal is pending from any State Government.

(c) Question does not arise.

Statement*State-wise list of Ayurvedic Colleges*

S.No.	State	College
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	04
2	Assam	01
3	Bihar	11
4	Chhattisgarh	01
5	Chandigarh	01
6	Delhi	01
7	Goa	01
8	Gujarat	10
9	Haryana	06
10	Himachal Pradesh	01
11	Jammu & Kashmir	01

1	2	3
12	Jharkhand	01
13	Karnataka	46
14	Kerala	10
15	Madhya Pradesh	14
16	Maharashtra	59
17	Orissa	06
18	Punjab	11
19	Rajasthan	04
20	Tamil Nadu	06
21	Uttar Pradesh	12
22	Uttaranchal	03
23	West Bengal	03
Total		213

*[English]***Development of Dai Kits**

1357. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Department has developed an irradiated 'Dai Kit';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said kit has brought down infant mortality rates as reported by certain NGOs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to promote use of 'Dai Kit' in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology, a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy has developed "sterilized Dai Kits". The kits found wide

acceptance in the Northern States. Attempts have been made to popularise the use of such kits in the Southern States of the country.

(c) and (d) M/s Tribhuvandas Foundation, Anand, Gujarat, a voluntary NGO has acknowledged the benefits of such kits in the rural areas, as child birth procedures are much more hygienically conducted with these kits. They have now taken up the preparation and distribution of such kits in the rural areas of the State. Similarly, M/s Anna Purna Mahila Mandal, an NGO in Maharashtra State has also initiated action in this direction. The Department has been helping in radiation sterilization of the kits before distribution for the past five years, during which about 2 million kits have been brought by manufacturers for sterilization for supply to Government for further distribution.

Blood Donation

1358. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to put in place a mechanism whereby people donating blood are informed in case their sample is found to be HIV positive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to change the management of the State Blood Transfusion Councils; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Blood Policy adopted by the Government in April, 2002 envisages that the HIV status of such blood donors who want to know their result should be revealed by referring them to the linked Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centers for confirming their HIV status and accompanied by pre and post donation counselling.

Specific linkages between blood banks and voluntary counselling and testing centres are being identified and strengthened by the state blood transfusion councils in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) The Action Plan to operationalise the National Blood Policy places the responsibility on State Blood Transfusion Councils to implement it in their respective States.

The State Blood Transfusion Council will develop distinct

identities to become an autonomous body drawing members from the government, blood transfusion services, clinical doctors, Red Cross, NGO representatives and donor organisers.

The Directors of Health Services in the state shall be active members of the State Blood Transfusion Council. The resources and infrastructure available to the State Directors of Health Services will smoothen both technical and administrative impediments in the functioning of the State Blood Transfusion Councils.

The State Blood Transfusion Councils will develop their own state specific action plans within the overall ambit of the National Action Plan to provide integrated and coordinated management to the blood transfusion services within their respective State/UTs with active participation of all stakeholders.

Foreign Investment in Health Sector

1359. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have pointed out that the Government should focus on accountability and quality in health sector;

(b) if so, whether many of the NRIs and PIOs have welcomed the Government's decision to allow foreign equity upto 51 per cent in the hospital sector;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase this to 100 per cent subject to approval by the foreign investment promotion board; and

(d) if so, the present status of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Foreign Direct Investment upto 100 per cent in Hospital Sector is already permissible under the automatic route.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance to Private Health Centres in Bihar

1360. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sought assistance from World Bank for setting up of Primary Health Centres in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have forwarded this proposal to the World Bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) We have not received any project proposal from the Government of Bihar so far.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Curtailment of New Recruitment

1361. PFOF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of BSNL to reduce costs of operations by curtailing new recruitment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of any VRS or other schemes being offered to curtail the work force; and

(d) the steps the BSNL proposes to take to reduce costs of operations?

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

(b) Not applicable, in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Continuous efforts are made for optimum utilisation of resources. For example, Technological upgradation, Staffing pattern review with changing operational needs and Skill enhancement through cadre restructuring etc.

Youth Development Centres

1362. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched a scheme for setting up youth development centres in the various States;

(b) if so, the number of such centres set up so far, State-wise; and

(c) the details of expenditure incurred on the same?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, 1513 YDCs have been set up. A State-wise list is placed in the statement enclosed.

(c) An amount of Rs. 4,53,90,000/- has been incurred on setting up of 1513 Youth Development Centre @ of Rs. 30,000/- per Youth Development Centre as one time grant only.

Statement

State-wise list of Youth Development Centres

S. No.	State/UT	No. of YDCs Set up
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	91
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
4.	Assam	205
5.	Bihar	32
6.	Chandigarh	-
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Daman & Diu	-
9.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-
10.	Goa	-
11.	Gujarat	18
12.	Haryana	39
13.	Himachal Pradesh	45
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	11
15.	Karnataka	84

1	2	3
16.	Kerala	161
17.	Lakshadweep	-
18.	Madhya Pradesh	79
19.	Maharashtra	158
20.	Manipur	76
21.	Meghalaya	7
22.	Mizoram	-
23.	Nagaland	5
24.	Orissa	91
25.	Punjab	5
26.	Pondicherry	11
27.	Rajasthan	29
28.	Sikkim	2
29.	Tamil Nadu	118
30.	Tripura	13
31.	Uttar Pradesh	86
32.	West Bengal	146
Total		1513

Establishment of Institute of Japanese Studies

1363. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of Karnataka Government to establish an Institute of Japanese Studies to teach Japanese language to the Indian Software Designers is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, whether Karnataka Government is ready to provide land free of cost and provide all other facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the institute is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka had suggested to the Government of India that Japanese assistance may be sought for setting up of an Institute of Japanese Studies at Bangalore, as it would go a long way in getting the Indian IT industry to target Japan as a long term export destination and for this purpose, necessary infrastructural facilities would be made available by the State Government. However, there has been no response from Japanese Government to give any assistance in setting up an Institute of Japanese studies in Bangalore.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Infant Mortality Rate Control Programme

1364. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched any programme to check infant mortality rate in the country with the cooperation of UNICEF;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the States where the said programme is proposed to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Border District Cluster Strategy is being implemented by the Government of India- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, State Governments and UNICEF in 51 districts of the country. This programme is a major initiative to address the problem of Infant Mortality. The Border Districts Cluster Strategy was launched in the year 2000 and it foresees the following strategies, in line with the Reproductive Child Health policies of the Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, these are:-

- Revitalization of the sub centre level of care
- Improvement in family and health care-giver practices
- Operationalization of an essential package of care (acceleration of routine immunization aimed at the elimination of Neonatal Tetanus, control of Measles and the eradication of Poliomyelitis, Ante-Natal Care, Emergency Obstetric Care, Integrated Management of Neo-natal and Childhood illness).
- Support to policy formulation at the state level in the

context of the health sector systems strengthening to support infrastructure development and upgradation of skills in order to reduce the rate of Infant Mortality.

(c) The Project is being implemented in 51 districts in 16 different States of the country. These districts were chosen in consultation with the State Governments. A list of these districts and States is given in the statement enclosed. In the current 2003-2007 Plan of Operations, UNICEF does not foresee any geographical expansion.

Statement

BDCS Districts

States	Districts
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad, Nizamabad, Medak, Chittoor
Jharkhand	East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Ranchi, Sarikela
Gujarat	Dangs, Valasad
Haryana	Rewari, Gurgaon
Himachal Pradesh	Chamba, Kangra
Jammu & Kashmir	Udhampur, Kathua
Karnataka	Bijapur, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar
Madhya Pradesh	Morena, Shilpuri, Guna, Tikamgarh, Sheopur
Maharashtra	Nanded, Latur, Osmanabad
Orissa	Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore
Punjab	Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Ropar
Rajasthan	Dholpur, Jhalawar, Baran
Tamil Nadu	Thiruvellore, Vellore
Uttar Pradesh	Lalitpur, Hamirpur, Banda, Mahoba, Chitrakoot, Jhansi
West Bengal	Purulla, Bankura, East Medinipur, West Medinipur
Kerala (tribal population)	Mallapuram and Iddukki

[Translation]

Insertion of Healthy Genes in Human Body

1365. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether Indian Scientists have successfully developed the technique of inserting healthy genes in place of genes malfunctioning in the cells of the human body;
- if so, the benefits of the said technique;
- whether the technique has been tested; and
- if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Inserting Healthy genes in place of malfunctioning genes is called Gene Therapy. This therapy is in its infancy and is primarily experimental, with most human clinical trials only in research stages. The therapy has not been applied for treatment of medical conditions.

Renovation of Patna Medical College Hospital

1366. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether the Government of Bihar has forwarded any proposal to the Union Government to renovate Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH);
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A proposal submitted by govt. of Bihar to the Planning Commission which includes inter-alia, financial assistance for renovation of Patna Medical College was sent to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by the Planning Commission. The comments of the Ministry are being sent to the Planning Commission.

Replacement of Old Phones

1367. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- whether the Government have issued guidelines to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Delhi and Mumbai to replace those phones which are older than five years or more;

(b) If so, the number of different types of telephone sets issued from central store to divisional and sub-divisional engineers working under each Regional General Manager from December 1, 2002 to 13.2.2003, telephone exchange-wise;

(c) the number of telephone sets out of the above telephones issued for new connections and the number of those issued to replace faulty telephones; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide new telephone sets to subscribers on the basis of their complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, though no guidelines have been issued by the Government, however, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has taken a decision to replace old telephones progressively, which are older than five years. In the first phase MTNL is replacing instruments which are older than eight years.

(b) Details of the number of telephones issued by MTNL Delhi and MTNL Mumbai are given in statement-I and II respectively.

(c) The details of the telephone sets issued for new connections and as replacements are given in statement-III.

(d) In case of subscriber complaint, the telephone instruments found faulty and not repairable, are replaced irrespective of the life of the instrument.

Statement-I

Area	Name of Exchange	No. of telephone instruments received
1	2	3
Central	Kidwai Bhawan	1250
	Janpath	500
	Rajpath	486
	Sena Bhawan	28
	Jorbagh	800
	CGO	-
East	Delhi Gate	876
	Tis Hazari	1100

1	2	3
North-I	Idgah	2700
	Shakti Nagar (East-I)	1185
	Shakti Nagar (East-II)	2065
	Shakti Nagar (Central)	1630
	Shakti Nagar (West)	770
North-II	Keshav Puram	1015
	Sector-3 Rohini	1300
	Sector-6 Rohini	600
	Sector-9 Rohini	-
	Saraswati Vihar	200
	Badli	750
South-I	Narela	275
	Chanakya Puri	1400
	Bhikaji Cama Place	700
	Haus Khas	-
	Nehru Place-I	700
South-II	Nehru Place-II	1500
	Nehru Place -III	900
	Nehru Place-IV	800
	Nehru Place-V	900
	Okhla-I & II	2800
	Tuglaka Bad	1700
	Sarita Vihar	2500
	Tehkhand	600
	Laxmi Nagar-I	1600
	Laxmi Nagar-II	1800
TY	Laxmi Nagar-III	2500
	Karkardooma	900

1	2	3
	Shahadra-I	789
	Shahadra-II	400
	Mayur Vihar-I & IA	840
	Mayur Vihar-II & III	700
	Yamuna Vihar I & II	2600
West-I	Janak Puri	1250
	Dwarka	1750
	Pankha Road	1050
	Najafgarh	1200
West-II	Rajouri Garden-I	1175
	Rajouri Garden-II	-
	Rajouri Garden-III	295
	Hari Nagar	308
	Paschim Vihar	3571
	Nangloi-I	440
	Nangloi-II	-
West-III	Karol Bagh East Dn.	1150
	Karol Bagh West Dn.	1250
	Delhi Cantt.	950
	Shadipur	400
	Total	58948

Statement-II

*Area GM wise break up of instruments
provided for new connections*

Area	No. of Instruments
1	2
South	3000
Central	1500
North	7200

1	2
East-I	4900
East-II	7165
West-I	5600
West-II	2500
West-III	7000
Navi Mumbai	4350
Total	43215

*Area GM-wise break up of instruments
provided for replacement:*

Area	No. of Instruments
South	442
Central	383
North	2520
West-I	940
West-II	520
West-III	0
East-I	136
East-II	441
Navi Mumbai	2956
Total	8338

Area General Managers have been authorised to allot telephones to DEs and SDEs as per the field requirements.

Statement-III

In MTNL, Mumbai 43215 telephone sets were used for new connections and 8338 telephone sets were used for replacing faulty instruments.

In MTNL, Delhi 27,358 instruments have been issued for new telephone connections and 7031 for replacing faulty telephones during this period.

[English]

Reduction in Pulse Rate

1368. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing pulse rate of 3 minutes is proposed to be reduced to 2 minutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to revert to the old pulse rate of 3 minutes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The telecom Regulatory authority of India (TRAI) has, vide its 24th amendment to Telecom Tariff Order (TTO) 1999, announced new tariffs on 24.01.2003, in which the existing pulse rate of 3 minutes has been reduced to 2 minutes in the case of land-lines. This will come into effect from 01.04.2003.

(c) and (d) As per the TRAI act 1997, as amended in 2000, the power of tariff fixation for telecom services is mandated to the TRAI, which is now the only Authority for exercising this power. Service providers (including PSUs), however, have the flexibility of having their own tariff packages within the ceilings/floors prescribed by TRAI.

Telephone Connections in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal

1369. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared;

(c) the progress made in regard to laying of Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) in these States;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to cover all the areas of the States with OFC;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide value added services in backward areas of the States:

(f) If so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the private companies have also been given permission alongwith the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the field of communications in these States;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether all the exchanges of Andhra Pradesh

and Uttaranchal have been connected with new technique; and

(j) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in rural and urban areas of Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal as on 31.01.2003 is given as under:

State	Urban	Rural	Total	Likely Date of Clearance of Waiting List
Andhra Pradesh	9747	77863	87610	30.09.2003
Uttaranchal	3714	4809	8523	30.09.2003

The likely date of clearance of waiting list is subject to timely availability of resources.

(c) and (d) All the important places are already connected by Optical Fibre Cable (OFC). In Andhra Pradesh 34215 RKM (route kilometers) of OFC and in Uttaranchal 1131 RKM OFC have been laid as on 31.12.2002. The target of OFC for the year 2002-03 for Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal are 3000 RKM and 1100 RKM respectively and the achievement made upto 31.01.2003 are 2278 RKM and 542 RKM respectively.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Internet services are already available on dial-up basis from all the exchanges provided with reliable media. As per terms and conditions of licence for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, an operator is required to cover 90% of the Metro City Service Areas within one year and in other Telecom Circles 10% of District Headquarters within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarter/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarter/town shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of rural/backward areas. However, the Government operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. envisages to cover the National Highways all over the country which will provide incidentally limited coverage benefits to rural/backward areas falling enroute.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. The following private companies have also been given licenses alongwith Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to provide CMTS (Cellular Mobile Telephone

Service) in Andhra Pradesh and U.P.-West Telecom Circles Service Areas. Uttaranchal forms a part of U.P.-West Telecom Circle Service Area.

Andhra Pradesh	IDEA Cellular Ltd.
	Bharti Mobile Ltd.
	Huchison Essar South Limited
U.P. (West)	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd.
	Bharati Cellular Ltd.

The Private basic service providers which are working in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal are given as under:-

Andhra Pradesh	Tata Teleservice Limited
	Reliance Infocom Limited
U.P. (West) including Uttaranchal	Reliance Infocom Limited

(i) and (j) In Andhra Pradesh all the exchanges and in Uttaranchal 380 out of 412 exchanges have been provided on reliable media. Remaining 32 exchanges are likely to be provided with reliable media by 31.03.2003, subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

Telephone Advisory Committee Membership

1370. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

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

(a) whether the recommendations made by the Members of Parliament for membership of TAC are taken into consideration;

(b) If not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of letters received from the Members of Parliament in regard to membership of TAC during the last six months;

(d) the membership of TAC given on the basis of the above letters during the said period;

(e) whether TAC members pay more attention to the facilities given to them rather than offering suggestions

and assistance to the Government in public interest; and

(f) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

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

(c) Nine hundred twenty three (923) letters were received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament in regard to membership of TAC during the last six months.

(d) On the basis of the letters received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament during the said period, five thousand one hundred fifty-four (5154) persons were given membership of TAC.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[English]

Funds Through Drawing and Disbursing Officers

1371. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have taken a decision to provide funds for the repair of National Highways through Drawing and Disbursing Officer and not directly to State Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the reports of diversion of funds by State Governments have come to notice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. Direct payment procedure (DPP) has been adopted with the consent of the respective States/Union Territory (UT) in 13 States and 1 UT.

(b) to (e) As opposed to DPP, in the reimbursement system of payment, the instances of late issue of 'Letter of Credit' by some State Governments were noticed. This has delayed the payments to the implementing agencies and in turn has affected the physical progress of works, resulting in surrender of funds. To tackle the problem, Government of India has taken a decision to adopt Direct Payment Procedure for National Highways works. Other States have been requested to give their consent for adoption of this system.

Free Mobile Telephone Facilities

1372. SHRI P.D. ELANGOAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to provide free mobile telephone facilities to the blind and physically handicapped persons with adequate safety precautions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have studied the problems and major issues of communication sector after the advent of private telecommunication companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) and (d) The Telecommunication Service sector has been opened up for private sector participation in respect of telecom services without any restriction on the number of private operators, except where there is constraint of frequency spectrum viz., Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in which the number of operators is limited. Therefore, a large number of private companies have been issued licences for various services. These companies bring up their problems/issues, which is an on-going process and these are resolved from time to time.

[Translation]

Sports in Schools

1373. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules and criteria adopted by his Ministry for allocation of funds to States for organizing sports activities in schools; and

(b) the details of funds allocated to different States for various sport competitions organized by the States including Rajasthan under this scheme during last three years till date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Financial assistance is sanctioned to the States/Union Territories on receipt of viable proposal from them under the scheme of Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools. The scale of assistance is Rs. 50,000/- per district and Rs. 2.00 lakhs per State/UT for organization of inter-school sports tournaments at district and State levels respectively. State and UT Governments are required to furnish the Utilization Certificate in respect of any such assistance given to them previously. Further, they have to constitute District and State level Committees for organization of the competitions before submitting the proposal for such assistance.

Following grants were given to various States/UTs during the last three years:

	(Rs. in lakh)		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
	1	2	3
Mizoram	Nil	6.00	4.50
Haryana	Nil	9.50	11.50
Tripura	4.00	4.00	Nil
Himachal Pradesh	8.00	8.00	Nil
Assam	13.50	13.50	13.50
Punjab	Nil	10.50	Nil
Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	19.50
Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	10.00
Nagaland	Nil	Nil	6.00
Gujarat	17.50	Nil	13.50
Daman & Diu	3.00	Nil	Nil
Sikkim	4.00	Nil	Nil
Goa	3.00	Nil	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	43.50	Nil	Nil

	1	2	3
Jammu & Kashmir	9.00	Nil	Nil
Kerala	9.00	Nil	Nil
Lakshadweep	2.00	Nil	Nil
Manipur	6.50	Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu	16.50	Nil	Nil

Except Maharashtra, no grants have been released to any other State/UT till date, during the current financial year (2002-2003), as no proposal fulfilling the requisite criteria has been received from them. No grants has been released to the State of Rajasthan till date for organization of inter-school sports tournaments as no proposal has been received from that State.

[English]

Amendment in the MCI Act

1374. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the National Conference of State Medical Councils held in New Delhi in January, 2003 has demanded amendments in the Medical Council Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amendment sought; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Conference of State Medical Councils held in New Delhi in January, 2003 has recommended that the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 may be repealed and re-enacted in consultation with all the State Medical Councils keeping in view Centre State Relationship as envisaged in the Sarkaria Commission Report.

(c) The Government do not propose to repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. However, as and when it becomes necessary, the provisions of the ACT are reviewed and amendments are carried out after consultation with all concerned.

Inter-Connection Facilities

1375. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has issued a show cause notice to mobile service operators for defying the directive issued on provision of inter-connection facilities to telecom operators providing limited mobility;

(b) if so, the reaction of the mobile phone companies; and

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

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

(b) As per available information, the cellular mobile service providers had given the explanation to TRAI against their show cause notice. The interconnection links between cellular mobile telephone service and basic telephone service networks had already been normalized.

(c) The Government has not intervened in the matter of show Cause notice issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

[Translation]

Reserved Vacancies/Posts

1376. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain posts reserved for the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different categories in the various departments and undertakings under his Ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in these departments and undertakings have been promoted during the last three years and fresh recruitments also made;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details in regard to fresh appointments made in various departments and undertakings during the said period and during the current year so far;

(e) whether prescribed rules have been followed

in recruitment and promotion of the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) There is no Department or Undertaking under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. Vacancies, pertaining to Group B, C and D posts, in respect of this Ministry, are filled up by Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary and Higher Education who are the cadre controlling authority in respect of these categories, whereas, Group A posts are filled by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT). As such, there is no vacancy, belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST); in any category, lying vacant in the Ministry proper. Nevertheless, one post of Youth Officer (Group B), belonging to the ST category lying vacant in the National Service Scheme (NSS) which is a subordinate office of this Ministry.

(c) Employees working in the NSS have been promoted during the last three years and fresh recruitments also made.

(d) In NSS, seven Youth Officers were appointed after getting selected from the UPSC in response to this Ministry's requisition sent to UPSC in 1997, as per details given below:

Category	Post	Year of Appointment
Group B Gazetted	5	2000
Group B Gazetted	2	2001

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Home Remedies Kit

1377. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to launch a pilot scheme for supply of Home Remedies Kit, containing medicines of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy for 15 ailments;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith State where this scheme is being implemented;

(c) whether NGOs are to select their areas for implementation; and

(d) if so, the details of the mode of selecting various places for distribution of such kits in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Pilot Scheme will be implemented in 100 Panchayatats of one district each in 21 States as statement enclosed.

(c) This is being implemented through the State Governments.

(d) The States have been selected keeping in view the popularity of respective system namely Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani medicines and Homoeopathy. The selection of districts has been largely done on the advice of State Governments.

Statement

The name of the States are as follows:

S.No.	State
1	2
1.	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Assam
4.	Bihar
5.	Chhattisgarh
6.	Gujarat
7.	Haryana
8.	Himachal Pradesh
9.	Jharkhand
10.	Karnataka
11.	Madhya Pradesh
12.	Maharashtra
13.	Manipur
14.	Meghalaya

1	2
15.	Orissa
16.	Punjab
17.	Rajasthan
18.	Tamil Nadu
19.	Uttar Pradesh
20.	Uttaranchal
21.	West Bengal

Sanction for Artificial Limb

1378. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the CGHS/Ministry from various handicapped Government officials for providing artificial limb, during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) the normal time taken by CGHS/Ministry, in conveying the sanctions;

(c) the number out of in whose case the sanction has been conveyed to the concerned departments, during the period;

(d) whether the Government propose to frame a uniform policy in this regard and issue instructions to authorities concerned to deal with all such applications within a specific period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a)

2000-2001	Nil
2001-2002	Nil
2002-2003	5

(b) It varies from case to case.

(c) Three

(d) and (e) As permission is granted on a case-to-case basis based on the recommendations of a group of experts from the concerned speciality depending upon the type of

artificial limb, there is no need to issue any uniform guidelines for the purpose. However all efforts are made to dispose of the applications expeditiously.

Review of Telephone Advisory Committees

1379. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telephone Advisory Committee have become redundant with the participation of Private Companies in the business of providing basic telephone services;

(b) whether Government have made any review in this regard;

(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) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Telephone Advisory Committees have been re-organised so as to have an appropriate mechanism for associating the public representatives with grievance redressal system with a view to making the telephone services offered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) more responsive in the emerging competitive scenario.

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

[Translation]

Telephone Connections for Senior Citizens

1380. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to prepare a separate waiting list for senior citizens for providing immediate telephone connections to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for providing telephones to senior citizens after registration;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also instructed private operators in this field viz. Bharti, Tata, Essar and Reliance to provide similar benefits to senior citizens; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. There is no such proposal at present to maintain a separate waiting list for senior citizens. However, they are eligible to register their demand for one telephone connection under Non-OYT - Special category which is a priority category.

(c) No Sir.

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

(e) and (f) Private operators are to comply with Tariff Orders, Quality of Service Regulations and other directives issued from time to time by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard.

[English]

Campaign Against Diabetes

1381. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

SHRI Y.V. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that India has the largest number of diabetics in the world;

(b) if so, the number of persons afflicted with diabetes in the country;

(c) the specific steps taken/proposed to be taken for an anti-diabetic movement, both in terms of health awareness, food habits and campaign to bring down the number of diabetic patients;

(d) whether the Government have consulted other developed nations where advanced research is providing new medicinal opportunities to prevent diabetics or to keep it under control; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI

SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) According to ICMR, the estimated number of diabetic patients in the country in the year 2000 is about 25 million. As per WHO projections, India will have about 57 million diabetics by 2025 which is going to be the highest in the world.

(c) Diabetes treatment is done at all levels in the rural health care delivery system and urban health care institutions. A pilot Project on "Strengthening of Bio-Chemical Laboratories and Quality Assurance", was initiated in 1999-2000 in the states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Punjab. The National Diabetes Control Programme has now been merged with the Indian Council of Medical Research which has constituted an expert group to formulate a revised comprehensive Plan of Action to control diabetes. Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) has also strategies/programme including use of powerful electronic media to spread health messages to increase public health awareness about diabetes.

(d) and (e) The revised Plan of Action for control of diabetes is being made by ICMR in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO) after carefully examining the research being carried out in India and in other countries in the field of diabetes and also the control programmes being implemented in other countries.

Indo-Russia Agreement in Nuclear Field

1382. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the atomic power agencies of India and Russia signed an agreement of cooperation on January 15, 2003 in the field of safety regulation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement;

(c) the extent to which it will have impact on the safety regulation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

(d) whether this is as sequel to the agreement reached between the two countries in November 20, 1988 and the Inter-Governmental Agreement of June 21, 1998; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Atomic Energy

Regulatory Board and the Federal Nuclear Radiation Safety Authority of Russia have signed an agreement of cooperation in the field of safety regulation in the process of nuclear energy use for peaceful purposes.

The regulatory agencies have agreed to familiarize themselves and to exchange information on the practices followed by them to ensure the safety of nuclear power plant personnel and the public and protection of the environment, specifically in the context of the Nuclear Power Plant at Kudankulam that is being set up in cooperation with the Russian Federation.

(c) The exchanges on a number of important safety related areas between the two regulatory agencies will be beneficial to both organisations and will further enhance safety.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The agreement between the Republic of India and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic on cooperation in the construction of a nuclear power plant in India dated November 20, 1988 and the supplement to the Agreement dated June 21, 1998 was for the setting up of a Nuclear Power Plant at Kudankulam. The Agreement between the regulatory agencies is related to this Nuclear Power Plant and recognises the great importance of information and experience exchange in the matter of safety in design, construction and operation of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant to ensure and enhance safety.

[Translation]

Licence to Operate Mobile Phone

1383. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies including BSNL and MTNL to whom licences have been given till date for the operation of mobile phones alongwith the details about the terms and conditions;

(b) the company-wise details of the expansion of services during the last three years; and

(c) the action plant of the Government for the protection of interests of the customers and the regulation of tariff rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, the list of companies who presently have licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) along with respective service area is given in enclosed statement-I. The salient terms and conditions of the Licence for CMTS is given in enclosed statement-II.

(b) The company-wise and Service Area-wise details of the expansion of the CMTS in terms of CMTS subscribers during the last three years is also given in enclosed statement-I.

(c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), as per the TRAI Act, is mandated for fixation of tariffs for Telecom Services. It is also the function of TRAI to lay-down the standards of Quality of Service to be provided by the Service Providers and ensure the Quality of Service and conduct the periodical survey of such service provided by the Service Providers so as to protect interest of the consumers for telecom service.

Statement-I

Name of Operators, Service Area and their Subscriber Figures for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

Sl. No.	Service Area (Metro city/ Telecom Circle)	Name of Operator	Number of Subscribers as on 1.1.2000	Number of Subscribers as on 1.1.2003
1	2	3	4	5
1	Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	153,498	834,269
		Sterling Cellular Ltd.	126,054	580,328
		Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	-	129,809
		IDEA Cellular Ltd.	-	128,306
2	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd.	155,373	573,877
		Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.	143,371	615,836
		Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.		110,279

1	2	3	4	5
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	-	212,304
3	Kolkata	Bharti Mobile Ltd.	33,126	188,237
		Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	34,904	247,327
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	14,997
		Reliable Internet Services Ltd.	-	-
4	Chennai	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	24,041	166,305
		Bharti Mobinet Ltd.	22,963	200,728
		Hutchison Essar South Limited	-	51,832
		Bharat Samachar Nigam Ltd.	-	-
5	Andhra Pradesh	IDEA Cellular Ltd.	54,738	308,210
		Bharti Mobile Ltd.	43,622	305,879
		Hutchison Essar South Limited	-	53,489
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	72,675
6	Assam	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	5,590	40,728
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	-
7	Bihar	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	17,419	164,075
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	24,987
8	Gujarat	Fascel Ltd.	79,752	420,255
		IDEA Cellular Ltd.	27,776	240,211
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	-	62,926
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	75,350
9	Haryana	Escotel Mobile Communication Ltd.	20,172	96,498
		Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	-	16,580
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	-	45,664
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	36,632
10	Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	4,288	25,730
		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	473	8,096
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	11,046
		Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	-	-
11	Karnataka	Spice Communications Ltd.	68,900	199,391
		Bharti Mobile Ltd.	41,229	329,219
		Hutchison Essar South Limited	-	55,195
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	65,779

1	2	3	4	5
12	Kerala	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	39,552	147,969
		Escotel Mobile Communication Ltd.	41,229	244,032
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	-	66,379
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	73,084
13	Maharashtra	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	57,260	198,045
		IDEA Cellular Ltd.	45,107	396,503
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	-	105,209
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	127,980
14	Madhya Pradesh	BTA Cellcom Ltd.	12,031	131,113
		Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	18,136	146,772
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	-	28,282
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	28,018
15	North East	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	803	7,433
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	-
		Hexacom India Limited	-	-
16	Orissa	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	8,403	62,992
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	15,353
17	Punjab	Spice Communications Ltd.	79,672	436,255
		Bharti Mobile Ltd.	-	131,724
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	58,780
		Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	-	-
18	Rajasthan	Aircel Diglink India Ltd.	-	29,766
		Hexacom India Limited	15,462	111,556
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	38,322
		Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	-	-
19	Tamil Nadu	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	42,292	159,422
		Aircel Ltd.	28,861	229,214
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	-	75,048
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	35,333
20	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Escotel Mobile Communication Ltd.	48,897	227,980
		Bharti Cellular Ltd.	-	62,960
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	31,916

1	2	3	4	5
21	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	21,643	109,988
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	61,305
		Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	-	-
22	Andaman & Nicobar and West Bengal	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	4,674	70,511
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	18,137
23	Jammu & Kashmir	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	-	-

Statement-II

Salient terms and conditions of the Licence for Cellular Mobile Telecom Service

- The Licensee must be an Indian Company, registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956.
- The license will be on non-exclusive basis, for a period of 20 years, further extendable by 10 years at one time.
- The license fee shall be 12% of "Adjusted Gross Revenue" (AGR) for Metro Service Areas and category 'A' Circles, 10% of AGR for category 'B' Circles and 8% of AGR for category 'C' Circles, excluding spectrum charges.
- In addition, the cellular licensees shall pay spectrum charges on revenue share basis.
- Minimum roll-out obligation: In Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of license.
- The LICENSEE shall provide necessary facilities depending upon the specific situation at the relevant time to the Government to counteract espionage, subversive act, sabotage or any other unlawful activity.
- The LICENSEE shall make available on demand to the person authorized by the LICENSOR, full access to the switching centers, transmission centers, routers etc. for technical scrutiny and for inspection, which can be visual inspection or an operational inspection.
- The LICENSEE will charge the tariffs for the SERVICE as per the TRAI Tariff orders/regulations/directions issued in this regard from time to time.
- The licensee shall be permitted to provide, in its area of operation, all types of mobile services including voice

and non-voice messages, data services and PCOs utilizing any type of network equipment (however, the technology must be digital), including circuit and/or packet switches, that meet the relevant International Telecommunication Union (ITU)/Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) standards.

