

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 24, 2002/Valsakha 4, 1924 (Saka)

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

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have raised privilege motion against the Prime Minister under rule 222. *(Interruptions)* It is reported in newspaper that the Ruling of the Chair has been unfortunate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : After the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, Chair's ruling in the House cannot be questioned outside by any authority. It is a very bad precedent.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement of the hon'ble Prime Minister is the contempt of the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let me say something.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you allow me to speak?

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Contempt of the Chair's ruling is contempt of the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is very unfortunate, and it sets a bad precedent.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I have given notice under rule 222. Whosoever will indulge in the contempt of the Chair.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I also saw it in the newspapers. The denial also I have seen. Whatever it may be, even if Members have given notice, there is a rule

according to which we have to proceed. Would you straightaway do anything?

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (MANJERI) : This is a public issue, a public notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me complete, Shri Ahamed.

If there is any such thing, the established convention in this House is that the veracity of the information is verified. After that if there is anything, the House is there to take care of it. The House can decide as to how to proceed further. Therefore, please leave it at that. The notice will be taken note of. According to law verification of the veracity of the information will be done. After that what is to be done, we will do it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I will abide by the ruling of the hon. Chair. Let the Government verify the information and come back to the House.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : What about my notice that I had given under rule 222?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will follow the Rules.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Internet Agencies

+

*441. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :

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

- (a) the number of Internet Service Providers working in the country at present;
- (b) the revenue being generated by them;
- (c) whether any new agencies have come forward to provide this facility;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of such agencies who have been given permission to start the business?

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

Statement

(a) Government has given licenses to 428 Internet Service Providers (ISPs). As per available information, at present 161 Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are providing internet services in the country.

(b) There is no license fee to be paid by ISPs up to 31.10.2003. Even after that date the license fee payable is only Re. 1/- per annum. Since license fees for ISPs are not linked to the revenue generated, the information in this regard is not being obtained from the ISPs by Government.

(c) to (e) During 2001-2002, 72 new applications for ISP licenses had been received from 60 companies and 49 licenses were issued to 42 companies.

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been promoting the development of software and communication business in the State. In addition to this, as a part of our vision, for an electronic governance in the State, we are keen on promoting the availability of internet in the towns and villages in the State.

We understand that a national internet backbone based upon optical fibre system has been planned and is under execution. In this scheme, Hyderabad had been given only A-2 status, which means that it will be without any internet gateway. This is a serious omission.

My first supplementary is that whether the Government of India is considering upgrading Hyderabad immediately to A-1 status and provide it with its own international internet gateway.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the whole country is aware that in software technology, information technology and communication, it is the premier State of the country, particularly with the efforts of the Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu which is not only praised nationally but it is praised internationally also. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We admit that. This is an answer to Rule 184. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, please let him answer.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I am praising the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We are also praising.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am praising him which everybody recognises internationally. If this praise is creating problem for the hon. Member, then discussion under Rule 184, he is likely to lose. *...(Interruptions)*... So, it is a bad strategy to interrupt me while I am praising the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. I am giving him the due which he deserves. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, once Shri Somnath Chatterjee also praised him. As a Chairman of the Standing Committee on Communications, he praised him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I never did anything surreptitiously. *...(Interruptions)*... But they are doing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, what is this going on? Senior leaders should not do like this. There cannot be any bilateral arrangement here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, as far as the specific question of upgrading Hyderabad city from A-2 status to A-1 status is concerned, it depends upon the requirement. The moment the requirement is there, I assure that Hyderabad will be given the A-1 status. The Government will not lag behind.

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for his comments on our Chief Minister.

My second supplementary is this. What are the requirements needed for upgradation? What are the present available facilities of ISPs in Andhra Pradesh to develop its software and communication business? Is there any Government agency involved? Would the Government be ensuring availability of 50 MBPS, that is, 50 Mega Bytes Per Second internet backbone node for Hyderabad?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As I said, as far as the ISPs in Andhra Pradesh are concerned, there is no separate policy for a particular State. About the ISPs in Andhra Pradesh, I have a long list which runs into three to four pages. I can send it to the hon. Member about the ISPs and location right from Adilabad, Anantpur, Cuddapah and others. There are about two dozens ISPs in Hyderabad. ISP is a free thing. If anybody wants to enter into as an ISP, there is no licence. Anybody can enter upon the infrastructure.

When I said about criteria, it only depends upon traffic. If the required traffic is there, the status of A-1 city will be granted, and I do not see any problem in that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I was told that there is a virus. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is a second hon. Member's name in the main Question. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As the Minister of Information Technology, I am known to take care of any kind of virus! ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : In the statement of the hon. Minister, it is stated that out of 420 licence holders, at present only 161 ISPs are providing Internet services in the country and that the ISPs are not linked to the revenue generated. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to why the rest of the licence holders have not started ISPs in India. May I also know why there is a very slow access in Internet service in India? Is there any monitoring team to check the efficiency of service and competitiveness? What are the steps taken by the Government to make effective these agencies so that they render good and reliable services? I want to know about the ISP connectivity to Tamil Nadu.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : As I said, the Government has given licences to 428 ISPs out of which 161 are working. We have already given the licences. Depending upon their profitability, infrastructure and whether they want to do business or not - it is totally a private sector business - they can start it any day. The job of the Government is to give licences as early as possible so that they can start business. But in many businesses, you are aware that the Government gives the licences, which a few people start and a few others do not start. This is as far as licence is concerned.

Secondly, it is true that we have a problem of bandwidth. It is a nation-wide problem, particularly in rural areas. We try our level best to upgrade it from many sources and we take care of it.

The third question was regarding Tamil Nadu. Again, I have a long list of about 50 ISPs who are operating in Tamil Nadu. I can send it to the hon. Member. If you allow me, Sir, I will read out. But it is a long list. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister will send all those details to the hon. Member.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : I wanted to know about the slow access in Internet.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I said that there is a lack of bandwidth. We are trying to increase the bandwidth. Then, we will have a faster Internet.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : In the Standing Committees, there are a few Chairmen who are effective. One is Shri Somnath Chatterjee and another is Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev!

Shri Pramod Mahajan is also a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and his duty is to see that the recommendations of the Standing Committee are examined and Action Taken Reports are submitted. May I know the reason as to why the reports of these two unfortunate Standing Committees are not examined and why action is not taken on them? Will he kindly let us know this? Has he any system in his Ministry to go through the recommendations of the Standing Committees? If he does it, then his burden of coming here and answering questions will become less. After all, in spite of all the bad things, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has done a very good job in the Standing Committee!

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Though Shri Somnath Chatterjee is likely to vote against the Motion under Rule 184 when it comes up, I can join Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev in praising Shri Somnath Chatterjee for his work as the Chairman of the Committee on Information Technology. He is very helpful in asking the Finance Minister to give more money to my Ministry, which has not come through. So, he is helping me.

We have a system of studying the reports of the Standing Committees; and we will try our level best to implement the recommendations made by the Standing Committees.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : In the reply of the hon. Minister, it is stated that several ISPs are functioning in the country and that new licences are given. But in Kerala, particularly in Cannanore which is my constituency, ISP always claim that the service is very busy. Will this service be not available in time?

Another question is this. It is also reported that no new Internet connections are given in Kerala, particularly to my constituency. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the reasons?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I need a separate notice because it relates to the difficulty regarding Internet connection that somebody is facing, in a particular district or in a particular Lok Sabha constituency; and the Internet service provider in that area is either unable to provide or is not properly providing the connection. The hon. Member has made a complaint. I will check up and revert back to him.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask two questions about Bihar concerning Internet Service and Optical Fibre Cable. The first question is how many Divisions have been provided with Optical Fibre Cable. In 1994, Optical Fibre Cable was proposed to be provided in my Parliamentary constituency Monghyr and project of nearly Rs. 11 crore was prepared, however, till now Optical Fibre Cable has not been provided. I would like to know the reason for this. As the hon'ble Minister in his reply has said that 60 companies had applied for the licences, thereafter the number of such companies rose to 72 and out of that, till now, licences have been given to 42 companies. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the norms for providing licence?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as the norms about providing licence are concerned, the Internet service provider policy was announced on 6 November, 1998. Under that policy, certain rules have been prepared on the basis of which Internet service connections are provided and efforts are made to provide connection as soon as possible.

In Bihar Internet Service providers are working at nearly 12 places who are providing Internet access. As far as the question of provision of Optical Fibre Cable in Parliamentary constituency of the hon'ble Member is concerned, it is not directly concerned with the main question. However since he has raised this subject in the House about the status of Optical Fibre Cable in his Parliamentary constituency, I will collect information in this regard and will despatch him in writing.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : While planning the band-width connectivity, districts are given importance. In some of the districts, towns are also more important educationally, industrially as also commercially. Especially in Satara district, my home town Karad is advanced in education, industry and commerce. As compared to Satara, the band connectivity in Karad is very-very low. Will the Minister take a note of this and pay a little attention through his officers to increase the band-width in Karad?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I will take a note of this.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Now that the Internet telephony has been permitted by the Government, particularly in three areas of PC to PC, PC to telephone and telephone to PC, may I know from the hon. Minister what special steps have been initiated to facilitate Internet telephony which is the most cheap sort of communication system in the world today?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the Internet telephony was not allowed in our country till we opened it on 1st of April, 2002. So, on 1st of April, we have opened the Internet telephony. About eighty six companies have applied to us and nineteen of them have already been given the licence. Out of that, two of them have already started the Internet telephony and I think with this question, being asked in the House, people will know that we are permitting Internet telephony. So, more and more people will ask for the licence, which we will give so that the Internet telephony will be available to the people. As I said, it has just been opened some two or three weeks back, it will take a little time for the service to mature. We will have to see the guidelines and security clearance. Hopefully within the next six months, there will be many operators who will provide this service; and a cheaper service of international level will be available to the people.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Through you I would like to submit that efforts are being made by the government for the development and progress in the field of Information technology. The projects are being implemented in various regions by the government. However, it has been observed that some regions are much ahead in the field of Information Technology while some regions are backward even today, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the regions which are ahead in the field of Information Technology and those which are lagging far behind in this field. Besides this I would also like to know whether the government have any special scheme to develop those backward regions and bring them at par with the developed regions?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I agree with the concern that has been expressed by the hon'ble Member. Revolution in Information Technology has taken place in our country which has been recognised by the world. In spite of that, our Information Technology revolution has been confined to South and Western States, English knowing people and Urban areas. Our effort is to transfer Information Technology Revolution from South to North, from West to East, from towns to villages and from English knowing people to regional language knowing people. Efforts are being made by the government in this regard—for example efforts have been made to connect 440 tehsils from a community information centre at the cost of Rs. 200 crores in Poorvanchal. Similarly efforts are being made by the government to launch special scheme in Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh States. Basically all this relates to private sector. So efforts are being made by the government to promote it as far as possible.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is asking about far-flung areas like Andaman.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I will pay special attention to Andaman, Nicobar, Lakshdweep.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, Shri Chandra Shekhar is asking about his constituency, Ballia.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Shri Chandra Shekhar Ji personally remain in my contact. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : You did not mention about Madhya Pradesh. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has asked about Internet.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, efforts are being made by incurring heavy expenditure to ensure its applicability in regional language. As far as the level of development of various states is concerned, normally the states with high population are backward in terms of information technology and the states with low population are developed in terms of information technology. I do not know whether there is any relationship in it or not. However, I feel that the progressive states of the country are progressive in this respect also and the backward states are backward in it. However you might have seen that Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have progressed in terms of human resource index. The information technology is progressing there. 'Gyan Doot' has been envisioned in Madhya Pradesh which has been appreciated by the world community. You please do not attach with Rule 184. Shri Digvijay Singh Ji is experimenting in Madhya Pradesh for the development. Our full effort is to develop the entire country. I am also paying special attention to Bengal. The Chief Minister of the state should pay more attention.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy-speaker, Sir, through you I would like to extend my thanks to the Chairman of Standing Committee Shri Somnath Chatterjee that he gave me courage to ask hon'ble Minister about Ballia. I come from very backward and poor region. Will the hon. Minister provide Internet and mobile telephone services in

my area. The recommendations of his Department are also ignored. It would be a matter of gladness if the Government pay attention towards this backward area.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Hon'ble Chandra Shekhar has been in regular contact with Ballia. As far as the mobile phone service is concerned, it is basically in private sector. The Private Sectors operate services according to their economic prospects, however BSNL is also entering into this field. I feel that very soon there will be no any districts in the country where mobile service will not be available. So the mobile service is likely to be provided very soon to all the districts. I will certainly pay attention to the feasibility of the provision of Internet or mobile service in Ballia.

[English]

Mutual Fund for Highway Projects

+

*442. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) propose to launch a mutual fund for funding the highway project;

(b) if so, whether the details in this regard have been finalised and the time by which the scheme is likely to be launched;

(c) the money proposed to be raised through the mutual fund;

(d) the extent to which it will be helpful for the improvement of road sector in the country;

(e) whether the work on some of the projects of golden quadrilateral linking the four metros, is yet to be awarded;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the allocation made for this project during the year 2002-03?

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

Statement

(a) to (d) Resource mobilisation is a continuous process and mutual fund is one of the sources for financing highway projects. It is also one of the ways of inviting private participation in highway financing. However, the concept is at the nascent stage of development and no details have been finalised.

(e) and (f) Only one stretch of National Highway-2, i.e. Allahabad bypass having a length of 84.7 km is yet to be awarded under the Golden Quadrilateral project.

(g) The allocation made for National Highway Development Project (NHDP), during the year 2002-2003 is Rs.10203 crores.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given an evasive reply to my question. I had asked specific question whether their Department proposes to raise funds by mutual fund and funds through other means. He replied that it is also one of the ways of inviting private participation in highway financing. However, the concept is still at the primary stage of development and nothing has been finalised as yet. Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, the Budget provides huge sums for this project, but it is not being spent. In spite of that the Ministry is trying to mobilise funds from other sources, which is a matter of concern for us. I am saying all this because the golden quadrilateral project is a very ambitious project. It is completed it will open up new opportunities for commerce and industry and will provide employment to people and create a new environment in the country. This project has been in operation for last two years and only 1,700 K.M. long road has been constructed. Under this Project 13,151 k.m. long road would be constructed and Rs. 54,000 crore was allocated for this project. It is to be completed by the year 2003. However in two years time only 1,780 k.m. long road has so far been constructed and 4,602 k.m. long road is under construction for which contracts for Rs. 19,743 crore has been given. There is a provision of Rs. 10,203 crore in the budget for the year. It is also a matter of concern for the reason that Rs. 6 to 7 crore are being spent for the construction of one k.m. road. In India it is for the first time that Rs. 54,000 crore are being spent for any project, however the Department has no machinery of its own for this. The Department directly awards contracts. No accountability has been fixed for this. India has great expectation from this project. I would like to know whether any agency has been appointed for the monitoring of this project or it has been left without any guard? The target of its completion is 2003, however only 1780 k.m. long road has been completed as

yet. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Department has taken over the project in its hand to achieve the target? The Department is not associating any governments in this project. They have resources and machinery for achieving the target, however is there any monitoring agency to check its misuse and whether accountability has been fixed?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, four things have been asked at the end of the question however prior to that many things have been said about which clarification needs to be given. The hon. Member said that I have given an evasive reply to his question. My submission is that the reply is related to mutual fund only. The first part of his question was —

[English]

"(a) Whether the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) Proposes to launch a mutual fund for funding the highway project;"

[Translation]

The reply to this has been given in the second line on which a discussion is being held. Now it is not about the provisions available in other funds. A few days back we had discussed about the mutual fund that constitute first part of the question. It's a long procedure. It is being discussed. My submission is that the hon. Member's allegation that the reply is evasive is not correct.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Why is it required, there is so much provision in the Budget.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I am replying to his question. He said that expenditure is nil. As has been said by him when such a work is started it costs Rs. Three four or five crore to construct one k.m. of road. I would like to inform the House that if we decide to start work on one part then it takes 18 months. First thing is pick and shovel and under this it takes nearly 12 months for acquisition of land. I will also reply to the rest of his questions. He has asked as to why it takes so much of time and why less fund is being utilised, it is not so. Prior to this project Rs. 30 crore were spent in one year in 1996-97. In between it continued to rise. In 2000-01 Rs. 1405 crore were spent. Next year Rs. 4190 crore were spent. For the current year Rs. 10300 is proposed to be spent and that will be spent. It is not correct to say that fund is available but not spent. He said that it will be beneficial if the golden quadrilateral project is completed, I also believe this. The world Bank has also said that on completion of the project the country is going to save nearly Rs. 8,000/- every year in different ways. I feel that it not appropriate to say that the

work is not going on properly. At the beginning of the last year we have decided to make an endeavour to complete the first phase in 2003 instead of 2004. On the basis of that I would like to say that it took some time to start the work. In 2000-01 we had given 26 contracts. 85 contracts were given in 2001-02. The work is started only after giving contract. This year 14 contracts have been given in one month. This work is going on at 145 contracts sites. As has been reported by the World Bank, it takes four years after awarding the contracts however we are trying to complete it in two and half years. I would like to submit that we have to a great extent succeeded in achieving the target that we have fixed. More you see on the ground more you come across the true picture. There is no need to get disappointed. The hon. Member talked about the cost. At some places the cost of construction of road per kilometre is two and half to three crore rupees while at some other places it is Rs. 5 to 6 crore. The cost of construction depends on two three factors. It is not only the cost of construction. Acquisition of land has a major role to play with it. There is a procedure for this that takes one year. We take help from State Governments. He asked about the nature of help, we take from state Governments. I would like to inform him that we take help of the state Governments for land acquisition. For this purpose required amount is given to the D.Ms. as per their demand. Similarly states' help is being taken in felling of trees. The shifting of utilities is also included in it. In case of the widening of the roads, electric poles under pipes and several other things are required to be shifted. All these things are being done with the help of the state Governments. They are also helping us. Many a time when problems arise I personally talk to Chief Ministers and discuss with them. He said that there is no organisation. But it is not so. The National Highway Authority of India is already there which was constituted prior to this project. It has been strengthened and upgraded. The National Highway Authority Board has been constituted which has been vested with financial powers. The Members of the Board take decisions, they take decision for awarding major contracts. They are not required to approach the government all the time. It is a competent Board. However, as he has said monitoring is essential. The detailed Project report is prepared by the specialist consultants before starting the work. We are not that competent nor we do have so many experts to prepare it and I do not feel it necessary either. There consultants are selected at the international level. They prepare the detailed project report. Thereafter there is a separate consultants team for monitoring after given the contracts which is fully responsible for it. The tests required are mentioned and the record of all this are maintained. The officers of the National Authority themselves check the monitoring report. I would like to say that there is monitoring and there is hundred percent quality control. For this, specialists and highly qualified technical people are deployed.

He has asked whether the project will be completed or not. I would like to assure him that I will complete it and efforts will be made to complete the second phase before the targeted period which is supposed to be completed by the year 2007. He said I cannot say, that it is not being misused anywhere. In the present state of affair in the country it can happen more or less. But I am trying, wherever I go, I tell people, if there is something wrong anywhere they should tell me. I would like to urge the MPs, if they find any fault they should tell me. I will try to probe the matter.

The Prime Minister has implemented such a big project and has allocated huge funds for it. Nobody has formulated such a big project after Sher Shah Suri. It is very big indeed. Rs. 8000 crore are being spent every year on phase-I. It will benefit the country. I expect cooperation from all of you in this regard. If I am told about misuse, I will try to see it right.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : As the hon'ble Minister said, this is a very ambitious project and I agree with him. I would also like to say that this is an ambitious scheme. Therefore proper consideration is essential for proper execution of this project within the stipulated period. He felt that a monitoring agency is required for it. The hon'ble Minister said that they take help from state Government, but it is done in a very casual manner. They are not having machinery. He himself agreed that they do not have machinery, therefore they have appointed experts, and all this job is being done on contract basis. First time, it is being experimented in India, and Rs. 54,000 crore are being spent on this project. My state, Maharashtra is number one in construction of roads. The highway constructed between Mumbai to Puna is an example in itself. I would like to say that help should be taken from State whose performance is good in construction of roads. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that whereas Rs. 54,000 crore are being spent on this project, the Union Government is spending so much on this project but his Ministry recovers money for land acquisition on bypasses from State Governments and if in cases where state Governments fail to pay money for by-pass land acquisition, the project is held up. The National highway No.7 is an instance of this which is also a part of this project. The 36 kilometer long road from Nagpur to Buttibori was constructed a year ago, but the road from Buttibori to Jaam, from Jaam to Pantherkoda and Kagaznagar area has been left incomplete. The Ministry is not ready to construct bypass from Nagpur to Kamathi, as it requires Rs. 5 crore for land acquisition because my state has not given money for by-pass land acquisition. Through you, I would like to make a submission to the hon'ble Minister that when such a big Project is being implemented, then it is not appropriate to make hurdles in it for just Rs. 5000 crore and it is not appropriate to linger it like this. Therefore, I would

like to urge the hon'ble Minister and also have assurance from him that the cases in which incomplete project has been completed due to good performance of State Governments, the request for funds for by-pass should not be made, but help should be given to these State Governments because State Governments lack funds. The Government should help them I want this assurance from the hon'ble Minister.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : As said by the hon'ble Member that we are not taking help from state Governments - it is not so. He should confirm this from the Maharashtra Government, the Chief Minister, PWD Minister and Maharashtra state Road construction Corporation, whether I have talked to them or not. Then his doubt will be clear. ...*(Interruptions)* We are also assigning them work. We have assigned work to the Maharashtra State Road Construction Corporation, which has constructed Mumbai-Poona highway. It is also doing our work. We are also assigning them work. We are not only assigning work to the outside contractors, but wherever it is possible, we are making full utilisation of state corporations.

He made a mention of land-acquisition. He is perhaps mixing up that we are acquiring land for the Rs.54,000 crore Project. I would like to make it clear that two things come under land-acquisition. By land-acquisition, alignment of north-east, south-east-west corridor, and Nagpur by-pass will be done. Under Pradhan Mantri Yojana, only 13,200 Km long road is being taken up and remaining 45000 kilometre long national highway is not included in it. Separate funds have been allocated for it. Funds for the same are not taken from Rs. 54000 crore. Hardly Rs. 15000 crore have been allocated for the same. There are many other highways, hardly 40% of the budget is allocated for it. Therefore, land acquisition is done in two parts, Firstly, by-passes in national highway. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : The highway I have mentioned is the part of this golden project.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : If he keeps quite for two minutes, I will make a submission about Nagpur by-pass.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Do not by-pass me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, land acquisition is done in two ways. We do not have funds for land acquisition for 45 thousand kilometres land national highways, but we have not given priority to it and by-passes would be constructed afterwards. We have

given priority to repairing of roads. We are lacking funds for land acquisition for by-passes.