[English]

Promotion of Hardware Industry

1384. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- whether the vast potential of hardware industry in the country has not been fully tapped;
- if so, the steps taken to promote it; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- Steps taken to promote the hardware industry are enclosed as statement.
- Does not arise.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote the Hardware Sector

- Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
- Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.

3. Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) is implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by EHTP/EOU/EPZ units shall be counted towards fulfilment of minimum Net Foreign Exchange earning as a Percentage of exports (NFEP) and the minimum Export Performance (EP), provided that the items are manufactured in the unit and attract zero rate of basic customs duty. Positive NFEP is required to be achieved in 5 years instead of every year.
5. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/EHTP schemes.
6. Accelerated depreciation norms extended to computers and computer peripherals to all units and capital goods of IT hardware units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP). These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years.
7. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.
8. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%.
9. In the Budget 2002-03, the peak rate of customs duty has been reduced from 35% to 30%. Customs duty has been reduced on stepper motors for computers/printers from 5% to 0%, floppy diskette and unrecorded magnetic tape from 15% to 10%, ink cartridges/ribbon assembly/ribbon gear assembly/ribbon gear carriage for use in printers for computers from 25% to 5%, 56 items of capital goods for manufacture of semiconductors from 5% to 0%, 24 items of capital goods (around 200 sub-items) for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 15%, tools/moulds/dies for electronics industry from 25% to 15% and on 46 items of raw materials for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 5%.

* Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals continues to be @ 15% and all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors continue at 0%. The concessional rate of customs duty @ 5% for specified raw materials for the electronics industry (121 items) continues. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-I) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @ 15%, parts of Telecom continue @ 5%, parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular telephones continue at 0%.
10. The Central Excise duty structure was rationalised from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, in the Budget 2001-02, and continues.
11. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.
12. EOU/EPZ/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
13. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.
14. DEPB rate will be same for a product whether exported as CBU or in CKD/SKD condition.
15. Threshold limit for obtaining "Export House" status reduced to Rs.5 crores from Rs.15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following new/special facilities:

* 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account;

* Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.
16. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
17. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.
18. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and

machineries would be permitted to be imported without a licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs.50 crores.

19. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
20. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalised the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.
21. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.
22. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through Internet.

[Translation]

Disinvestment Policy

1385. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested any mid-term disinvestment policy to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the complaints of fraud and under-assessment in place of competition are on the increase in disinvestment process; and
- (e) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) In a background paper for a Round Table on "Disinvestment: The Tasks Ahead", the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested that:

- A medium-term disinvestment policy over a period of 3-5 years should be evolved.
 - Private shareholding should be brought into profit making public enterprises in all areas except atomic energy and some defence related industries.
 - Public enterprises engaged in producing consumer goods and services or some minor producer goods should be sold.
 - Disinvestment in the loss making /sick PSUs will require business restructuring, financial and personnel restructuring.
 - Government equity should be brought down to 26 per cent in banking insurance and aviation.
 - The sale of public sector equity should be to the general public should be at discounted rates.
 - Large public sector utilities in power, telecom, oil and gas, transport and financial services should be sold through the public offering at discounted prices. Other public sector units can be disinvested through strategic sale.
 - Public offer is preferable to buy-back of shares for mopping up public savings.
 - Instances of asking the cash rich PSUs to buy-out the shares of other PSUs should be adopted only in cases where it leads to synergy and makes the PSU more competitive.
 - Where the fear of creation of monopolies exists, the company may be reorganised (split-up) where feasible and where it helps improve efficiency. It can then be offered to more buyers/investors.
 - Valuation of PSUs must be carefully done to avoid controversies.
 - Some kind of social safety net to PSU workers may be provided.
 - There has to be a proper competition policy to cover unfair and restrictive trade practices and issues like transfer pricing. The competition policy must also cover mergers and acquisitions.
- (c) The disinvestment policy and procedures are continuously reviewed and modified as necessary in the light of experience and the views expressed by stakeholders and experts. Several of the concerns highlighted in the paper of the PHD Chamber of Commerce have already been addressed

by the Government. The disinvestment policy is stable in the medium term and a medium term target is also defined. Government has already classified non-strategic industries which can be disinvested. The restructuring of PSUs prior to sale is done as required. The level of equity to be retained in a particular PSU is determined after taking into account the level of competition in that particular industry and the need for regulation. The Government adopts either the strategic sale or public offer option, or a combination of both, as appropriate on a case by case basis. Participation of PSUs in disinvestment is not allowed except in specific cases approved by the Government. Government is committed to protecting the employee interest and provisions to this effect are incorporated in the transaction documents entered into at the time of strategic sale.

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of Institutes in Medical Colleges

1386. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar to set up heart disease, cancer, kidney transplantation, institutes in the Medical Colleges in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of Medical Colleges in which the said institutes are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) While there is no proposal from the Government of Bihar to set up heart disease, cancer, kidney transplantation, institutes in the Medical Colleges in the State, a proposal for setting up of a super speciality hospital for Nephrology and Cardiology as a branch of AIIMS has been received from the State of Bihar.

Registered Unions in MTNL, BSNL and VSNL

1387. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of registered unions in MTNL, BSNL and VSNL;

(b) the percentage of votes obtained by each union in last year election in all the three corporations and the

facilities being provided by the department, corporation to each union;

(c) whether neither of the corporations have issued the list of protective workmen on the basis of votes obtained by these unions;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to cancel registration of unions obtaining less than 15 percent votes and withdrawing facilities being provided to them;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(g) the funds spent by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. on offices and headquarters of unions functioning in the corporations during the last three years and austerity measures being taken in this regard by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The details of the registered unions in BSNL is given in the statement-I and that of MTNL is given in enclosed statement-II. As regards the details of registered unions in VSNL is connected, it is stated that subsequent to the dis-investment of VSNL, the management has been transferred to strategic partner.

(b) Percentage of votes obtained by Unions of BSNL and MTNL in the last election is given in enclosed statement I and II respectively. The details of trade union facilities extended to the unions of BSNL and MTNL is given in enclosed statement III and IV respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In case of BSNL, the list of workmen whom the union propose to be declared as protected workmen is yet to be received from the trade unions as per provision contained in rule 61 of the Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957. In case of MTNL, the recognized unions have not submitted the list of protected workmen and hence the advice of Regional Labour Commissioned has been sought by MTNL Mumbai Unit. Further Action will be taken by MTNL based on the advice of Regional Labour Commissioner.

(e) Department of Telecom/BSNL/MTNL have no authority to cancel the registration of unions. The unions which have secured less than 15% of votes have not been extended any trade union facilities in BSNL and MTNL.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) Rs. 4.11 lakh, have been spent on the functioning of unions in MTNL Mumbai and about Rs. 7.89 lakhs in MTNL Delhi. Efforts are being made to minimize the expenditure.

Statement-I

List of Registered Unions in BSNL and the percentage of votes obtained by them in the elections held on 25.9.2002

S.No.	Name of the Union	Percentage of votes obtained
1	All India Backward Class Telecom Employees Sangthan	0.40
2	Bahujan Trade Union of BSNL	0.79
3	BSNL Employees Union	29.99
4	BSNL Mazdoor Sangh	10.52
5	BSNL National Telecommunication Staff Union	1.53
6	BSNL Workers Rashtriya Union	0.63
7	National Federation of Telecom Employees, BSNL	35.25
8	National Union of BSNL Workers (FNTO)	13.48
9	Telecommunication Employees Progressive Union	0.80

Statement-II

List of Registered Union in MTNL and the percentage of votes obtained by them

MTNL Delhi:

S.No.	Name of the Union	Percentage of votes obtained
1	2	3
1	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Staff Union Class III & IV	31.76
2	MTNL Mazdoor Sangh	23.23
3	MTNL Staff Welfare Union	23.25
4	MTNL Workers Union	-

1	2	3
5	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Employees Union, Delhi	18.25
6	Telecom Technical Staff Association (I)	0.02
7	Bhartiya Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Karamchari Sangh	-
8	MTNL Kamgar Union	-
9	MTNL Operative Staff Union (Group C & D)	1.24
10	National Union of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Employees New Delhi	-
11	Bahujan Trade Union of MTNL	0.9
12	MTNL Karamchari Union	0.79
13	Indian Telecom Group C & D Employees Association	-

MTNL Delhi :

S.No.	Name of the Union	Percentage of votes obtained
1	National Federation of Telecom Republic Employees	-
2	Bhartiya Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Employees Union	-
3	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Republican Employees Union	-
4	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Karamchari Front	37.83
5	MTNL Personal Staff Association	-
6	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Kamgar Sangh	58.96
7	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Workers Union	-
8	MTNL Staff Union Class III & IV	2.55
9	Telecom Technical Employees Union	-

Statement-III***Trade Union Facilities Extended to the Union in BSNL***

In the elections held on 25.9.2002 under the secret ballot and agreed code of discipline, National Federation of Telecom Employees, BSNL has been recognized as the representative union at All India/Circle/SSA level in BSNL for a period of two year w.e.f 4.10.2002. The union has been extended the following trade union facilities:-

1. Notice Board
2. Telephone Facilities as per existing procedure
3. Immunity from transfer as per existing rules
4. Grant of formal meetings by the Management
5. Facility of special casual leave as per existing procedure
6. Office accommodation

2. In addition the BSNL Employees Union has been extended the following trade union facilities in the nine circles and the SSAs falling in these circle where it secured more than 50% votes.

1. Notice Board
2. Telephone Facilities as per existing procedure
3. Grant of formal meetings by the Management
4. Facility of special casual leave as per existing procedure

3. These facilities have been provided to the BSNL Employees Union as an interim arrangement and are subject to further orders as may be passed by the A.P. High Court in the pending Writ Petition and without prejudice to the right and contention of BSNL.

4. Other unions have not been extended any trade union facilities.

Statement-IV***Trade Union facilities Extended to the Unions in MTNL*****Delhi Unit:**

- I. Facilities provided to MTNL Staff Union (Majority Union):
1. Office Accommodation with other facilities like FAX Machine, Computer, Photocopier etc.

2. One Hundred Residential Service Telephone Connection from Union quota as per agreement
3. Vehicle for General Secretary
4. Mobile Phone
- II. Few mobile connections have been given to office bearers of the registered unions on need basis.

Mumbai Unit:

- I. Facilities provided to the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Kamgar Sangh (Majority Union):-
1. Office establishment including Personal Computer, Xerox Machine, FAX machine.
2. Four Service Telephone Connections with STD facilities.
3. Mobile telephones to five Joint Negotiating Council members
4. Vehicle for General Secretary.

[English]

Training to Sportsmen of Backward Regions

1388. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide special training to sportsmen belonging to backward regions of our country to encourage them and to develop their skills to international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the difficulties in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) to (c) Sports is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Governments to promote games and sports in their State. However, to augment the efforts of the States, the Government of India, through the Sports Authority of India is undertaking Sports Promotion in the country.

The Scheme of Special Area Games (SAG) has been specifically conceived to scout and nurture genetically gifted children from the backward areas, especially from hilly, coastal and tribal areas of the country. At present, there are 17 SAG

Centres functional in the country, where 1251 children from the rural and backward regions of the country are scientifically trained to excel in national and international level competitions.

The Scheme has already produced a number of outstanding sportspersons scouted from backward areas. These include Limba Ram, Shyam Lal, Lalremsanga, Lalremliana (Archers), Merystella Tirkey, Vimala Kujur, Helen Soy (Hockey Players), Zoram Thanga, Dingko Singh (Boxers) etc. who have won medals for the country at National and International events.

Indian Insurgents in Bangladesh

1389. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have handed over a list of Indian insurgents currently living in Bangladesh as reported in the Times of India dated January 29, 2003;

(b) If so, whether the Indian Government have urged Bangladesh for the repatriation of these insurgents; and

(c) if so, the response of Bangladesh Government thereto and the current status of the said matter?

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

(b) and (c) This issue has been taken up with Government of Bangladesh at various levels repeatedly and most recently during the visit of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. He reiterated the assurances of Government of Bangladesh that it would not allow its territory to be used for anti-Indian activities.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of SCs/STs

1390. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in different categories in various Departments and undertakings of his Ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in the said Departments and undertakings have been promoted and fresh appointments made during the last three years;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise appointments made under the various categories during the said period and the current year till date;

(e) whether the prescribed rules have been followed regarding the recruitment and promotion of candidates from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(f) if not, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

MOU with US

1391. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States (US) to develop Information Technology in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which rural areas of the country particularly of Gujarat would be benefited from this MoU?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Private and Government Companies in Communication Sector

1392. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Private and Government companies operating in the communications sector in the country along with the areas of their operation;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for ensuring healthy competition amongst the said private and Government companies as also to control and regulate them for safeguarding the interests of consumers;

(c) the reasons behind increasing the rates of basic telephone services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The list of Private and Government companies operating in Basic, Cellular, International Long Distance and National Long Distance services along with areas of their operation are enclosed as statement.

(b) to (d) Under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been established to regulate the telecommunication services and to protect the interests of service providers as well as consumers of the telecom sector so as to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. T.R.A.I has prescribed the rates of Basic Telephone service to bring about cost orientation in the tariffs and for achieving the objectives of New Telecom Policy, 1999 while maintaining the sustainability of basic service segment of the market.

Statement

Service Area-wise Basic Telephone Service Licensees

Sl. No.	Service Area	Name of Licensee
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. M/s, Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
3.	Assam	Nil
4.	Bihar	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
5.	Delhi	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.

1	2	3
		M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
		M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
6.	Gujarat	M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
7.	Haryana	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
10.	Karnataka	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm. Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
11.	Kerala	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
12.	Madhya Pradesh	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
13.	Maharashtra	M/s Hughes Telecom Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
14.	North East	Nil
15.	Orissa	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
16.	Punjab	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
17.	Rajasthan	M/s Shyam Telalink Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
18.	Tamil Nadu	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
		M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
20.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
21.	West Bengal	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.

M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. is a basic service licensee for all Service Areas except for Mumbai and Delhi where M/s MTNL is a Basic Service Licensee. Both are PSUs.

**Service Area-wise Cellular Mobile
Telephone Service Licensees**

S. No.	Service Area (Metro City/ Telecom Circle)	Name of Licensee
1	2	3
1.	Delhi	Bharti Cellular Ltd. Sterling Cellular Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Idea Cellular Ltd.
2.	Mumbai	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd. Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
3.	Kolkata	Bharti Mobitel Ltd. Usha Maartin Telecom Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Reliable Internet Services Ltd.
4.	Chennai	RPG Cellular Services Ltd. Bharti Mobinet Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Hutchinson Essar South Ltd.
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Idea Cellular Ltd. Bharti Mobile Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Hutchinson Essar South Ltd.
6.	Assam	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
7.	Bihar	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
8.	Gujarat	Fascel Ltd. Idea Cellular Ltd.

1	2	3
		Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
9.	Haryana	Escotel Mobile Communication (P) Ltd. Aircel Diglink India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Bharti Telenet Ltd. Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
12.	Karnataka	Spice Communications Ltd. Bharti Mobiles Limited Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Hutchinson Essar South Ltd.
13.	Kerala	BPL Cellular Limited Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
14.	Maharashtra	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd. Ideal Cellular Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
15.	Madhya Pradesh	RPG Cellcom Ltd. Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.

1	2	3
16.	N.E.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Hexacom India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
17.	Orissa	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
18.	Punjab	Spice Communications Ltd. Bharti Mobile Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.
19.	Rajasthan	Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Hexaco India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.
20.	Tamil Nadu	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd. Aircel Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
21.	UP (W)	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
22.	UP (E)	Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.
23.	West Bengal including Andaman & Nicobar Telecom Circle	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

International Long Distance Service (ILDS) Licensees

Sl. No.	Name of the Licensee
1.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited
2.	M/s Bharti Telesonic Limited
3.	M/s Data Access (India) Ltd.
4.	M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

M/s Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., now a private company, is also a licensee for providing ILDS

National Long Distance Service (NLDS) Licensees

Sl. No.	Name of the Licensee
1.	M/s Bharti Telesonic Limited
2.	M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited
3.	M/s Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited

M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking, is also a Licensee for providing NLD service.

Replacement of Old Telephone Cables in Bihar

1393. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the old telephone cables by new optical fibre cables in all the major cities of Bihar;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to replace old telephone cables by optical fibre cable in local network in major cities of Bihar.

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

Vacant Post of SCs/STs

1394. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain posts reserved for the candidates belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in different categories in the various departments and undertakings under his ministry are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees working in these departments and undertakings have been granted promotion during the last three years and fresh recruitments also been made;

(d) if so, the year-wise and category-wise details in regard to fresh appointments made in various departments and undertakings during the said period and during the current year so far;

(e) whether prescribed rules have been followed in recruitment and promotion of the candidates belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes; and

(f) if not the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Category-wise details of posts reserved for the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes lying vacant in the Planning Commission (including Programme Evaluation Organisation) are:

Category of post	No. of Posts reserved for	
	SC	ST
Group 'A'	Nil	Nil
Group 'B'	02	02
Group 'C'	02	06
Group 'D'	Nil	Nil

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) Year-wise and category-wise details of fresh recruitments made during the last three years and during the current year, so far by the Planning Commission (including Programme Evaluation Organisation) are:

Category of post	2000				2001				2002				2003 (so far)			
	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	SC	ST	OBC	Gen
Group 'A'	-	-	-	03	-	-	-	05	-	-	-	02	01	-	-	-
Group 'B'	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group 'C'	01	01	06	12	-	-	03	02	01	-	-	-	-	-	02	-
Group 'D'	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	06	01	-	-	-	-	-	-

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

HDI Performance

1395. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has improved its rank in its HDI performance from 19 in 1991 to 7 in 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of improvement in information technology, the State Governments has not been able to improve its economy;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) As per the National Human Development Report prepared by the Planning Commission, Karnataka ranks 19 in terms of Human Development Index (HDI) among 32 States and UTs in 1991. However, Karnataka ranks 7 in the HDI ranking in 2001 among 15 major States. In 1991 also Karnataka ranked 7th among the 15 major States.

(c) to (e) Karnataka has achieved an average growth rate of over 7 percent between 1994-95 and 2000-01. Development of Information Technology has created an enabling environment which holds the potential for faster economic growth. It has indeed attracted foreign investment in to the State and created new employment opportunities

both of which have contributed to the high growth of the State Domestic Product.

Specific Plan for Development of States

1396. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has prepared a State specific development plan to ensure improvement in the social and economic quality of life;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Planning Commission has selected some reputed institutions to prepare specific plans for the socio-economic development of the states;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such specific plans are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The primary responsibility for formulation of state-specific Development Plans lies with the concerned State Governments. However, in order to facilitate this process, the Planning Commission has decided to prepare State Development Reports (SDR) for twenty States and Union Territories with a view to bring out credible research-based documents that would help State Governments set out the strategy for accelerating the economic growth of the States. Names of States for which SDR are being prepared or completed are shown in statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) National level reputed institutions are selected to prepare the SDRs. List of Institutions selected to prepare the SDRs are given in statement-II enclosed.

(e) The findings of the State Development Reports, when completed, are expected to be taken into account by the State Governments in the formulation of their Annual Plan.

Statement-I

Name of States & Union Territories for which State Development Reports are being prepared/completed

Sl. No.	State	Remarks
1	2	3
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Under Preparation
2	Assam	Completed & released.

1	2	3
3	Bihar	Under Preparation
4	Chhattisgarh	Under Preparation
5	Himachal Pradesh	Under Preparation
6	Jammu & Kashmir	Under Preparation
7	Jharkhand	Under Preparation
8	Karnataka	Under Preparation
9	Lakshadweep	Under Preparation
10	Manipur	Under Preparation
11	Madhya Pradesh	Under Preparation
12	Maharashtra	Under Preparation
13	Orissa	Under Preparation
14	Punjab	Under completion
15	Rajasthan	Under Preparation
16	Tamil Nadu	Under Preparation
17	Tripura	Under Preparation
18	Uttar Pradesh	Under Preparation
19	Uttaranchal	Under Preparation
20	West Bengal	Under Preparation

Statement-II

Name of Institutions selected for Preparation of State Development Reports

S.No.	Name of Institution
1	2
1	Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, Mumbai
2	Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, New Delhi
3	Institute of Human Development, New Delhi
4	Santek Consultants, New Delhi
5	National Council of Allied Economic Research, New Delhi

1	2
6	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development, Chandigarh
7	Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi
8	Xavier Labour Research Institute, Jamshedpur
9	Sanket Information & Research Agency, Bhopal
10	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
11	Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Sciences, Mumbai
12	Gokhhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune
13	Nabakrushna Choudhary Centre for Development Studies, Bhubaneshwar
14	Centre for Research in Rural & Industrial Development, Chandigarh
15	Social Policy Research Institute (SPRI), Jaipur
16	Madras School of Economics, Chennai
17	Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata
18	Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata
19	Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata
20	Department of Economics, Jadavpur University
21	Department of Economics, Calcutta University
22	National Institute of Public Finance & Policy, New Delhi
23	Council of Handicrafts Corporation, New Delhi
24	Water and Power Consultancy Service, New Delhi
25	Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd.
26	Guninder Gill & Associates, New Delhi
27	Dhan Foundation, Madurai
28	National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur
29	Industrial Development Finance Corporation

[Translation]

Legislation for Smooth Transport System

1397. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation to ensure smooth transport system on highways;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to constitute a body to remove the encroachments and to check the traffic overflow;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the financial implications of the said scheme and whether both the State Governments and Union Government will share the expenditure of the scheme;

(e) if so, the ratio of the expenditure to be shared by the State Governments and the Union Government;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up a tribunal for disposal of disputes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) "Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002" has been enacted. This Act provides for control of land within the National Highways, right of way and traffic moving on National Highways and also for removal of unauthorised occupation thereon.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Act provides for constituting Highway Administrations consisting of one or more officers of the Central Government or the State Government to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on them by the aforesaid Act, which includes removal of encroachment and control of traffic.

(d) and (e) Non-recurring expenditure of Rs.58.11 crore and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 26.21 crore per annum is estimated to be incurred in this regard by the Central Government. No expenditure on this account shall be borne by the State Governments.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. National Highways Tribunals each consisting of one person to be known as its Presiding Officer, shall be established by the Central Government to hear the appeals against the orders passed by the Highway Administrations and the jurisdiction of the all the courts (except the Supreme Court and the High Courts exercising Jurisdiction under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution) shall be barred from the date the Act comes into force.

[English]

Allotment of PCOs in West Bengal

1398. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCOs allotted in West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any new guidelines for the allotment of PCOs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether priority is being given to the unemployed youths, women and disabled persons in the allotment of PCOs; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, 30,547 PCOs were allotted in West Bengal during the last three years.

(b) to (e) Sir, as per the existing policy, PCOs are allotted to all the eligible applicants on first come first served basis as per their registration subject to technical feasibility. Wherever there is waiting list, priority in allotment of STD/ISD PCOs is given to the war-widows/dependants, SC/ST, handicapped persons and ex-servicemen. No priority for unemployed youths is considered necessary as the PCOs are available on demand in most of the areas.

Cess on Petrol/Diesel

1399. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the collection through cess on petrol and diesel has been inadequate to meet the target of road development in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) If so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) As per Central Road Fund Act, the funds generated by levy of cess on petrol and diesel are utilised for the purpose of development of National Highways, State Roads, Rural Roads and Road Over Bridge/Safety at Railway level crossings. During last two year and the current year an amount of Rs.200.68 crore have been accrued for State Roads for Tamil Nadu under Central Road Fund, out of which an amount of Rs.104.63 crore has been utilised so far.

Visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister

1400. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh had visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations held with the Indian Government;

(c) whether the Government of Bangladesh lodged a protest against deportation of Bangladeshis through its Western Border from West Bengal during this visit; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Detailed discussions were held with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister during his recent visit to India on all issues of mutual concern. On the presence of Indian insurgent groups in Bangladesh and on the activities of ISI in Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister reiterated the assurance of Government of Bangladesh that it would not allow its territory to be used for anti-Indian activities. On the issue of illegal immigration from Bangladesh into India, both sides agreed to take necessary steps to control and prevent illegal immigration.

[Translation]

On-Going Projects

1401. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ongoing projects are running behind schedule in the country;

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

(c) the percentage of cost escalation of these projects due to time overrun; and

(d) the number of projects completed during 2002, ministry-wise and sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) Out of the 543 projects costing Rs.20 crore and

above, that are being monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the aggregate anticipated cost of 161 delayed projects has increased by 18.4%, with reference to the latest approved costs.

(d) During the year 2002, 79 projects were completed. The Ministry-wise and Sector-wise break up of projects commissioned is as follows: Civil Aviation (3), Coal (5), Fertilizers (2), Steel (2), Petroleum & Natural Gas (12), Power (5), Railways (34), Shipping & Ports (7), Road Transport & Highways (7), Telecommunications (1) and Urban Development (1).

Statement

Extent of Time/Cost Overrun in Projects with Respect to Latest Schedule

S.No.	Sector	Total No. of Projects	Projects with Time Over Run					
			No.	Range of Delay (Months)		Latest Approved Cost	Anticipated Cost	% Increase
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8
1.	Atomic Energy	8	4	6-	81	6605.1	6944.1	5.1
2.	Civil Aviation	8	3	9-	34	146.5	146.5	0.0
3.	Coal	60	17	3-	108	2676.9	2577.0*	-3.7
4.	Fertilisers	1	1	17-	17	509.4	509.4	0.0
5.	I & B	4	4	36-	57	215.8	215.8	0.0
6.	Mines	3	1	20-	20	2062.0	2062.0	0.0
7.	Steel	8	4	6-	48	636.6	655.1	2.9
8.	Petroleum	36	14	1-	15	13935.6	14218.7	2.0
9.	Power	43	13	1-	53	19723.1	24147.5	22.4
10.	Health & FW	3	0	0-	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
11.	Railways	176	49	8-	156	11576.0	14815.6	28.0
12.	Surface Transport	179	44	1-	144	3635.7	3736.1	2.8
13.	Telecommunication	6	1	12-	12	27.9	27.9	0.0
14.	Urban Development	8	6	6-	69	5120.0	9087.5	77.5
Total		543	161			66870.5	79143.1	18.4

* The reduction of the completion cost is on account of the foreclosure of 3 projects in the coal sector through derating of capacity and downward revision in cost of one project.

[English]

Review of Merger of BSNL and MTNL

1402. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have been considering to review the merger of BSNL and MTNL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the disinvestment of MTNL is also on the cards; and
- (d) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, an internal study is being done to determine the best arrangement including merger, for maximizing the synergy in operations between MTNL & BSNL and enhance value for all stakeholders. The study has been exploratory in nature and no decision has been taken so far.

(c) and (d) Disinvestment Commission has been furnished information about MTNL. No decision has been taken in regard to disinvestments of MTNL and no target date has been fixed.

New Tariff

1403. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether TRAI has recently announced new tariffs for different categories of land-line, WLL and cell phone users;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the actual impact of the recommendations on subscribers, particularly those in rural areas covered by village panchayats;
- (d) whether the Government have accepted the new rates fixed by TRAI; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide its 24th amendment to Telecom Tariff Order (TTO) 1999, has announced new tariffs on 24th January 2003 in respect of land-line, WLL and cell phones which will come into effect from 01.04.2003.

(b) The details of the major items of tariff for land-lines, WLL (limited mobility) and cellular service are in the statement enclosed.

(c) The actual impact of TRAI's recent tariff on subscribers is not known as the tariff is to come into effect from 01.04.2003.

(d) and (e) As per the TRAI Act 1997, as amended in 2000, the power of tariff fixation for telecom services is mandated to the TRAI, which is now the only Authority for exercising this power. Service providers (including PSUs), however, have the flexibility of making their own tariff packages within the ceilings/floors prescribed by TRAI.

Statement

I Tariff for Land Lines

A. Rural Rental (Monthly in Rupees)

Capacity of local Exchange (No. of lines)	Proposed by TRAI	
	Sr. Citizen	Others
Upto 999	70	70
1000-29,999	120	120
30,000-99,999	180	200
1 lakh and above	250	280

B. Urban Rental (Monthly in Rupees)

Capacity of local Exchange (No. of lines)	Proposed by TRAI	
	Sr. Citizen	Residential Subscribers
Upto 29,999	120	120
30,000-99,999	180	200
1 lakh and above	250	280

C. Number of Free Call (Per Month)

Proposed by TRAI	
Rural	50
Urban	30

D. Call Charges (in Rupee, per metered call)

Proposed by TRAI	
Rural	Urban
0-50 Free	0-30 Free
51-300 @ 0.80	31-300 @ 1.00
>300 @ 1.20	> 300 @ 1.20

E. Pulse Rate (in Seconds)

Proposed by TRAI	
Calls to basic service network	120
Calls to cellular (Metro Area)	90
Calls to cellular (Circle Area)	60

II. WLL (Limited mobility)

Item	Proposed by TRAI
Monthly	Rs. 200 per month
Free Calls	Nil
Call Charges	Forbearance, subject to no charge for incoming calls.

III. Cellular:

Forbearance for rental and airtime for outgoing calls, provided that every service provider shall specify a monthly rental and airtime charge per minute with a pulse duration of 30 seconds, as a "Reference Tariff Package of the Service Provider"

No airtime charges for incoming calls.

Condition of National Highway 22

1404. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the condition of National Highway No.22 from Dhali to Rampur is very dilapidated;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The section of National Highway No.22 between Dhali to Rampur is in traffic-worthy condition. Its survey and maintenance is a continuing process.

(d) In the stretch between Dhali to Rampur in 31 Km. of length widening, in 10 km improvement of riding quality and in 77 Km periodical renewal works have been sanctioned.

(e) Does not arise.

GDP Growth Rate

1405. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Statistical Organisation has projected a GDP growth rate of just 4.4% for the Indian economy in the current year;

(b) if so, whether it conflicts with the estimate of 5.6% in 2001-2002 according to the quick estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation recently;

(c) if so, the reasons for difference in estimates; and

(d) the steps contemplated to boost the GDP growth rate to 7 to 8 percent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no question of a conflict between the GDP growth rate of 5.6% as per the Quick Estimates for 2001-2002 and 4.4% as per the Advance Estimates for 2002-2003.

(c) The deceleration in the growth rate of GDP from 5.6% in the Quick Estimates for 2001-02 to 4.4% in the Advance Estimates for 2002-03 is mainly due to the impact of drought conditions.

(d) The measures identified to boost the growth rate include the following:

- (i) improving the efficiency of capital assets,
- (ii) reduction of gestation lags of industrial and infrastructural investments,
- (iii) emphasis on completion of partially completed or on-going projects and upgradation of existing capital assets before starting new projects,
- (iv) legal and procedural changes for facilitating quick transfer of assets, including such measures as the repeal of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, introduction of bankruptcy laws and acceleration of judicial processes.

National Highway 53

1406. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the stage and progress of National Highway No.53 as on February 1, 2003;
- (b) the expenditure incurred on development of National Highway 53 as on February 1, 2003;
- (c) whether any target has been fixed for the completion of National Highway 53; 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) At present, out of a total length of 288 km. of NH-53, 135 km. is double lane and the double laning of the remaining portion is in various stages of progress.

(b) The expenditure incurred on NH-53 is Rs. 65.42 crore.

(c) and (d) Double laning of NH-53 is targeted for completion by December, 2006.