As far as Nagpur by-pass is concerned, it is in East-West Corridor. It has been considered to given Rs. 5 crore to national highways. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that we have first taken up Pradhan Mantri Yojana and will acquire land accordingly.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Sir, the hon'ble Minister said that Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojna is a very important Project, Rs. 54,000 crore are going to be spent on it. This year a provision for Rs. 10,203 crore has been made. The hon'ble Member has just said that his department does not have machinery and infrastructure- for this he should take help from the State Governments. In his reply, the Minister said that consultants of International standard have been appointed, and the work is being done with their expertise. Through you, I would like to tell the House that though international consultants have been appointed by them funds are being wasted for construction of road at the rate of five to six crore rupees per kilometre. Money is wasted like this. It is a scheme to loot money. As per the conditions of the tender 90-95 percent Indian contractors cannot fill up the tender, Malaysian or other foreign companies are not investing their money, they are not bringing their machinery, but are getting the work done through Indian contractors and Indian workers. The funds are being wasted in the name of important scheme of national highways, in the name of Pradhan Mantri Yojana. The Government are taking loan of thousands of crores of rupees from World Bank and as per the condition of international consultant tender. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Naresh Puglia, Please put the question now.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Sir, it is an important question. They are wasting thousands of crores of rupees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am asking you to put the question.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : The Union Government have to pay attention to these things, the Parliament had to pay attention. When a scheme for 60 thousand crore rupees is formulated, it should be done through CPWD, so that the work can be done with half the amount, but they are spending double the amount.

Through you, I would like to say that a committee of

experts should be constituted for this purpose to investigate into it. Secondly, the financial condition of the state is very bad these days. There is a work pendency of 20 thousand kilometres. ...*(Interruptions)* If wastage of money keeps on taking place without Government's knowledge then I do not have to ask any question. If this wastage and loot of money is brought before the parliament then it is o.k. but if the hon. Minister has any objection to it, then it is certainly wrong. *(Interruptions)* Sir, National Highways No.16 Jagdalpur, Garhchiroli, Mancharia is naxalite affected and passes through states of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. Written complaints has been made against it and the work is being taken up through BRO. If such important complaints are not looked into then wastage of money will go on taking place. Hence the hon. Minister is requested not to mislead the House. Investigation team should be dispatched to places where complaints from MPs are received. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Naresh Puglia, why do not you ask the question directly?

..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Many members wanted to ask the question on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Sir, is any parliamentary committee going to investigate and check wastage of the money? Is there any proposal to appoint a parliamentary committee to investigate into it... *(Interruptions)* You should also arrange a half an Hour Discussion on this point. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the question of wastage of country's money. A half an Hour discussion should be held on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I am asking him to put a question and you are interrupting the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I am sad to hear that the work which is fully being appreciated by one and all, which is appreciated by individual MPs who want that the work should be taken up as soon as possible in their constituencies, passing such comments on it is not in the

country's interest in my opinion. The matter has been only generalised by saying that everything taken place is wrong, corruption is rampant, what he does it right. ...*(Interruptions)* Please first listen to me properly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : If a thing costing one rupee is prepared with Rs. Four then I would like to know as to where this money is siphoned off to. ...*(Interruptions)* Why are we sitting here.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : It seems that hon. Member has several reservations. He said that I am misleading,

[English]

I would like to reciprocate the compliment.

[Translation]

I am just giving you the facts, please listen to me. Firstly you said that international consultants are being invited, I said that it was an international open tender. I do not mean that inviters are not being included in it. You had raised this issue earlier also and I had given you the figures, now I am once again giving you the figures. Several international contractors are in it but it does not mean that there are no Indian's in it I am giving you the figures - we have 145 contracts, out of which 94 contractors are exclusively Indian, how can they be international. These are 38 joint ventures out of it i.e. one Indian and one foreigner - and only 13 contractors are foreigners - now how can you say that we have opened all for foreigner. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Puglia, the Minister is giving the details. You hear the Minister fully. Let him complete the answer first.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Minister is not giving the facts to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : If not facts, what else are these figures. Are the figures which I am giving to you are not facts. Is this a story? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : You are cooking a story here, please tell as to how many crores was given to foreigners and how much work has been awarded to Indian contractors in percentage terms. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I am telling you the figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, country's money is being wasted. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, how can the Minister answer if you heckle him like this?. This is Question Hour. Shri Puglia has asked the supplementary and the Minister is replying. In between you are interrupting. He is the second questioner. He has asked the question and the Minister is replying. Meanwhile, you both are standing up. Unless I give permission, how can you pose the supplementary to the Minister?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, to bear this notion in mind that the roads are being constructed at a great cost of five to six or ten crores per kilometres is not right. The rates at which the work is being done is less at the international levels. If you want this to be investigated, I do not have any objection to it, rather I will be glad. If you want to pinpoint any shortcoming then please tell I had told you that somewhere two and a half crores and somewhere eight to ten crores are being spent. There are several things. The construction is to be done in various ways. Hence, generally I can say that while giving contracts, firstly our detailed project report is prepared, in which we make our estimation as to how much cost will it involve. If estimation is done wrong then retendering is done. To cite an example, I would like to say that we gave a contract on Delhi-Gurgaon road. This plan of ours has earned money for the Government, which never happens. Hence we are trying our best to check wastage and misuse of funds. I do not say that no mistake is being committed. I said at the very beginning that if there is any mistake then please tell us. However to bear this attitude that everything that is taking place is wrong is not in the welfare of the country and this kind of sentiment should not be reared.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, does the hon. Minister realise that he is getting the work done in two way—one the advice of the state government and secondly on the advice of the world bank. I don't say about one or two places in state governments, mostly the work of awarding small contracts and obliging the people is being done due to which the state government is not able to utilise the funds. I would like to cite an example, you yourself have the experience in this regard.

Neither land acquisition nor repairing of roads nor does proper construction of roads take place there. Is it a fact that

Government announced Big contracts to foreigners on World Bank's advice. How many contracts are given to other companies viz. Ercon, Border Roads Organisation and other organisations which are present in the country. Are these companies not capable enough to take up such big jobs?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as he said, we get the work done through State Governments. The work of National Highway Development Project involving a cost of Rs. 54 thousand crore is being assigned to those organisations of State Governments, which have their own construction corporation. For instance, in Maharashtra some work is assigned to PWD. They are not being given NHDP work. They are being assigned repair work of National Highways. I said that the PWD will do the work of 45000 kilometre road, because, we do not have our own arrangement. At some places we have given work to border roads. Their services are being utilised in National Highway maintenance, but we do not have any agency for construction of 45 thousand kilometre long national highways. At some places CPWD does it, but most of it has to be done by PWD, and at some places it is assigned to border roads. As far as the project of Rs. 54 thousand crore is concerned, we are not under pressure from any body whether it is the World Bank or any other agency. We give contracts at international level and in this process, first pre-qualification is done. Those who want contract, fill their tenders. Then those tenders are examined, and if they are capable, they get qualified. After qualification they fill tenders, and the person having lowest tender is given contract. The World Bank has its own terms about the time period, but it does not intervene in the process of giving contracts. As I said earlier, and saying for something now also that out of 145 contracts, 94 are Indians, and there are 38 joint ventures, in which one partner is a foreigner and other is an Indian. There are only 13 foreigners, since they have given lowest tender, therefore, they got the contract.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, the discussion which is being held on this scheme is incomplete. It is like East India Company's thinking to link Calcutta with Delhi, Delhi with Mumbai, Mumbai with Madras and Madras with Calcutta. But it is necessary to connect the entire country, north to south, Delhi to Madhya Pradesh to reach Madras via Nagpur, Hyderabad and Bangalore, to connect Calcutta with Mumbai via Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Nagpur Maharashtra. By when measures in this regard would be taken and by when this scheme is likely to be completed?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion being held here is about the NHDP project, approved by the Prime Minister on 24 October, 1998. One part of it is a quadrilateral—Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and

Kolkatta. It's phase 2 is from Srinagar to Kanyakumari, which covers a supper-Salem, Kochi and Silchar in the East and Porbander in the West. In Phase 2 a total of seven thousand three hundred kilometres work is to be done and its time limit is upto 2007. Therefore, we are paying more attention to phase-one. The work of North- South-East-West corridor will begin by next year or by the end of this year. As regard, other roads, mentioned by the hon. Member, there is no proposal for them. If in future a scheme is formulated for this the North-South road will pass through Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister said that he wants to get the work completed in 2003, instead of 2004. I would like to congratulate him as he is prepared for early completion of the work. Hon'ble Minister said that sometimes it takes 12 months and sometimes 18 months for making arrangements of land. I would like to know the targets fixed for the year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 and whether the Government have achieved the said target? At the same time he said that 13 foreign companies are involved in this act. I would like to know how much money is involved in the work assigned to those 13 foreign companies and the cost of work assigned to domestic companies.

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : The first part of his question is about how to complete the work in the year 2002-2003, and how will we achieve the target fixed for 2004 in 2003. As I said we are trying to achieve the target in respect of all the contracts except the golden quadrilateral stretch of 84 kilometres Allahabad by-pass we have given all the work on contract. Therefore, the arrangements made for land and other work will also be completed alongwith it. As regards the target of 2003 is concerned, we cannot say about it individually. So far as year-wise details are concerned, we will send information to the hon'ble Member afterwards.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, please send all these details to the hon. Member.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I will send the details to the hon. Member.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, normally in the maintenance of the National Highways, considerable amount will also be spent on maintenance some amount on the on-going projects, and also new projects will be notified from time to time. The earlier notification in respect of taking up new roads as the national Highways was issued as early as October 2000 or so. After that, balancing the States, where there is some injustice that has been done to certain

States, has not been done so far. The late Speaker, Shri Balayogi has initiated one National Highway, that is NH 214, and only 243 kilometres have been completed from Kathipudi to Pamarru. There is a demand to extend it from Pamarru to Ongole via Puligadda, Repalli, Bapatla and Cherala. Every time we have been receiving the answer that it would be done in the Tenth Five-Year Plan. Now, we are in the Tenth Five-Year Plan. I will request the hon. Minister to give a categorical assurance that it will be done immediately, that is notifying the extension of NH 214 from Pamarru to Ongole.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, before I reply to this question, I would like to reply to the second part of the previous question, which has not been answered by me. The hon. Member wanted to know the cost of the various contracts. The total number of contracts is 145. The total cost is Rs. 21,155 crore.

[Translation]

The contract for Rs.11 thousand 357 crore have been given to Indian companies, Rs. 7 thousand 130 crore to joint venture of Indian and foreign companies and Rs. 2 thousand 678 crore to foreign companies. The hon'ble Member's second question is about national highways, which is not directly related to it. But at present, there is a ban on providing allocations for national highways and State highways. It would be reconsidered after finalisation of tenth plan and availability of funds, and then only a discussion in that regard could be taken.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Medical Facilities in Hospitals

*443. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been revealed during inspection of Government hospitals that various medicare facilities available with the hospitals exists on papers only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether over crowding impinged not only upon the quality and efficiency of medical services, but also adversely affected research activities in various Government hospitals in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be

taken by the Government to reduce the, over crowding in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Central Government Hospitals are fairly well-equipped with the medical facilities to provide medicare to the people. The Hospitals provide treatment in all the basic specialities and major super-specialities.

Safdarjung Hospital is providing OPD Services to more than 2 million people not only of Delhi but also of the neighbouring as well as far off States. Indoor bed strength of the Hospital is 1531 (including bassinets). In addition, main casualty complex runs under one roof along with 20 observation beds for Medical (Ward-A) and 20 for surgical (Ward - B) patients. It runs many specialities, super-specialities and special clinics like Neurology, Urology, CTVS, Nephrology, Respiratory Medicine, Burns & Plastics, Pediatric Surgery, Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Arthroscopy and Sports Injury Clinic, Diabetic Clinic and Thyroid Clinic. It has a whole body CT Scanner and Cardiac Cath. Lab. A Homoeopathic OPD and an Ayurvedic OPD are also being run within this hospital premises. In the year 2000-2001, hospital provided services to 21,51,903 patients including emergency patients and admitted 97428 patients. It also carried out 10,227 CT Scans, 14,544 Ultrasound, 2,37,984 X- Rays and 28,55,973 Laboratory Tests. The hospital conducted 19,620 Major and 46,714 Minor Operations during this year.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (formerly known as Willingdon Hospital and having only 54 beds at its inception) currently having 984 beds, caters to the population of Delhi and adjoining states. It is having a Nursing Home facility for the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries. This hospital provides services in 25 specialities and some super-specialities like - Neuro Surgery, Cardiology, Cardio Thoracic & Vascular Surgery, Burns & Plastic surgery, Gastroenterology, Pediatrics Surgery, Nephrology, Neurology and Urology. It has a whole body CT scanner, Cardiac Cath Lab, Non- Invasive Cardiac Lab, Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber, besides other invasive and non-invasive investigation facilities. An MRI machine procured for the hospital is in the process of installation. A Unani OPD is also run by the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy. In the year 2000-2001, hospital provided services to 13,06,961 patients including emergency patients, and admitted 45,807 patients. It carried out 5,130 CT Scans, 16,545 Ultrasound, 1,68,513 X-Rays and 27,90,767 Laboratory Tests. The hospital also conducted 8,788 Major and 49,523 Minor operations during this period.

Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC) and Smt. Sucheta Kriplani Hospital with 877 beds, provides teaching as comprehensive medical services. Kalawati Saran Children's

Hospital, a 360 bedded hospital also attached to Lady Hardinge Medical College, functions as a referral hospital for children. During the year 2001, LHMC & Associated hospitals provided services to 8,66,735 OPD patients and admitted 57591 patients. It carried out 1964 CT Scans, 20,687 Ultra Sound, 1,15,956 X-Rays and 11,35,801 Laboratory Tests. The hospital conducted 9,585 Major operations and 10,396 Minor operations.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) established in 1956 by an Act of Parliament was conceived to be a centre of excellence in modern medicine with comprehensive training facility. The total bed strength of AIIMS Hospital (including all centres) is 1626. The institute has been entrusted to develop patterns of teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in all its branches so as to demonstrate a high standard of medical education to all medical colleges and other allied institutions in India; to bring together at one place educational facilities of the highest order for training of personnel in all important branches of health activity; and to attain self-sufficiency in postgraduate medical education. During 2000-2001, the AIIMS hospital and speciality centers attended to 19,02,090 patients in various outpatient departments and 95,627 indoor patients. A total number of 1,10,388 surgical procedures were conducted including the procedures like brain tumour surgery, open-heart surgery, heart transplant, kidney transplant and cancer surgery.

(c) Despite the burden of patients, AIIMS has been rated as the top Institution in clinical, medical and bio-medical research in the country. The specific measures for encouraging research activities include :-

- (i) Identification of priority areas of research :
- (ii) Increasing Plan Outlay on research :
- (iii) Revamping the Scheme/Research Cell :

The function and working of the research/scheme cell has already been reviewed and the same is being revamped in order to respond to the challenges of the new millennium.

(iv) Creation of an advanced centre for Molecular Medicine during the 10th Plan period :

An advanced centre for Molecular Medicine is planned for development of molecular diagnostics and therapeutics, cell and tissue engineering, progeonics and genomics, transplantation Immunology, molecular epidemiology, new drug discovery and bioinformatics. This centre is expected to give a real boost to research in AIIMS.

The AIIMS is a leader in the field of medical research.

Major research works are in the areas of national needs. Over 315 research projects are continuing.

In Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, during the 9th Five Year Plan with a view to boost medical education and research activities, various measures had been taken which include the following :-

- i) Upgradation of various departments.
- ii) To develop new Centres, namely, Advanced Cardiac Centre, Advanced Eye Centre, Advanced Trauma Centre, Bone Marrow Transplant Centre and 2nd phase of Advanced Paediatrics Centre.

The Institute is trying its best to carry out the research work which is one of the basic objectives of the Institute and over 400 research papers are published from the Institute every year. The Institute has a separate fund of its own for sanction of Institute Research Projects to the Faculty Members. The Institute also encourages and motivates the Faculty Members to seek funding from National/International Agencies for their research projects i.e. D.S.T. (Govt. of India), D.B.T. (Govt. of India), C.S.I.R., New Delhi, ICMR, New Delhi and the W.H.O. etc. etc. The faculty members of the Institution are associated with 305 research schemes.

Jawahar Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry is also undertaking similar initiatives to boost the research activities in the institute.

(d) For reducing the over crowding in Central Government Hospitals and Government Hospitals in Delhi following steps have been/are being taken :-

i) For reducing the waiting time, more registration counters are run during the rush hours. In LHMC, number of registration counters have been increased from 4 to 6 and in Safdarjung Hospital from 6 to 14. Besides, 14 to 18 special clinics are run in Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospital in the afternoon.

ii) To cope with the patients rush, AIIMS is expanding its hospital services in specialities like Dr. RP Centre, C.T. Centre, Neuro-Sciences Centre etc. It is also proposed to have a screening OPD near to the present OPD building.

iii) The Government of NCT of Delhi has constructed/commissioned/upgraded 15 hospitals/trauma centers (9 peripheral hospitals, 4 existing major hospitals and 2 Trauma Centers) during the 9th Five Year Plan i.e. 1997-2002. Seven hospitals and one dental college building at Lok

Nayak Hospital Complex are under construction, eight hospitals are under expansion and three colony hospitals are under upgradation. Land for five hospitals has been purchased and are under planning/SFC stage. Construction of these hospitals is to start during 2002-2003.

iv) The computerization of various departments in Safdarjung Hospital has been started. Computerization has been started in Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospital for Administration and Medical Stores. A proposal for computerization of all services in Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospital is under process. Computerization of patient care system at AIIMS is also under process and it is expected that the patient care system of AIIMS will be fully computerized within 2 years.

v) The new Master Layout Plan for screening OPD of AIIMS has been prepared and the same has been submitted to concerned authorities for their approval. It is expected that the construction work shall start by September 2002.

vi) A provision for separate queue for priority treatment to senior citizen patients is already in existence in the OPD of Central Government Hospitals.

Telecommunication Scheme for Rural Areas

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

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any specific scheme to bring about revolution in the field of telecommunications for far flung areas/villages of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Under the new telecom policy 1999, government is committed to cover all villages with telephone facility by the end of year 2002. Special emphasis has also been laid on the coverage of rural areas with the objective of raising the tele-density to 4% by the year 2010. In addition, there is also a programme to cover all block headquarters with Internet Dhabas. These schemes are being vigorously followed and technologies such as Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and satellite phones besides landlines are being used to cover villages, remote areas, rural areas etc. As of 1st April, 2002, 4,68,862 villages have been

provided with phones and 3097 block headquarters have been provided with Internet Dhabas.

[Translation]

Delivery Death

*445. SHRI NAGMANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per report of the United Nations Population Fund, out of every one thousand pregnant women in India, four die at the time of delivery every year;

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

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to tide over the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) According to the data published by United Nations Population Fund, in their published report on "The State of World Population-2001", for every 1000 live births in India, 4.4 women die from conditions related to pregnancy, delivery and related complications. This fact is in conformity with the estimates on maternal mortality ratio published by the Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India. According to these estimates for 1998, the maternal mortality ratio for India was 407 per 100,000 live births.

The main causes of maternal deaths are :

1. Direct Causes : Haemorrhage, infections, Obstructed Labour, Unsafe Abortion, Toxaemia of Pregnancy etc.
2. Indirect Causes : Anaemia, Viral Hepatitis, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
3. Socio economic causes : Early age of marriage, adolescent pregnancy, low status of women, low level of female education, lack of access to health services, gender bias and economic dependency.

Maternal health care is an Integral part of the Family Welfare Programme. Certain vertical interventions like the National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme and Tetanus Immunisation Programme for pregnant mothers have been going on under the Family Welfare Programme since 1977-78. In 1992, the nationwide Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) (1992-97) was launched with World Bank support, for integrating various vertical interventions in the area of Maternal and Child Health. The Reproductive and Child

Health (RCH) Programme, which was launched in 1997 for five years, continues by way of strengthening of the CSSM activities along with certain new programmes. The major interventions of RCH programmes aimed at bringing down maternal, infant and child mortality are :

1. Provision of Essential Obstetric Care
2. Provision of Emergency Obstetric Care
3. Provision of services in backward districts by holding RCH Camps at Primary Health Centres.
4. Contractual appointments of additional ANMs for backward districts.
5. Provision of contractual or part time appointment of Anaesthetists, Safe Motherhood Consultants and technical staff like Laboratory technicians, Public Health Nurses etc.
6. Provision of drugs and equipment for Maternal Health at sub centres, primary health centres, community health centres/first referral units - including Iron and Folic Acid tablets for maternal and childhood anaemia.
7. A scheme for 24-hour delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres.
8. Referral transport for pregnant women.
9. Facilities and training for medical termination of pregnancies for safe abortions.
10. Prevention, management and control of Reproductive Tract Infections (RTI), Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI).
11. Intensification of information, Education and Communication Programmes for Maternal and Child Health through the mass media as also decentralised local specific activities at the grass root level.
12. Involvement of NGOs in awareness generation and service delivery where government services are not adequate.
13. Training of medical/paramedical and other service providers.
14. Training of Dais.

The need for bringing down Maternal Mortality Rates

significantly and improving maternal health in general, has been strongly stressed in the National Population Policy - 2000. This Policy recommends a holistic strategy for bringing about total inter-sectoral coordination at the grassroots level and also for involving the NGOs, civil society, Panchayati Raj Institutions and women's groups in bringing down MMR and Infant Mortality Ratio.

Growth Rate of Basic-Telephone Service and Cellular Services

*446. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the network of basic-telephone

services and cellular services has expanded in the country during the last few years;

(b) If so, the annual growth rate registered by both the above said sectors during each of the year 1999, 2000 and 2001 respectively;

(c) the number of connections under both the sectors functional in the country at the end of February, 2002; and

(d) the total number of connections under basic telephone services in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The annual growth rate registered by both the above said sectors during the year 1999, 2000 and 2001 are as follows :

Basic Phone			Cellular Phone		
Sl.No.	Year	Growth Rate	Sl. No.	Year	Growth Rate
1.	1998-1999	21.40%	1.	1998-1999	35.96%
2.	1999-2000	23.32%	2.	1999-2000	57.08%
3.	2000-2001	22.73%	3.	2000-2001	89.84%

(c) The number of telephone connections in both the sectors in the country at the end of February, 2002 are as follows :-

Basic Telephone Services	Cellular Services
3,67,22,385	60,48,225

(d) Total number of connections under Basic Telephone Services in rural areas is 82,19,544 at the end of February, 2002.

[English]

PTICs in Rural Areas

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

(a) the difference in operational efficiency between VPTs (Village Public Telephones) and PTICs (Public Telecom and Information Centres);

(b) whether private telecom companies can

straightway set up PTICs (Public Telecom and Information Centres) instead of VPTs (Village Public Telephones) wherever they are feasible;

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

(d) the reasons for not permitting them to establish PTICs in rural areas, wherever these are technically feasible?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Majority of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) working in rural areas are not capable of supporting high data transmission rate required for Public Telephones and Information Centre due to limitations of access network. A Public Telephone and Information Centre (PTIC) should be able to support data speed upto 28.8 kbps on terrestrial lines and 9.6 kbps for WLL systems.