Disinvestment of Hindustan Organic Chemicals

1407. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Hindustan Organic Chemicals is going to be disinvested;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether an earlier move to disinvest did not succeed due to lack of purchasers;
- (d) if so, whether the Government intend to compensate the prospective buyer so as to reduce the loss;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether a sum of Rs. 300 crores or below has been earmarked for this company;
- (g) if so, the time by which the said amount is likely to be given;
- (h) whether there is any scheme to give this amount as an incentive to a prospective buyer; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has decided to disinvest of 32.61% equity in Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL) through strategic sale.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) to (i) Due to the deteriorating financial position of HOCL, Government has approved a financial restructuring package for HOCL which would be effective only in case HOCL gets disinvested and there is transfer of management control to the strategic partner. The financial restructuring package is intended to improve the profitability of HOCL. The exact quantum of assistance could be indicated only on the disinvestment reaching the final stage.

Central Roads Fund for Rajasthan

1408. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned 149 works costing Rs. 208.90 crores for Rajasthan

upto September 2002 under the Central Roads Fund (CRF);

(b) if so, whether the Government of Rajasthan had spent only Rs. 95.78 crores out of the said amount;

(c) if so, whether the State Government has submitted any new proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) New proposals received are under consideration.

[Translation]

Explosion of Columbia Space Shuttle

1409. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances leading to the explosion of Columbia Space Shuttle of NASA;

(b) whether the matter is being investigated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a report is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The exact cause for the break up of the Columbia will be known after detailed investigation by the US Government. The time by which the investigation report will be available is not known.

VRS in PSUs

1410. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the opinion of Parliament Standing Committee of Finance, the new management of the undertakings where disinvestment has taken place is creating circumstances where "Voluntary Retirement Scheme" is becoming forcible retirement scheme;

(b) if so, whether the above mentioned committee has expressed deep concern over the plight of workers of public sector undertakings; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by the Government against the management of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee recommended to the Government to take necessary remedial steps and formulate a strategy to evolve proper redressal of the grievances of the workers of disinvested PSUs so that their interest and welfare are safeguarded.

(c) Appropriate provision for protecting the interests of the employees are incorporated in the transaction agreements signed at the time of disinvestment in PSUs. In the event of any violation of these provisions of the transaction agreements, appropriate remedial measures are available with Government.

[English]

UNICEF Assistance for Integrated Child Development Schemes

1411. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into any agreement with the UNICEF to protect the children from HIV/AIDS and to reduce infant and maternal mortality rate in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether allocation of \$ 300 million for Indo-

UNICEF cooperation for the years 1999 to 2002 was made by the UNICEF;

(f) if so, the details of programmes undertaken thereby; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Government of India have entered into an agreement with UNICEF to protect the children from HIV / AIDS and to reduce infant and maternal mortality rate in the country. The Government of India-UNICEF Master Plan of Operation for the period 2003-07 has been signed between Department of Women & Child Development and UNICEF on 13th January, 2003. The proposed programmes will be implemented in the fields of Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Child Development and Nutrition, Advocacy, Programme for Children in Difficult Circumstances and Disability and for Elimination of Child Labour. Protection to children from HIV/AIDS and support to Integrated Child Development Services are also included in the programme. An amount of US \$ 400 million has been allocated by UNICEF for the period 2003-07 to implement the Master Plan of Operation.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Government of India-UNICEF Master Plan of Operation for the Period 1999-2002 was signed on 3rd May, 1999. The total allocation for the Government of India-UNICEF Programme of Co-operation (1999-2002) was US\$ 300 million. The Programme implemented projects in the field of primary education, reproductive and child health, child development and nutrition, child's environment (sanitation, hygiene and water supply), child protection (children in difficult circumstances, children with disabilities and child labour), rural convergent community action, urban convergent community action and advocacy. The focus of the 1999-2002 Government of India-UNICEF Programme of Co-operation was on children living in the remote areas, marginalised districts and States, and children living in difficult circumstances

Approval to New Drugs

1412. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many new drugs are being approved without being tested on the patients adequately;

(b) if so, whether the Government have evolved any comprehensive system for continuous monitoring of the reactions of new drugs after their marketing;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) New drugs are approved as per guidelines given in Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. As per the said guidelines, a new drug which is already approved/marketed in other countries, clinical testing is generally done on at least 100 patients distributed over 3-4 centres in the country before approval is granted for markets in this country. For a new drug discovered in India, clinical testing is done in different phases viz. Phase-I, II & III.

Some critical drugs introduced internationally for treatment of cancer, AIDS etc. are processed on fast track basis and local clinical trial generally is not insisted upon. However, the firms are required to undertake Post Marketing Surveillance (PMS) study as per approved protocol.

(b) to (d) Through an amendment, made in Drugs & Cosmetic Rules by Notification No. GSR 900 (E) dated 12th December, 2001, it has been made mandatory to conduct P.M.S. study for new drugs allowed to be marketed in the country in order to generate adequate data on possible adverse effect on a larger population base.

National Highway No. 203

1413. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the extension of National Highway No.203 from Puri to Satapada via Brahmagiri in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the work would be taken up during 2003-2004; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in the Matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) A proposal for the extension of National Highway No.203 from Puri to Satapada via Brahmagiri was received from the State Government of Orissa. It was returned to them in June 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. Presently, there is a ban on declaration of new National Highways due to fund constraints. The Government may, however, consider conversion of very limited lengths of a few State Highways into National Highways during the course of the 10th Five

Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds, after the ban is lifted.

**Teledensity in Rural
and Urban Areas**

1414. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the teledensity achieved in the country both in rural and urban areas during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposed to increase

the teledensity in rural areas from 0.4 in 1999 to 4 by 2010; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) State-wise tele-density of Urban and Rural for the last Five Years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. 'New Telecom Policy 99' envisages to increase rural tele-density in rural areas from 0.4 in 1999 to 4 by 2010 and it is likely to achieve with the participation of Private Operators and availability of appropriate resources.

Statement

State-wise Teledensity of Urban and Rural Areas for the last 5 years

S.N.	State	Tele Density as on 31.3.1998			Tele Density as on 31.3.1999			Tele Density as on 31.3.2000			Tele Density as on 31.3.2001			Tele Density as on 31.3.2002		
		Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.93	1.22	2.44	8.11	2.85	4.57	11.65	4.71	6.98	13.10	6.18	8.44	13.57	6.97	9.13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4.86	0.48	1.67	6.66	0.60	2.24	9.05	0.98	3.17	11.16	1.47	4.10	13.24	1.83	4.92
3.	Assam	4.11	0.14	0.65	5.31	0.18	0.84	6.99	0.20	1.06	8.70	0.25	1.33	10.46	0.39	1.68
4.	Bihar	4.09	0.10	0.51	5.11	0.13	0.65	6.12	0.17	0.80	8.63	0.27	1.15	7.25	0.38	1.10
5.	Chhattisgarh	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	5.14	0.28	1.26
6.	Delhi	11.92	0	11.92	17.09	0	17.09	18.55	0	18.55	18.55	0	18.55	15.25	0.00	15.25
7.	Gujarat	5.98	0.82	2.74	7.32	0.91	3.30	9.22	1.09	4.12	11.44	1.48	5.19	13.67	2.09	6.41
8.	Haryana	6.25	0.55	2.20	7.49	0.69	2.66	8.76	0.95	3.21	10.59	1.40	4.07	12.63	2.00	5.08
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15.31	1.86	3.18	17.72	2.38	3.88	21.93	3.00	4.85	26.06	3.76	5.94	29.99	5.05	7.49
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.17	0.19	0.93	4.18	0.09	1.11	4.96	0.10	1.31	6.54	0.13	1.72	8.05	0.23	2.18
11.	Jharkhand	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	5.25	0.30	1.40
12.	Karnataka	5.84	0.82	2.53	6.93	1.01	3.02	8.61	1.28	3.77	10.33	1.79	4.69	12.29	2.13	5.58
13.	Kerala	7.47	2.29	3.64	8.99	2.97	4.53	11.08	3.90	5.77	15.14	5.05	7.67	17.58	6.59	9.45

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4.11	0.43	1.41	4.95	0.48	1.67	20.26	0.52	5.78	7.77	0.48	2.43	9.68	0.50	2.95
15.	Maharashtra	8.35	0.66	3.93	9.42	0.75	4.44	5.50	0.96	2.89	13.03	1.33	6.30	15.00	1.87	7.45
16.	North East	6.98	0.44	1.91	8.88	0.60	2.46	11.04	0.82	3.12	13.57	1.04	3.86	15.08	1.47	4.53
17.	Orissa	3.92	0.22	0.77	4.94	0.27	0.97	5.95	0.36	1.20	7.24	0.49	1.50	8.51	0.72	1.88
18.	Punjab	9.12	0.78	3.78	10.73	1.27	4.67	12.15	1.91	5.59	14.15	2.70	6.82	18.24	4.10	9.18
19.	Rajasthan	4.66	0.44	1.43	5.82	0.47	1.72	6.71	0.60	2.03	7.96	0.81	2.48	9.26	1.15	3.05
20.	Tamil Nadu	5.83	0.51	3.77	7.53	0.51	4.70	9.88	0.51	5.90	12.82	0.49	7.64	11.65	0.46	5.40
21.	Uttaranchal	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	10.99	1.13	3.55
22.	Uttar Pradesh	3.68	0.15	0.88	4.82	0.16	1.13	11.05	0.29	2.02	13.24	0.48	2.52	14.09	0.55	2.72
23.	West Bengal	4.29	0.21	1.16	5.28	0.28	1.44	6.61	0.34	1.80	8.23	0.51	2.29	9.58	0.75	2.76
Total		5.47	0.43	1.82	7.29	0.51	2.37	8.44	0.66	2.90	10.37	0.90	3.64	12.03	1.21	4.22

Note:

- 1 # These states were formed in the year 2002.
- 2 North-East includes the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.
- 3 Maharashtra includes the state of Goa
- 4 West Bengal includes the state of Sikkim.
- 5 Gujarat includes the Union Territories of (i) Dadra & Nagar Haveli & (ii) Daman & Diu
- 6 Kerala includes the Union Territory of Lakshdweep Islands.
- 7 Punjab includes the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- 8 Tamil Nadu includes the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Checking Entry of Salesman/ Agents in Hospitals

1415. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the malpractice being followed by the Medical representatives in connivance with the hospital staff which is creating great disturbance in the Government hospitals as reported in the Hindu dated November 28, 2002;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop this malpractice; and

(d) the action taken against the erring Doctors/Staff of the hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The salesmen of the implant companies are not allowed to interact with the patients in Govt. hospitals including AIIMS. In AIIMS, the salesmen are asked to deposit instruments/implants of assorted sizes, required for operation, in the operation theatre. The salesmen do not interact with the patients admitted in the ward. In Safdarjung Hospital, the patients who require implants during the surgery are given various options according to the suitability of that particular case and also the financial resources of the patient. The patient is given a list of implants as well as addresses of the distributors.

Non-Availability of Bidders

1416. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain public sector enterprises, which were put on disinvestment, could not be sold due to non-availability of bidders and as a result thereof were transferred to concerned departments;

(b) if so, whether such enterprises are proposed to be restructured;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Eight cases were returned to the concerned Administrative Ministry after concerted efforts by the Ministry of Disinvestment failed to attract any bidder.

The cases of Praga Tools Ltd., Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd., Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd., National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., and RBL Ltd. were returned by Ministry of Disinvestment to Department of Heavy Industry for appropriate action including closure. In the case of Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd., the cabinet had given "in principle" approval for financial restructuring which was incumbent on successful joint venture formation. Scooters India Ltd. (SIL) was returned to Department of Heavy Industry intimating that the case could be taken up for the disinvestment only after the automobile market improves. M/s Hindustan Insecticides Ltd (HIL) was returned to Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers to take appropriate action. Equity of the Company is being strengthened to finance the repairs and maintenance of capital asset.

Optical Fibre Cables

1417. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for providing at least 2000 km optical fibre cable for Bidar district in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government have installed electronic exchanges in the said district;

(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) to (d) The total number

of exchanges in Bidar district is 79 and all are digital electronic exchanges. All these exchanges have reliable media connectivity, with 73 connected on optical fibre. Hence, there is no proposal to provide 2000 kms of optical fibre cable to Bidar district.

National Institute for Occupational Health

1418. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the regional offices of National Institute for Occupational Health;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of regional offices at present;

(d) the budget of this Institute for 2002-2003;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the activities of these regional offices in 2003-2004; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) NIOH (National Institute of Occupational Health) Ahmedabad has two Regional Occupational health Centres at Kolkatta & Bangalore.

(d) The budget of NIOH for 2002-2003 is as under:

Plan	Non-Plan
551.01 lacs	344.65 lacs

(e) and (f) The two regional centres are engaged actively in a number of Research Activities related to Occupational Environmental Health Problems in their respective regions.

Sky Way Bridge of Bangalore

1419. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's second longest Sky Way Bridge at Bangalore is being inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister very soon;

(b) if so, the total cost of constructing this bridge; and

(c) the Centre contribution for the construction of this bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir. A Cable-Stayed Road-over-Bridge at Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore on National Highway-4 has been inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister on 13th February, 2003.

(b) Total sanctioned cost of this bridge is Rs. 4196 Lakhs. However, Railway authorities have recently intimated the cost of completion as Rs. 5260 Lakhs. So far, the Revised Cost Estimate has not been sanctioned.

(c) The contribution of Central Government for the Sanctioned Cost Estimate of Rs. 4196 Lakhs is as follow:

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways share = Rs. 3723.12 Lakhs

Ministry of Railways = Rs. 236.44 Lakhs

Total = Rs. 3959.56 Lakhs

Monitoring of Movements of Indians

1420. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the movements of Indians in US are being closely monitored by the FBI as reported in the Times of India dated January 24, 2003;

(b) if so, the veracity or otherwise of the matter as reported; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The report refers to U.S. citizens of Indian origin having been questioned by local authorities. It is also learnt that at least one of these individuals has taken up this matter through U.S. political channels. Government have not received any representation in this regard.

(c) It is the Government's clear policy to maintain correct and cordial relations with foreign citizens of Indian origin.

[Translation]

Cancer Control Programme

1421. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the National Cancer Control Programme has been unsuccessful;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any assessment of this programme; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The National Cancer Control Programme was launched in 1975 and revised in 1984-85 with the objective of providing primary prevention of cancer and treatment at tertiary level. An evaluation of the National Cancer Control Programme has been conducted by National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi. They have submitted the report recently, which is under examination.

[English]

Setting up of Task Force for Spreading Rural Technology

1422. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a Task Force to Coordinate and spread innovations in rural technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any funds have been allocated for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the states where the Government propose to apply the rural technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF

ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Government has accorded high priority to development and dissemination of rural technology in its development strategy. A number of agencies have been set up to develop and disseminate technologies, which could be adopted by the rural industries. Though there are many organizations active in this area, it has been felt that there is a need to take a holistic look at the issue of rural technology development, evaluation and extension. The Government has decided to set up a Task force to undertake this exercise. The composition and terms of reference of the Task Force are being worked out.

Online Bill Payment

1423. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subscribers who pay their bills using online banking find their telephones disconnected arbitrarily as reported in the Hindu dated November 28, 2002;

(b) If so, facts thereof;

(c) the main bottlenecks in settling the telephone bills using online banking facilities; and

(d) the concrete steps taken to streamline the procedure of online settlement of telephone bills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the Hindu, datelined Chandigarh the 28th November 2002, the payments were made by the subscribers (whose telephone numbers are not indicated in the report) through the online banking facility of ICICI Bank. The concerned unit of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has however clarified that it had no arrangement with the said Bank for such online payments, and hence cannot be held responsible for the disconnection of a telephone for non-payment if the bill is paid through an unauthorized mode.

(c) There are no fundamental bottlenecks in settling telephone bills using an online banking facility, provided the same has been duly authorized by the local telephone authority.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above. However, the Chandigarh unit of Punjab Telecom circle of BSNL has recently entered into Agreements with the Bank of Punjab and the HDFC Bank for online settlement of its telephone bills.

National Service Scheme

1424. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agencies which implement National Service Scheme in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated under this scheme during each of the last three years, till date;

(c) the details of funds released/utilised and remained unspent during the said period, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for the funds not utilised in some States;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that such funds are properly utilised; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) National Service Scheme (NSS) is being implemented by the Universities through institutions and affiliated colleges. At the +2 level schools, it is being implemented through the State School Councils/Boards covering all the States and Union Territory administrations.

(b) Details of funds allocated under the Scheme are as under:

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
3065 lakh	3285 lakh	3144 lakh

(c) Details of funds released/utilized and remained unspent during the said period, are in the enclosed statement.

(d) NSS is a centrally sponsored scheme and the pattern of sharing expenditure is in the ratio of 3:1 in the case of North Eastern States including Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh and other hilly areas as notified by the Planning Commission and 7:5 in the case of other States/Union Territories. In case of Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territories without legislatures, the entire expenditure is met by the Central Government.

The 1st instalment of the Central Share is released to the States/U.Ts in the last quarter of the preceding year. The State Government is supposed to release its matching share to the Universities/Colleges by the 30th of May. As some States are facing severe resources crunch, they are not able to release their share timely. This leads to unspent balance at the end of the year.

Another reason for the high level of unspent balance is accumulation of funds over a number of years.

(e) and (f) The Ministry has been pursuing the matter

with the States and has decided to proportionately reduce the share of central grant in a manner so that the unspent balance gets adjusted and the activities of NSS also do not suffer due to non release of funds.

Statement

Details of Funds Released/Utilised and Remained Unspent during three years (State-wise)

S. No.	Name of the State/UTs	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		Funds released	Unspent Balance (As on 31.3.01)	Funds released	Unspent Balance (As on 31.3.02)	Funds released (upto 5.2.03)	Unspent Balance (As on 31.3.03)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	2,35,08,333	98,322	2,34,10,011	Nil	1,88,77,500	-
2	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3,90,000	Nil	1,83,750	91,875	7,40,775	-
4	Bihar	Nil	1,48,18,514	19,54,385	1,71,88,982	Nil	-
5	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	54,25,000	99,00,825	44,75,625	-
6	Gujarat	1,36,52,917	4,02,94,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
7	Goa	12,65,833	53,231	17,01,871	Nil	27,12,500	-
8	Haryana	97,65,000	8,63,333	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	84,90,000	-	30,10,913	Nil	Nil	-
10	Jammu & Kashmir	16,50,000	30,69,700	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
11	Karnataka	2,53,16,667	1,55,26,615	1,09,44,385	62,38,334	2,44,12,500	-
12	Kerala	1,53,70,833	Nil	1,80,83,333	27,12,503	1,71,79,164	-
13	Madhya Pradesh	1,62,75,000	1,36,79,307	62,37,422	91,95,004	64,84,938	-
14	Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	40,41,795	4,03,418	39,72,749	-
15	Manipur	24,00,000	-	Nil	7,70,000	20,54,250	-
16	Maharashtra	3,97,83,333	2,18,05,563	1,43,61,104	2,40,63,049	1,87,48,107	-
17	Meghalaya	7,70,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
18	Nagaland	2,88,750	Nil	Nil	Nil	9,90,000	-
19	Mizoram	51,00,000	34,63,750	19,23,662	Nil	57,12,588	-
20	Orissa	1,49,18,750	3,21,25,555	55,65,244	2,36,04,805	1,11,89,063	-
21	Punjab	1,05,87,500	2,30,43,949	Nil	1,70,75,865	1,17,64,998	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22	Rajasthan	1,71,79,167	1,88,72,146	77,05,881	85,96,839	1,43,26,254	
23	Sikkim	9,90,000	-	3,84,249	Nil	20 04,600	
24	Tamil Nadu	3,07,41,667	42,22,317	2,95,93,516	43,56,508	3,28,40,909	
25	Tripura	36,00,000	Nil	51,00,000	Nil	51,00,000	
26	Uttar Pradesh	2,91,86,500	5,91,51,193	75,44,375	4,83,28,272	Nil	
27	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	85,46,945	25,13,001	71,32,866	
28	West Bengal	88,60,833	-	31,56,926	31,56,926	73,10,188	
29	Anaman & Nicobar Islands	99,000	-	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
30	Chandigarh	20,15,000		7,59,500	Nil	Nil	
31	UT of Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
32	Pondicherry	12,65,833	1,96,700	8,07,500	Nil	8,00,000	
33	Lakshadweep	56,10,1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
34	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1,24,000	-	59,675	Nil	1,40,668	-
35	Daman & Diu	2,04,600	-	86,800	59,290	2,04,600	-

Rest Areas Along National Highway-9

1425. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government have any proposal to construct Rest Areas along National Highway No.9;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the time by which the work is going to be undertaken?

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

(b) An estimate for Land Acquisition for wayside amenities at Km. 366 of National Highway-9 has been sanctioned by the Central Government. The land acquisition process is in progress. Keeping in view the budgetary provision, the possibility of developing the roadside amenities with private participation is being explored.

(c) It is too early to indicate the time frame for the commencement of work.

Non Polluting Vehicles

1426. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government are aware that CNG and Euro-II compliance vehicles fall under the category of non-polluting vehicles; and
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Vehicles running on CNG or vehicles plying on petrol and diesel which are compliant to Euro-II equivalent norms, are definitely less polluting than other vehicles.

(b) The emission norms relating to CNG and Euro-II compliant vehicles have already been notified and placed before Parliament.

Loss to Telecom Department

1427. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have created any ways and means to reduce the loss to the Telecom Department due to the large number of disconnections made for the non-payment of telephone bills and the refunds made for the surrendered telephone connections; and

(b) the total number of telephone connections provided State-wise and the deposits collected by the Government for providing New Telephone connections till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. After formation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the Government no longer provides telecom services and, as such, there is no loss to the Telecom Department. Since Government is no longer a Service Provider, no deposit is now being collected by DOT. However, the total number of telephone connections provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mananagar Telephone Nigam Limited as on 31.01.03 is in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Name of the State	Total Number of Telephones as on 31.01.2003
1	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	35621
Andhra Pradesh	3312182
Arunachal Pradesh	51392
Assam	475619
Bihar	908415
Chhattisgarh	296058
Gujarat	3105602
Haryana	1087692
Himachal Pradesh	474543
Jammu & Kashmir	252631

1	2
Jharkhand	436371
Karnataka	2832131
Kerala	3036994
Madhya Pradesh	1261584
Maharashtra	3972307
Manipur	40246
Meghalaya	57660
Mizoram	49224
Nagaland	42648
Orissa	742076
Punjab	2117717
Rajasthan	1739993
Sikkim	36820
Tamil Nadu	4010131
Tripura	77308
Uttar Pradesh	3110569
Uttaranchal	350936
West Bengal	2439511
MTNL, Delhi	2295916
MTNL, Mumbai	2562970

Medical Reimbursement

1428. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) the total amount of pending bills for reimbursement of CGHS beneficiaries for medicines purchased from market;

(b) whether the Hon'ble Delhi High Court has given any directives to the Centre in this regard;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total funds required to clear these pending bills; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to mitigate the suffering of CGHS beneficiaries in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Receipt of medical reimbursement bills under CGHS is an ongoing process. Bills amounting to Rs.54,93,433/- are under process for payment at present.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Delhi High Court vide order dated 8.1.2003 in Civil Miscellaneous Petition No.43/2003 in Civil Writ Petition No.33/2003 filed by Pratap Chand Chaswal versus Union of India and others had inter-alia stated as under:-

"... In so far as the reimbursement process to the retirees beneficiaries are concerned, respondents will continue to take steps to have the said matter expedited by preparing the cheques and handing over the same to the respective dispensaries/hospitals..."

(d) The receipt of medical reimbursement bills of CGHS pensioner beneficiaries is an ongoing process and bills are still being received by the CGHS (HQ) from the beneficiaries/dispensaries. A proposal has also been moved for allocation of an additional amount of Rs.5.00 crore during the current financial year 2002-2003 for clearing the pending medical bills of the beneficiaries.

(e) The difficulties faced by the beneficiaries due to the strike by the authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi with effect from 1.11.2002 were reduced after the Govt. issued orders on 16.1.2003 allowing all the Authorised Local Chemists under CGHS, Delhi to supply medicines as per the requirement of the CGHS dispensaries. Besides, arrangements were made for supply of medicines to the dispensaries through the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC).

Mechanism for Engineering Solutions

1429. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the NHAI has any mechanism for engineering solutions which are thrown up during the road widening and modernisation of the highway system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the access to villages along the national highways is removed by new road construction or widening of the existing highways;

(d) if so, whether there are instance where NHAI has in effect blocked the old accesses; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to review such situations?

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

(b) National Highways Authority of India appoints DPR Consultants and Supervision Consultants of international repute for providing engineering solutions to the problem thrown up during the road widening and modernization of the Highway system.

(c) to (e) The access to villages along the National Highways have been taken care of in the best possible way by providing service roads underpasses etc.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to National Highways

1430. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) the total funds allocated for development, maintenance and repair of National Highways in the country particularly Bihar during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003:

(b) the number of bridges constructed during the last two years, the number of bridges under construction and the number of these pending for approval;

(c) whether allocated funds for the purpose during the said period were inadequate; and

(d) if so, the funds proposed to be allocated for the development of National Highways under the Tenth Five-year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The details are as under:

(Amount in Rs. Cr.)

Sl.No.	Year	Funds allocated for development of National Highways		Funds allocated for maintenance and repairs of National Highways	
		Total	Bihar	Total	Bihar
1.	2001-02	5060.04	246.24	732.66	52.82
2.	2002-03	5309.98	155.58	707.11	53.52

(b) The details are as under:

Number of bridges constructed during last two years 317 Nos.

Number of bridges under construction 1238 Nos.

Number of bridge proposals pending for approval 29 Nos.

(c) and (d) The funds were allocated keeping in view the overall availability, requirement and inter-se priority. During the 10th Five Year Plan an amount of Rs.59,700 Cr. has been earmarked for development of National Highways including National Highway Development Project (NHDP).

*[English]***Financial Assistance to States**

1431. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has extended any financial assistance to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa for selected projects and works in view of their fight against left wing extremism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has been formulated for dealing with the specific problems of backward areas, some of which have also been affected by left wing extremism. This scheme has three components, namely, (i) the Backward Districts Initiative; (ii) the Special Plan for Bihar; and (iii) the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa.

Under the Backward Districts Component of this scheme, 25 districts have been selected on a pilot basis of which eleven have been identified as extremist affected by Ministry of Home Affairs, including some in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

In addition, under the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa, three extremist affected districts of the State are covered.

Further, the Special Plan for Bihar is being funded under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana for the State as a whole for identified thrust areas such as power, irrigation, roads, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, etc. through innovative delivery systems so that the prevailing bottlenecks in these sectors can be overcome and basic infrastructure provided for the future development of the State, which will also impact on the areas affected by left wing extremism.

Island Development Council

1432. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Island Development Council (IDC) for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep was organised recently after a lapse of around six years;

(b) if so, the reasons for holding this meeting after such a long time;

(c) the outcome of the meeting; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government so far to ensure ecologically sustainable development of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The meeting of the Island Development Authority (IDA) for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep was organised on 19th January 2003 after around six years.

(b) Meetings of the high level Island Development Authority (IDA) had been fixed in 1997 and 2001, but due to unavoidable circumstances, these had to be postponed. Three meetings of the Standing Committee of IDA have however been held in the interim period.

(c) The IDA decided to entrust the Standing Committee of Secretaries with the time-bound responsibility of developing and recommending a policy for development of tourism, fisheries, high-value agriculture and hydro-carbon energy resources in these Islands that harmonises the need to meet developmental aspirations with environmental and strategic concerns.

(d) During the meetings of the IDA and its Standing Committee, as well as in the annual discussions on the State Plans of the Islands, care is taken to ensure that ecologically sustainable schemes are promoted for the development of the region.

Tolls/Toll Gates Along National Highway-5

1433. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) proposes to introduce a system of tolls and toll gates all along National Highway-5;

(b) if so, the segments which will attract such a system of tolls along National Highway-5;

(c) the time by which such toll gates are likely to become operational;

(d) whether, there will be a time limit to operate such toll systems; 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) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the policy of the Government, user fee will be charged on all National Highways upgraded from existing 2-lane to 4/6-lane facilities and therefore all segments of National Highway-5 would have a system of toll gates.

(c) The system of fee collection would be made operational on completion of reasonable length of sections of National Highway-5.

(d) and (e) User fee will be collected in perpetuity on all 4-laned sections of National Highway as per the provision of the National Highway Act, 1956, and rules made thereunder.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, on behalf of Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri, AVSM, 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. 1330 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2002 regarding acquisition of land on National Highway No. 56B (Lucknow-Bypass to connect National Highways No. 25 and 56) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) S.O. 1332 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for the National Highways No. 8 and 11 in the State of Rajasthan.

(iii) S.O. 1337 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.7 (Hosur to Krishnagiri Section) in the District of Dharmapuri in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(iv) S.O. 1342 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2002 authorising the Manager (technical) NHA¹, Shivabasava Nagar, Belgaum, Karnataka, as the competent authority to perform the functions under the said Act for acquisition of land on National Highway No.4 in the State of Karnataka.

- (v) S.O. 1391 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 79 (Nasrabad to Baral) in District Ajmer in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vi) S.O. 14 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 76 (Udaipur-Mangalwar Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vii) S.O. 23 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the District of Vellore in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) S.O. 24 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the District of Dharmapuri in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ix) S.O. 25 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.7 (Hosur-Krishnagiri Section) in the District of Dharmapuri in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (x) S.O. 30 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 236 (E) dated the 27th February, 2002.
- (xi) S.O. 36 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th January, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No.2 (Kanpur- Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xii) S.O. 45 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th January, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri to Ranipet Section) in the District of Dharmapuri in the State of Tamil Nadu.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7038/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Central Motor Vehicles (6th Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 845 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2002 under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7039/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, 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. L.T. 7040/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 2000-2001.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7041/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7042/2003]

12.01 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thirty-ninth to Forty-fourth Reports

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Sir, I beg to present the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development:

- (1) Thirty-ninth report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 32nd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (2) Fortieth report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 36th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation);
- (3) Forty-first report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 26th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (4) Forty-second report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 33rd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (5) Forty-third report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 34th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development); and

- (6) Forty-fourth report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 35th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation).

12.01½ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Indian Council for Agricultural Research Society

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ajit Singh, I beg to move the following —

"That in pursuance of Rule 4(vii) of the Rules of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society for a term of three years subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Rule 4(vii) of the Rules of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Society for a term of three years subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

The motion was adopted.

12.02 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up the Railway Budget.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to propose for connecting the birth place of Mahatma Buddha and Bhagwan Mahabir with railways. ...*(Interruptions)* The proposal to connect Vaishali with rail line should be passed. It is a historical land. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Ambedkar, are you on a point of order?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA): Yes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing before the House to raise a point of order. Please sit down. There is nothing before the House. The Railway Minister may please go ahead.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Except Shri Nitish Kumar's speech, nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Palanimanickam, what is your point? I have not been able to understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR): Sir, every year the Railway Budget is being presented in Hindi. It should be presented in English. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will take care of it. Shri Nitish Kumar, they have a difficulty. The English Translation is not being heard by them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Has it started?

Yes, it has started now. Now, the hon. Minister will start from the beginning. Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Should I start from the beginning?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can go ahead.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Budget Estimates for 2003-2004 for the Indian Railways.

Introduction

2. At the outset, I express my profound gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister for launching the National Rail Vikas Yojana, which involves the strengthening of the Golden Quadrilateral, augmenting rail connectivity to ports and also the construction of four mega bridges. This non-budgetary initiative is bound to accelerate the growth of the Indian Railways, which is the lifeline of the Nation.

Financial Performance in 2001-2002

3. I will now give a brief review of the performance of the year 2001-2002. The year 2001-2002 ended with a freight loading of 492.5 million tonnes which was 3.50 million tonnes higher than the target of 489 million tonnes fixed in the Revised Estimates for the year. Freight earnings have consequently surpassed the revised target by Rs.235.40 cr. This improvement was attributable to better performance during the last quarter of the year as the economy started picking up. Passenger earnings, however, suffered a set back in the last quarter of the year due to various extraneous factors resulting in a shortfall in passenger earnings to the extent of Rs.204 cr. against the enhanced revised target of Rs.11400 cr. Taking into account the increase in Other Coaching and Sundry earnings and a lesser accretion to the Traffic Suspense as compared to the Revised estimate targets, the Gross Traffic Receipts for the year were Rs.118 cr. higher than that envisaged in the Revised Estimates.