(b) and (c) There is no restriction on any licensed private telecom operator for setting up Public telephone and Information Centre instead of VPTs wherever feasible. Telecom regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has suggested to upgrade nearly 35000 VPTs to function as PTICs by the year 2004.

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

Private Participation in Road Development

*448. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

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

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India is considering to invite private participation in road development;

(b) if so, the conditions laid by NHAI for private investors;

(c) whether it is a fact that NHAI has assured liberal and high returns on the investment on private capital in BOT projects; and

(d) if so, the minimum rate of return assured by the NHAI to private operators?

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

(b) The conditions for Private Investors are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No assurance is given. However, bids are invited on competitive basis and the bidders, based on their own assessment of risk/reward perspective, quote for the projects.

Statement

Conditions for Private Sector Participation

- (i) Private sector is allowed to retain toll money in toll based BOT projects.
- (ii) 100% tax exemption is given for a period of 10 years. This may be availed in 20 years.
- (iii) Concession period is allowed upto 30 years.
- (iv) Duty-free import of identified high capacity equipment for highway construction.
- (v) National Highways Authority of India permitted to participate in the equity of BOT projects upto 30% of the total equity.
- (vi) Government to provide land at no cost and free from all encumbrances

(vii) Capital grant upto 40% of the project cost to enhance viability on a case-to-case basis is permitted.

(viii) Arbitration, based on United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) provisions.

(ix) Housing and Real Estate Development, which is an integral part of the highway projects, will be treated as infrastructure and will be entitled for the same tax benefits.

(x) Two Model Concession Agreements have been finalised for projects to be taken up on Build-Operate- Transfer (BOT) basis. One for the projects costing more than Rs. 100 crore and the other for projects costing upto Rs. 100 crore. The salient features for bid conditions relate to the concession period, Obligations of client and concessionarie, Force Majeure, Suspension & Termination, Financial closure, Grant, Revenue shortfall loan, Project scope, Operation, Maintenance and Safety Requirements, Standards & Specification and fee to be charged, etc.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Villages

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

(a) the number of villages in the country without telephone facility, at present;

(b) whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed all the private telecom companies to deposit five per cent of their net profits in order to provide telephone facility in the remote villages;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed by the TRAI in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of companies, which have deposited this amount?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) As per available information, 1,38,629 villages are without telephone facility as on 31st March, 2002.

(b) and (c) On the recommendation of Telecom

Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Government have decided to apportion universal service support levy @5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR). This levy is a part of the total licence fee to be paid by the various service providers such as Basic, Cellular, National and International Long distance, Paging, Infrastructure Provider Category-II (IP-II), Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT).

(d) About Rs. 41.73 crores has been collected from 24 private companies during the current financial year.

[English]

Corporate Oriented Education System

*450. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to make the present education system corporate oriented during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as modified in 1992, and evolved on a national consensus, has laid down a comprehensive framework that guides the development of education in its entirety. It continues to be relevant and has stood the test of time. The policy envisages the need for reorganization of the education system, specially the technical management education system with reference to the changes in the economy, social environment, production and management processes, the rapid expansion of knowledge and the great advances in science & technology. Constant efforts have been made from time to time in consultation with State Governments and the other stakeholders and appropriate changes have been made in implementational aspects of the policy. These include strategies for increased access and equity, quality, relevance and modernization of the content and processes of education at all stages of education; renewed thrust on vocationalization of education; informal sector development through the scheme

of Community Polytechnics; reaching the unserved and underserved sections and regions through the distance mode; incorporation of Information and Communication technologies (ICT) at all stages of education; HRD in Information Technology, World Bank assisted Technician Education Project and Canada India Institute Industry-Linkage Project; constitution of an All-India Board of Information Technology (IT) Education under the All-India Council for Technical Education etc.

[Translation]

Eradication of Leprosy

*451. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) whether for complete eradication of leprosy, the Government propose to detect leprosy patients in the country by going door to door;

(b) whether any directions have been issued by the Government in this regard to the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (d) Under National Leprosy Eradication Programme, World Bank assisted second phase project is being implemented which will be ending on 31st March, 2004. It is planned to achieve elimination of leprosy at national level by reducing the prevalence rate to less than 1 case per 10,000 people by end of the project period. The Strategy involves carrying out elimination through massive IEC campaigns, decentralization of responsibilities to the States/UTs and integration of leprosy with General Health Care. One Leprosy elimination campaign has been conducted during last year and one more will be taken up in the current year. This involves active case detection i.e. house-to-house search in high endemic States and passive case detection in remaining States/UTs. During the elimination campaign, intensive awareness involving community is carried out to detect the hidden cases in the country. Guidelines for carrying out this campaign for current year have already been sent to all the States/UTs.

*[English]***Functioning of PHCs in Rural Areas*****452. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :****SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :**

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

(a) whether due to mass migration of Doctors to Metropolitan cities, the rural health system has been badly affected and the Primary Health Centres are not functioning effectively in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the Primary Health Centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the gaps and shortages in the availability of trained health care providers in the primary health infrastructure in rural areas. Often, the Medical officer/specialists/trained health care providers are reluctant to serve in far-flung remote rural areas. Recruitment and postings of health personnel in health care Institutions is the responsibility of respective state governments. However, this Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been advising the state governments from time to time to see to it that vacancies are filled up on priority basis.

(c) Government are taking steps to help State Governments to improve the functioning of primary health care institutions in the country :

(i) Under the State Health System Projects, the Community Health Centres and District Hospitals are being upgraded and better equipped so that quality of care in the provisioning of health services to people in rural and backward areas, receives a thrust.

(ii) The Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, provides financial assistance, especially towards repairs and renovation of the public health infrastructure, purchasing of drugs and essential consumables, and towards contingencies.

(iii) Area Development Projects are also being implemented with financial assistance from external agencies for strengthening of health and family welfare infrastructure. One of the main activities of area projects includes construction of buildings for sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres.

(iv) Under the Reproductive & Child Health Programme, the following steps are being taken to strengthen the primary health services in the country.

- Major Civil Works are sanctioned for the repair/construction of Operation Theatre/Labour Room
- Provision of equipments/medicine for emergency obstetrics care at selected first referral units.
- Financial assistance for making contractual appointments/hiring of Anaesthetists/Gynaecologists/Safe Motherhood consultants/Staff Nurses/Lab. Technician/Additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) etc.
- Skill based in-service training for capacity building of Doctors, ANMs and other health functionaries. Efforts are also being made to increase the outreach of health care services through Parivar Kalyan Swasthya Melas and Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) camps etc.

(v) In order to facilitate the preparation of area specific programme with special emphasis on states lagging behind in containing population growth to manageable limit, an Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted. The Group involves voluntary associations, community organisations and Panchayati Raj Institutions to achieve its aim. It will also explore the possibility of expanding the scope of social marketing contraceptive in a manner that makes them easily accessible even while raising awareness level.

Report on Human Development***453. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :****SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has prepared a report on human development on the lines of UNDP's annual human development report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the main features of the report; and
- (d) the extent to which it is different from the UNDP Report?

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

PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has prepared "The National Human Development Report - 2001" for India along the lines of UNDP's annual Human Development Report. The Report was released by the hon'ble Prime Minister on April 23, 2002. The copies of the Report have already been placed in the Parliament House Library and it will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) and (d) The National Human Development Report maps the state of human development and the quality of life in terms of changes in a range of indicators that have been tracked across States at different points of time over the period 1980 to 2001. The choice of indicators is governed by the need to capture the state of development on three critical dimensions of well being, namely longevity, i.e. the ability to live long and healthy life; education, i.e. the ability to read, write and acquire knowledge; and command over resources, i.e. the ability to enjoy a decent standard of living and have a socially meaningful life, using indicators that are relevant for the Indian context. The analytical presentation of the development status has been done in two forms. In the first case, the growth and the gaps vis-a-vis desired normative levels of eight different indicators covering attainments on education, health, economic well being and access to selected amenities have been presented. Secondly, from among the available indicators, a core set of composite indices, namely the Human Development Index (HDI) - reflecting the state of human development for the society as a whole - and the Human Poverty Index (HPI) - capturing the state of the deprived in the society, have been estimated for the early eighties and the early nineties for all the State and the Union Territories. These indices have been estimated, separately for rural and urban areas, in order to reflect the considerable disparities in human development that exist between the two regions. For selected major States, for which the data is available, the HDI has also been estimated for 2001. In addition, a Gender Equality Index (GEI) has been estimated to reflect the relative attainments of women as against men for the early eighties and early nineties.

The National Report while considering the same three dimensions of well-being differs from the UNDP Report in identifying and using contextually relevant indicators that not only reflect the prevailing social values, but also the common development priorities of the States on each of these dimensions.

AIDS Drugs

*454. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a cheap and subsidized Indian AIDS drug is being supplied to Nigeria to control AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide similar subsidized drugs in India to help poor patients, especially in rural areas through International aids as well as Co-operation of certain manufacturing firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (d) The Indian Pharmaceutical Companies like M/s. Ranbaxy and M/s Cipla held negotiations with the Government of Nigeria for supply of three anti-retroviral drugs namely Lamivudine, Stavudine and Nevirapine to the Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria at a cost of US\$.350 per year per patient. The Government of Nigeria intends to subsidize 80% of the cost of drugs eventually to treat about 10,000 adults and 5000 children suffering from AIDS. The patients who require anti-retroviral treatment will have to pay about US\$ 7 to US\$ 8 per month.

The Government of India at present provides financial support to States/UTs for the treatment of opportunistic infections of AIDS patients in all public sector hospitals. But, anti-retroviral therapies are not supported by the Government in the programme because of their prohibitive costs on account of indefinite period of treatment and other supportive investigations required for monitoring the progress of the disease. However, Government has been progressively reducing the excise and custom duties on anti-retroviral drugs to make them available to HIV/AIDS patients at reasonable price.

Health Summit in New Delhi

*455. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

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

(a) whether a two-day Health Summit was held in New Delhi in the month of February, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed;

(c) whether suggestions made in the Summit have been considered by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to implement the suggestions made in the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Health Summit was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in New Delhi in February, 2002. The Health Summit discussed the Indian health scenario and focused on various issues. Some of these included financial resources, management of health care services; quality of care and work force; re-orientation of health care strategy; public-private partnerships; promotion of private and NGO sectors; quality of health care infrastructure; and health insurance.

(c) to (e) Pursuant to the two day health summit, a study instituted by the CII, with the overall objective of defining a roadmap for the health care sector in India, leading to its accelerated development, is presently underway.

Setting up of Mega Atomic Power Plants

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

(a) whether the proposal to set up some Mega-Atomic Power Plants during Tenth Five Year Plan is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the States where these Mega-Atomic Power Plants are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The present total nuclear power capacity in the country is 2720 MWe. A nuclear power capacity addition of 1300 MWe is planned during the X Plan. This consists of 2x540 MWe units at Tarapur, Maharashtra on which construction work is in progress and one 220 MWe unit out of the two units of Kaiga 3&4 (2x220 MWe) project at Kaiga, Karnataka on which construction has commenced.

In addition, construction work has also commenced on the 2x1000 MWe project at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu (KK 1&2) and 2x220 MWe project at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan (RAPP 5&6). Units Kaiga 4, KK 1&2 and RAPP 5&6 are scheduled to be commissioned to commence commercial operation

progressively during the first two years of the XI Plan to reach a total nuclear power capacity of 6689 MWe by the end of 2008. A proposal for setting up of a 500 MWe capacity Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu is in the process of finalisation for which the Detailed Project Report has been prepared.

Depending on the availability of funds and finalisation of the X Plan, commencement of construction of additional units has been proposed in the X Plan so as to reach a total nuclear power capacity of 9935 MWe by the end of XI Plan (March 2012). The location and details of these proposed units are yet to be finalised.

[Translation]

Prisoners Languishing in India and Pak Jails

*457. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Pakistan both have set free the prisoners of each other during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the category-wise and year-wise numbers of prisoners released by both the countries separately;

(c) whether talks have been held to set free the remaining prisoners;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Pakistan has apprehended and put the citizens of India behind the bars;

(f) if so, the number of such prisoners as on date;

(g) the steps being taken by the Government for their release;

(h) whether the Government propose to approach International Red-Cross or International Human Rights Commission to investigate the presence of Indian prisoners of war languishing in Pakistani jails in view of the denial of Pakistan Government of their presence; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The details of prisoners released by either country is furnished below :

Indian prisoners released by Pakistan:

1999	:	122 Fishermen and 17 civilian prisoners
2000	:	22 Fishermen and 07 civilian prisoners
2001	:	403 Fishermen and 39 civilian prisoners

Pakistani prisoners released by India :

1999	:	26 fishermen and 57 civilian prisoners
2000	:	44 fishermen and 42 civilian prisoners
2001	:	362 fishermen and 51 civilian prisoners.

(c) to (i) Prisoners are released in accordance with a set procedure after their jail sentence is over. It includes the granting of consular access and verification of national status of the detainees by the concerned Government. As per information available Pakistan has 812 civilian prisoners and 263 Indian fishermen in its custody. In addition, 54 POWs are also believed to be in Pakistan's custody. Government has been taking all possible steps for the early release and repatriation of all the Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails. In keeping with our policy in relation to Pakistan, Government have taken up this issue bilaterally.

[English]

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

*458. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether negotiations on protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) have been blocked by the USA;

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

(c) the details of the talks held in Geneva at the fifth review conference of the State parties to the BTWC;

(d) whether India has expressed reservations concerning the decision of United States to oppose seven years of sustained efforts to cobble a multilateral protocol with a view to strengthen the BTWC;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether this has led to the collapse of the talks among 144 countries; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (g) On 25th July 2001, during the last scheduled meeting of the Ad hoc Group set up in 1994 to negotiate a Verification Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), the US stated that, after an internal review, it had come to the conclusion that the mechanisms envisioned for the Protocol would not achieve their objectives, that no modification of them would allow them to achieve their objectives, and that trying to do more would simply raise the risk to legitimate United States activities. Though the US also said that it intended to explore other ideas and alternative approaches in the coming months, this announcement implied an end to the work of the Ad hoc Group.

The Review Conference attended by 144 States Parties of the BTWC, held in November- December 2001 in Geneva, was unable to resolve the issue and was adjourned till November 2002 when it would reconvene to resume its work.

India supports efforts aimed at strengthening the BTWC. India alongwith the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), has regretted the rejection of the draft Protocol. NAM has also emphasised the continued validity of the mandate given to the Ad hoc Group, and underlined that the BTWC needs to be strengthened through a non-discriminatory legally-binding instrument to be negotiated multilaterally within the framework of the Convention.

Satellite Phone through INSAT-3C

*459. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether INSAT -3C Satellite is fully operational for satellite phone scheme;

(b) if so, the details of facilities available through the satellite; and

(c) the time by which the satellite phone will be made available to the public?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. While the INS AT-3C is operational the Satellite Phone Scheme is under testing through Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) transponder.

INSAT -3C carries 24 C-band, 6 upper Ext-C band, 2 S-band Broadcast Satellite Service(BSS) Transponders and one S-band Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) Transponder, Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR) & charged Coupled Device (CDD) Camera.

(c) The INSAT system is already being used by DOT/BSNL to provide telephone connectivity to remote areas in the country. INSAT -3C satellite augments the INSAT capacity in C, Ext-C and S-bands. As MSS transponder is undergoing testing it will take sometime before Satellite Telephone service could be offered.

Setting up of Light Water Reactors

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up more Light-Water Reactors in the country with the assistance of Russia;

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

(c) the funds likely to be invested thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) At present, a nuclear power project (2x1000 MWe) is being set up at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in cooperation with Russian Federation. While the Nuclear Power Programme of the Department envisages light water reactors as an additionality for further augmentation of the share of nuclear power in the country, as of now, there is no formal proposal for setting up additional Light Water Reactor units.

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

[Translation]

Uranium Reserves in Rajasthan

4755. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Uranium reserves have been located in Rohi Ghateshwar of district Sikar in Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether the Government are exploring the possibility of generating electricity in Rajasthan from the atomic energy produced from the Uranium available from these reserves; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) has located uranium occurrence in Rohil-Ghateshwar area, Sikar District, Rajasthan. At present detailed field/laboratory investigations are being carried out to delineate the subsurface configuration of ore body and evaluate the ore characteristics. The commercial/economic viability of this uranium occurrence would be known only after completing the current phase of investigations.

(c) and (d) Do not arise at present in view of the position stated above.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges

4756. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether existing telephone exchanges in Pune, Nasik, Navi Mumbai, Raigad and Khed districts of Maharashtra are functioning according to their capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a large number of applications are pending for allotment of telephone connections under these exchanges; and

(e) if so, the time by which connections to these awaiting persons would be given?

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

(b) The details of equipped capacity, working connections and percentage loading of the telephone exchanges in Pune, Nasik, Navi Mumbai and Raigad districts and Khed Taluka under Pune district are given in the table below:

Name of District	No. of Exchanges	Equipped Capacity	DELs	Percentage Loading	Waiting List
Pune	295	7,73,582	6,33,480	81.87	19,950
Nasik	235	2,61,816	2,23,256	85.27	5978
Raigad & Navi Mumbai	181	3,09,681	2,49,783	80.66	4515
Khed Taluka u. der Pune District	19	16016	10349	57.66	1684

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

[English]

(d) The number of pending applications for allotment of connections have been shown in part (b) above.

(e) The connections are likely to be provided by December 2002. The long distance connections are likely to be provided by March 2003 through WLL equipments.

[Translation]

Out of Order Phones in Rural Areas

4757. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges and telephones installed in rural areas/villages are out of order for the last more than six months resulted in loss worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of such villages, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not implementing the schemes which were formulated prior to installing telephones in these areas to rectify the defects in telephones;

(d) whether several officers have been found guilty in this regard;

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

(f) the action taken by the Government against those found guilty?

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

Funds for NGO of Karnataka

4758. SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from State Government of Karnataka for funding care and support programme by Non-Governmental Organisations for which the clearance of National AIDS Control Organisations is awaited;

(b) if so, the details regarding the amount sought for these non-governmental organizations;

(c) the reasons for the delay in releasing the amount; and

(d) the time by when it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) From April, 2001, the funding of Care & Support programme in high prevalence States has been decentralized and it is now being handled by the respective State AIDS Control Society. However financial assistance for setting up of Community Care Centres for people living with HIV/AIDS in low prevalence states is being provided to the NGOs directly by National AIDS Control Organisation.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Family Welfare Programmes

4759. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new approach has been adopted to implement the family welfare programmes;

(b) if so, the various components of this new approach;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for failure of the family planning/welfare programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to remove the demerits of the family planning/welfare programme for the purpose of making this programme more and more successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) In order to implement the National Family Welfare Programme in the country in a holistic manner, Government of India has adopted the National Population (NPP), in February, 2000. NPP lists certain socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010. These are :

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

between the management of Reproductive Tract Infection (RTI) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and the National AIDS Control Organisation.

- 11) Prevent and control communicable diseases.
- 12) Integrate Indian System of Medicines (ISM) in the provision of reproductive and child health services and in reaching out of households.
- 13) Promote vigorously the small family norm to achieve replacement levels to TFR.
- 14) Bring about convergence in implementation of related social sector programmes so that family welfare becomes a people centered programme.

(c) to (e) Government of India started a National Family Welfare Programme officially, in 1952 with the objective of reducing the birth rate to the extent necessary to stabilise the population at a level consistent with the requirement of the national economy. Approach to the Ninth Plan lists the following three factors for the current population growth rate :

- The large size of the population in the reproductive age-group (estimated contribution 60%).
- Higher fertility due to unmet needs for contraception (estimated contribution 20%).
- High wanted fertility due to prevailing high infant mortality (estimated contribution about 20%).

A large number of other factors also influence population growth rate. Some of these factors are women empowerment, women's status in the family, education particularly of women, infrastructure and communication facilities etc.

Since the year 1997 innumerable major steps have been initiated to remove the demerits of National Family Welfare Programme for the purpose of making the programme more and more successful :

- An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health that include Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues was launched since 1997.
- Reproductive and Child Health Programme combines fertility regulation, safe motherhood, child survival RTI/STI interventions. The Programme, launched on 10th October, 1997. The overall goals of the programme are to reduce maternal and infant mortality, morbidity and unwanted fertility and to contribute towards

stabilisation of population. The Programme aims to:

- Provide need-based, client-centered, demand-driven, high quality and integrated RCH services;
- Maximize coverage by improving accessibility especially for women, adolescents, socio-economically backward groups, tribals and slum-dwellers, with a view to promoting equity;
- Withdraw financial incentives to health providers with the objective of improving quality of care as the incentive for utilization of services;
- Introduce a package for essential Reproductive Health care that includes family planning, safe motherhood and child survival and management of RTI/STD services;
- Directly finance States through the Standing Committee for Voluntary Action (SCOVA) in order to minimize delays in implementation due to budgetary constraints;
- Involve NGOs and the private sector in the delivery of services: IEC/advocacy in the public sector; and
- Involve practitioners of the Indian System of Medicine (ISM) in the delivery of RCH services to improve access to services, especially in rural and tribal areas and to include ISM medicines under the programme.
- The RCH Programme has been extended to all the districts of the country and is currently in the 4th year of implementation. Besides implementing and strengthening the various activities/ interventions of the programme, efforts were made to provide quality services to all and basic services to those pockets which have been neglected so far, example tribal populations, urban slum dwellers, migrant and displaced population. Focused attention is being paid to the initiatives of Dai training: Border District Cluster Project, RCH Camps and RCH out reach services.

[English]

VRS in BSNL

4760. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of employees in BSNL;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to introduce VRS in BSNL; and
- (c) If so, the conditions laid down for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The total number of employees in BSNL is about 3.57 lakhs.

(b) There is no proposal to introduce VRS in BSNL at present.

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

Telecom Circles in Andhra Pradesh

4761. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telecom circles in Andhra Pradesh as on March 31, 2002;

(b) whether there is shortage of employees in these circles;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There is only one Telecom Circle in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is shortage of employees in some of the following cadres :

Sl. No.	Cadre	Sanctioned strength	Working strength	Shortage
1	JTOs.	3932	1575	2357
2	JAOs	448	423	25
3	TTAs	3215	1682	1533

The revised recruitment rules for the above cadres had been recently finalised.

(d) Recruitment action has already been initiated for filling up the above vacancies.

Telephone Connections in Tamil Nadu

4762. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of subscribers in waiting list for telephone connections in Tenkari region in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether any new telephone exchanges are being set up to clear the waiting list;
- (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 (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There is no waiting list for telephone in Tenkasi Region. Telephone connections are available on demand.