4. As a result of continued monitoring and control over expenditure, Railways were able to contain the Ordinary Working Expenses to Rs.28703 cr. resulting in a saving of Rs.397 cr. as compared to the revised estimates. This coupled with need-based appropriation to DRF and Pension Fund and also the variation in Net Miscellaneous receipts, resulted in an increase of Rs.197 cr. in Railways' net revenue. The operating ratio for the year improved to 96.0 percent as against 96.6 percent envisaged in the Revised Estimates. After deferment of Rs.1000 cr., as was envisaged in the Budget, Railways were able to discharge the balance dividend liability

of Rs.1337 cr., besides repaying the loan of Rs. 249 cr. taken from the General Exchequer for Capital Fund.

Review of Financial Performance in 2002-03

5. In the Budget for 2002-03, the originating revenue earning freight traffic has been estimated at 510 million tonnes. I am happy to inform the House that the performance during the first 10 months of the current fiscal has exceeded the proportionate target. Accordingly, the target for the originating revenue earning freight traffic has been revised upwards to 515 million tonnes in the Revised Estimates for the year. On the other hand, in the Passenger segment there has been a drop of nearly three percent in number of passengers to end December 2002.

6. The goods earnings are likely to exceed, the budget target of Rs. 26,118 cr. by Rs. 540 cr., whereas passenger earnings are likely to fall short of the budget target of Rs. 13450 cr. by Rs. 720 cr. Taken together, the other coaching and sundry earnings are likely to be Rs. 24 cr. below the budget target. Due to continued increase in the amount owed to Railways by the users, particularly, Electricity Boards, the unrealized earnings are likely to increase by Rs. 417 crores as against a budgeted clearance of Rs.50 crores. Therefore, the budgeted Gross Traffic Receipts of Rs.41,538 cr. have been reduced to Rs. 40,867 cr. in the Revised Estimates.

7. With sustained monitoring and continued austerity, there is likely to be a reduction of Rs. 850 cr. in the Ordinary Working Expenses. Accordingly, the Revised Estimates for these are placed at Rs.30,310 cr. as against Rs. 31,160 in the Budget Estimates.

8. The operating ratio budgeted at 94.4 percent is likely to improve to 92.5 percent in the Revised Estimates.

9. Besides discharging fully the dividend liability for the year, an amount of Rs. 50 cr. is also proposed to be cleared from the Deferred Dividend Liability Account.

Customer Satisfaction

10. Sir, we are celebrating the 150th year of Indian Railways as 'Passenger Amenities Year'. Indian Railways will be completing 150 years of glorious service to the nation this year. On this occasion, Indian Railways expresses gratitude to its customers whose continued support has enabled all round development of this vast network. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, had a close association with Railways. As stated by Bapu, the customer is the most important visitor on our premises. Hence, it is our primary duty to ensure the satisfaction of customers and for this reason I dedicate the year 2003-2004 to our customers and declare it as 'Customer

Satisfaction Year'. This year several steps relating to safety, security, punctuality and cleanliness will be taken so that customers would derive greater satisfaction from the Railways Safety

Safety

11 I am aware of the concern expressed both inside and outside Parliament on the vital issue of safety. In pursuance of the commitment made by me during the Winter Session of Parliament, a White Paper covering the entire spectrum of the issues involved in safety in train operations would be presented during the course of this session.

12. One of the major contributing factors for accidents has been found to be human failure. In this context, the filling up of vacancies in safety categories in Group 'D' has assumed importance. It has been decided to fill up more than 20,000 such vacancies through Railway Recruitment Boards within the next one year. Training plays an important role in increasing the efficiency of the employees. Railways are determined to effect continuous improvement in Safety related training and to enable this, the training facilities at all Zonal Training Centres, seven Supervisory Training Centres and eight Central Engineering Training Centres are being suitably upgraded. Modules on Disaster Management are also being prepared. To this end, new works at a cost of Rs. 41 crores are proposed to be taken up.

Anti-Collision Device (ACD):

13. ACD is an intelligent microprocessor based equipment developed indigenously to prevent collisions. When installed on locomotives, brake vans and at stations and level crossing gates, these ACDs network among themselves to prevent accident like conditions involving collision of trains.

14. Extended field trials of this device on Jalandhar-Amritsar section of Northern Railway have been successfully completed on 19th January 2003. Now, deployment of this device on Indian Railways has started. Provision of ACDs on about 1800 route kms section and ACD survey on 1641 route Kms section are in progress. During 2003-2004, to accelerate the pace of this work, it is proposed to carry out ACD survey of 10,000 route kms. and provide ACD over additional 1750 route kms.

Continuous Track Circuiting

15. Continuous track circuiting enables detection of discontinuities caused by rail/weld fracture or acts of sabotage. This helps in taking timely precautionary measures and prevents possible accidents. This will also improve the line capacity and safety at level crossing gates. The work of track circuiting is being executed within station limits. Work of

continuous track circuiting in block sections on selected sections of 'A', 'B' and 'C' routes at a cost of Rs. 425 crores is now being proposed in this Budget.

Bridges

16. For upgrading and modernizing the bridge inspection and management systems, action has been taken to initiate underwater inspections, computerized non-destructive testing with state of the art equipment and introduce a modern Bridge Management System.

Crash worthiness of Coaches

17. To minimize injuries during rail travel, coaches are being redesigned without any sharp corners in the interior and duly padding up vulnerable areas. In order to prevent coaches from climbing over each other in the event of a collision, tight lock couplers are being introduced progressively. Concurrently, redesigning coach ends to take the full impact of the collision has been undertaken so that passenger areas remain free from damage due to collision or heavy impact.

Special Railway Safety Fund - Financial & Physical Progress

18. During 2001-2002 the actual expenditure under SRSF stood at Rs. 1434 cr. (Net) as against the allotment of Rs. 1400 cr. The safety surcharge fell short of the targeted collection by Rs.95 cr. Thus, the additional amount of Rs.129 cr. required on both these counts was made available through Railways' normal revenues. In the current year, the total net allocation for SRSF was stepped up to Rs. 2210 cr. as per the Budget Estimates, which included Rs. 1350 cr. as contribution from General Exchequer and Rs. 860 cr. from the safety surcharge. This has been further increased by Rs.100 cr. in the Revised Estimates to keep up the pace of progress of safety works under SRSF. Railways are contributing this additional amount as well as the current year's shortfall of about Rs.200 cr. in surcharge collection from its own revenues.

19. As regards the physical progress of the works, I would like to inform that track Renewal of around 5,400 km is also expected to be completed by the end of the current year. Rehabilitation of approximately 745 bridges is likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year. So far signalling equipment replacement works have been completed at 298 stations. Further, about 1350 track circuits have been provided till now.

Security

20. Active consultations are on with the concerned Ministries to give a final shape to the proposal to amend the RPF Act

and Railway Act in order to provide enhanced powers to the RPF.

21. To strengthen the Railway Protection Force and the Railway Protection Special Force, recruitment of over 3500 constables will be done through Railway Recruitment Board in the year 2003-2004.

Punctuality

22. For further improving the punctuality of passenger services, it is proposed to streamline and strengthen the monitoring mechanism so as to control the factors, barring force majeure, that affect punctuality. To this end, it is proposed to introduce a new computerized Coaching Operations Information System (COIS).

Operation Cleanliness

23. On the occasion of Independence Day, the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the launching of 'Operation Cleanliness' to ensure cleanliness in trains and on railway premises. A task force has been constituted to frame an action plan for this. The responsibility of ensuring cleanliness in Railways rests with many departments. To cleanse the cleaning operations in Railways there is a need to establish a unified control. Apart from optimal utilisation of men and material resources available with Railways, it will also be necessary to induct costly equipment, in which the private sector will also be associated.

Passenger Amenities

24. Encouraged by the response to the pilot project of the Unreserved Ticketing System in Delhi, it is proposed to implement this in other areas of Northern Railway and on North Eastern, East Central, Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railways.

25. To obtain a refund against a reserved ticket after the departure of a train is still a problem for the passengers. Hence, in addition to the existing facilities, it is proposed to permit refunds of the amount due from any PRS center, three hours after the train has reached its destination.

26. In case a confirmed or RAC ticket is lost by a passenger, a duplicate ticket can be issued, before preparation of Reservation Chart, on payment of 10 percent or 25 percent of full fare based on the distance of journey or type of train. As a customer friendly measure, it is proposed that charges for issuing such a duplicate ticket would be refundable at a PRS Centre at the destination on completion of the journey performed on such a ticket.

Measures to improve rail share

27. Encouraged by the utilization of the integrated warehousing facility at Whitefield terminal at Bangalore, Railways intend to enter into an MOU with the Central Warehousing Corporation as its strategic partner for development of similar integrated rail-side warehouse complexes at 22 locations.

28. Greater flexibility has been given to the General Managers to improve the rail share of freight, through delegated powers to offer concessions ranging from 10 percent to 24 percent on Station to Station rates and also bringing the consignees as well as the consignors within the scope of the scheme.

29. Five weekly Parcel Express trains are being run by railways, which include three trains connecting Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai to Guwahati. One train each is running from Delhi to Kolkata and to Bangalore. More such trains would be introduced between Amritsar and Mumbai via Delhi; from Delhi to Guwahati routed through Moradabad, Lucknow and Gorakhpur and between Mumbai and Kolkata.

Refrigerated Vans

30. As announced in last year's Railway Budget, a prototype Refrigerated Van has been developed by Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala. It is proposed to induct during 2003-2004 ten refrigerated vans in popular long distance passenger trains for moving perishable commodities.

Concessions to Passengers

31. Senior Citizens of our country are being granted 30 percent concession in fares in all classes and in all trains. This concession is available to men of the age of 65 years and above and women of age sixty and above. I am glad to announce that now both men and women will be entitled for the Senior Citizen concession on attaining the age of 60 years.

32. Cancer and "Thalassemia Major" patients and heart patients, travelling for the purpose of heart surgery, alone or accompanied by an attendant, are presently entitled to a concession of 75 percent in First Class and Second Class. It has been decided to extend 75 percent concession in AC 3-Tier and AC Chair Car and grant 50 percent concession in AC First Class and AC 2-Tier of Mail/Express trains. Kidney patients undertaking train journey for the purpose of treatment would also be granted similar travel concessions.

33. Accredited Press Correspondents are currently entitled to 50 percent concession for travel upto 30,000 kilometers per year, in all classes of Mail/Express trains, if they are residing within 25 kilometers from the concerned capital city or district headquarter. I am glad to propose that the limit on their concessional travel as well as the distance restriction for their place of residence is removed. Further, Accredited Press Correspondents would now be granted 30 percent concession in Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains also.

34. The communication system available on Rajdhani & Shatabdi Express trains for making public announcements and playing music on running trains are being extended to Jan Shatabdi Express trains also. It has now been decided to adopt a policy of playing only instrumental music, appropriate to the season and the time of the day, in all such trains.

Other Initiatives

Joint Venture with NTPC

35. As was reported last year, an MoU was signed by Ministry of Railways with NTPC for setting up of captive thermal power plants. I am happy to state that the project committee consisting of representatives from NTPC and Railways formed for the purpose has, after examining four different sites, recommended Nabinagar as a suitable site for a 1000 M.W thermal plant, which has been accepted. It is now proposed to form a Joint Venture Company of Railways with NTPC for implementation of the scheme.

Bio Diesel

36. The Railways are also exploring alternative fuel sources. A massive drive for planting Ratan Jyot plants on both sides of the Railway land has been embarked upon. Bio-diesel, which can be distilled from Ratan Jyot by a simple and inexpensive refining process, can be freely mixed with diesel oil used on our locomotives. This is an initiative that is not only environment friendly, but will also result in reducing our fuel bill.

37. An MoU has been signed on 12.2.2003 with Indian Oil Corporation for a pilot project in which they will grow Ratan Jyot plants on Railway land and sell the oil produced from them back to the Railways.

Formation of new zones and divisions

38. Hon'ble Members are aware of the decision to operationalise seven new zones and eight new divisions. The

North Western Railway and East Central Railway headquartered at Jaipur and Hajipur respectively have become operational w.e.f. 01.10.2002. The remaining five new zones viz., East Coast Railway at Bhubaneswar, North Central Railway at Allahabad, South East Central Railway at Bilaspur, West Central Railway at Jabalpur and South Western Railway at Hubli and eight new Divisions headquartered at Agra, Ahmedabad, Guntur, Nanded, Pune, Ranchi, Rangliya and Raipur shall be operationalised w.e.f. 01.4.2003. OSDs in the rank of General Managers and DRMs to head these new zones and divisions respectively are already in position. The feedback received indicates that the two new zones that were operationalised w.e.f. 01.10.2002, viz. North Western Railway and East Central Railway have been functioning with improved efficiency.

39. To give a greater focus to the R&D activities, the status of RDSO has been elevated to a 'Zonal Railway' from that of an 'Attached Office' to the Railway Board with effect from 01.01.2003.

Reform Agenda

40. To transform the Indian Railways into customer-oriented organization, it is proposed to improve its accounting system. In this regard, it is planned to review the existing accounting policies and practices and to introduce fully computerized accounting and Management Information System so as to generate costing data on passenger and freight services on commercial lines.

41. Our Production Units have been catering mainly to the needs of Indian Railways. Having acquired the State of the Art technology, Railway Production Units can now become competitive and can make their presence felt in the global market provided they are given the requisite autonomy. In order to facilitate this, it is proposed to restructure the production units as independent cost and profit centers.

Projects

National Rail Vikas Yojana

42. National Rail Vikas Yojana, announced on 15th August, 2002, at an estimated cost of Rs.15,000 crore, has been formally launched on 26th December, 2002 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. A company named "Rail Vikas Nigam Limited" has been incorporated under the Companies Act for implementation of these projects including raising of resources. Strengthening of the Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals through identified sub-projects costing about

Rs.8,000 crore will form the major part of this yojana. A part loan of US\$ 313.6 million has been approved by ADB. It will be utilized, mainly, for execution of projects covered under the initiative of "strengthening of Golden Quadrilateral". A dialogue with World Bank has been initiated to mobilize funds for "mega bridges" and other NRVY projects. Projects under the initiative "port connectivity" have been identified and resource mobilization for the same is proposed to be organized through various public-private partnership initiatives and budgetary support.

43. Sir, as committed in my last budget speech, work has already commenced on three mega bridges i.e., Bogibeel bridge over river Brahmaputra, two bridges over river Ganga, one at Patna and the other at Munger. I am happy to inform the House that the requisite clearances for the mega bridge over river Kosi have been obtained and the work has been included in the budget.

National and strategic projects

44. Hon'ble Prime Minister, during his visit to Srinagar had announced that the first train will roll into Kashmir Valley by 15th August 2007. I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who has provided Rs. 500 cr. for this National project in 2003-04, considering its importance. The work on Udhampur-Katra and Quazigund-Baramulla sections is already in progress. The stretch between Katra - Quazigund is very difficult requiring large scale tunneling and bridging works for which detailed surveys on ground need to be carried out. Considering the arduous nature of work, construction on this section has been entrusted to two technically sound organizations, viz., IIRCON and Konkan Railway Corporation Limited while detailed survey has been entrusted to RITES. I am happy to inform that long pending project of Jammu-Udhampur is progressing at a satisfactory pace and is targeted for completion by March 2004. Further, rail link upto Katra is likely to be completed during 2004-2005.

45. The two strategic projects, namely, gauge conversion from Luni to Munabao and new line between Kolayat and Phalodi are progressing satisfactorily and gauge conversion up to Samdari has already been completed.

46. Over 1300 km of BG lines are likely to be added during the current year. Further, a target of addition of nearly 1340 kms of BG lines has been set for 2003-2004.

New Lines

47. Sir, I am happy to state that Kumarghat-Manu of

Kumarghat-Agartala new line has already been completed and commissioned on 27.12.2002 for passenger services. The restoration of Fatuha-Islampur has also been completed. It is hoped to complete restoration of Duraundha-Maharajanj and new lines between Katra-Faizabad and Joruli-Keonjhar during the year. Further, the work of Daulatpur-Malikpur and Bajkul-Nachenda are also likely to be completed by March 2003. The balance targeted portion of these lines i.e. from Malikpur to Balurghat and Nachenda to Kanthi are expected to be completed by June 2003.

48. In 2003-2004, Railways propose to complete 225 km of new lines including following sections:

- (i) Panvel-Karjat
- (ii) Sasaram-Nokha of Ara-Sasaram
- (iii) Kakdweep-Namkhana of Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana
- (iv) Bajalta-Udhampur of Jammu-Udhampur
- (v) Una-Churaru Takrala of Nangaldam-Talwara
- (vi) Kakinada-Kotipalli restoration
- (vii) Mahendralalnagar-Amta of Howrah-Amta
- (viii) Hassan-Sharavanabelagola of Hassan-Bangalore
- (ix) Tilaiya-Jagdishpur of Rajgir- Tilaiya

Gauge Conversion

49. During the year, the gauge conversion of Vadalur-Vriddhachalam, Dharmabad-Nizamabad and Jankampet-Bodhan has already been completed. I am happy to state that against the original target of 791 km of gauge conversion set for the current year, nearly 900 km of gauge conversion is likely to be achieved. This includes Latur-Latur Road new line portion of Miraj-Latur, Mangalore-Kabakaputtur, Virudunagar-Rajapalayam, Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati, Surendernagar-Pipavav, Rajkot-Junagarh and Samdari-Jasai where the works of mega block are already in progress.

50. During the year 2003-2004, a target of over 775 km of gauge conversion has been proposed which include the following sections:

- (i) New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri-Samuktala of New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon

- (ii) Bandikui-Bharatpur of Bandikui -Agra
- (iii) Jasai-Munabao of Luni-Munabao
- (iv) Kabakaputtur-Subrahmanya Road of Hassan-Mangalore
- (v) Villupuram-Pondicherry
- (vi) Rajapalayam- Tenkasi of Quilon-Tiruchendur and Virudunagar-Tenkasi
- (vii) Vadalur-Cuddalore of Salem-Cuddalore
- (viii) Thanjavur-Kumbakonam of Thanjavur-Villupuram
- (ix) Gondia-Balaghat of Jabalpur-Gondia
- (x) Junagarh-Veraval with extension to Somnath of Rajkot-Veraval
- (xi) Dhola-Bhavnagar

51. Further, I am happy to announce that the works of Bhind-Etawah new line as part of Guna-Etawah and Mansi-Saharsa gauge conversion are in good progress and likely to be completed during the year 2004.

Doubling

52. During the current year about 200, km of doublings are likely to be completed, while in the next financial year a target of 340 km has been proposed.

53. Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that doublings of Pakni-Mohol, Mansi-Maheshkhunt, Rohtak-Jakhal, Hapur-Kankather, Sahibabad- Anand Vihar 3rd and 4th line, Ambaturai-Kodaikkanal, Chennai Beach- Korukkupet, Katalya Dandi-Lohgara, Shujalpur-Akodia, Barauni-Tilrath, Barharwa-Tinpahar, Kayankulam-Cheppard and Kayankulam-Mavelikara, Jahanabad-Bela and Chandpara-Bangaon have been included in the budget. Further, doubling of Raichur-Guntakal, Cuttack-Barang, Khurda- Barang 3rd line and Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd line have also been included to strengthen Golden Quadrilateral. The completion of these works is expected to ease the traffic flow and create additional capacity on some of the saturated sections.

Mega Terminals

54. While there have been persistent demands for introducing new trains from the Metros, terminal constraints

are a major bottleneck. To overcome this, proposals for development of additional terminals at Chitpur, Kolkata and Anand Vihar, Delhi have been included in this Budget.

Suburban Transport Projects

55. I am happy to state that necessary approvals for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project - Phase-I have been obtained. The project envisages upgradation of the rail infrastructure in the city of Mumbai and will go a long way in reducing the overcrowding of commuters in the Mumbai Suburban Rail System. The project involves a loan component of Rs.1613 crores, which has been sanctioned by the World Bank. The work is expected to be completed in 5 years.

56. I am glad to inform the House that the work on the balance portion of 5th line from Andheri to Borivali has been completed. The work of automatic block signalling from Virar to Dahanu Road has also been completed, enhancing the line capacity of the section.

57. EMU services on Barasat-Hasnabad have been commissioned on 22.12.2002. The extension of Kolkata Metro from Tollyganj to Garia is progressing satisfactorily. Extension of Circular Railway from Princepghat to Majerhat and its connection to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport is likely to be completed by December 2004.

58. I am happy to state that gauge conversion of Chennai Beach to Egmore has been commissioned recently. The section from Tambaram to Chengalpattu is likely to be completed by March-2004.

59. Hon'ble Members would be pleased to know that considering the public need, it has been decided to provide a direct link between Chennai Central and Chennai Egmore. This link would benefit commuters as well as long distance passengers and would relieve them of the irksome transshipment between the two stations. As regards MRTS, the work of Tirumallai to Vellachery is expected to be completed by June 2003.

60. The multi-modal transportation system for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, is making satisfactory progress and upgradation of railway infrastructure in Hyderabad-Secunderabad-Falaknuma section and Hyderabad-Lingampalli sections is likely to be completed by March 2003.

61. There have been demands of beautification of the stations on circular railway at Kolkata in order to improve

overall ambience along the bank of river Hoogly. I am happy to inform that it is proposed to give face-lift to the stations along with plantation and ornamental fencing in between the stations so as to bring about overall improvement in the surroundings.

Railway Electrification

62. Railway Electrification works have progressed satisfactorily during the year and 208 route kms. have been energized up to January, 2003. It is proposed to electrify a total of 375 route kms. during the current year. By the end of March 2003, 16376 route kms (25.98 percent) on Indian Railways will be electrified.

Railway Recruitment Board

63. Presently, for the written test (objective type) for Group 'D' recruitments by RRBs, there is provision for setting of the question papers in Hindi and English only. Since recruitment in Group 'D' in Railways is Division-wise, it has been decided that henceforth; the question paper will also be set in the local language, listed in the VIII schedule of the Constitution, prevalent in the concerned division. This will provide opportunity for seeking Group 'D' employment in Railways to those who know only such local language.

Public Sector Undertakings

64. Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that the performance of the Public Sector Undertakings has been satisfactory during the year 2001-2002. During 2001-2002, IRCON International Ltd. had registered a turnover of Rs. 907 cr. and earned a net profit of Rs. 104 cr. The company has paid a dividend of Rs. 17.3 cr. The company bagged export awards from Overseas Construction Council of India for maximum turnover in foreign exchange in overseas construction contracts. RITES Limited achieved its highest ever turnover of Rs. 283 cr. during the year 2001-2002, recording a net profit of Rs. 39 cr. and paid a dividend of Rs. 3.75 cr. The Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) registered a turnover of Rs. 1286 cr., earning a net profit of Rs. 249.85 cr. It has paid a dividend of Rs. 41 cr. During 2001-2002, IRFC achieved a net profit of Rs. 292 cr. and paid a dividend of Rs. 100 cr.

Konkan Railway Corporation

65. Konkan Railway Corporation witnessed a modest growth in its operation and has been able to generate sufficient revenues to cover its working expenses. However, the

Corporation still needs considerable financial assistance for its debt redemption and interest liabilities incurred by it during construction phase. As it is a vital rail link for millions of passengers and for freight in the region, Ministry of Railways reiterates its support to the Corporation in meeting its debt servicing obligations.

Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation

66. IRCTC has paid Rs. 20 lakh to the Ministry of Railways as first dividend for the financial year 2001-2002. For the year 2002-2003, the first full year of its operation, IRCTC is likely to pay Indian Railways nearly Rs. 3.5 crore covering concession and license fees and other charges.

RailTel Corporation of India

67. During the current year RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. has earned Rs.5.22 cr. by leasing of bandwidth and other telecom infrastructure. The company is expected to earn Rs.12.5 cr. during the current year.

68. Phase-I and Phase-II network of RailTel are targeted to be completed in the year 2003-2004 and 150 important cities and 1500 stations are expected to be connected on Optical Fibre Network.

69. RailTel plans to provide Internet kiosks at New Delhi Railway Station as a pilot project and is also planning to provide Internet service on one of the selected trains as a pilot project during the next financial year.

Personnel Relations

70. Personnel relations over Indian Railways remained peaceful and cordial during the year. The grievance redressal machinery under PNM and JCM schemes functioned satisfactorily at all levels. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister for resolving two long pending problems relating to two different categories of railway men. Decisions to improve the pay scales of Railway Promotee Officers and to set right the anomaly arising out of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission in respect of the organized Accounts Cadre of the Railways have been taken. Both these decisions will go a long way in boosting the morale of the organization.

Sports

71. The performance of Indian Railways in the field of sports during the current year has been outstanding both at National and International levels.

72. Sportspersons from Railways won four Gold, five Silver and four Bronze Medals in the Commonwealth Games and thirteen medals (6 Gold, 5 Silver, and 2 Bronze) out of a total of 35 medals won by the country in the Asian Games. I would like to make a special mention of Smt. Neelam J. Singh, who won a Gold medal in Discus Throw in the Busan Asian Games by breaking a twelve year old record. The performance of Ms K.M.Beenamol who won 2 Gold and 1 Silver Medal in athletics is also commendable.

73. Sir, I would now like to mention about introduction of new trains, increase in frequency of trains and extension of services. Following additional Express trains are proposed to be introduced in the year 2003-2004:

- (i) Sealdah-Asansol via Bardhaman (Daily)
- (ii) Jabalpur-Kota via Bina (Daily)
- (iii) Surat-Mumbai (Bandra) (Daily)
- (iv) Azamgarh-Delhi via Lucknow (Daily)
- (v) Secunderabad-Sirpurkagaznagar via Kazipet (Daily)
- (vi) Sambalpur-Raipur via Titlagarh (Daily)
- (vii) Tinsukia-Mariani (Daily)
- (viii) Chennai Egmore-Erode via Tiruchchirappalli (Daily)
- (ix) Jaipur-Udaipur via Ajmer & Chittaurgarh (Daily) (MG)
- (x) Ballia-Sealdah via Barauni (Daily)
- (xi) Gaya-New Delhi via Allahabad (Daily)
- (xii) Vijayawada-Secunderabad (Daily)
- (xiii) Lucknow-Agra Cantt (Daily).
- (xiv) Rewa-New Delhi via Allahabad (Daily)
- (xv) Chirmiri-Rewa via Katni (Daily)
- (xvi) Salem-Bangalore (Yeshwantpur) (Daily)
- (xvii) Jaynagar-Narkatlaganj (Daily) (MG)
- (xviii) New Alipurduar-Siliguri (Daily) after Gauge conversion
- (xix) New Alipurduar-New Jalpaiguri (Daily) after Gauge conversion

- | | |
|---|---|
| (xx) New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri (Daily) after Gauge conversion | (xliii) Dibrugarh-Amritsar via Varanasi & Lucknow (Weekly) |
| (xxi) Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad (Daily) after Gauge conversion | (xliv) Sealdah-Jaipur via Tundla (Weekly) |
| (xxii) Bhavnagar-Mumbai (Bandra) (Daily) after Gauge Conversion | (xlv) Vijayawada-Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) via Wadi (Weekly) |
| (xxiii) Lucknow - Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) via Jhansi (Tri-weekly) | (xlvii) Ahmedabad - Dhanbad via Tundla, Mughalsarai & Parasnath (Weekly) |
| (xxiv) Jabalpur-Nagpur via Itarsi (Tri-weekly) | (xlviii) Guwahati-Secunderabad via Vijayawada (Weekly) |
| (xxv) Ajmer-Mumbai Central (Tri-weekly) | (xlix) Muzaffarpur - Bangalore (Yeshwantpur) via Katihar & Howrah (Weekly) |
| (xxvi) Allahabad - Haridwar via Pratapgarh & Lucknow (Tri-weekly) | (l) Okha-Guwahati via Varanasi & Patna (Weekly) |
| (xxvii) Bangalore (Yeshwantpur)-Nizamuddin via Secunderabad (Tri-Weekly) | (l) Indore - Nagpur via Dewas & Maksi (Weekly) |
| (xxviii) Varanasi - Howrah via Mughalsarai & Patna (Tri-weekly) | |
| (xxix) Pune-Nagpur via Manmad (Bi weekly) | 74. Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that weekly frequencies of some popular trains shall be increased. Details are given below: |
| (xxx) Tatanagar-Amritsar via Mughalsarai & Lucknow (Bi-weekly) | (i) 2313/2314 Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express from 4 days to 5 days |
| (xxxi) Durg-Gorakhpur via Bilaspur, Katni & Allahabad (Bi-weekly) | (ii) 2443/2444 Bhubaneshwar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express from 1 day to 2 days. |
| (xxxii) Bangalore-Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) via Hubli & Pune (Bi-weekly) | (iii) 2439/2440 Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express from 1 day to 2 days. |
| (xxxiii) Chennai-Dehradun and Chandigarh via New Delhi & Saharanpur (Weekly) | (iv) 2441/2442 Bilaspur-New Delhi Rajdhani Express from 1 day to 2 days |
| (xxxiv) Bikaner-Secunderabad via Kazipet (Weekly) | (v) 2129/2130 Pune-Howrah Azad Hind Express from 4 days to 5 days. |
| (xxxv) Puri-Guwahati via Asansol (Weekly) | (vi) 2561/2562 Darbanga-New Delhi Swatantrata Senani Express from 4 days to daily. |
| (xxxvi) Ranchi (Hatia) -Bangalore (Yeshwantpur) via Jharsuguda & Visakhapatnam (Weekly) | (vii) 5025/5026 Gorakhpur-Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) Godaan Express from 1 day to 3 days. |
| (xxxvii) Pune - Patna via Allahabad (Weekly) | (viii) 4311/4312 Bareilly-New Bhuja Ala Hazrat Express from 2 days to 4 days |
| (xxxviii) Bhubaneshwar-Bangalore (Yeshwantpur) via Visakhapatnam (Weekly) | (ix) 7017/7018 Secunderabad-Rajkot Express from 2 days to 3 days. |
| (xxxix) Vasco - Chennai via Hubli (Weekly) | (x) 2101/2102 Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus)-Howrah Jnaneshwari Express from 3 days to 4 days |
| (xl) Trivandrum-Jodhpur via Madgaon (Weekly) | (xi) 5631/5632 Guwahati-Jodhpur and Bikaner Express from 1 day to 2 days. |
| (xli) Ranchi-Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) via Rourkela & Nagpur (Weekly) | |
| (xlii) Chennai-Bangalore (Weekly) | |

(xii) 2141/2142 Patna-Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) Express from 4 days to 6 days.

(xiii) 2905/2906 Howrah-Hapa Express from 1 day to 2 days

75. It gives me great pleasure to announce the extension of run of the following services:

(i) 2983/2984 Jaipur - Durg Express to Bilaspur

(ii) 9113/9114 Jammu Tawi-Amritsar Express to Firozpur

(iii) 7029/7030 Hyderabad-Ernakulam Sabari Express to Trivandrum on 3 days a week

(iv) 9169/9170 Varanasi-Ahmedabad Express to Okha

(v) 6512/6511 Bangalore (Yeshwantpur) - Durg Express to Bilaspur

(vi) 8611/8612 Ranchi-Garwa Road Express to Varanasi

(vii) 6513/6514 Bangalore (Yeshwantpur)-Solapur Express to Bijapur

(viii) 2905/2906 Howrah-Hapa Express to Porbander

(ix) 6305/6306 Ernakulam - Calicut Express to Cannanore

(x) 8189/8190 Alleppey - Bokaro Express to Dhanbad

(xi) 297/298 Kota-Gwalior Passenger to Bhind

(xii) 9503/9504 Jamnagar - Ahmedabad Inter City Express to Surat

(xiii) 9307/9308 Indore-Gwalior Express to Bhind

(xiv) 8183/8184 Danapur-Bilaspur South Bihar Express to Durg (Daily)

(xv) 1/2 CCM Mirzapur-Chopan Passenger to Shaktinagar and Allahabad

(xvi) 409/410 Bilaspur-Shahdol Passenger to Rewa

(xvii) 3149/3150 Sealdah-New Jalpaiguri Kanchan Kanya Express to Alipurduar after Gauge conversion

(xviii) 1463/1464 Jabalpur-Rajkot Express to Veraval after Gauge conversion

(xix) 103/104 Chennai Egmore-Villupuram Passenger to Pondicherry after Gauge conversion

(xx) 437/438 & 439/440 Mankapur-Katra Passenger trains to Faizabad

(xxi) 3467/3468 Bhagalpur-Patna Vikramshila Express to New Delhi.