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

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

4763. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the private sector operators of basic telephone services have requested the Government to make available to them the infrastructure available with the BSNL, for providing Village Public Telephone (VPT);
- (b) if so, the details of the other requests made by the private operators;
- (c) whether the Government are considering these demands; and
- (d) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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

(b) The private operators have requested for reduction in tariff for leased lines, sharing of infrastructure at concessional rate, handing over of traffic at other locations.

(c) and (d) BSNL has not agreed to such a request. However, the operators are free to enter into mutually agreed arrangements in respect of sharing of infrastructure.

Chances of Indo-Pak War

4764. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has said that the chances of a war between India and Pakistan now are the highest since 1971 and maintained that a conventional war between the two nations could escalate into a nuclear confrontation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the tension with Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, in a statement to the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on 06 February 2002, said that the attack on the Indian parliament on December 13 has resulted in "calls for military action against Pakistan, and subsequent mobilisation on both sides". He added that "the chance of war between these two nuclear-armed states is higher than at any point since 1971".

(c) Tension between India and Pakistan is the result of Pakistan's sponsorship of and support to cross-border terrorism in India and it can, therefore, be reduced through effective steps by Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism in India.

Commemorative Stamps on the Indian Farmer and Kargil war

4765. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to bring out commemorative stamps on "The Indian Farmer" and "Kargil War"; and
- (b) if so, the time by which these commemorative stamps are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to bring out a commemorative stamp on "Indian Farmer". A

proposal for issue of a commemorative stamp on "Kargil War" has been received. This will be placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee, as per prescribed procedure on the subject.

India's Public Relations War

4766. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India losing P.R. war to Pak" appearing in the Hindu dated January 18, 2002;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto? '

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The article in question offers a subjective view of India-Pakistan relations based on the correspondent's conversation with a few French journalists, whose views on the topic by no means typify overall French opinion.

(c) Suitable action is being taken by the Government to keep the French media informed and correct misperceptions. The Embassy of India in Paris has been proactive in this regard by disseminating information, holding press conferences, giving interviews, meeting and writing to the press, media personalities and opinion makers. This has led to a significant improvement in the image of India. The article under reference itself acknowledges the efforts being undertaken by the Government to keep the French media informed and also the fact that the Government of France understands the Indian position on the issue, and has express solidarity with India in the fight against terrorism.

Policy on Emergency Contraceptive

4767. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalized a policy recently to introduce an emergency contraception in Urban areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government have laid down certain guidelines/training course, etc. in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the orders of

the Drug Controller of India permitting the companies to produce and market the emergency contraception pills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Government of India has decided to introduce emergency contraception in the National Family Welfare Programme.

(b) Guidelines and training courses for Health Care Providers are under finalisation.

(c) Permission by Drug Controller General of India vide Order No.12-48/98-DC (Pt2) was accorded to following companies :

1. M/s V care Pharma Pvt. Limited, Rajkot.
2. M/s Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Gurgaon dated 6.9.2001
3. M/s German Remedies, Mumbai dated 17.1.2002
4. M/s Hindustan Latex Limited, Belgaum dated 2.4.2002.

Amount for Rural Telephony Obligations

4768. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sought from the Planning Commission for meeting the rural telephony obligation for the year 2002-2003;

(b) the amount approved by the Planning Commission; and

(c) the manner in which resources would be met for the rural telephony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had prepared two plan proposals for 2002-03. One plan was for Rs.17,853 crores containing a sum of Rs.4,206 crores as compensation from Government besides full reimbursement of License Fee, Spectrum Charges and relaxations in the payment of dividends and servicing of Govt. loan etc. towards Rural telephony. An alternate plan for Rs.14,076 crores, based on the above mentioned reimbursement/relaxations and containing Rs.1 crores as compensation from Government towards rural telephony was also prepared. Planning Commission has approved the alternate plan with reduced outlay.

(b) Rs.1 crore

(c) Rural telephones shall be provided in the alternative plan, through internal generation, compensation as well as reimbursements/relaxations from Government, as mentioned above.

[Translation]

Deportation of Diplomatic Personnel

4769. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some officials of the Indian Embassy in Pakistan were recently asked to leave the country;

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

(c) the number of diplomatic personnel asked by India and Pakistan to leave the respective countries during the last three years and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two officials of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad were asked to leave the country in March and one in April 2002, on false and baseless allegations.

(c) During the year 1999, 2000, 2001, Pakistan expelled 8 staff members of the Indian High Commission on similar false and baseless allegations. India expelled 9 staff members of Pakistan High Commission during that period for being found to be indulging in activities incompatible with their official status.

[English]

Observation of London International Institute of Strategic Studies

4770. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the observation by the London International Institute of Strategic Studies that Myanmar is close to key shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean and China is helping Myanmar to pursue

its strategic interests to have a clear access to the Indian Ocean; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government constantly review all developments and take necessary measures to safeguard the nation's security. India is committed to developing friendly and good neighbourly relations with all its neighbours.

Ferry Service between Daman and Diu

4771. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the people in Daman and Diu due to the non-availability of ferry service between Daman and Diu Islands;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to introduce ferry service between Daman and Diu; and

(c) the time by which this ferry service is likely to become operational?

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

(b) and (c) The Administration of Daman and Diu has been exploring the possibilities of starting private ferry service between Daman and Diu since 1997. However, due to poor response from private parties, the service could not be started.

Expenditure Reforms Commission

4772. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Expenditure Reforms Commission has been set up to give recommendations for reducing the existing wasteful expenditure of his Ministry and departments under it;

(b) if so, the details of its composition;

(c) the details of recommendations made by this commission as on December 31, 2001;

(d) the details of those recommendations which are yet to be implemented alongwith reasons for not implementing them till date; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented in true spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No such commission has been set up in the Planning Commission.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

CAG Report on requirement of Flats

4773. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CAG in its report No.2 of 2002 (Civil) has brought out the injudicious and not based on accurate assessment of actual requirement of flats resulting into loss of heavy expenditure;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been enquired into and the officials found responsible for causing loss of money to the Government have been brought to book;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the status of the vacant residential units as on date; and

(e) the measures taken to put those units into proper use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, in pursuance of the decision of the Government to shift the Department of Lighthouses & Lightships from New Delhi to Noida, it was felt necessary to provide accommodation to each and every employee of the Department so that no staff is put to any hardship in the absence of availability of accommodation at Noida. Against the approved proposal of acquisition of 163 flats, only 154 flats on actual requirement basis were purchased. The Department did not anticipate any likelihood of any of the employees making their personal arrangements for residential accommodation in Delhi. Moreover, 10% cut in the sanctioned strength imposed by the Government in 1994 was not anticipated at the time of making the requisition for acquisition of the flats in the year 1991. Accordingly the assessment for actual requirement of flats was made as stated above.

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

(d) and (e) 58 residential units are vacant at present

which are proposed to be transferred to other Government organization, for which the action is in advanced stage.

RPO, Bangalore

4774. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the average number of applications being received by the Regional Passport Office, Bangalore, every month;

(b) the average time taken to process each application and issue the passport; and

(c) the number of applications for passport pending with the RPO, Bangalore as on February 28, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The average number of applications being received by the Regional Passport Office, Bangalore, every month is 11037.

(b) The average time taken to process each application and issue the passport is 42 days.

(c) The number of applications for passport pending with the RPO, Bangalore as on February 28, 2002 was 3037.

[Translation]

Deployment of Strategic Weapons

4775. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Russia are against the deployment of strategic weapons in space under the Nuclear Missile Defence Programme of USA;

(b) if so, whether any opposition to such system has been made by the two countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) In official communications received so far from the US, precise details about the proposed Missile Defence Programme are not spelt out. There is no official US position so far on deployment of strategic weapons in space.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Deemed Export Status to Telecom

4776. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association (TEMA) has submitted any memorandum to the Government with regard to granting them deemed export status;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have considered their demands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details are placed in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The proposal given by Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association (TEMA) was considered by the Government. In the new Export & Import Policy 2002-2007, Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) scheme has been modified to extend the following benefits :

- (i) Positive Net Foreign Exchange earning as a Percentage of Exports (NFEP) to be achieved in 5 years.
- (ii) No other export obligation for units in EHTP.
- (iii) Supplies in the domestic market of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-I) items having zero duty shall be eligible for counting of export obligation.

Statement

TEMA

Proposals for Union Budget 2002-2003

- 1 Deemed Export Status-Modified EHTP Scheme-Lowering Customs Duty on Inputs below duty on final product

Customs Duty on finished Telecom products, as a part of IT Sector, has been gradually reduced over the years without commensurate reduction in the duties on inputs/components/raw materials. The current basic rate on

all the finished Telecom products is 15% whereas input duties vary from 15% to 35%. The domestic manufacturing industry is suffering due to this anomaly. All telecom products will be under ZERO duty regime from 2003 as has been announced by the Govt. A calculation table showing disadvantage of 44.8% to the indigenous telecom supplier vis-a-vis imports in case of telecom cables as Table 'A' is attached.

To correct this situation, TEMA strongly suggests "Deemed Export Status" be accorded to the Domestic Telecom equipment manufacturing industry for supplies made to all the Licensed Operators including BSNL, MTNL etc. and Government Departments like; Defence, Railways, Space, Power Sector and GAIL etc. so that these important sectors can get the benefit of the indigenously produced Telecom products at international prices. This will also reduce the infrastructure development cost which will ensure the benefits going to the masses. Imported inputs would be available at Zero duty and local suppliers would in turn claim deemed export benefits. This percolation of Deemed Export benefit down the value chain shall ensure that the maximum possible value addition in the manufacturing activity is retained within the country. Granting this status would ensure manufacturing activity in the important area of IT & Telecom where the demand is exploding. Min. of Information Technology (MIT) has estimated hardware demand of USD 165 billion by the year 2008. If the domestic manufacturing industry does not exist the foreign exchange ramification due to imports need to be evaluated.

One of the simpler means of implementing the deemed export facility for Telecom Manufacturing Sector can be the existing EHTP scheme under EXIM policy, which needs only minor modification to provide a level playing field for the domestic industry. The Working Group on Information Technology for the 10th plan under MIT has already recommended that existing and new units in the IT and Telecom Equipment Industry be allowed to register themselves under the proposed "Information and Communication Technology Park" scheme ('ICTP scheme'). This shall be a modification of the existing EHTP scheme in the following respects :

- a) ICTP Units shall be allowed to sell 100% of their production into the DTA without any Export Obligation. This will provide for global scale flexible manufacturing both for domestic as well as export market in a duty free environment.
- b) Sales to DTA shall be allowed against payment of 50% customs duty and other domestic taxes. This

50% concession is expected to take care of the disability factors like interest, infrastructure etc. for the domestic industry.

- c) The ICTP units should also be allowed to function without physical control and clearance of the goods should be through self-certification only with the monthly/quarterly reports based on a format similar to that allowed under Appendix 16-H of the EXIM policy.

TEMA

Table 'A'

Telecom Imports Vs Indigenous

Comparative Calculation of Landed Cost

Domestic Telecom Cable	Budget 2000	Budget 2001
Inputs (Copper, PE, Jelly, Steel, Aluminium etc.)	100.00	100.00
Basic Custom Duty @ 35%	35.00	35.00
SBD @ 10%	3.50	00
CVD @ 16%	22.16	21.60
SADD @ 4%	6.43	6.26
	167.09	162.86
Less Modvat on CVD	22.16	21.60
	144.93	141.26
Add Excise Duty @ 16% on Final Product	23.19	22.60
	168.12	163.86
Add Central Sales Tax @ 12%	20.17	19.66
Total	188.29	183.52
Imported Telecom Cable	Budget 2000	Budget 2001
CIF Price	100.00	100.00
Add Custom Duty @ 20%	20.00	15.00
SBD	0.00	0.00
CVD @ 16%	19.20	18.40
	139.20	133.40
SADD (in lieu of CST) @ 4%	5.57	5.33
Total	144.77	138.73

Disadvantage to Local Industry : Budget 2000 - 43.5%

Budget 2001 - 44.8%

Thus, on input of Rs. 100, indigenous product has 44.8% disadvantage over imports.