(xxii) 2069/2070 Raigarh-Durg Janshatabdi to Dongargarh.

(xxiii) Delhi-Kota Coaches of 9019/9020 Mumbai (Bandra) - Dehradun Express to Nimach

(xxiv) 7225/7226 Vijayawada-Hubli Amravati Express to Vasco once a week.

76. I also propose to introduce MEMU/DEMU services on the following sections:

(i) Pendra Road-Bilaspur

(ii) Adra-Bhaga

(iii) Bhojudih-Chandrapur

(iv) Jaunpur-Aunrihar

(v) Adra-Midnapur

(vi) Virar-Dahanu Road

(vii) Mokama-Patna -Buxar

(viii) Adra-Purulia

(ix) Bhojudih-Bhaga

(x) Bishnupur-Adra

(xi) Adra-Bhojudih

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Adra is mentioned.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: All it belongs to you.

77. Sir, I would now like to present the Annual Plan 2003-2004. The Plan outlay for 2003-2004 has been kept at Rs. 10,607 cr. Taking into account the outlay of Rs. 2,311 cr. on safety related works through the Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF), the total outlay comes to Rs. 12,918 cr. This is Rs. 603 cr. higher than the Revised Estimates of last year. For the year 2003-2004, the total funds received from General Exchequer are Rs. 6,577 cr., including Rs. 1,600 cr. as contribution towards the SRSF and Rs. 433 cr. from the Central Road Fund. This also includes Rs. 730 cr. specifically for investment in the newly created Rail Vikas Nigam. The

corresponding figure for 2002-2003 was Rs. 5,840 cr., including Rs. 1,350 cr. for the SRSF and Rs. 450 cr. from the Central Road Fund.

78. In addition to the budgetary support, Railways propose to provide Rs. 2,630 cr. for plan expenditure through internal resource generation. This is at the same level as was budgeted for last year. The balance requirements of the Plan would be met through extra-budgetary resources, which include Rs. 2,970 cr. as market borrowing from Indian Railways Finance Corporation and Rs. 30 cr. as investment through a "BOT" project in the Viramgam-Mehsana Gauge Conversion work. For the Special Railway Safety Fund, the contribution of the Central Government would be supplemented to the extent of Rs. 711 cr. through Safety Surcharge, taking the total outlay under SRSF to Rs. 2,311 cr.

79. Sir, the total outlay under Capital on the five major plan project heads this year has been kept at Rs. 2,716 cr. with Rs. 1,005 cr. on New Lines, Rs. 703 cr. on Gauge Conversion, Rs. 443 cr. for Doubling and Rs. 122 cr. for Electrification. The outlay on metropolitan transport projects, which has been kept at Rs. 443 cr., includes multi-lateral funding for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project.

80. Apart from this, Rs. 730 cr. are being allotted to several works in the planheads New Lines, Doubling, Gauge Conversion and Railway Electrification, which are to be executed by the Rail Vikas Nigam.

81. The outlay on safety related planheads, inclusive of outlay given under the Special Railway Safety Fund, is Rs. 2605 cr. for Track Renewals, Rs. 302 cr. for the Bridges and Rs. 689 cr. for Signalling & Telecommunications.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): The hon'ble Minister is not mentioning at all about connecting Vaishali with rail line. The hon'ble Prime Minister is sitting here. Vaishali is the birth place of Bhagwan Mahabir. It is being demanded for years to connect it with railway. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak when the discussion be held on this subject. I will give you opportunity to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: When will the foundation stone be laid as there is dilly-dally for last 6 year.

Part-II

Budget Estimates, 2003-2004

82. Sir, I shall now deal with the Budget Estimates for 2003-2004.

83. The Railways are expecting to carry 540 million tonnes of revenue earnings originating traffic during 2003-2004, which is 25 million tonnes more than the traffic of 515 million tonnes likely to be lifted in the current year and this increase is higher than the average incremental freight achieved in the last few years. However, taking note of the prevailing trend in the economy and the various measures being taken by the Railways, this target is expected to be achieved. The originating passenger traffic is estimated to go up by about 3 per cent resulting in increase in earnings of 7 per cent over the Revised Estimates of the current year. The 'Other Coaching' earnings are expected to grow by 7 per cent. Sundry Other Earnings, for 2003-2004 have been estimated at Rs. 990 cr., representing a growth rate of 5 per cent over the Revised Estimates of the current year.

84. On the basis of these assumptions, the Gross Traffic Receipts (GTR) are estimated at Rs. 43,495 cr. These are Rs. 2,628 cr. higher than the Revised Estimates of the current financial year.

85. Railways' Ordinary Working Expenses estimated at Rs. 32,460 cr. are 7 per cent higher than the Revised Estimates of the current year. Appropriation to Pension Fund is placed at Rs. 6,385 cr. Based upon the anticipated requirement for plan resources, a provision of Rs. 2005 cr. has been made towards Appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund.

86. The total Working Expenses will, thus, amount to Rs. 40,850 cr. leading to the Net Traffic Receipts of Rs. 2,645 cr. Net Miscellaneous Receipts are estimated at Rs. 888 cr., which also take into account the amount likely to be collected through levy of surcharge on passenger fares for being appropriated to the Special Railway Safety Fund. Thus, the Net Revenue works out to Rs. 3,533 cr.

87. A memorandum on the rate of dividend payable to General Revenues has been submitted to the Railway Convention Committee. Meanwhile, dividend for 2003-2004, has been provided at the same rate as adopted for 2002-2003. On this basis, dividend liability for 2003-2004 works out to Rs. 2,930 cr. Along with certain other dues, an amount of Rs. 2,978 cr. becomes payable to the General Revenues. This liability will be discharged in full.

88. The above projections are expected to yield funds sufficient to meet the requirement of the Plan outlay for the year, from the internal resources.

89. With a view to make the Freight rates and Passenger fares competitive and increase Railways' share in transport sector, it is necessary to continue the process of rationalisation and re-balancing of Tariffs. In order to attract more traffic to rail, I am proposing certain other measures and reforms.

Freight Services

90. Sir, for year 2002-2003 I did not make any across-the-board increase in freight rates. For the year 2003-2004, I do not propose any increase in freight rates for any commodity.

91. While rationalising the freight structure, the total number of classes was reduced from 59 to 32 with Class-90 as the lowest class and Class-300 as the highest class. In freight structure so rationalised, the ratio between the highest and the lowest freight rate was reduced from 8.0 to 3.3. It is proposed to reduce further the band of freight rates through compaction in freight classification by lowering the highest class from Class-300 to Class-250. In the revised classification, the total number of classes will be reduced from 32 to 27 and the ratio between the freight rates for the highest and the lowest class will be further reduced from 3.3 to 2.8.

92. To make the freight rates competitive, it is proposed to reduce the classification of certain commodities where Railways are facing stiff competition due to high freight rates. The classification of Petrol for trainload movement is proposed to be reduced by three stages from Class-280 to Class-250, lowering the freight rates by 10.7 per cent. The classification of certain other commodities is proposed to be reduced by two stages. These commodities include High Speed Diesel Oil (HSD), Furnace Oil, Crude Oil, Naptha, Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Compressed Gases, Lubricating Oils, Iron & Steel, Pig Iron, Iron Scrap, Cement sheets, Petroleum Coke and Soda ash. Some of the liquid commodities, carried in tank wagons, namely Molasses, Bitumen, Refined vegetable oils (Div. A), and Sulphuric acid are also proposed to be charged two stages lower than their existing classes. The proposed reduction in freight rates due to lowering of classification by two stages will range from 5.3 per cent to 9.5 per cent. The classification of Cement, Clinker, Manganese Ore and Caustic Soda Liquid (in tank wagon) are proposed to be reduced by one stage, which will reduce the freight rates by around 3.7 per cent. Details of the re-classification of these commodities.

along with the existing and proposed freight rates for selected distances, are given in the Memorandum Explaining the Budget Proposals for Adjustment in Freight Rates and Fares.

93. There are certain groups of commodities, which are assigned different classes based on their different physical forms such as lumps, powder etc. In order to initiate simplification in the classification of such groups of commodities, which are loadable upto the full carrying capacity of wagons, a single uniform class will be assigned for each such group. Iron Ore, in its different forms, such as lumps, powder, fines, pellets etc., which are currently classified from class-120 to class-125 would now be charged uniformly under class-120 for trainload. Similarly, other selected groups of commodities, namely Manganese Ore, Gypsum, Bauxite, Limestone & Dolomite, Soapstone and Chalk will be assigned a single uniform class for each group. The details of the existing and proposed classification of these groups of commodities are given in the Memorandum Explaining the Budget Proposals for Adjustment in Freight Rates and Fares.

94. In order to increase its share in transportation of Petroleum products, Railways are ready to consider long-term agreements with individual oil companies for further reduction in freight rates on sector-to-sector basis if guaranteed volumes of additional traffic are committed for rail movement.

95. With the liberalisation of Indian economy, the pattern of industrialisation is undergoing a significant change with production centres coming closer to the source of raw materials or consumption centres. The average distances over which some of the major commodities are moved by rail have been gradually declining and Railways have to take various measures to capture short lead traffic. In the Railway Budget 1999-2000, freight concession of 25% was granted to traffic booked for distances upto 50 km. as the minimum distance for charge is 100 km. This measure has shown positive results and generated additional revenue to the Railways. It is now proposed to rationalise the charging of freight for all traffic booked upto 100 km. through a scheme of graded concessions. Under this scheme, 50 per cent freight concession will be allowed for traffic booked upto 50 km. followed by 25 per cent concession from 51 km. to 75 km. and 10 per cent concession from 76 km. to 90 km. In the proposed rationalisation, the freight rate per tonne per kilometer for these distance slabs would be exactly the same.

96. The rail users have an option to pay freight charges either at the time of booking or at the time of delivery at

destination station. Presently, if the freight is not paid at the time of booking, a 'to-pay' surcharge of 10 per cent on normal freight is levied for all commodities other than Coal. In the case of coal traffic, 15 per cent "to-pay" surcharge is levied. The rail users consider this surcharge excessive. Therefore, it is proposed to reduce the 'to-pay' surcharge from 15 per cent to 10 per cent for coal and 10 per cent to 5 per cent for all other commodities.

97. There are many commodities, which have a wagonload class only. It has been decided that any commodity, which has only a wagonload class, will be assigned a trainload class one stage lower than its wagonload class. As a result, the freight will get reduced by around 4.00 per cent to 5.26 per cent if such a commodity is now offered for trainload booking.

98. Freight movement on the Indian Railways is predominantly in the form of block rakes from one originating station to a single destination point. However, with a view to reduce the carrying cost of the customers, block rake movement from one originating station to two destination points close to each other and vice-a-versa is also being permitted. At present, such two-point block rakes enjoy the benefit of lower trainload rates only upto the common point of movement. It has been decided that two-point block rakes will now be granted the benefit of trainload rate for the entire distance of transportation.

99. At present, clubbing upto six consignments is permitted in a broad gauge 8-wheeler wagon. In order to provide rail transportation to a larger number of traders and retailers, it has been decided to allow clubbing upto twelve consignments, on payment of Rs. 100 for every additional Railway Receipt.

100. The wages of the railway staff deployed in private sidings are being traditionally charged to the siding owners. In order to give relief to the siding owners, Zonal Railways will undertake a thorough review to reduce the cost of railway staff being charged to the private siding owners in a phased manner.

101. Siding owners generating freight earnings of more than Rs. 25 crore per annum from traffic originating from their sidings have been designated as Premier Customers of the railways. An incentive scheme for the Premier Customers to help them increase the rail share of transport is being introduced. Premier Customers would be granted a freight rebate of 2 per cent for every five crore rupees of net additional originating freight earnings over the previous financial year

generated to the railways. The rebate under this scheme will be granted in addition to any other freight concession availed by them. However, this incentive scheme will be applicable to net additional originating freight earnings from commodities placed in Class-135 and above.

Passenger Services

102. Sir, this year I do not propose any increase in Passenger fares.

103. Last year, the fare structures of Mail/Express, Ordinary Passenger trains and Monthly Season Tickets (MST) were rationalised. This year, it is proposed to rationalise the fares of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains. A separate fare structure for Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains was introduced in the year 1995-96 which does not have a fixed relationship with the fares of Mail/Express trains. It is now proposed to link the fares of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains to the rationalised fare structure of Mail/Express trains, fixing the basic fare for each class of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains 15 per cent higher than the fares of corresponding class of Superfast Mail/Express trains on a uniform basis. Charges for catering services, as per requirement of the journey, would be added to the basic fares. Sir, as a result of this rationalisation, the basic fares of different classes of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains will be lower for most of the pairs of stations. In exceptional cases, fares may be marginally higher for a few pairs of stations in which case, the existing fares will apply. The details of the existing and proposed end-to-end fares for Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains are given in the Memorandum Explaining the Budget Proposals for Adjustment in Freight Rates and Fares.

104. I am glad to inform that all the sixteen Jan Shatabdi Express trains, announced during last year's Railway Budget have been introduced. The fare structure for Jan Shatabdi Express trains was fixed 10% higher than the fares of Superfast Mail/Express trains. Additional charges for catering services were included in the ticket fare. To make Jan Shatabdi Express trains more popular, it is proposed to reduce the basic fare from the existing mark-up of 10% to 5% over the fares of corresponding class of Superfast Mail/Express trains and make the catering services optional on these trains.

105. In order to benefit the passengers and also to give competitive edge to rail travel, it is proposed to introduce the concept of reduced fares in selected trains during the non-peak period. As an experimental measure, 10 per cent

reduction in the basic fares of AC First and AC 2-tier of all Rajdhani Express trains would be given for travel during the period from 15th July to 15th September this year.

106. At present, if a wait-listed passenger boards a Rajdhani or Shatabdi Express train, excess fare, equal to the ticket fare, is charged. It is felt that this penal charge needs a revision. It has been decided that the rules in respect of waitlisted passengers boarding Mail/Express trains will now be applicable to waitlisted passengers of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi Express trains also.

Parcel and Luggage service

107. In order to simplify the booking procedure of Parcel and Luggage traffic and optimize the use of transport capacity available for carriage of parcels by different trains, it is proposed to rationalise the rate structure for booking of Parcel and Luggage traffic. At present, parcels are charged under seven different Scales based on the type of the commodity. It is proposed that all types of commodities, including Luggage, will now be charged uniformly at the same rate, under four Scales, depending on the type of service selected by the customer. The highest Scale-R, for Rajdhani service, will be applicable to all Rajdhani Express Trains. The next Scale-P will be for Premier service by certain notified Mail/Express trains. The next lower Scale-S, for Standard service, will apply to other Mail/Express, Shatabdi Express and Parcel Express trains. The lowest Scale-E will be for Economy service by Ordinary Passenger trains. In the rationalised structure, the number of Scales for charging of Parcel and Luggage traffic will be reduced from 7 to 4 and the ratio between the highest and the lowest rates will reduce from 8.7 to 6.2 Newspapers and Magazines will now be charged at the same rates under the lowest Scale-E by all trains. The rationalised rates for Parcel traffic under the new structure will be lower than the existing rates. The details of the existing and proposed rates for different commodities between a few selected pairs of stations are given in the Memorandum Explaining the Budget Proposals for Adjustment in Freight Rates and Fares.

108. All the above proposals will come into effect from 1.4.2003.

109. Sir, achievements of a vast organisation like Indian Railways reflect the sincerity and dedication of the railwaymen, who deserve appreciation. They will ever be ready to fulfil the public expectations and aspirations. I express my gratitude to respected Prime Minister for his continued encouragement

and kind support and I firmly believe that Indian Railways would establish new dimensions of progress under his guidance. I also thank and express my gratitude to Hon'ble Finance Minister for giving adequate support to the Railways. I am confident that they would be obliging the Railways by providing additional funds generously in the coming year for accelerated execution of the Railway Projects. I thank Hon'ble Members for their support and suggestions and hope that they would continue the same in future too.

110. Sir, with these words I commend the Railway Budget 2003-2004 to the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 7043/2003]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): What about Tamil Nadu? ...(Interruptions) Sir, 40 Members of Parliament belonging to the AIADMK Party and other Parties met and presented a memorandum to the hon. Railway Minister in person and demanded a fair deal to Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions) We have listed out the projects which are pending for clearance by the Ministry. ...(Interruptions) The hon. Minister also promised to look into it. But after this announcement today, Tamil Nadu is not seen in the map of Railways. ...(Interruptions) The people of Tamil Nadu are docile and law abiding. There is no ticketless travel in Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions) The Southern Railway is yielding much revenue to the Railways. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. You may participate at the time of discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13. 05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.31 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at thirty one minutes past fourteen of the clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (FAIZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the issue of Ayodhya was to be taken up. First day they disturbed the House. That day we were ready and today also we have come with preparation. They are avoiding discussion on this issue. I want that today the discussion should be held on this issue. As we are prepared today and our future programme in this regard has already been decided so I would like that the discussion on this issue should be held today only. The issue of Ayodhya is also included in the list of Business. If it is changed then there will be problem for us.

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs to submit the same thing.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, why is he alleging as the issue has been deferred with your permission.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, nobody is escaping from the discussion on Ayodhya issue. There is practical problem. Today the Rail Budget has been presented. I feel that that was the main question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not giving permission to anyone.

...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have to make a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, certainly there will be discussion on Ayodhya but it should be discussed with prominence.

MR. SPEAKER: Suman ji, is it essential to speak on every issue. You please sit down.

[English]

I am here to take care of everything. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they do not want to solve the Ayodhya dispute. They are more worried about the cricket match. They want to create only disturbance. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.33 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY SPEAKER RE: DISCUSSION ON AYODHYA ISSUE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Leaders of the Parties and Groups in Lok Sabha have requested me that the Short Duration Discussion on Ayodhya Issue listed for today be postponed and may be taken up tomorrow, that is, on 27th February, 2003 after the consideration of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address is over. I have acceded to the request.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI, NORTH EAST): Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have been informed in the Report of the Business Advisory Committee that after the Railway Budget, a discussion is to take place on Ayodhya.

[Translation]

If something about the business of the Government is to be raised then the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will explain. If the opposition agrees with the Government then I would like to request that the discussion on Ayodhya issue should be held today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on it will be held tomorrow.

[English]

Now we would take up Matters Under Rule 377.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Leader of Opposition was entering into the House I have full respect for her. Since how long Shri Ramji Lal Suman has started worrying that the discussion should be held on the business of the House. I would like that the discussion on Ayodhya issue should take place today only.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. Everyone agrees on the report of BAC. When there is unanimity in the House then the business is taken up. If there is no unanimity in the House, then it should be put before the House to seek its consent. But it is not proper to decide something inside the Chamber and announce some other things outside.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (FAIZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proceedings of the House are conducted with the consent of all the Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are challenging the ruling that you have given. It is not good.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, will they challenge your ruling like this? It is the height of indiscipline. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. I explain it to you.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the question that has been raised by Shri Kirit Somaiya is a kind of challenge to your authority. You have given your ruling after seeking consultation with everyone. Nobody is escaping from the discussion on Ayodhya issue. There should be meaningful discussion on Ayodhya so all the Members had requested you that the discussion on this issue should be held tomorrow. It is meaningless to level such allegations. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please quote the Rule under which you want to raise point of order.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, let me narrate the position. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not started a debate on this. Please take your seat. Let me make the position clear. It is not a difficult issue to discuss in the House. The matter is very simple. This is not for the first time that we are doing this. This has been done a number of times.

When all the leaders agree for a change in the Business Advisory Committee Meeting's agenda I had to accede to their request. All the leaders had come to me and requested me for this change, therefore, I have consented to it. Now, what

is there to discuss further? Suppose, if somebody wants to know, he can approach his leader and ask whether he requested for this change or not. It is a simple matter and it is for the convenience of all the hon. Members, therefore, I have acceded to this convenience.

As far as my personal opinion is concerned, you can discuss even Ayodhya right now, I have no objection. The normal convention has been that the leaders go to the Speaker and request him and when it is agreed by all the leaders, why the time of the House is wasted on this?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Including the Treasury Benches!

MR. SPEAKER: Of course. When I said all, it includes BJP also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to ask anything you ask your leader.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker Sir, on the very first day when the Adjournment Motion on Ayodhya came, Shri Shivraj Patil from this side made it very clear that we would like to discuss it today. You may recall, in the Business Advisory Committee meeting, in the presence of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the entire Committee agreed to defer it to 26th. ...*(Interruptions)* Because you accused the Congress, I must explain my Party's position. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir nobody has mentioned the name of Congress. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I took the permission of the Speaker and not yours. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this gives us an indication that the attitude of collective cooperation to run the House between the Government and the Opposition stands no validity. If we collectively agree on something in your Chamber and the parties try to hit the other parties, then I tell you that from our side, we will only speak in the BAC meeting and beyond that no relation, no co-ordination would be there. I would like to make it clear. Let the Government respond on that. Is this the attitude of the Government? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not permit anyone to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me conduct the business in the House please. If somebody wants to obstruct the business, I am sorry, I will not permit him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, when we accommodate the convenience of the Government, is it not for the Government to reciprocate the same? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us go to Matters under Rule 377.

14.38 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to ensure that the provisions of Forest Conservation Act do not come in the way of development of Advasi areas in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.**

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (BHARUCH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the provision of Forest Conservation Act is quite detrimental to the development of Advasi people in Dodiapara and Sagwara Tehsils of Narmada district under my Parliamentary Constituency Bharuch. It is due to the Reserve Forest Act, Forest Conservation Act and Wild Life Protection Act that dams cannot be constructed for the irrigation of fields of Advasis, roads cannot be built for communication, ponds and small canals cannot be constructed for the drinking water for cattle and for the irrigation of the fields. It is irony that Forest Act is coming in the way of interests of Advasis themselves.

Through the House, I would like to request that these Acts should not be made so stringent and these Acts should be amended in such a way that there should be smooth development of Advasi people in this area.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever did you ask was not wrong, I gave reply on my own.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know some times whether we want to do business in the House or we do not want to do.

You can take a decision that no business will be conducted today. What is this all going on? The issue is sorted out. I have already spoken. I have already given the ruling.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): It is very unfortunate that the Government has been a party to the decision.

MR. SPEAKER: I know sometimes it happens that it is not conveyed to everybody. Therefore he stood rightly and asked the question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Therefore, I am saying, this is not the correct attitude.

MR. SPEAKER: But I told, there is no question of attitude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not at all, allow discussion on this subject.

[English]

There is a limit to everything.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are they doing? Everytime they rise.

[English]

I will not allow anybody to obstruct the House. I have already started the business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you after this is over. I will permit you afterwards, not now. Please sit down.

- (ii) **Need for construction of an over bridge at Kutubgarh railway gate on Rewari Narnaul Highway in Haryana.**

[Translation]

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV (MAHENDRAGARH):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rewari falls under the Mahendragarh Parliamentary Constituency of Haryana. Delhi-Rewari-Khetri State Highway passes through this region. Trains pass to various directions from there. It is a very busy rail route. There are 600 villages in and around which are connected with this railway station but there is traffic jam for hours due to the absence of over bridge at Kutubpur railway crossing on this route and it is an account of this that people, staffs, students and sick persons have to face inconvenience.

So, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Railways that keeping in view the inconvenience of the people and the volume of traffic on this route and its importance he should issue instruction to construct an overbridge at Kutubgarh railway gate on Rewari-Narnaul Highway.

(iii) Need to declare State Highway between Hanumangarh and Sujangarh via Ratangarh-Sardar-Shahar-Pallu-Sadulshahar as a National Highway in Rajasthan.

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (CHURU): Sir, it is being demanded for many years to declare Rajasthan State Highway No.7 between Hanumangarh and Sujangarh via Ratangarh-Sardarshahar Pallu, Sadulshahar as a new National Highway. The traffic from Punjab and Shriganga Nagar passing through this highway go to Kandala port and Mumbai. This highway connects National Highway No.11 and 65 with National Highway No.10. The construction of the said National Highway will not only lead to the development of this region but will also save time and money in transportation.

It is extremely necessary to declare the said Highway as the National Highway in public interest for the development and the smooth transportation in this region. So I would like to request the Government of India that fulfilling this important demand of the public it should declare the said Highway as the National Highway.

(iv) Need to convert narrow gauge rail line between Billi Mora and Bahai into broad gauge in Gujarat and extend it up to Nasik.

[Translation]

SHRI MANSINH PATEL (MANDVI): Sir, there is narrow gauge line between Billi Mora and Bahai even though it can be made viable by turning it into broad gauge but the Railway Department has made no efforts to upgrade this railway line due to which the railway service has been reduced from the earlier four trips to one and even the tickets are also sold in railway compartment. It is a completely backward and tribal dominated area and the tribals do not have any means of transport.

I would like to request the Union Government to extend this railway service upto Nasik which will prove a source of revenue earning for railways besides providing transport facility to the tribals. This railway line should be connected to the broad gauge so that this region could be directly connected with other cities.

(v) Need to enforce SEBI regulations more effectively

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the speech by the hon. Prime Minister which was delivered by him on the occasion of inauguration ceremony of 'investor awareness campaign' held by SEBI. In his speech the hon. Prime Minister had held the malfunctioning of the companies and the shortcomings of regulators for the loss of the faith of the small investors from the capital market.

The hon. Prime Minister had in one of the functions of the FICCI, announced in September that the Finance Ministry has been ordered to take action against the promoters of fraudulent companies within three months.

However, neither a single director or promoter has been arrested till date nor even a rupee has been recovered out of the ten thousand crore rupees nor effective amendments have been made in SEBI set to check such fraud in the future.

The Investor Education and Protection Fund is not being utilized properly in a time bound frame. I request you to ensure taking appropriate action immediately in regard to all these matters.

(vi) Need to construct a new railway station at Nedumbassery near Cochin

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, Kerala's prestigious airport, Cochin International airport constructed with private participation was inaugurated in 1995 and it has all the latest amenities comparable to any other international airport in the country. In addition to the national carrier, so many foreign airlines are operating their services to different countries. This is an important embarking point for non-resident Keralites all over the world especially to Gulf sector. Kerala has become an important destination for tourism and it tops among all the States in respect of number of foreign tourists.

In order to cater to tourists coming from different parts of the world and also to Indian tourists, there is an urgent need to construct a new railway station at Nedumbassery near Cochin.

I urge upon the Government to allocate adequate funds for construction of the railway station within a time frame, near Cochin International airport at Nedumbassery.

(vii) Need to review sharing of revenues between Centre and States

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Sir, the fiscal policies, being pursued by the Union Government, has resulted into massive financial crisis to the State Governments. The Union Government takes away two-thirds share of the total taxes and revenue being collected throughout the country and distributes the rest amongst 28 States. The State Governments are to undertake development works in different sectors, namely irrigation, road, electricity, public health, education and so on.

So far as West Bengal is concerned, the Union Government has not released its share for works related to save the villages from erosion of rivers. Adequate compensation for flood victims and restoration works have been denied. The Union Government has denied to share the financial burden due to implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission's equivalent. Embargo on overdraft has been imposed and 12 per cent interest is being charged on the Central loan, whereas the Centre pays only seven per cent on the loan taken from the market. I demand immediate review of the State-Central financial relationship. The tax collected from different States by the Centre should be distributed, at least 50 per cent, among the States. In the Sub Committee meeting of the Inter-State Council, it was decided unanimously that 33 1/3 share should be distributed among the States till the time the States' share is increased to 50 per cent.

I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps to distribute at least 33 1/3 share among the States and gradually increase it up to 50 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, what is your personal explanation?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been kind enough to point out that the Leaders of the Parties and the Groups have reached you and requested you for the postponement of the discussion on the Ayodhya issue. I only want to point out that I am not a party to that. That is the only clarification I have been making.

Sir, you will remember that from the first day I had been asking for immediate discussion on the Ayodhya issue, so much so that I even came forward with an amendment to the

Business Advisory Committee Report and this House, including the Ruling Party which is so restless to have the discussion today itself, rejected my amendment.

But they also rejected my amendment asking for an immediate discussion. I am only, therefore, clarifying to the fact that I am not a party to the request for any postponement of the discussion that has taken place. That is a different thing. From the very beginning, I have asked for an immediate discussion.

(viii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to meet drought situation in Anantapur District

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (ANANTAPUR): Sir, the fourth consecutive drought in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh is causing untold misery to the lakhs of farmers and labourers. Crop failure and scarcity of drinking water have made the future uncertain for the farmers. Groundnut, which is the mainstay of economy, failed fourth time in series mounting indebtedness. The people are deserting their villages in thousands in search of food and work making village after village empty. The relief works launched by the Government of Andhra Pradesh from its meagre resources proved inadequate. This warrants liberal assistance from the Union Government to supplement the efforts of the State. I request an immediate sanction of Rs. 500 crore worth relief package to the district along with the release of two lakh tonnes of rice for 'Food for Work' programme. I also request to start an artificial rain research centre to explore the alternative to failing monsoons.

14.51 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

(ix) Need for construction of a road overbridge between Khagaria and Home-guard Fandi near Khagaria railway station in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA): Sir, there is an urgent need to construct an overbridge between Khagaria and Home Guard Fandi situated at N.H. 31 in the proximity of the eastern slope (dhala) of Khagaria railway station. Sadar hospital, bank, jail college, sub-division office DAV school, Kendriya Vidyalaya, divisional telecommunication office collectorate are situated here besides several residential areas. The railway crossing gate has to be frequently opened and closed due to the passing of 40 odd trains through this track due to which a long queue of vehicles is formed at either side of crossing following which the common men, office goers

have to face a lot of problems. These problems should be averted once an over-bridge is constructed at the said place.

Hence, through you I demand the Union Government to construct an over-bridge at the said place.

(x) Need to construct flyovers in Bhubaneswar, Orissa for removing traffic congestion

[English]

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (BHUBANESWAR): Sir, Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Orissa, is a fast growing city in the eastern region of India. The present condition of the roads is not adequate to meet the traffic needs in the city. To tackle the traffic situation, I would urge both the State and the Union Governments to order for construction of flyovers in the city.

I would request the hon. Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways to act on this issue at the earliest in order to mitigate the problems of the local populace.

(xi) Need to conduct a comprehensive independent reassessment of performance of Bt. Cotton

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, on November 10th and 11th, 2002, an 'Expert Team', the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) from MOEF visited farmers' fields in Andhra Pradesh to assess the performance of Bt. Cotton. Based on their report, the Minister of Environment and Forests had stated that Bt. Cotton had shown 'satisfactory performance.'

But a team from Greenpeace, Sarvodaya Youth Organisation and Centre for Resource Education visited five of the farmers' fields that were earlier visited by the expert team on 7th and 8th of January, 2003. After visiting the fields and speaking to the farmers, they found that the study itself was flawed as the sample size was extremely small. The scope of the study was too narrow leaving out important socio-economic parameters and the timing of the study was wrong.

As such, a comprehensive and scientific independent reassessment of the performance of Bt. Cotton be conducted, and before any further approval of Bt. Cotton or any other GE crop, a broad-based system of monitoring and evaluation must be instituted with the participation of civil society groups and farmers to avoid the consequences of such expensive mistakes.

(xii) Need to amend the provision of Crop Insurance Scheme keeping in view the interest of farmers

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers are not being benefited much

from the crop insurance scheme. The farmers have to make a lot of effort to be benefited under the scheme due to which several farmers are reluctant to be covered under the scheme. The money due to be provided to the farmers in my constituency Banaskantha under the crop insurance scheme is lying in banks especially in the State Bank of India. My constituency does not have any industry and the inhabitants here are dependent on agriculture and dairy farming. Even the agriculture is not doing well due to lack of irrigation facilities and scourge of drought. Most of the area of my parliamentary constituency remains under the impact of drought due to which farmers are unable to sow their crops. Hence there is a need to amend the policy to make the crop insurance scheme easily accessible and simple.

Hence, through the House I would request the Government to amend the provisions of crop insurance scheme keeping in view the interests of the farmers so that they could be benefited from it during calamities.

(xiii) Need to set up a Regional Rural Bank for Travancore area in Kerala with head office at Kottarakara

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): Sir, there are no Regional Rural Banks in Thiruvananthapuram, Qullon and Pathanamthitta districts in Kerala. These three districts in Kerala are mainly agriculture-based districts.

In India, majority of the districts are covered by Regional Rural Banks. In Kerala, in North Malabar and South Malabar also the Regional Rural Banks are functioning for years. The Regional Rural Banks have provided several schemes for farmers. The Government of India sponsored schemes are also taken up through the Regional Rural Banks. Unfortunately, the Travancore area of Kerala has no such facility. In Kerala, the Travancore area's main nationalised bank is the State Bank of Travancore. The State Bank of Travancore is one of the leading nationalised banks in the country. The State Bank of Travancore's deposits and other services are very high. The State Bank of Travancore can run a Regional Rural Bank in the Travancore area.

Therefore, the Union Government must take urgent steps to set up a Regional Rural Bank for the Travancore area with the head office located in Kottarakara, which is the central point of the Travancore area.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important subject here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not, now.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Today the portrait of the great son of mother India, Veer Sawarkar was unveiled by his Excellency, the President. The Congress and other parties had opposed this ceremony and this act tantamounts to disrespect of the great martyrs of the country and this step must be condemned. The Parliament should pass a Censure Motion. It is disrespect of great freedom fighters of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): They are communal people. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.): We have boycotted it for these persons are the killers of Gandhi ji.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI, SOUTH CENTRAL): These people are those who apologised to the Britishers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath, will you please resume your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Will you please resume your seats?

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please resume your seats. We have to transact important business. We have plenty of business to transact.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire, what is going on? Nothing is going on record. Nothing has gone on record. Why are you getting agitated?

Shri Mohan Rawale, nothing is going on record. Will you please resume your seat? All the Members have spoken.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, we have some important business to transact. Will you please resume your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a limit for everything. You are all senior Members of this House. Will you please resume your seats? Shri Mohan Rawale, what is this? Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, what is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Enough is enough.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to apprise the House this much only that during Congress rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have to start business.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire, please manage him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they

intentionally want to create such circumstances which may disrupt the peace of the society. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, will you please resume your seat? We have already wasted the time of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, now please do not waste the time of the House. I request you not to waste the time of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

15.07 hrs.

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION BILL – CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Anadi Sahu will continue his speech.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): Thank you, Sir. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you had rolled down the shutters on me on Friday because of time constraint. I am grateful that the shutters have been opened up today and I continue with my speech on the Central Vigilance Commission Bill. Before I again go into certain matters, I say that I support the Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the present day judicial system rather does not address itself to public administration and the intricacies that an administrator faces in the day-to-day administration and decision-making stages. The then Government, whichever Government it was, had given a decision that in administrative matters, certain amount of protection is to be given to the administrator. That is why, the single window or the single directive system was introduced, but unfortunately, the Supreme Court struck it down in 1997 in Vineet Narain versus Union of India case. With your kind permission, I would like to quote the operative part of the Supreme Court judgement. The operative part of the judgement in paragraph 61 reads:

"In the result, we strike down Directive No.4.7(3) of the Single Directive quoted above and issue the above directions, which have to be construed in the light of the earlier discussion. The Report of the Independent Review Committee (IRC) and its recommendations which are similar to this extent can be read, if necessary, for a proper appreciation of these directions. To the extent we agree with the conclusions and recommendations of the IRC, and that is a large area, we have adopted the same in the formulation of the above

directions. These directions require strict compliance/ adherence of the Union of India and all concerned."

The last sentence of it is not proper at all. This is an administrative direction by the Supreme Court, which is not proper.

Sir, as I had said earlier, the Supreme Court had transgressed its limits. With all due humility, I am saying this because, as I said, administration is a complicated matter and decisions are taken by taking into consideration at that particular moment of time as to what are the requirements. If an officer at a particular level is hauled up by not giving him protection, there would be an amount of procrastination on his part to take decisions and procrastination may lead to impeding the developmental process.

That is why, the Joint Committee, in its wisdom, unanimously decided that the single directive system must stay. The most important thing is that the single directive system will give protection to the decision-making authorities. I would give an instance: how innocent people also can be hauled up; innocent senior officers can be hauled up. Before, I go into those facts, I would like to recite a story from the Bible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jesus Christ and Barabas were crucified at the same place. Barabas was a common thief and Jesus Christ was the King of the Jews, as they say, "INRI" written on the Cross itself. It means, "Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Jissains: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Such a great man, who was propagating love and peace, was crucified along with a common criminal. There was no discrimination at all.

Unless we give some sort of protection - it has come down from that day onwards - to senior officers, they would not be able to take decisions at all. It is because of that, that the Joint Committee unanimously came to the decision, and the Committee was of the view that the Supreme Court cannot give any direction for enactment of a statute or for enacting a clause itself. That has to be kept in mind. We, as the Members of Parliament, as I said earlier, have done away with our power, as a result of which, the vacuum is being tried to be filled up by the Supreme Court. Day-to-day governance requires lot of assessments, lots of adjustments and, as I said, the present day judicial system does not address itself to public administration in a proper manner.

In earlier days, before Independence, we had the Imperial Civil Service (ICS). Some of the ICS officers were being posted as District Judges, and many of them became Judges of the High Courts; some of them retired as Chief

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

Justices of the High Courts. What was the purpose behind this? The purpose was that the judiciary also should have a feel of the administrative functioning. If they do not have a feel of the administrative functioning, it would be very difficult to go along with the day-to-day administration. That is most important and, that is why, the single directive system, which has been introduced in the Bill itself, as per the recommendation of the Joint Committee, is a welcome change and has to be adhered to so that after a few years, if somebody has taken a decision, he cannot be hauled up and he cannot defend himself in a proper manner. So, I would like to say that this single directive system, which has been introduced, is a welcome change, and the Joint Committee has very clearly indicated that no protection is available to the persons at the decision-making level. The Government has to give him protection. So, some sort of protection has to be given and enquiry is to be initiated after Govt. clearance.

All matters have been taken into account in the CVC Bill. The Government had introduced the Freedom of Information Bill, which has been enacted. Now, this Bill has been introduced and is being discussed. When this Bill is passed, it would be quite clear that the Government wants to protect those who are at the decision-making level, but at the same time, take action against corrupt officials. While taking action against corrupt officials, as I said, there has to be a certain bit of restraint. In a common police station, a case can be registered just like that. There is no restriction. The Code of Criminal Procedure does not give any restriction, but when we impute any allegation against a senior person in administration, there has to be caution. That is why inquiry, has to be taken up and the Government has to be in the know of things and decide as to what type of decision has to be taken. CBI does not start a case on its own immediately. It takes a lot of time. Preliminary inquiry has to be taken up. Before taking up preliminary inquiry against senior officers, the Government's prior approval is necessary. I would not go into other details.

Now, I would like to conclude. Some persons might say that the CVC Bill is not complete and that more things could have been put there, but I would like to say that it is a welcome Bill and should be enacted in the manner in which it has been recommended by the Joint Committee and accepted by the Government itself.

Before I conclude, I would like to quote the Greek poet Pindar. In his Pythian Odes, Pindar wrote, "Strive not my soul, for an immortal life; but make the most of what is possible." That is what we are doing. Whatever is possible, we are taking. Let us not try to become immortal by enacting a legislation, which ordinarily could be changed at a later stage.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I feel privileged to participate in this discussion on Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999.

Shri Anadi Sahu and I had said in the Joint Parliamentary Committee that this measure should come as a product of the wisdom of Parliament. This Bill emanates not from the wisdom of Parliament, but comes on the directions of the Supreme Court in the Vineet Narain case. We had said in the Committee that the Supreme Court had no power to direct the Parliament to enact a law in a specific form. There is a catena of decisions of the Supreme Court saying that the Supreme Court cannot compel the Parliament to enact a law. So, this Vineet Narain's case actually goes against the decision of the Supreme Court itself. The Supreme Court is not bound by its own decision. So, the wisdom of the court and the wisdom of Parliament are in conflict in reference to this Bill.

Though we welcome this Bill, I would like to say that it might prove to be a Damocles' sword for the Managing Directors and the officials of the Government-owned companies. After the enactment of this Bill, they come under the purview of the Act vide Section 8 of the Act.

The Minister of Disinvestment stated the other day that even BPCL and HPCL are governed under the Companies Act. So far they have not been brought under the purview of the Prevention of Corruption Act directly. Now, Clause 8 of the Bill says, 'Inquire or cause an inquiry, or investigation to be made, or a reference made by the Central Government where it is alleged that the public servant, being an employee of the Central Government or a Corporation established under the Central Government.' So, while taking decisions of disinvestment hereafter, the officials making decisions will have to be more careful. If there is an iota of suspicion raised against them, even on the floor, it may be taken cognisance of by the CBI because it directly comes under the CVC. It excludes the other public servants. It includes only the public servants of the Government-owned Corporations. ...(*Interruptions*)

The Bill is a welcome measure. The Joint Parliamentary Committee deliberated the Bill in detail and accepted the recommendations of the Government. The only point we all raised in the Committee was that it was not coming out of the wisdom of Parliament. Now, let this Bill be deliberated here with the wisdom of Parliament. Let us show that we also have wisdom and let not the Supreme Court think that it is only by its direction that this legislation is being made.

Appointments to various positions are made by a multi-member appointing Committee on the lines of Cabinet

Committee of Appointments. I welcome this Bill. But, let us show our wisdom while passing this Bill.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Vigilance Commission is functioning under the authority of a Resolution of the Government of India, No.371/20/99/ABD3 dated 4th April, 1999. It is not a statutory body. The present Commission is also functioning under the authority of the same Resolution.

The Supreme Court, in its order dated 18th December, 1997, directed that statutory powers be given to the Central Vigilance Commission. That order could not be implemented due to various reasons. The present Ordinance is issued with a view to give statutory powers to the Commission.

The Vigilance Commission is a very important institution to prevent corruption in higher levels of bureaucracy. Top bureaucrats have always been escaping because the whole machinery was under the Home Ministry for a long time. It was more or less functioning under the directions of the Home Ministry. It is quite natural that the top bureaucrats in the Home Ministry would always influence the Commission and save the other top bureaucrats from corruption charges. Even in cases of patent charges of corruption, top bureaucrats could not be booked and punished due to pressure.

It is a well-known fact that since Independence, corruption has been growing like a cancerous disease in the civil services of the country. Bureaucrats who are working in various public sector undertakings were able to easily escape from punishments. Most of our public sector undertakings are running in losses because of corruption at high places and this could not be prevented. There were several instances in the past where Chairmen and Managing Directors of public sector undertakings like nationalised banks and industrial concerns were found to be involved in corruption cases. However, no effective steps could be taken.

The Central Bureau of Investigation which was supposed to work under the directions of Central Vigilance Commission did not function properly. The credibility of this investigating agency is more or less lost because of ineffective handling of the cases. The appointment of the Chief Vigilance Commissioner was also politically motivated. The Commission's credibility itself was in question. Independence of the Commission was not properly ensured. I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government and the Home Ministry to take immediate steps for the appointment of an independent Statutory Vigilance Commission.

This legislation is very important and timely because there is widespread corruption in all spheres of public life.

This has become a social evil cutting at the roots of our civilisation. People holding high offices are facing corruption charges. While Bofors scandal affected the life of our nation itself, the Tehelka scandal affected the Defence Services. The latest in the series of scandals that took place is the UTI scandal.

We can easily remember as to how many hours and days we had spent to discuss the issues of corruption in high places and nexus between high officials and politicians. However, no effective measures could be taken to check and prevent corruption in high places. I hope that the present Bill will be the first step in that direction.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999. This subject has already been discussed. The Central Vigilance Commission was set up in 1964 and was given autonomy. In a decision, the Supreme Court gave directions to the effect that statutory status should be conferred upon the Central Vigilance Commission.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now Pandian ji has said that corruption takes place in Public Undertakings after disinvestments. Our party Shiv Sena oppose disinvestments to some extent because profit making companies are being disinvested. We are not opposed to the disinvestments of loss making companies. But why there are losses, it is because of the corruption by their CMD, AD, Directors and Officers. I will give you an example. A CMD was seeking continuation. He contacted many Members saying that he wanted to become CMD in such and such Corporation. I received a phone call that CVC report is against him. But, he brought CVC papers showing that his report was good. This shows that corruption is everywhere. It is necessary to strengthen the commission to control it. That officer told that CVC has given him a clean chit. These Corporations are in the red only because of this corruption and their disinvestments is being done by Shri Arun Shourie ji. I would like to know if there is some control or not over them? Today, corruption is widely prevalent in Government undertakings, departments and Government Officers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, speaking on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address, I had said that all Ministers should be 'Lokabhimukh'. Lokabhimukh is a Marathi word which means that they should have more and more contact with the people. Not always, but an MP should meet people for an hour during the session. Shri Ram Naik ji does the same. Ministers are available but the Officers do not meet

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

even when people like us phone them. They can meet anywhere for corruption. I had told last time that there is much demand for steel production of 'SAIL'. But an Officer is on pay-roll will CVC find him out now? It is getting a legal status. He is on the pay-roll of the company which is going to take over SAIL. So, there is corruption everywhere, I want to say that corruption should be checked and CVC can be very useful in this. But the people should be good and honest and the people in their office should have no contact with other people. Our judiciary is very clear even today. Any judge, whether of Supreme Court, High Court, District Court or any other Court, do not have public contact. They do not mix up with anyone so that someone may not raise finger. All people in the vigilance Commission should be like that. There should not be cases like that CMD who brought his CVC clearance. Therefore, we should consider over CVC seriously. Government undertakings and Officers should be investigated. In case some MP, MLA or people's representative or a citizen submits an application to CVC, then its report should be sent to the Home Ministry or to the relevant authority or department so that quick action can be taken without corruption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to give an example. The earlier head of CVC has retired. Everyday his name was on some website or TV about his functioning. He got much publicity. Two bridges were constructed in our districts Sambhaji Nagar and Aurangabad. I went there and saw that they were in bad shape. Even before three months they had become dilapidated. I wanted to have inquiry into it.

I went there with some PWD Officers. They said that it was done by IRCON which later gave the contract to someone else. I said that their people were also involved in it and were their accomplice. On this, an officer told me to complain to CVC. I complained to the CVC with photographs. I received a letter from the then Chairman of the CVC saying that they had received my complaint and that they were looking into the matter. But nothing has happened so far. I called the Chief Engineer twice and got the pathway cleared. If such people will head the CVC, then how will the administration run and who will believe the CVC? Some people give threat of going to the CVC and complain there. These threats are mostly for the political people. If someone is a Minister, then Officers say that his CVC report is not good. I have a good experience of Officers. Though it has nothing to do with the Bill but it will be good to speak about it while the Bill is being discussed.

In the end, I support this Bill and thank you for giving an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

I rise to support the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999. What was the need to have such a Commission and why did the need arise to have such a Commission?

If we go into the history, we will find that - I may submit this - K. Santhanam Committee, on matters of prevention of corruption, recommended to have such a Commission, long back in 1964.

Initially, it was decided to attach such a Commission with the Ministry of Home Affairs; and thereafter, it was decided to have it with the Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances. But thereafter, it was felt that this type of a Commission should not be made subordinate to any Ministry, but it should be an autonomous body like the Union Public Service Commission. It is because the objective and the purpose of setting up such a Commission is to deal with matters of corruption in Government administration. So, it was felt that such a Commission should have autonomous powers so that it can act independently, judiciously, freely and without having any fear of their services which will be at the mercy of any superior.

Therefore, it was decided by a Government Resolution that the Central Vigilance Commissioner will be appointed by a warrant under the hand and seal of the President of India, and that he will not be removed or suspended from office except in the manner provided for the removal or suspension of the Chairman or members of the UPSC.

Again in 1997, the Government constituted an Independent Review Committee, IRC, to suggest measures for strengthening inter alia anti-corruption activities as part of its efforts against corruption. One of the recommendations of the IRC was that the question of conferring statutory status on CVC along with restoration of the provisions relating to appointment of Central Vigilance Commissioner be made under the hand and seal of the President of India. This may be considered by the Government. Secondly, IRC also recommended that the CVC should be made responsible for the efficient functioning of the Central Bureau of Investigation, CBI.

Subsequently, the hon. Supreme Court, in its judgement in the case of Vineet Narain and others Vs. the Union of India, decided on the 18th December 1997, gave certain directions to the effect that the statutory status should be conferred upon the CVC. Several other directions were also given by the Supreme Court with respect of the consequences of the conferment of such a status.

Sir, to comply with the direction given by the hon. Supreme Court, the Government urgently proposed a law through an Ordinance - Ordinance 15 of 1998 and Amendment

Ordinance 18 of 1998. To replace these Ordinances, the Government introduced CVC Bill in the Lok Sabha on 7th December, 1998. Thereafter it was also referred to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs where it was thoroughly discussed. The Standing Committee presented its Report to the Parliament on 25.2.1999 with certain recommendations. The Government, by accepting most of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee, moved an official amendment to the CVC Bill of 1999 and the same was passed by the Lok Sabha on 15.3.1999.

Before this Bill could be considered and passed, the 12th Lok Sabha was dissolved on 26th April, 1999 and consequently the Bill was lapsed. Looking to the importance and urgency of CVC - as stated by all the Members and I think all have supported it - the Government adopted this Bill by passing Resolution No.371/20/99 dated 4th April, 1999 as the Ordinance was expiring on 5.4.1999. So, as per the said Resolution the CVC is continuing as a non-statutory body. This Bill has been brought before the Parliament to give it the status of a statutory body. Hence, looking to the importance and urgency of this Bill and also as per the direction of hon. Supreme Court in Vineet Narain and others Vs the Union of India, this Bill has been brought up by the hon. Minister which I welcome and support.

The functions and powers of CVC have been narrated in clause 8 of the Bill. Clause 11 talks about power relating to inquiries. CVC will have all the powers of the civil court trying a suit under the Civil Procedure Code.

In these circumstances, I support the Bill.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is about four decades, to be precise 39 years, since the CVC has been in existence. During these 39 years a stage has come where CVC has not been able to control, contain or curb corruption. One former Prime Minister is reported to have observed that the nation is sinking in corruption. The former President in his speech had to make an observation that corruption is rampant and widespread. It has taken menacing proportions. A series of scams are taking place involving former Prime Minister, sitting Ministers, former Ministers and even Chief Ministers, key functionaries in Government departments, public undertakings and capital markets. In the last JPC Report it has been stated that along with liberalisation, corruption is also being liberalised and is touching more and more menacing proportions.

This step, although in right direction, is too inadequate. This is not going to serve the purpose of containing corruption. Transparency International, one of the global bodies, which takes note of corruption in different nations, has stated publicly

that today India is among the most corrupt nations of the world, the least corrupt being the Scandinavian countries.

In such a situation, I do not know how giving some statutory power to the CVC, is going to be helpful. But I can cite two, or three recent examples. As regards the defence deals, there was one agency called Tehelka.com. After a thorough investigation, it had presented a case of corruption in defence deals. Now, you find that it has been stated in the JPC report also that the people, even innocent professionals who had some relations with the Tehelka.com, have been troubled. The Tehelka.com has been finished. Now, we hear that from 28th February, there will be another hearing by the new judge. I am not going into the other details of the Tehelka.com. The career of the two key functionaries - two eminent professionals - has been ruined. Their bank accounts have been freezed. This is part of the report of the JPC. As regards, Tehelka.com, the CVC, Chairman had to make certain observation. What is that? When Shri Vittal was asked, do you agree with the way Tehelka.com went about its investigation, he said:

"I agree hundred per cent. As Chankya has said, the fellows who are corrupt have no right to say that people who want to expose them should follow very *dharmik* method and go through the legal procedure."

He has put on the website certain names of the people who have not paid back the borrowed money to the financial institutions. They are the defaulters. These people are being honoured. When a question was asked whether a person who has not paid back the money which he had taken from the public sector banks, will he be allowed to bid in the course of the disinvestment, the Minister said, 'Yes'. The chief of a business house is himself a defaulter. They are bidding. It is very unfortunate that one defaulter had occasion to bid the shares of the same bank in which he was a defaulter. The RBI intervened only when its attention was drawn. The same defaulter and the same corrupt person is purchasing the shares of the same bank which he had looted. This is the stage which you have reached.

The CVC enquired into the defence deals and submitted a report. This is very important. I am not mentioning who is what. We know that there is a resignation story, one NDA partner demanded the resignation of the Defence Minister. Then again he came back and was re-inducted in Ministry. These stories are well known. What CVC's Chairman had to say about CVC report? He said that he has submitted his report after going into all official documents. At the same time, of course, CVC had made certain observations about the defence deals, coffins that had been purchased at double the price at Philadelphia. Its proof can be produced. It is called

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

the coffin scandal. Today morning also, there was a reference by some Member that the Leader of the Opposition had made this observation at the Himachal Pradesh public speech. This is on document. This is the CAG observation. An institution like CAG was attacked like anything by the so called journalist called Pandit or something like that. He was himself involved in corrupt practices.

The booklet was forwarded to Members of this House, Members of the Public Accounts Committee by the Defence Minister. The Defence Minister himself has flouted all rules of conventions. The issue is still pending. I would not like to go into that. The Public Accounts Committee, the most prestigious Committee of the Parliament, demanded that the report of the CVC should be made available to the Committee. But still today the PAC has not been allowed access to that report, though it is not covered under the Official Secrets Act. The Chairman, Central Vigilance Commission himself has said that he had no objection if the report was given to the PAC. He even said that if it was not given within six months, he would make the report public. The CVC had done it. What has happened? What has happened is very unfortunate. I am constrained to make this observation. When it is very much under the consideration of the Public Accounts Committee, the new Chairman said that most of the, eighty plus, observations contained in the C & AG report are trivial in nature. Only ten of them are serious charges. The charges made by the former Chairman are trivial in nature, he reportedly said Is it the way the Government should allow the institutions to function? Is it the way the corrupt people, whose names are there in the Website, should be allowed to bid for the profit-making public sector undertakings? Can it be allowed that those people who have not paid back the money, the defaulters, be honoured by the hon. Prime Minister by sitting beside them? If that be the practice of the Government, then this empowerment of the CVC with a statutory authority or otherwise is not going to serve any purpose.

Sir, we have been demanding about the Lokpal Bill. Why is the Government not bringing forward this Bill? Why is there a reluctance to bring forward this Bill? Even after a directive from the Supreme Court, the Government is dilly-dallying on this. What has happened to the Lokpal Bill? What has happened to the N.N. Vora Committee report that talks about the nexus between the underworld, the bureaucrats and the politicians? We have been demanding that electoral reforms are urgently required. There are political donations to parties and the whole system has got corrupt. What have this Government done? Have they listened to the voice of the Opposition? There have been Committees instituted for Electoral Reforms, there have been recommendations made by these Committees, but why is the Government sitting over

it? I have no objection if you bring about certain changes under the direction of the Supreme Court. But it is too inadequate.

Sir, then I come to the concept of public servants. Once I had asked the Governor, Reserve Bank of India as to what stands in the way of punishing those people who indulge in corruption in the public sector banks. One of his replies was relating to the public servant concept. What can be said about it? Even the President of the Ruling Party was caught red-handed taking money in the video-clippings. He has been removed from his office. But still the Ruling Party says that they are above corruption and that they do not encourage corruption. We have demanded that let the Defence Minister come with all the papers and let the PAC go into all those papers that are available.

Sir, such is the level of corruption. Let us discuss the JPC report. We have made a demand for it. In the JPC report it has been mentioned as to how the Finance Minister of this country, through his actions, through his omissions and commissions deliberately or otherwise, sometimes knowingly and sometimes unknowingly had acted in the case of US-64 units of the UTI.

There are references there that the Government cannot absolve itself, that the Finance Ministry cannot absolve itself. Names are there about families belonging to high offices. Every type of juicy gossip is there and stories get published as to who is meeting whom. But the Government is keeping silent. I would not take much time of the House.

I believe that the CBI as a body should be made as much independent as the situation demands. The CBI is used for ulterior political motives. There is a relationship between the CVC and the CBI. Even the Chief Justice of the country says that 20 per cent of the judges are corrupt. This is not my observation. If the judges are corrupt, if the names of Ministers appear as being corrupt, if the names of the family members and relatives of people holding the highest office and other high offices come along with the corrupt people and become juicy stories, in such a situation the Government owes it to the nation that transparency coupled with accountability is shown. But, this Government is shirking its responsibility. It is sitting over the Lok Pal Bill. It is not at all serious about the electoral reforms. It is not giving adequate powers to the appropriate agencies and is rather misusing them for different purposes. As I was saying, CBI is being misused. Only yesterday a case came up, but I do not wish to go into it.

About the Defence deals, only on 20th February - if I am not mistaken about the date - the Government, in reply to an Unstarred Question, has informed as to what has happened to the Defence personnel involved in corruption. They have

been punished; court martial has taken place and punishment has been meted out to them. But what happened to the key civil authorities whose names are also there?

In such a situation, with almost all these aberrations that I can see, this single directive principle this Bill seeks to provide is not going to be helpful. It is of course true that sometimes Government officials and public servants have to act according to the directives given to them and according to the policy decisions taken by the Government. To fulfil the obligations of the Government, they have to be protected in Defence and in many other areas. Those officials have to be given protection. Protecting an official who has acted in a particular manner in fulfilling certain obligations is one thing, whereas protecting people who deliberately, in a planned way and knowingly indulging in corruption and destroying the institutions is quite another.

Public has lost faith in these institutions, including judiciary and the executive. Wherever we go, public say 'oh, here is a politician, he must be corrupt'. This is the image of a politician. But, there are dedicated politicians who have given their whole life for the people. When they die, you could find only one shirt, one pair of trousers, one bag, one pen and such small things. There are such people even today. In such a situation, we have the responsibility to see that the image of the politician - be it an MLA, an MP or a Minister - is refurbished. Politician does not mean he is full of corruption. All politicians are not indulging in corruption. Most of the people cannot afford to be corrupt. From morning till night they are working for their livelihood and there is no scope for their indulging in corruption. Only a handful of people are involved in corruption. If these people can be properly handled through right institutions and through right legislative measures, I believe we can resurrect our image and build our nation.

In the comity of nations, we can retrieve the image that has been built, namely, India is one of the most corrupt nations. We can retrieve that image. In this situation, I believe that you should think of not only this piece of legislation but, along with it, think about the Lokpal Bill and the electoral reforms also. Transparency should be assured. Institutions and bodies like the Public Accounts Committee and others should be allowed to have access to all the materials to come to right conclusions.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, first of all I would like to thank hon. Minister for bringing such a good Bill here which was highly needed by the country because corruption permeates at every

level as the hon. Members have told. But the Government is prepared to check this corruption. Therefore, I expect that neither I nor the speakers who will speak henceforth will oppose this Bill. It is a small Bill. There was K. Santhanam in the Committee on Prevention of Corruption who recommended for setting up a Central Vigilance Commission. This proposal of setting up a CVC came from EVD on 24.8.1964 and it was set up on 11.2.1964 but there were many problems and after that it was decided to make it an individual body than keeping it under the Ministry of Home Affairs so that the corrupt Officers in the country could be checked. Thus, earlier it was under Ministry of Home Affairs but was given freedom and full authority later. The Commissioner of this Committee shall be appointed by the President of India in the same way as the Officers of UPSC are appointed by the President. He can neither be removed nor suspended in an ordinary manner. The procedure for his removal from office would be the same as applicable in case of the Members of U.P.S.C. This was amended in 1995. An independent review Committee headed by B.G. Deshmukh was constituted in September 1997. Giri Saheb and Baura Saheb were its members. It is said that this Commission should be empowered so that corruption can be eradicated. Thereafter, on 18 December, 1997 Supreme Court gave a direction again for its reconsideration in Vineet Narayan Vs. August case. In another Jain Hawala case, the court ordered for giving more powers and an ordinance was promulgated. On 25 August, 1998 and later on 27 October, 1998 Central Vigilance Commission passed all this and was referred to the Standing Committee. It was passed by the Lok Sabha but got lapsed in the Rajya Sabha. It was sent to Rajya Sabha on 15 March, 1999.

At that time the elections were frequently taking place within a span of one and a half year and the people would complain that nothing has been done to improve the sewage facility and you have again been representing us. How a Lok Sabha Member is concerned with the water but I was a bit unfortunate and lost twice or thrice. I became the Member in 1999 and then kept on losing the election. The Bill also could not be passed due to the dissolution of Lok Sabha. How could this Bill have survived then? The period of the ordinance was going to be lapsed on 5th April 1999. The Government of India issued an extra ordinary budget on 4th April, 1999 after having been responsible for the prevailing situation.

16.00 hrs.

The hon. Minister deserves Kudos for continuation of this Bill through the ordinance issued by the Government of India. The Bill also assumes importance in view of the Supreme Court's directive for vesting in more powers to the Central Vigilance Commission given on 18 December 1997. Hence it is a good step that the Vigilance Commission has been

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

conferred with constitutional right by the Government. The step taken by Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in further empowering the CVC by conferring this right to it is certainly a good step. Earlier it was a government department but now it has become an autonomous body and it has been conferred with more constitutional powers and has become more powerful. Hence the hon. Minister is worthy of being congratulated for it. Though it is certainly the Government's duty to keep a check on the corrupt officers. There is no justification in removing the honest officers. However the deals of a corrupt office should be highlighted in the newspapers and he should be removed. Nowadays we have been witnessing that none of prominent leaders and officers who have been implicated and shown on T.V. etc. have been removed. I don't want to name anybody here but all are aware as to who have been found involved in which scam. The Government of India too should take steps in the direction.

When the Defence Minister was accused of taking Rs. 75 crore, then George Sahib handed over the matter to the CBI. It was an exemplary deed on his part. Others should also act taking a leaf out of his book. A corrupt person should be exposed in the media and the action taken against him should also be reported. Besides, the Government should immediately introduce the Lokpal Bill in the parliament about which the hon. Members have also expressed their willingness. The electoral malpractices are a common thing. Everybody demands jeeps and flags and these are kept for his personal use. This way misuse of electoral funds takes place. The proposed Bill will do away with these malpractices. It is also in the air that some persons do not want this Lok Sabha to last full five years. This kind of thing sends shivers down our spine with the thought of going for the elections again. Hence it will be extremely good if the Lok Pal Bill is introduced as quickly as possible. I would like to once again thank the Government of India for this Bill. Along with it, I would also like to request all the hon. Members here to support this Bill by respecting the Government's intent of eradicating corruption. This Bill is a right step of the Government for checking and punishing the corrupt officers.

16.03 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

Now I conclude by thanking you for congratulating the Government for introducing this Bill. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak on the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999. This Bill introduced by the Government is a welcome step. I would

like to say that though the Government have talked of providing autonomy to the Commission yet it would not be possible for the Commission to function freely and fairly if the Government interferes in the anatomy of the Commission as corruption has assumed institutionalised form in the country. Today the entire country is mired into corruption. Right now Rup Chand Palji told that Central Vigilance Commission has been working in the country for the 39 years. Despite its being functional for so many years we have not been able to check the spread of corruption rather it has kept on increasing every year. Today our country is standing on the path of being labeled as a corrupt country. It is a shameful situation. Today the high mansions in the country's capital Delhi and the areas like Noida, Gurgaon and Faridabad in its vicinity and in the capitals of the various states is a pointer in the direction that the acts of corruption find refuge in the arenas of the political bigwigs.

The owners of these high buildings seems to be sending this message that they are capable of showing the highest disregard to the existing laws in the country and the laws if the country fall short of putting a check on corruption. Even the step of surveying and putting a curb on the expense of the pompous and luxurious houses of the bureaucrats and capitalists in the capitals of the country and various States will be suffice to generate a fear among the corrupt people. However whether it is Election Commission, CVC or CBI, all merely fulfil the formality and the fundamental change for rooting out corruption does not take place. When Shri T.N. Seshan headed the Election Commission the hope was kindled in the people's mind that electoral process would improve and it would be relieved of its shortcomings. However he went out and completed his term and several others succeeded him but the electoral malpractices and shortcomings in electoral process continue even now. The influence of money during elections has been increasing. If the growing influence of money in elections is not checked, success can't be achieved in eliminating corruption. If the people continue to come to power on the basis of capitalist's money the system will not be able to keep a check on those indulged in corruption and will met with failure. You will have to lead from the front even in the process of electoral reforms. A practice on the lines of USA and Britain has to be developed wherein a forum is made available to the leaders of various parties to express their views. If this practice is opted here and the practice of private funding is done away with, electoral process would certainly improve. I am of the opinion that, the corruption can not be checked until the electoral practice is reformed. The people in the country have started to perceive that corrupts are being provided asylum by those at the apex of political power who are themselves are neckdeep in corruption.

The entire world saw what was aired in Tehlka.com episode. It is a matter of shame for us. It is shameful for us

that the National President of the political party in power was clearly shown accepting bribe personally. Tehlaka.com episode also showed that the defence establishments are also ridden with corruption. Not only this, CAG report has also mentioned that commission was taken and irregularly took place while purchasing coffins for the martyrs of operation Vijay. Whatever powers are conferred upon and whatever steps are taken to eliminate corruption will fall short in a country where theft is committed even while purchasing coffins for the martyrs.

We used to be acquainted with the views of the former CVC Chairman through newspapers and electronic media. He used to indulge in rhetoric. However we should also give some thought to the fact that no step was taken by hon. N. Vitthalji when he served in various administrative capacities prior to becoming CVC. There should not be any difference in preaching and practice of persons in charge of such posts, only then reform can take place.

Now, hon. Pandiyaraj said that we are going to take this step on the direction of the Court. I am of the view that we shouldn't be seen working on the directives of the court because only the failure of the parliamentary system would entail the federal intervention. The intervention by the Court is not wrong for the failure of our system has made it to do so. Hence I would urge upon the parliament to identify and do away the lacunas in the system, else the parliamentary democracy will come to an end.

Through you, I would like to say very humbly that corruption can not be eliminated by covering only employees in the ambit of Central Vigilance Commission. Prime Minister Office, Union Ministers and State Ministers as well as the Chief Ministers of States should also be brought in the ambit of Central Vigilance Commission. If they are not brought in its ambit then the Lokpal Bill be brought first and passed. While the officers and staff are living in constant awe of the increasing check of CVC but no steps are being taken to check the flow of corruption at higher echelons. Hence I would like to tell hon. Minister Shri Harin Pathakji that the morale of the forces took a beating due to Tehleka episode witnessed by the entire world and country that took place when you were the Minister of Defence production and supplies. The soldiers deployed at the borders of the country to protect them were greatly demoralised due to it. The farmers and the workers are the worst hit due to this Cancer of corruption. Even a farmer and a worker at village level is forced to bribe the accountant and police constable and we fail to put any check on the corruption in police station and tehsil office because yet comes the reply that even the politicians at the apex level are involved in the scams of crores of rupees. We are forced to keep mum and even our political and social workers are left speechless.

Hence I would like to say to you that unless the most stringent of provisions are made to punish those involved in corruption, this malady cannot be eliminated from the country. Whatsoever power is conferred on the Central Vigilance Commission through this Bill, progress cannot be made in this regard. I have also come to know that a provision of constituting a committee comprising of the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Leader of Opposition for reviewing the power of appointments has been made under the Bill. However this committee is bound to reflect the image of the Government i.e. opinion of the Government is likely to prevail because the Leader of Opposition will be up against the two votes of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. Hence, I would like to say that amendment be made in this provision related to appointment. I am of the opinion that it would be better if this power is conferred on the Supreme Court to make the selection more transparent. If this power is vested in the Supreme Court, a good system will come up.

I would like to request you that we will have to apply the principles of stringent financial management to check this decay in our parliamentary democracy. The people who are taking bribes should also be covered in the ambit of this legislation. Similarly those who are misutilising the public funds through their decisions and acts should also be covered in the ambit of this Bill. I have just come back after addressing the employees of Food Corporation of India at two o'clock today. An expenditure of Rs. 42 crore was made to provide medical facilities to the FCI employees but now the contract has been awarded to someone to take care of the medical facilities to be provided to them. The employees are not satisfied despite an expenditure of Rs. 55-60 crore on their health needs under the new system. The employees demand the old system to be restored but the Ministry of Food is pressurising, FCI to continue with the contractor system. The employees were satisfied when Rs. 42 crore were being spent but not now when Rs. 60 crore are being spent. Similarly, the misutilisation of Government funds is taking place. Hence, I am of the opinion that they should also be brought within the ambit of the Bill. The persons responsible for this should be punished hard and only through these measures the corruption can be checked.

With these words, I support this Central Vigilance Commission Bill and expect you to consider my suggestions seriously.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir I rise to support this Bill grudgingly, I repeat the word grudgingly, because I do not fully support each and every aspect that has been brought forward through this Bill.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Recently I went through two of the reports. One report was published by the World Bank, another by the Transparency International, Berlin. In the World Bank Report, they had given the comparative figures of 191 countries - per capita income, GDP growth, level of poverty, literacy rate, population growth, everything. They have given a comparative statement. With regard to the richness of a country, I made a per capita income comparison. With regard to the per capita income, Switzerland is the highest, having \$38,140 annual per capita income. Just like that, you have so many other countries following Switzerland - Japan, Denmark, Hong Kong, Finland, Belgium, Austria, Australia, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, etc. In the Transparency International Report, out of these 91 countries, India is placed at 72. I was very pleasantly surprised to find that the first 20 countries in the World Bank Report, with regard to the per capita income, are comparable to the first 20 countries in the Honesty List of the Transparency International. That means all those countries of the world that are rich, are also honest. Those countries who are the most dishonest are, like you start from below, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya and the countries like Nicaragua, Ecuador, Pakistan, Russia, Tanzania, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Bolivia and the like. They are also the poorest. So, there is a very strong connection between poverty and dishonesty. This is the first lesson I learnt from those two reports. So, Sir, we can always say whether the hen is first or the egg is first. We can say whether poverty is first or whether the corruption is first. Some people say, because we are corrupt, that is why we are poor. Others can say that because we are poor, that is why we are corrupt. But I firmly believe that corruption is anti-poor, anti-development and anti-national. We are poor only because we are corrupt. This is one of the most important reasons why Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, China and Korea have prospered in Asia. It is only because they are the most honest nations of Asia.

Then, Sir, we just talk about zero tolerance. We just talk about zero tolerance of corruption. Corruption thrives in countries whose resources are wasted and whose Parliamentary systems are hamstrung by institutions that condone and reinforce corrupt practices. Corruption at the level of politicians forces poor countries to incur wasteful expenditure in transactions where bribes can be extracted. Sometimes even the international agencies like the World Bank and the NGOs also indirectly contribute to corrupt practices because proper accounting is not enforced on the loans advanced which are often misutilised.

If you go through the processes in this country, you will come to know that the whole system is designed as if to protect the corrupt people. Take an example. You go to the banks. The banks will not disclose the names of the major defaulters.

The Income-tax Department does not reveal the names of the big assesseees who refuse to pay taxes. Various procurement agencies of the Government do not publicly display the names of the blacklisted parties who have bribed the bureaucrats and the politicians for getting lucrative contracts. And 65 per cent of the corporate houses in this country flourish most of the time but they do not pay taxes. So, it always seems that the entire system has been designed in that way. But in the present day world, transparency and democracy are the latest fashions. If a country wants to become a world power, power worth the name, it will have to be transparent. Take the example of WTO. In WTO, one of the major arguments is transparency in Government procurement. I had been to Geneva just recently to attend a meeting of the Parliamentary forum on WTO. This item - transparency in Government procurement - was one of the major items which was discussed.

Sir, the US intelligence sources have estimated that the firms which are giving bribes garner about 80 per cent of the Government contracts. That means, they directly poke their fingers at the under-developed countries or the developing countries like us. So, corruption has to be tackled before the benefits of economic liberalisation reach the people.

Now, Sir, I will come to another point that corruption cannot be eradicated through speeches. It is a systemic problem, and if you slightly make some adjustment in the system, corruption could be reduced to a great extent. I will give an example. Recently I had been to Frankfurt. I was travelling in a vehicle. The driver went to a petrol station to fill petrol. There was nobody in the petrol station to fill petrol. He did it himself, paid the money which was written in the metre, the change also came out, he took it and came out of the petrol station. Then, I asked him: "What will happen if one does not pay the money?" Then, he looked at me and said: "Nobody does like that in this country." In the night, I attended a party thrown by the Consular General of India. I asked him: "Is everybody in Germany a *Dharm Yudhishtir*? Is no one a thief? Does no one take bribe?" He said: "Everybody here is not a *Yudhishtir*. He may escape. He may not pay the money after filling the petrol. But if he is caught, he will be detained and jailed for a minimum of three years." In our country, everybody knows that even if he is caught, the legal system is such that he can escape.

Sir, I support most of the amendments brought forward by the distinguished Joint Committee. I agree that the number of the members in the Committee should be two. That means, there should be three members instead of five. It has been reduced to three. It is in conformity with the Chief Election Commission.

My second point is that the Chief Vigilance Commissioner or the Vigilance Commissioner, according to this Bill, has been made ineligible for taking any further employment under the Government of India either in any State or in any Union Territory.

Sir, it is all right. I understand that he will not accept any post, but will he be eligible to contest any election? There are examples of Supreme Court Chief Justices, after demitting their office, they are contesting the election and coming to Parliament also. Should we allow it? If we are not going to allow somebody just to accept any Government position, how can you allow him to contest the election? Contesting election means keeping relationship with some political party while in office. So, I have my strong objection here. Not only he should be debarred from getting any Government appointment but also he should not be allowed to contest any election under the banner of any political party, or he should not be allowed to contest any election.

Then, I approve the incapacity clause where the Chief Vigilance Commissioner or a Vigilance Commissioner could be removed because of his incapacity. I also agree with the 'exercise of superintendence' clause wherein it is stated that the Chief Vigilance Commission cannot intervene in any policy matter. But I have a very strong objection with regard to this single directive.

Hon. Member, Shri Shivraj V. Patil started the deliberation followed by hon. Member, Shri Anadi Sahu. They are all very experienced persons. They said, yes, the bona fide officers should be protected from taking independent decisions. I fully agree with this because all the time if any officer is harassed by the cases, he may be scared of just taking any independent decision. This is all right. Now, the Government should give permission for sanction to prosecute him. But my question is: 'if the Government does not give timely permission to prosecute him, what will happen?' You take these examples. I can just give you the facts. By March, 2000, 1,100 cases relating to IAS, IPS and Central Excise and Customs officers are pending for action. Inquiry proceedings against another 1,300 officers are pending at the departmental level. So, I am asking you to kindly go through the newspaper reports. When the Joint Parliamentary Committee wanted to retain the single directive factor, in spite of the direction of the Supreme Court, what did the newspapers write? They wrote that there is a very strong connection between politicians and bureaucrats; there is a nexus between the politicians and the bureaucrats; and they are protecting each other. This is the general impression in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharabela Swain, do you agree that there is a crisis of character in the country? What do you want to say?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, my point is that the human nature is universal. I have gone to foreign countries many times. I do not find that there is any distinction between the character of an Indian and the character of any foreigner. I was mentioning about the driver who paid the money himself. He is not a German; he is an Indian. He did it in Germany, but he will not do the same thing here because, here the atmosphere, the legal system is totally different. That is what I am mentioning. I do not say that any Indian is corrupt but a German or an American is a Dharmraj Yudhishtir. I am not saying so. The only thing is, we have to strengthen the system. So, here I am making a suggestion that if there should be a single directive system, then there should be a time limit by which the Government should either accord sanction or should not accord sanction. If the Government does not accord sanction, it should also give the reasons why it refused to give permission to prosecute a certain officer.

This is my suggestion. If not now, the Government should think over this in future and fix a time limit so that when the permission is sought from the Government by the CVC to prosecute an officer, it is accorded within that time frame. While giving this suggestion, let me tell you that this is not the only way in which corruption could be eradicated.

My next suggestion is that the Government should reply to every letter written by an individual. I was born after Independence, but I have heard that before Independence whenever a letter was written to the British Government, a reply was forthcoming. This is a democracy. It is the people of this country who elect the Government and who pay the salaries of the Government employees. So, why should a letter not be replied to by the Government officers or the political people? After the introduction of computers and after everything has been computerised, it has now become very easy to reply to a letter sent by any individual of this country. So, I appeal to the Government, and specifically to the Government led by hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, that they should consider my suggestion that whenever an individual writes a letter, he should be replied to, so that he would at least think that this Government has made some fundamental difference to the system in this country.

We have already passed the Right to Information Bill in Parliament. Several State Governments have passed such Bills but the State Governments have left such loopholes in their Right to Information Bills that any officer could refuse to give information saying it is secret and so it cannot be given to anybody. My appeal to the Government is that they should

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

impress upon all the Chief Ministers of States - just like in the introduction of VAT - that there should be a uniform type of Right to Information Bill everywhere in India so that whenever a person wants a document, it could be provided to him by that Government.

To eradicate corruption, whenever a Government servant attains the age of fifty, his performance should be reviewed. It should be reviewed whether he has been performing well enough to continue for another ten years. If his performance is good and if he is honest, upright and dynamic, he should be allowed to continue till the age of sixty. If not, he should be asked to retire voluntarily and a new person should be taken in his place. In any job, it should not be taken as a matter of guarantee that once a person joins the job, he could continue right up to the age of sixty whether he performs or not and whether he is honest or dishonest.

At the level of the State Governments, there is a certain thing called, 'schedule of rates'. Whenever a person bids for any contract, he or she is supposed to bid as per the schedule of rates. If we take for example, bricks, the schedule of rates was fixed three to four years ago. If one thousand bricks cost around Rs.1,800 in the market now, when the schedule of rates was fixed four years ago, it would have been Rs.600. So, the contractor buys only one thousand bricks instead of three thousand because only one thousand bricks could be bought at the rate fixed for three thousand bricks about three to four years earlier. In addition, the Junior Engineer or the Assistant Engineer would sign the bill only if he is properly bribed. So, why can we not change the schedule of rates every six months?

Why can it not be done? It is deliberately not being done for years together because intentionally we are supporting these corrupt practices.

Last but not the least, what about the corruption in the Judiciary? The Judiciary says that everybody is equal before the law. But what about a judge? Is he equal to everybody or is he above the law? The Government was thinking in terms of setting up of a National Law Commission through which the Supreme Court and the High Court judges will be appointed. So, I will appeal to the Government that a National Law Commission should be set up as quickly as possible. What is happening nowadays? It is now the judges who are appointing their own kith and kin and relatives as judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts. So, I will appeal to the hon. Minister that he should go about it and see that the appointment of the Supreme Court and High Court judges are made through the National Law Commission.

Sir, as I told you earlier, I support this Bill grudgingly

because something is better than nothing and that something has been done by this Government.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Mr. Chairman Sir, if you kindly permit me. I would dispel a doubt regarding the time frame. The time frame can be well taken care of under the rule, making powers of the Central Government and the CVC under the Clauses 21 and 22.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, corruption is a serious problem in our country. People including experts and scholars have talked of international transparency and various draft formulation to tackle the menace of corruption but we have been witnessing that the corruption is increasing every day. Corruption is prevailing from top to bottom and is a major impediment in the path of development. The scholars also agree that the place of our country in corruption index is quite high among the most corrupt countries in the world. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bihar is at the apex in corruption. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I picked up as to in what he is interested to hear about. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please address the Chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Shri Kharabela Swain was talking about the zero tolerance corruption. I am of the opinion that the Government is not thinking in terms of bringing in the level of zero tolerance corruption rather it is thinking to attain 100 percent tolerance of corruption because even the President's Address does not mention about the need to eliminate corruption. The President's Address is the document of the Government's policies but it does not mention about the elimination or reduction of corruption.

Sir, he claims of bringing the Bill. I will attack him mildly for him being a new Minister. The hon. Minister has not brought this Bill on his own but it is the result of the verdict given by the independent Review Committee of the Supreme Court constituted in September, 1997 in which it was decided that the Central Vigilance Commission be made statutory and this Bill has been brought on the basis of it. The famous Hawala Scam took place in September and December in which, the allegations against several Ministers of this Government were levelled including Advaniji and Shri Yashwant Sinha. Nobody can counter what I am saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI): You are saying baseless thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am saying it with firm conviction. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, dozen of the Ministers of this Government were tainted in Hawala Scam. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak on your turn, right now let Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Supreme Court had stated. ...*(Interruptions)* Your showing certificate hardly makes any difference. The name was included among the accused. The Court has merely stated that evidence has not been found against you and it has not declared you innocent and no authority has given him character certificate. It has been said that evidence was not found. When the evidence is not found against a person in possession of weapons it does not make him innocent. Hence do not try to raise this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VADODARA): It is not a question of raising this issue, you are making wrong statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will you become guilty if someone accuses you of being so? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt each other. How are you interrupting each other, you may speak when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Court has given the decision, do not I know it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Swamiji, you please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will expose everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You address the Chair, you're not doing so also provokes them to interrupt.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, this cabinet is involved in a series of scams. Many scams like UTI scam, Tahalka, Coffin scams etc. have taken place. Is there anyone who is not involved in the scams in this cabinet? Corruption

will grow and is growing as long as this cabinet is in existence. There are touts in every cabinet and ministry, how can they take action against corruption. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please express your view about the CVC Bill which is being discussed at present. You are speaking about corruption in general.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This Bill is intended to detect the corruption cases where a minister and the Prime Minister is involved. ...*(Interruptions)* Why are they not introducing Lokpal Bill? Where has it gone? I had introduced a Private, Member's Bill in which it was provided that a directory on the line of telephone directory of those highly placed persons who have amassed wealth be prepared so that it can be easy to trace the person concerned with reference to the money accumulated by him. Why the concerned ministry is sitting over the file? The parliament is not sending it despite my repeated reminders. It should be brought forward for discussion so that investigations can be initiated against those who have amassed fortunes. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, why are they not sending it to the hon. President? They are sitting over it. The discussion on the Bill can be initiated after it gets the approval of the President. Why is the Ministry not taking any action to forward that Bill? Why have they brought that C.V.C. Bill which can not control corruption? They intend to initiate investigation against an officer of Joint Secretary level only after getting the approval of the government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you support this Bill or not?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Now, I tell you about the consequences of one's support to this Bill. They intend to wipe out corruption. The Supreme Court had directed that it should be made statutory. They have brought it to make statutory after a gap of six years since 1997. None of the provisions of the Bill is able to check corruption. The hon. Minister should clarify the provision which directs that without prior approval of the Government action can not be initiated against an officer of Joint Secretary level. What is the purpose of this Bill? Have you brought the Bill to take action against the employee or the constable? There are vigilance officers in every department and if you intend to investigate an officer of Joint Secretary level only with prior approval of the government then all investigation can be done by the concerned vigilance officer. What is the purpose of this Bill? I quote the statement of a Central Vigilance Commissioner published in the Asian Age dated 15th January, 2001:

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

[English]

"The Central Vigilance Commission has declared hundreds of departments and wings of over 52 public sector undertakings,

[Translation]

There are hundred departments and many public undertakings which are indulged in corruption

[English]

six banks and nine Government organisations as corrupt-prone."

[Translation]

This is the statement of Central Vigilance Commission.

[English]

"Expressing concern over the mounting clout of blacklisted contractors and suppliers in the PSUs, the CVC said in a recent report that a large number of top officials were allegedly involved in the racket and they were protecting and patronising them for their own interest."

[Translation]

This is the Statement of the Commission. The Government have brought such a Bill which will dilute the powers of the commission. They should clarify as to why investigation can not be initiated against high-ranking officers without the approval of the government? Please answer my pointed question. The Vigilance Bureau of Bihar had approached the Supreme Court from there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: I would like to say something with the permission of the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your issue is not being discussed.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There is Vigilance Bureau in every state. The Vigilance Bureau of Bihar had approached the Supreme Court and recently the Court has given its verdict.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should speak with the permission of the Chair. Are you yielding and giving opportunity to speak? Please continue your speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They want to listen something from me. Their Members say that when I speak, I speak the truth - which they can not.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Raghuvansh babu, you have already told that there are many shortcomings in this Bill, the Minister is new and the Bill is not as effective as it should be. Please give your positive suggestions to make it more effective as you are aware of all the ways and means of corruptions and the measures to tackle it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The country is suffering because the government are capable to gulp all the cases of corruption. Your government supports the series of scams, which take place. They do not have any control over it. Even the P.M.O. gets involved in it. P.M.O. is involved in Tahlka scam.

In the judgement of the Supreme Court, it has been stated that the Vigilance Bureau of the State has the authority to investigate, to file a case and to take action against any officer without the consent of the government. This is the recent verdict of the Supreme Court. The hon. Minister should clarify it after ascertaining the facts. When the Supreme Court has clearly said to the Vigilance Bureau that you are free, autonomous and independent to take action, then what is the justification in getting the prior approval and direction of the government for taking action against officers at the level of Joint Secretary and above. Sir, what are they doing and what will be the consequences of this Bill? It is like driving a car in back gear. This is a retrograding step. This Bill will not be able to minimize corruption.

This is my apprehension, so the hon. Minister should clarify it. Shri D.P. Ojha, D.M. Vigilance, Bihar Government had approached the Supreme Court. In that case, the Supreme Court had given a judgement that the Vigilance Bureau has the power to investigate, to take action, to lodge F.I.R. and to get someone arrested without the prior approval of the Government. Now, this Central Vigilance Commission Bill has been introduced. I would like to know your opinion with regard to this Bill in the light of the Judgement of the Supreme Court. This Bill will give protection to the officers and corruption or it will wipe out corruption. It should be clarified by the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am speaking point wise. It has been stated in the Bill that the number of the Members of the Commission will not be more than three. In the past, the number of Members was four. Now, you have made it a three-member commission. Perhaps, the four member commission was a large one. In democracy two. ...*(Interruptions)* committees have been constituted. Why have you brought it for discussion? Pass it without any discussion.

...(Interruptions) It should be represented by all the parties.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvanshji, you please address to Chair. I am not allowing anyone else. So you please continue.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Let it be four or three Commissioners in this Bill but they say that not more than three. But I have to say that Zero is also not more than three. One is also not more than three. Two is also not more than three. It is maximum upto three. Just see the trick of the government while formulating the law. If there is zero number besides Chief Vigilance Commissioner then they will say that according to law it is not more than three. You just understand this philosophy. I would like to say to the entire House that this Bill has got a lot of twist. If the government wishes it can do with only one Chief Vigilance Commission. They have mentioned in the Bill that not more than three. Now you see that two, one and even zero all are less than three. They can also run the Vigilance Commission without any member. What does it mean? This law is very tricky. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, law should be very clear. This reads as not more than three.

[English]

"Not more than three". Zero is also not more than three. One is also not more than three. Two is also not more than three.

[Translation]

This law can do without any member also. This is their philosophy. You just see the Bill further. It is written that we will suspend vigilance commissioner. The member who is in service, will be suspended. If you want to remove him, just remove him. Suspension will not serve the purpose. They are formulating such a huge committee to check corruption and for those who are members of this committee they say that they will suspend them. If you suspend them then who will be interrogated? If vigilance commission is corrupt or incapable you take decision to remove him. Mere suspension will not do. It is also to be seen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This point has already been discussed.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: To check the rampant corruption in the counting A.K. Santhanam committee was constituted. Acharya Kripalani told Mr. Jawahar Lal Nehru that corruption is rampant everywhere. There is bribery everywhere. He set up a commission for that. Commission reported that there is no bribery visible anywhere. It is in the form of donation to the leaders. 'Slaami' in the police stations and 'percentage' to the engineer.

It is speed money, in banks, somewhere it is 'BAKSHISHNAMA'. Somewhere it is 'Muhamama', it is all corruption by various names, rampant in every organism of society, one is accepting bribe and naming it 'Salaami'. This corruption has its branches rooted very firmly in the society.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raghuvansh babu, now you please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Corruption is a problem and you have asked for its solution. Where is corruption rampant? It is at three places. First, when income is five thousand and expenditure is ten thousand, then corruption will be there. No one can deny this. There is no need to conduct any enquiry. Secondly, where there is power and one is stronger and second one weaker. There has to be corruption. Third is Nepotism. Except at these three places, there is no corruption anywhere. Now I suggest the remedy for corruption. Where expenditure is more than income, restrict expenditure, this was suggested by Dr. Lohia. ...(Interruptions) Tehelaka has revealed that Ministers keep touts. Why don't you enquire?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Babu, Now please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: As long as this government remains in power. Corruption and scams after scams will take place. People can not get relief. Ministers loot and then quit. After making money they go into the next department. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now onward nothing will go on record. Mr. Raghuvansh Singh, now nothing is going on record. You please sit down. Mr. Subodh Mohite, now you can speak.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (RAMTEK): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill. Alongwith my support to this Bill, I also want to put forward some of the facts here. It is my habit that I justify the things which I say. The Bill presented here has got some aims and objectives, but objectives have two parts. One

*Not Recorded

[Shri Subodh Mohite]

part is theoretical and other one is practical. I have read two points of objectives therein. This first point is prevention of corruption and second one is bureaucratic accountability. I think that this Bill ponders over these two points. Once, this Bill has been brought here with some for aims and objectives then the biggest question that arises is as to what is the difference between theoretical and practical objectives ?

17.00 hrs.

What I mean to say is. What is the proportion of implementation and recommendation on the recommendations of CVC. This is the practical objective. I think that if practical objectives matter with theoretical objective then corruption is not possible. But the difference is so wide that it fails to check corruption. I am putting forward a technical point which will reduce the gap between these two. But the trend of corruption comes upto the zero. The question is whether the trend of corruption has been reduced whether the trend of corruption has come to zero? I have extracted three to four points out of this Bill. The main point is that CVC gives its recommendation and it goes to UPSC but since there is no coordination of any kind between CVC and UPSC, so in most of the cases UPSC turn down CVC's recommendations. I will provide those figures. What I have to say is that CVC, which is being constituted as an expert body, why don't we empower it? Why is it not made mandatory? It has just an advisory role. We are recurring such a huge expenditure for the advisory role. We are consuming such an amount of our national time, if we see percentage wise, it is zero. My first point is that CVC's role may be made mandatory.

We call it CBI just for name-sake, in fact people are scared of it. But as per the existing provisions, CVC and CBI, have to seek prior permission from the concerned department for initiating action against anyone as Raghuvansh Babu has just mentioned. Though he has mentioned it in a different way.

My second point is that CVC should be allowed to take action suo-motto then only it can be useful. So far as recommendations and action are concerned, I request hon. Minister to State during reply the total number of recommendations made by CVC and number of recommendations for which UPSC granted permission and number of recommendations on which action has been initiated.

We may refer any Bill, as such there is no time frame that within a specified period or six months action should be taken on the recommendation of CVC. If there is no time frame then what is the meaning of recommendations. I will show him the document which I have obtained today only. I have exact figure. As on date 4347 cases are pending with the

department where in CVC has commended action against officers. But the department is reluctant to take action. There are hundreds of officers, who have retired but are still availing the departmental benefits. But no action has been taken against them so far. As it has been just said that there is nexus between officers and political parties. I will not dwell as length about it. But as far as rating of corruption by Transparency International is concerned, I would like to say that Indian's ranking is high in the list of most corrupt countries. I am sad to say that at least there should be some limitation to it. It is quite unfortunate that index of corruption is high in services like power and health. He may have observed that Head of the institution tries his best to protect his subordinates because he thinks that if his institute's name is included into the corrupt institutions, it will tarnish the reputation of the institution.

[English]

Ultimately, I am the Head of the Department, my reputation will be spoiled. This is the fact.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I cannot cite greater example than that of you. Corruption means corrupt conduct. You have held a rally for farmers and not for yourself. Today you are in the Chair. You had demanded justice for farmers. Our Human Rights Commission has stated that no police personnel can use lathi against even a common man, whereas he is a hon. Member.

Hon. D.P. Yadav was not demanding anything for himself. The officer who used force against him also insulted the mankind. I have not seen such harrowing scene on the TV so far. It became a national as well as international news. Perhaps, that officer was Mohan Lal. Unfortunately, same officer was reinstated after four days. This is code of conduct. What can be greater violation of rules than this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, even greater tragedy had struck me and I am the greatest sufferer. This is hon. Minister's letter, I shall show it to you later on.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI): You tell the name of hon. Minister. You should tell his name to the House.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: As I am also an NDA partner, I have some limitations. I cannot divulge everything.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: What problem you have in disclosing it. You please disclose his name. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramdas ji, please do not speak. Hon. Member is himself in a position to express his views. You please sit down.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I have established an organisation called "Mission corruption." Through a question I have asked the House regarding total number of officers of the Government of India identified as corrupt by CVC. I have got a list of 4437 officers. I had written to the Department of Personnel on 31 August, 2001. I had asked the total number of officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above out of these. I had to struggle for one and a half year to collect this information. I got the reply after one and a half year, that is on 21 Oct, 2002 just after one year and three months that out of 4437, 146 officers are of the rank of Joint Secretary or above. I can read their names. Some of them are three officers of Coal India Ltd., three officers of Ministry of Defence, three from Food Processing, two from Banking, seven from Department of Personnel and 17 from Customs and Excise and 29 officers from Income-Tax, the revenue earning officer as we call it. Though, I cannot read out complete list of 146 officers.

[English]

Twenty nine officers from CBDT have been declared as corrupt and no action has been taken against them.

[Translation]

12 Officers of Central Excise and 19 from Railways have been declared as corrupt. Since I am an M.P., I have a prerogative that answer to my question should invariably be given. I asked Railways - where those 19 officers are working? They said that this is a secret information hence we cannot disclose it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have seven demands. First, since I am tired, reply to my letter should be forwarded to me through House. Secondly, action should be taken on recommendations of CVC within stipulated time period, that is, six months or so.

Third, advice of CVC should be made mandatory. Fourth, CVC should be allowed to take action suo-motto. Fifth - action should be ordered against 4500 corrupt officers working in Ministries. Sixth - letters of M.P.s in this regard should be replied and Seventh - 5000 such officers in sensitive offices should be shifted.

I conclude with these words and convey my thanks to you since you gave me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak on this Bill. While I am going to support this Bill, I must comment that this is better late than never. It is very interesting that an hon.

Minister like Shri Harin Pathak has moved this Bill for passing. It is interesting to me. But I must say that this is not adequate. It is quite inadequate. Many things have been said here. The hon. Members of this House have raised so many points. Sir, once the former Prime Minister of our country, Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru said that if anybody indulges in blackmarketeering, he should be hanged to death publicly. But now corruption seems to be the order of the day. It is not only confined to the lower level but has gone up to the highest level. So, that is why I want to say that this is better late than never.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a news item which was published a few days ago in so many newspapers. It said that the main mastermind of the highest scam of this century - the Security Scam - Shri Ketan Parekh confessed that he paid a lot of money to the SEBI officers and that is why they overlooked his misdeeds and manipulations. Such an information is there. Just now the hon. Member, Shri Subodh Mohite has narrated a horrible picture here. It is very alarming to us. It is said that what is a sin for the human being, is a game for the God. The God does not do wrong and the king does not do wrong. If an offence is committed by the man, it is a sin, and if it is committed by the God, it is *leelakhela*. It is called *Krishana-leela* and *Rama-leela*.

Sir, many police acts are there for imposition on the toiling and general people but they cannot be imposed on the people who are sitting at the highest level.

Sir, so many hon. Members in this House have mentioned about electoral reforms and I do agree with them. They also have mentioned about the Lokpal Bill, I do agree with them. It has been said that the CBI should work independently and that enough rights and powers should be given to them, I do agree with them. Apart from this, I would like to make a point here and that is about the Anti-Defection Law. We talk about criminalisation of politics and politicisation of criminals. The Anti-Defection Law should be reviewed. Under the present system, if any one Member of a party, be it in the Legislatures or in the Parliament, quits his or her Party, then he or she is considered to be a defector and is punished. But if one-third of Members from a Party quit the Party, then that group of defectors is given recognition. I think, such a thing is the breeding ground for corruption. This Anti-Defection Law should be reviewed.

Sir, the intention of this Bill is good. But in order to make this a comprehensive Bill and in order to put the provisions of this Bill into practice, all these Acts should be reviewed and amended. I think, our Government will think over it and they will, in a proper manner, bring appropriate and suitable amendments in this regard.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, corruption has assumed monstrous proportions. It is widespread and rampant. It is cancerous in nature. The problem of corruption became glaring in Administration during the Second World War because of war shortages, war supplies, rationing, shortage of essential commodities and so on. After Independence there has been a phenomenal increase in corruption, as everyone knows, specially because of the huge increase in Government spending. Most unfortunately, numerous middlemen and peddlers have also emerged and they have great influence in the quarters that count.

Sir, according to the 1999 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, India stands way down at 73 out of the 99 countries that were studied and India could have only a poor score of 2.9 out of 10. According to this study, India is perceived as more corrupt than all developed countries and also as more corrupt than the numerous developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. What a state of affairs! The situation has continued to deteriorate further.

We now have a Bill, finally; that also in compliance with the court directive to give statutory status to the Vigilance Commissioner. Before we could have this Bill finally, three Ordinances and one Bill had lapsed. Unfortunately, even this Bill is very restrictive in nature. I would like to draw your attention to clause 8 of the Bill which shows the unfortunate restrictive nature of the Bill. In the first place, the CVC is only going to be an advisory body whereas the need is to make it a body that is effective in such a vital field as corruption. Instead, it has a mere advisory role. Then, you look at clause 8 again and you find that the CVC is to inquire or investigate only when a reference is made by the Government and not suo motu. It is only when the Government makes a reference that the CVC conducts inquiry. There is no power mentioned over there for the CVC to start an inquiry or investigation on its own, suo motu. There has to be a complaint and it is only after the complaint that the CVC can move.

The entire exercise comes to nil when we come to another ridiculous proviso that is mentioned in part (h) of sub-clause (1) of clause 6 according to which the CVC is required to conduct vigilance in accordance with and consistent with the Government directions on vigilance. This is something ridiculous. The CVC is bound to conduct vigilance in consistence with Government directions with respect to vigilance. What greater restriction can there be? This reduces the whole agency - the Central Vigilance Commission - to a great and large type of redundancy.

It is only in accordance with the Government directions with respect to vigilance that the CVC can carry on the

vigilance. No administration indeed can be the judge of its own conduct and here the administration shall lay down the direction on how its conduct is to be supervised by the agency! There is no independence left with the CVC in the matter.

Look at other provisos also. The CVC should be in a position to have superintendence over and monitor the working of the CBI, specially when the Supreme Court has found CBI much wanting, both in investigation and in the matter of prosecution.

The findings of the court in the Jain *Hawala* case are already before the House. The Supreme Court found the CBI much wanting both in respect of investigation and prosecution. But here, even the CVC is helpless. It cannot give any directions which require to investigate or dispose of the case in a particular manner. Is it your idea to make it a toothless organisation? Whatever there is, it is a different thing altogether. I am only trying to place before the House the attempt by the Government to see that the CVC is made as much restrictive as possible.

There is also a very important aspect and that is to be found in clause 27 of the Bill. By virtue of clause 27 of the Bill, clause 6(a) is being added to the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. It is being added to the effect that the CBI shall not conduct any investigation into an offence alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act by an officer of the level of a Joint Secretary of the Government or an officer appointed by the Government on a corporation without the prior permission of the Government. This matter had already come before the Supreme Court. And the Supreme Court has struck down the need of a prior permission at a very initial stage of investigation. This is a landmark judgement of the Supreme Court that no prior permission is required at the investigation stage. But here, we are told once again and this House is being asked to act contrary to the opinion of the Supreme Court and to restore the earlier status quo of the Government where prior permission is asked for even at the investigation stage. This House must be aware of and must take it seriously that on a very important matter concerning corruption, it is being asked by the Government to assent to a Bill which negates one of the findings, advice and directions of the Supreme Court. I do not know what would be the fate of this if this particular clause is challenged in the Supreme Court later on. But it would be rather too much for this House to put its seal of approval on such types of clauses which have been placed before us.

I need not go into various types of other restrictive clauses that are there and which are of restrictive nature about

the function of this particular CVC. I have nearly 22 amendments with me and I will be moving these amendments at the proper occasions.

I will be moving these amendments at the proper occasion in order to take some care of these particular things. It is said that the CVC is not to be appointed to further office of profit. This is another very strange way of putting things. In order to have a proper CVC, we must say that he must not be appointed after retirement to any office in the Government, to any further employment and not merely to the office of profit.

I have nearly 22 amendments. I do not propose, at the time of moving my amendments, to get up and take the time of the House. So, a few more minutes may be given to me so that I can conclude.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, refer to clause 4, sub-clause (1) with respect to the appointment of the CVC. It says that the appointment of the CVC shall be on the recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Leader of the Opposition of the House of the People. The Minister of Home Affairs is to be in the Committee that is to recommend the appointment of the CVC. What is the present, most unfortunate and highly objectionable situation? It is that the Union Home Minister, who is also the Deputy-Prime Minister, is facing charges before the court as an accused in the heinous crime of the demolition of the Babri Masjid. Mr. Chairman, Sir, such, therefore, is the nature of the control that is being brought even on the question of appointment of the CVC. It is most unfortunate that the largest democracy of the world will have a CVC, in the appointment of whom, the Union Home Minister, who faces the court as an accused in the most heinous crime, will be concerned.

Sir, there are several other points that are necessary. I will refer to article 105 of the Constitution. Article 105 of the Constitution is with respect to the privileges of the Members of Parliament. Now, we know that there is the Supreme Court verdict with respect to the JMM case, in which Members of Parliament are immune from legal proceedings in connection with anything connected with their speech or vote in the House. It has been held that this immunity that the Members of Parliament enjoy from bribery or corruption is in connection with what they 'say' or what 'vote' they give in Parliament.

Now, Sir, let me at least conclude this point. This article 105 is not a charter for corruption. I do not know why the MPs should be given such a latitude and why the Constitution of India should be so understood as to roll out a red carpet of corruption for Members of Parliament. Sir, since you are very

impatient, I may think of speaking at the time when I move my amendments in order to explain before the House the need for those amendments.

The Lokpal Bill is lost somewhere. Let the Government expedite and come to House with the Lokpal Bill. Corruption must go. Let us be sincere. Let us all join and unite together in order to see that the country is rid of corruption.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Central Vigilance Commission Bill.

The Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 is one of the Bills which shows the weaknesses of our system which was created with all high hopes by the Constitution. Article 320 of the Constitution is about the functions of Public Service Commissions. As per Article 320 (3) (c), the Union Public Service Commission or the State Public Service Commission shall be consulted on all disciplinary matters affecting a person serving under the Government of India or the Government of a State in a civil capacity, including memorials or petitions relating to such matters. This power is actually given to the IAS Officers or the persons appointed to public service who are being controlled by the UPSC or the State Public Service Commissions.

In the entire world, the civil servants of India are the only ones who are totally protected from the day of their entry as public servants till their retirement and after their retirement also to the date of their death. A person can be in service for thirty-five years. He can enjoy all the benefits of the system. He can get the salary, House Rent Allowance, Conveyance Allowance, etc. Further, his children will be protected. They will have the facility to get education in the Kendriya Vidyalayas. His wife will be protected. Medical benefits will be given. Further, TA will be given. So, everything will be given for the Government servants.

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (KRISHNAGIRI): The point is that even after retirement they come to occupy high public offices. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Within a short time, I will have to say so many things. As Shri Vetriselvan has said, even after retirement also, they can get into public offices as Governor of a State. They can be one of the Commissioners of the Vigilance Commission. Such is the protection the civil servants enjoy. In the entire world, there is no such service. If that service is corrupted, if a person, who is working in that service is corrupted, then how will the system prevail in India?

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

It is not that the politicians alone are corrupt. They are made corrupt. They are told that they can do this type of a thing and that type of a thing. That is the situation that we are facing now. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court of India, in the famous *Hawala* case focused attention on the powers of the politicians upon the Government machinery. According to that case, a Minister should not control the Vigilance Department and that Department should be away from the politicians. That was the intention of the Supreme Court. We also accept it telling that we do not want to have it; let us have it on a higher pedestal. But the Constitution has never created such a pedestal for the Vigilance Commission. The fact is that the Vigilance Commission is a part and parcel of the Executive. Whatever be the Department, the Government servants are controlled by their own system. A separate Department in the State Government and the Central Government is there to take care of them. There is no need for a separate Department.

For what purpose is this Commission created now? It is going to investigate into matters and recommend to the Government to take action against a particular Government servant under the Anti-Corruption Law or any other law punishable under the Criminal Procedure Code or the Indian Penal Code. This is the simple thing done through an Executive Order. That being so, why is there the necessity for the Exchequer to spend so much of money for just giving the permission to prosecute a Group-I Officer?

This is unnecessary in a democratic set up. The Judiciary is transparent, every judgement is given in the open court, the Parliament is open and whatever happens in Parliament is transmitted to the people through the media, but only the executive orders of the Government are not known to the public. It becomes public knowledge only by way of a Gazette or when the concerned individual is given a copy of the order. If there is transparency in the Executive, there is no need to create such Commissions. The creation of such a Commission shows that the existing system has failed. If an IAS Officer indulges in corrupt practices and amasses wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income, it means that the Income Tax Department is not working properly. If the Income Tax Department works properly, such officers can be prosecuted. If the internal vigilance wing of a department works properly, then action can be taken against such corrupt officers. So, the internal system should be corrected rather than creating more and more organisations like this. If we create a new organisation like this, only more and more civil servants will get employment till their retirement.

Sir, when the poor people are suffering for want of drinking water and other basic requirements like roads, schools etc., we are unnecessarily spending money for the purpose of creating a new organisation. So, I submit that the

Government should review its decision on this matter and we need not create an organisation like this simply because the court has given a direction.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you as you have given me an opportunity to speak on Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999.

Sir, lion is a king amongst animals and it looks back after walking for a distance. The Government have also taken corruption in the same way. Sir, corruption is rampant in the country and something should be done to root it out. Therefore, the Government are appointing Vigilance Commission. As moon of Doj increases day by day and when poornima comes after 15 days, full moon is visible on that day. But moon has a black spot, we do not have same about this Bill. This Bill is like a toothless lion, how will it tackle with corruption? It is not independent. Pomegranate is a very beautiful fruit to look at but when it is cut, it loses its beauty. Same is the condition of this Bill. There should be transparency in appointment of three members of the Commission and the Commission itself.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir hon. Harin Pathak has moved the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999 on which the discussion is going on. I feel that there should be a will on the part of the Government to eradicate corruption. If the Government want to remove corruption then there is a need to prepare programme for this. I feel that who so ever come in power they take money from different sources. So there is a need to make some electoral reforms. We have to root out corruption. If a poor person goes for employment Rs.25-50 thousand or Rs.1 or 2 lakh are demanded by various officers. The party workers are also involved in corruption. So we have to root out corruption.

*'Atal ji agar jyada din tak raj karna hai to
bhrastachar ko mitana hoga,*

*Pathak ji bhrastachar karne walon ko
jaldi hi hatana hoga,*

Bhrastachar ke virodh me logon ko jugana hoga,

Bhrastachar karne walon ko des ke bahar bhagana hoga'.

The corrupt people are defaming the country. Presently there is black money of more Rs. four lakh crore in our country. The country having excess of black money ceases to progress. So who so ever, the officers, worker, leader, M.P., MLA or the Minister may be, a programme has to be prepared to stop

corruption. Just now you have told that the Prime Minister will be its Chairman and the Minister of Home Affairs and the leader of opposition will be its members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now you have already placed your main points.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: If the corruption can be rooted out in this manner then I take my seat. If my silence can help rooting out corruption I would prefer to keep mum. My submission is that the Commission that is being constituted by the Government should ensure the planned way to check corruption. If we have to help each other, then my submission is that it should be done as was done at the time of Buddha where one man helped others. However if a road is constructed then only 40% of the total allocation is spent and 60% goes to the officers and other involved in the project. Is there any restriction or accountability in this regard?

I was with the hon. Speaker in China for eight days. China has developed its economy and has built skyscrapers and roads are also very fine. Thus they are progressing. What is lacking in India? India has a lot of potential in agriculture and the people of the country are hard working, however the Government is not competent enough to come upto the expectations and aspirations of the people. Hon. Atalji may be honest in discharging his duties but other ministers are not doing well. While they were in opposition they used to make tall claims. If they want to take the country in right direction on the path of progress, then they will have to eradicate the corruption.

"Bhrastachar ko kaise khatam karun, Bhrastachar to badhta hi ja raha hai,

Is sarkar ko kaise khatam karun, sarkar ka karyakal to badhta hi ja raha hai,

Sare opposition ko main kaise ek karun, apas me jhagara barhta hi ja raha hai".

I would like to submit this much only. I would not take more time, the Government must set up a Commission to eradicate corruption. In Maharashtra Anna Hajare ji who is a very good social worker is leading movement against corruption. So we will have to make the people aware about the eradication of corruption. We are ready to extend our full cooperation in it. If any plan is prepared by Shri Atalji to fight corruption we will also join him. We will surpass China if the corruption is uprooted from our country. Not only this we can also compete with America. For this we need support from all of you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now your speech will not go on record, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (KHERI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me permission to speak on the Central Vigilance Commission Bill. It is a very important Bill. Once again the Supreme Court have made us realize as to at what sphere we have lagged behind. Today it is being discussed in the House that the Central Vigilance Commission should be set up as an independent body. Today many points have come before us, however, the main problem with the corruption is that there is much tolerance towards it. There is so much of tolerance towards corruption in various sections of the society from top to bottom and that it has taken the form of institution that the people are not leaving any stone unturned to save the corrupt persons. Though this Commission is going to be set up, however, it is also a fact that though corruption is a problem for the nation but it is also a solution to the corrupt people.

The corrupt persons wherever they are have used it at their personal force. They are so organized on account of this mutual tolerance towards corruption that the common people have accepted that they are helpless before the corruption. If there is a god in the sky, there is corruption on the earth. Now the situation is clear before us. The Government have paid attention to it, however, it is very late and it has been done on the initiative of the Supreme Court. I would like to warn you about the prevailing situation of corruption.

On several occasions I have raised this question in the House that Rs.10 crore was allocated for a watershed scheme for my parliamentary constituency. Its first instalment was of Rs.2.5 crore that disappeared. It was not found for two years as to where did that money go. Thereafter an inquiry was held. FIR was lodged by the district magistrate against the CDO. I would like to tell the House that the CDO was not affected at all on account of this, though that district magistrate was suspended. Presently the situation has deteriorated to the extent that today it is being alleged that the Governments which are formed in the present period of instability are functioning on the forces of corruption. I feel that in the present scenario we should be very conscious. What will happen to the common people if the Government that decides the fate of the country or the people representative resorting to corruption?

I would like to submit to the House that the annual income of a village in my district is Rs.20 or 22 lakh and that is earned

* Not recorded.

[Shri Ram Prakash Verma]

by the people through selling wheat, sugarcane or the paddy.

Inhabitants of this village have to pay Rs.8-10 lakh every year as bribe otherwise they do not get justice and protection, they could not preserve their identity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: I am concluding in a minute. A very interesting incident came into light. I had asked for investigation into a matter concerning Ministry of Defence. I received a letter from the hon. Minister that the charges were not proved but CBI filed four FIRs in the same case. No action has been taken against these corrupt officials till date.

Just now Shri Subodh Mohite who spoke before me stated that a vast network has been developed to protect the corrupt people and it is really difficult now to change the system. These are some facts which are directly affecting the very basis of our democracy. India with the population of 100 crore is facing so many challenges today. Maximum people's participation and transparency is required so that the people could work efficiently to meet these challenges. To increase the people's productivity and to provide them justice and security with in the system, it is essential to give independence to this commission. It has been mentioned here that the Commission would investigate the matter to assist the CBI. But these investigations would be done on the directions of the Government. It is creating apprehensions that the Government desires to set up a favourite commission which would work entirely on its direction. The Commission would not be able to initiate action against anybody without the wishes of the Government. My colleagues have raised so many points regarding this Commission but I do not want to repeat them. Through you, I would like to request the Government time and again to make this Commission independent which should have the capacity to proceed the case if FIR is lodged. The Commission should not be under the control of the Government. With these words, I hope Government would reconsider it and try to empower the Commission so that it could fulfil the purpose for which it has been constituted. Only then we would gain confidence to meet various challenges before our democracy and to fight corruption which is the biggest evil prevailing in the country.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the outset, I would like to express thanks to all the 17 hon.

Members of Parliament who have intensely participated in the debate on the CVC Bill. Their views have been illuminating, and have provided us with a profound insight into the complexities of this significant piece of legislation. As a Minister, who has been entrusted with the duty of piloting this Bill through both the Houses of Parliament, the thought-provoking and animated discussion, which has been witnessed during the consideration of the Bill, has been a source of enormous personal fulfilment for me.

Sir, as the hon. Members are no doubt aware, the present Bill is basically similar to the CVC Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha on 15th March, 1999, but lapsed on 25th April, 1999 consequent on the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha. The CVC Bill, which was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee in December 1999, was comprehensively deliberated by it. Under the chairmanship of Shri Sharad Pawar with 20 Members from Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha, this Committee symbolized the whole political spectrum, with illustrious proficiency in various fields, such as judiciary, civil services, Armed Forces, journalism and so on. The Committee elicited public opinion from a diverse range of sources and gave personal hearing to experts from different fields. The Bill, as reported by the JPC, embodies the condensed wisdom of not only the members of the Committee, but also embraces the perspective opinions and suggestions of those sources who provided inputs to it.

Sir, it is against this background that I would attempt to answer various points that have been raised in the preceding debate. Keeping the supremacy of the JPC in my mind, I would not deal too deeply upon the rationale that guided its recommendations.

Sir, some of the important points raised by the hon. Members, and my response thereto are as follows.

Sir, as I have mentioned that almost all 17 hon. Members have raised their points, have expressed their views on this very important legislation. Their views and their points are very very valid. They are well learned Members and have deeply studied the Bill and these amendments and then come forward before this august House.

18.00 hrs.

Sir, most of the points, which I have covered, are common in their speeches. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, the time of the House may be extended till the bill is passed.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the House is extended till the Bill is passed.

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I will be very brief.

A very important point was raised by, a very eminent and learned Member of Parliament, Shri Shivraj V. Patil on 21st when the debate on this Bill was started. It is about the role of the functionaries Judiciary, the Legislative and the Executive.

The JPC had expressed its disapproval of Paragraph 7 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached with the Bill as it conveyed an impression that Parliament is enacting this legislation under a direction from the Judiciary. The JPC, therefore, recommended that Paragraph 7 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons should be deleted. The Government accepted this recommendation of the JPC and a notice for deletion of Paragraph 7 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons has been sent to the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha on 11th July, 2001.

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvansh Babu, this was the actual position. A detailed discussion was held in JPC whether the House is the supreme body or anybody else. Members of Parliament and expert people were called to attend the sittings. Their opinion was sought and a comprehensive discussion was held. Thereafter, it was decided that Parliament is the supreme body and its Members are also supreme. It is right that we respect the law but the Parliament is supreme and we have constitutional rights to enact law, there should not be any restriction on it at any stage. Some points have been raised in this regard. Shri Raghuvansh ji, Roopchand Palji and my friend Shri Anadi Sahuji raised a point.

[English]

It is about Single Directive. It is an important point and I would like to state about it in two sentences.

The 'Single Directive' concept mandates the CBI to obtain prior approval of the Government. Why is it necessary? It is because somebody has to keep in mind that he is going to be held responsible if proper procedure is not to be maintained. So, the 'Single Directive' concept mandates the CBI to obtain prior approval of the Government before conducting any inquiry/investigation into an offence alleged

to have been committed by officers of the level of Joint Secretary to the Government of India or above, and, equivalent levels in PSUs/Nationalised banks.

This arrangement had existed under the executive instructions of the Government, which had been struck down by the hon. Supreme Court in the Vineet Narain case, mainly on the ground that these had no statutory backing and that every person accused of committing the same offence is to be dealt with in the same manner in accordance with the law.

The JPC noted that many witnesses who appeared before the Committee expressed a need to protect the bona fide actions taken at the decision-making level, particularly, in the context of increasingly competitive environment where risk-taking forms part of normal commercial decision-making in various organisations. It expressed concern over the fact that, as of now, no protection was available to these persons at the time of registering a case against them.

The Government have taken the advice of the Department of Legal Affairs in the matter. The sum and substance of the advice is that the concept of 'Single Directive' is neither arbitrary nor ultra vires of the Article 14 of the Constitution; hence it is within the legislative competence of Parliament to enact a provision to give effect to this concept.

A similar arrangement for members of the Judiciary exists in terms of the judgements of the hon. Supreme Court in the cases of K. Veeraswamy versus the Union of India and UP Judicial Officers' Association versus the Union of India.

It is on these grounds that the CVC Bill incorporates a provision to amend the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 by introduction of Section 6A therein, to provide for a statutory backing for the concept of 'Single Directive'.

Sir, I have noted most of the points raised by the hon. Members. If the House desires to take up all of them, one by one, I can speak. But I would definitely like to assure the House that as far as the Lokpal Bill is concerned, it has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 14th August, 2001 and we are expediting it as early as possible in the Parliament. I have mentioned about the other points. I would definitely say that most of the points, which were raised by the hon. Members, have already been incorporated in the Bill. So I would request the hon. Members to unanimously consider the CVC Bill as reported by the JPC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been

committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Shri Banatwalla, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Yes, Sir. I beg to move:

Page 1, after line 7,-

insert "(aa) Central Bureau of Intelligence" means the organisation set up under the Delhi Police Establishment Act, 1946, read with the Resolution of the Government of India No.4/31/61-T/MHA dated 1.4.1963".(6)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall put amendment No.6 moved by Shri Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 Constitution of Central Vigilance Commission

Amendment made:

Page 1, lines 25 and 26,-

for "Resolution No.371/20/99-A VD. III, dated the 4th April, 1999"

substitute "Resolution No.371/20/99-A VD. III, dated the 4th April, 1999 as amended vide Resolution of even number, dated the 13th August, 2002" (3)

(Shri Harin Pathak)

Page 2, lines 20 and 21,-

for "Resolution No.371/20/99-A VD. III, dated the 4th April, 1999"

substitute "Resolution No.371/20/99-A VD. III, dated the 4th April, 1999 as amended vide Resolution of even number, dated the 13th August, 2002" (4)

(Shri Harin Pathak)

SHRI G .M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, after line 10,-

insert "(c)" who have experience and expertise in matters relating to finance, law, administration, vigilance or investigation and are known for their ability and integrity.(7)

Page 2, line 14.-

for "The Central Government shall"

substitute "The Central Vigilance Commission shall, in consultation with the Central Government". (8)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment Nos. 7 and 8 moved by Shri G. M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 Terms and other conditions of Service of Central Vigilance Commission

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): I beg to move:

Page 3, line 24,-

for "further employment to any office of profit"

substitute "any further employment". (9)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I beg to move:

Page 3, line 3,-

for "sixty-five" substitute "sixty-two" (28)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No.9 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No.28 moved by Shri Prabodh Panda to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 8 Functions and Powers of Central Vigilance Commission

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move my amendment No.10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

I beg to move:

Page 4, line 40, -

after "investigation"

insert "and prosecution". (10)

Page 5, lines 5 and 6, -

for "to be made on reference made by the Central Government wherein it is alleged"

substitute "to be made either on a reference made by the Central Government or otherwise on any allegation". (11)

Page 5, lines 13 to 15, -

for "to be made into any complaint against any official belonging to such category of officials specified in sub-section (2) wherein it is alleged"

substitute "to be made either on a complaint or otherwise, against any official belonging to such category of officials specified in sub-section (2) on any allegation". (12)

Page 4, line 40,-

after "investigation of"

insert "and prosecution for" (13)

Page 5, line 19,-

after "investigations"

insert "and prosecutions" (14)

Page 5, after line 38,-

add "(i) to review the cases of refusal by the competent authority of a sanction for prosecution under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988;

(j) to direct the Central Bureau of Investigation to register a regular case and make investigation with respect to any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant being an employee of the Central Government or Corporation established by or under any Central Act, Government Company, society and any local authority owned or controlled by that Government, under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 or an offence with which a public servant may under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 be charged at the same trial;

(k) to refer any complaint wherein it is alleged that a public servant being an employee of the Central Government or a Corporation established by or under any Central Act, Government Company, society and any local authority owned or controlled by that Government, has committed an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 or an offence with which a public servant may under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 be charged at the same trial to the Central Government, Corporation, Government Company, Society or local authority concerned for appropriate action and report;

(l) to advise the Central Government in such cases as it may deem fit and after examining the cases and considering any comments received, whether or not prosecution be sanctioned or why prosecution be not refused, as the case may be;

(m) to advise the Central Government or a Corporation established by or under any Central Act, Government Company, society and any local authority owned or controlled by that Government upon appropriate action to be taken against any public servant being its employee who appears to the commission to have abused his powers or to

have exercised his powers for the corrupt purpose and also to advise upon the changes required in prevalent procedures and practices which afford scope for or facilitate corruption or misconduct;

(n) to initiate at such intervals, as it concerns suitable, review of procedure and practices of administration in so far as they relate to maintenance of integrity and probity in administration;

(o) to collect or cause to be collected such statistics or data and other information as may be necessary for appropriate and effective discharge of the functions of the Commission;

(p) to call for information from the concerned authority or authorities about action taken on the recommendation made or advise given by the Commission; and

(q) to ensure that powers of investigation and prosecution of public servant are not misused or abused by the concerned agencies." (15)

Page 5, -

omit lines 1 to 4. (18)

Page 5, lines 34 to 37, -

omit "to authorise the Commission to exercise superintendence over the Vigilance administration in a manner not consistent with the directions relating to vigilance matters issued by the Government and" (19)

Page 5, -

for lines 42 to 48, substitute -

"(b) all officers of the Corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and other local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government." (20)

Page 5, -

after line 48, insert -

"(3) The Commission may obtain the assistance of any person, agency or authority, as it may deem fit, to hold the enquiry or make investigation under clause (c) and (d) of sub-section (1)". (21)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put to vote the amendments to clause 8 moved by Shri G. M. Banatwalla.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 Proceedings of Commission

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 6, line 1, -

for "The Proceedings of the Commission shall ordinarily be conducted at its headquarters"

substitute "The proceedings of the Commission shall ordinarily be Conducted at its headquarters;

Provided that the Commission may, if it so deems fit and expedient and depending upon the circumstances, conduct its business, at places other than its headquarters."(22)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No. 22 moved by Shri G. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is amendment No.17 for adding of New Clause 9A. Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 6, -

after line 18, insert-

Provisions as to complaints	"9A (1) The Commission shall not inquire or investigate—
-----------------------------	--

(a) into any complaint, under clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 8, made after the expiry of seven years from the date on which the offence complained against is alleged to have been committed;

(b) into any complaint, under clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 8, made after the expiry of two years on which the offence complained against became known to the complainant.

Provided that the Commission may entertain a complaint after the expiry of the period mentioned in clauses (a) and (b) if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not making the complaint within the said period.

(2) The Commission, on receipt of a complaint or in a case initiated on its own motion, may, before proceeding to investigate such complaint or case, make such preliminary inquiry or direct any other person to make such preliminary inquiry as it deems fit. If on such preliminary inquiry, the Commission finds that there exists no such ground it shall record a finding to that effect and thereupon the matter shall be closed and the complainant shall be informed accordingly.

(3) The Commission shall have power to review its order or decision to restore any matter closed at any stage, and to grant or refuse permission to the complainant to withdraw the complaint;

Provided the Commission shall record its reason in writing therefor.

(4) The Commission shall dispose of every complaint made to it or a case initiated on its own motion, as expeditiously as possible but not later than a period of one year from the date of the receipt of the complaint or initiation of any investigation on its own motion." (17)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No.17 moved by Shri G.M Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 10 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill

Clause 11 Power relating to inquiries

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI): I beg to move:

Page 6, -

after line 38, insert-

"(2) Where a public servant fails to respond to a notice, summon or direction by the Commission, he shall be liable to punishment by the Commission and may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years and to such further action by the Central Government or the body of which he is an employee, as the Commission may direct." (23)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No.23 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN. The question is:

"That clause 11 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is amendment No.16 for adding of New Clause 11A.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 6, -

after line 38, add -

"11 A. The Commission may inquire into any act or conduct of any person other than a public servant insofar as it considers it necessary so to do for the purpose of its enquiry referred to in section 8." (16) .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No.16 moved by Shri G.M Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Clause 12 Proceedings before Commission to be judicial proceedings

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 6, -

after line 42, insert -

"(2) No order, direction or decision made or proceeding or action taken, by the Commission in exercise of its power or function under clauses (c) or (d) of sub-section (1) of section 8 shall be questioned in any Court and no Court shall issue any stay order or any other process in any such matters." (24)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No. 24 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 12 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

Clause 13 to 16 were added to the Bill.

Clause 17 Report of inquiry made on reference by Commission to be forwarded to that Commission.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 7, -

after line 39, insert—

"And provided further that where the advice of the Commission has not been accepted, the said advice of the Commission and a memorandum setting forth the reasons for the non-acceptance of the advice shall be laid before each House of Parliament within one month from the date of non-acceptance or, when the House is not in Session, within two weeks of the commencement of the Session whichever is later." (25)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment No. 25 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 17 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 18 to 20 were added to the Bill.

Clause 21 Power to make regulations

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 8,-

after line 20, insert-

"(d) the time or the period within which an inquiry or an investigation under clause (c) and clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 8 shall ordinarily be completed and decision taken." (26)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendment to vote.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 21 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 22 to 26 were added to the Bill.

Clause 27 Amendment of Act 25 of 1946

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

Page 11,-

omit lines 15 to 30. (27)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the amendment to the vote.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 27 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 27 was added to the Bill.

Clause 28 Repeal and Saving**Amendment made:**

Page 11, lines 32 and 33,-

for "Resolution No. 371/20/99-A VD III, dated the 4th April, 1999"

substitute "Resolution No. 371/20/99-A VD III, dated the 4th April 1999 as amended vide Resolution of even number, dated the 13th August, 2002" (5)

(Shri Harin Pathak)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 28, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.***Clause 1 Short title****Amendment made:**

Page 1, line 4,-

for "1999"

substitute "2003" (2)

(Shri Harin Pathak)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stands part of the Bill. "

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.***Enacting Formula****Amendment made:**

Page 1, line 1,-

for "Fiftieth"

substitute "Fifty-fourth" (1)

(Shri Harin Pathak)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stands part of the Bill. "

*The motion was adopted.**The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.**The Title was added to the Bill.*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House stands adjourned till eleven of the clock tomorrow.

18.20 hrs.*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 27, 2003/Phaiguna 8, 1924 (Saka).*

© 2003 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Tenth Edition) and Printed at Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006