As against CIF price of imported products of Rs.100/-, the inputs have also been assumed at Rs. 100/- although in the normal course domestic value addition of atleast Rs.10/- out of Rs.100/- should be considered. However, this value addition is what generates Income Tax, Corporate Tax, Wages & Salaries for the Indian workforce, local taxes like Octroi, House Tax collected by the State Agencies etc. It is therefore entirely reasonable to merge the domestic value addition into the input cost.

The effective rate of import duties on telecom cables under H.S. Code Nos. 8544.41, 8544.49 & 8544.51 are 15% basic custom duty as per SI.Nos. 307 & 308 of Custom Notification No. 17/2001-Customs dated 01-03-2001.

Financial Package to States

4777. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give special package for revival of financial position of the State Governments which have nearly reached a stage of bankruptcy;

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

(c) the impact of the special package implemented in the recent past, state-wise; and

(d) the details of action plan for the ailing states for the current year as well as for next two, three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) No Sir. There is no proposal to give special package for revival of financial position of the State Governments which have nearly reached a stage of bankruptcy. However, in pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC), Ministry of Finance has drawn up a scheme of Medium Term Fiscal Reform Plan (MFRP) which, Inter-alia, aims at restoration of the financial health of the State Governments.

Cooperation between Afghanistan and India in Agriculture Sector

4778. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Afghanistan has sought India's expertise in agriculture, seed processing, poultry, fishing and veterinary services, besides agricultural equipment and help in farm sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Government of India is committed to offer assistance in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. During the visit of H.E. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration, to India on 26-27 February 2002, the areas of Health, Education, Information Technology, Industrial Development, Public Transport and Training were identified for bilateral cooperation. In addition, government is also examining other proposals for assistance, including in the agricultural and farm sectors.

Indian Help for Preserving Heritage in Afghanistan

4779. SHRI B.V.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India propose to help Afghanistan to preserve its heritage structures and reconstruct museums; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Government of India is committed to offer reconstruction assistance to the Interim Administration of Afghanistan. During the visit of H.E. Hamid Karzai to India on 26-27 February, 2002 several areas of bilateral cooperation were identified, including in the field of preservation of heritage structures and museums.

Sanskrit IT Friendly

4780. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to take steps to make Sanskrit IT friendly;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to become computer friendly?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Sanskrit is already known to be IT friendly because of its well-structured rule-based grammar and phonetic accuracy. Computer scientists have used these features in learning formal language design features. Steps taken by Government to exploit these features of Sanskrit language in the field of Information Technology are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Projects related to Sanskrit under the Technology Development for Indian Languages (TDIL) programme

The following projects related to Sanskrit have been completed :

- Preparation of the Curriculum Guidelines and Course Material for introduction of Sanskrit Vyakaran, Nayaya, Mimamsa, and Nirukta to Linguists & Computer Scientists, at :
 - a) Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi.
 - b) Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati.
 - c) Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar.
- Computer Assisted Sanskrit Teaching/Learning Environment, at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi.
- Resource Centre for Computer Associated Sanskrit Teaching / Learning Programme for B.Ed Study, at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi.
- Exploring Information System in Sanskrit Shastra, at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi, U.P.
- Development of Corpora of Text of Indian language in machine readable form, for Sanskrit, at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi-U.P.
- Utilisation of Sanskrit in Computer based Semantic Processing (Kriya Research), at Academy of Sanskrit Research, Melkote.

- DESIKA, a Natural Language Understanding (NLU) System for Sanskrit has been developed by C-DAC, which extends the use of Computers to Natural Language Processing (NLP) of Sanskrit and also makes available computational Paninian Astadhyay (Grammar) for study.
- Feasibility study of initiating KUNDALINI (Knowledge, Understanding & Acquisition of Language, Inferencing and Interpretation) is being carried out at IIT Allahabad. The report is awaited by June 2002. This envisages development of knowledge frameworks based on different philosophies and e-content creation largely in Sanskrit.

**Funds for Basic Minimum
Services Programme**

4781. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total budget allocated and expenditure incurred under Basic Minimum Services in the country, during the Ninth Plan period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the performance of the project indicating both

physical and financial achievements, State-wise/year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Basic Minimum Services(BMS) Programme was launched during 1996- 97. BMS was implemented for four years. A statement indicating the amount allocated and released as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States under the Basic Minimum Services(BMS) Programme from 1996-97 to 1999-2000 is enclosed. The funds released under the BMS has been utilised by the State Governments.

ACA for BMS was released by the Centre to complement the resources of the State Governments allocated for the seven social sectors of the BMS. Hence the ACA funds for BMS formed only a part of the total allocation for the BMS made by the States in their Annual Plan. Therefore, there were no separate physical monitoring of the ACA funds released for the BMS Programme.

Statement

*Allocation of Additional Central Assistance for the Basic Minimum Services Programme to the States/UTs for the year 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000**

(Rs. in crore)

A	None Special Category State	Addl. Central Assistance 1996-97	Addl. Central Assistance 1997-98	Addl. Central Assistance 1998-99	Addl. Central Assistance 1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	140.52	170.59	179.61	196.34
2	Bihar	225.67	364.07	383.32	419.04
3	Goa	1.55	1.55	3.63	3.63
4	Gujarat	52.58	72.58	76.42	113.54
5	Haryana	19.08	19.08	40.09	26.96
6	Karnataka	59.40	99.42	104.68	114.43
7	Kerala	69.64	78.69	102.85	110.57
8	Madhya Pradesh	144.09	210.00	236.10	265.34
9	Maharashtra	96.78	132.23	159.22	152.19

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Orissa	79.26	147.45	164.25	190.31
11	Punjab	25.59	35.59	36.94	40.37
12	Rajasthan	87.63	132.98	140.01	153.05
13	Tamil Nadu	82.36	119.80	141.13	137.88
14	Uttar Pradesh	317.33	456.84	500.99	575.81
15	West Bengal	150.00	203.57	214.33	234.30
	Sub Total	1551.48	2244.44	2483.57	2733.76
B	Spl. Category States				
1	Arunachal Pradesh	62.18	62.18	90.47	71.57
2	Assam	154.14	163.80	172.46	188.53
3	Himachal Pradesh	64.41	64.41	113.45	109.14
4	Jammu & Kashmir	156.52	156.52	164.80	180.15
5	Manipur	44.30	44.30	64.30	72.64
6	Meghalaya	37.03	37.03	38.99	63.62
7	Mizoram	36.87	36.87	49.96	51.43
8	Nagaland	37.53	37.53	49.51	67.19
9	Sikkim	25.65	25.65	47.25	49.76
10	Tripura	46.37	46.37	55.37	59.92
	Sub Total	665.00	674.66	846.56	913.95
C	Union Territories				
1	NCT of Delhi	9.00	14.20	14.95	16.34
2	Pondicherry	3.90	6.13	7.45	7.06
3	A & N Islands	8.00	13.19	17.17	15.19
4	Chandigarh	3.72	5.87	6.18	6.76
5	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.08	1.71	1.80	1.97
6	Lakshadweep	1.44	2.27	2.39	2.62
7	Daman & Diu	0.86	1.36	1.43	1.57
	Sub Total	28.00	44.73	51.37	51.51
	Grand Total	2244.48	2963.83	3381.50	3699.22

* ACA allocated was also released.

Enhancement of Funds under PMGY

4782. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to various States under Pradhan Mantry Gramodaya Yojana since its inception, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to the Union Government to release an amount of Rs.195 crore under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana to connect 175 Talukas through all weather roads for the year 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) was launched during the year 2000-01. A statement showing allocations of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States under PMGY for 2000-01 and 2001-02 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), an allocation of Rs.95 crore each was made for 2000 - 01 and 2001 - 02 to the State Government of Karnataka. As against this an amount of Rs.100.57 crore was released during 2000-01. State Government was to send proposals of twice the value of the allocation for approval by the Ministry of Rural Development. According road works of value of Rs.203.35 crore was cleared for the year 2001-02 against which Rs.108.37 crore was actually released for the year 2001-02.

Statement

Additional Central Assistance (ACA) allocations under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) during the Annual Plan 2000-01 and 2001-02.

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	States	Allocation	
		2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	14206.00	15911.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6817.00	6817.00

1	2	3	4
3	Assam	17957.00	20112.00
4	Bihar	21946.00	24579.00
5	Chhattisgarh	3140.00	3517.00
6	Goa	78.00	87.00
7	Gujarat	6479.00	7256.00
8	Haryana	1678.00	1879.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	7061.00	7908.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	17158.00	19217.00
11	Jharkhand	6779.00	7592.00
12	Karnataka	7513.00	8415.00
13	Kerala	6908.00	7737.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	8237.00	9225.00
15	Maharashtra	9913.00	11103.00
16	Manipur	4856.00	5439.00
17	Meghalaya	4059.00	4546.00
18	Mizoram	4041.00	5041.00
19	Nagaland	4113.00	4526.00
20	Orissa	9855.00	11038.00
21	Punjab	4040.00	4525.00
22	Rajasthan	9640.00	10797.00
23	Sikkim	2811.00	3798.00
24	Tamil Nadu	10479.00	11736.00
25	Tripura	5083.00	7084.00
26	Uttar Pradesh	33635.00	37671.00
27	Uttaranchal	1256.00	3907.00
28	West Bengal	16782.00	18796.00
Total		246520.00	280259.00

[Translation]

Hotline Telephone in Rural Areas of Rajasthan

4783. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government are aware that the hotline telephones installed in the rural areas of Rajasthan are not functioning properly;

(b) if so, the number of complaints to this effect received during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the redressal of these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, no hotline telephones have been installed in the rural areas of Rajasthan.

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

[English]

Medical Store Depot, Kolkata

4784. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government Medical Stores Depot, Kolkata has failed to come up to the aims and objectives with which it was set up as pointed out by the CAG in its Report No.2 of 2002 (Civil);

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

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) As per the procedure the Action Taken Notes (ATN) on the audit paras in the CAG Report, after being vetted by the Audit are sent to the Monitoring Cell of the Ministry of Finance. In the instant case the ATN has not been finalized so far.

Local Call Facilities between Kolkata and Siliguri

4785. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide local call facility between Kolkata and Siliguri;

(b) if so, the date from which it will be made effective; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

(c) Local call facility is provided within a Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) or between adjacent SDCA's or between SDCA's falling within 50 km. Kolkata and Siliguri fall in Kolkata and Siliguri SDCA respectively. The SDCAs are neither adjacent nor fall within 50 Kms; as such local call facility between them is not permissible as per policy.

[Translation]

Apollo Hospital

4786. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

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

(a) whether the Government had provided any concessions and facilities in setting up the Apollo Hospital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any provision for treatment of poor people in this hospital; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that as per the Memorandum of Understanding, the land was allotted on lease at a token payment of Re. 1/- per mensem only.

(c) and (d) As per the Memorandum of Understanding, the Apollo Hospital was to provide for 1/3rd of total beds as free beds for poor patients. However, there has been a definite shortfall in this regard and the issue is under deliberation in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in a Public Interest Litigation and the Government of NCT of Delhi is also one of the respondents in the same.

[English]

Release of Rebels by Myanmar

4787. SHRI J.S. BRAR :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Myanmar has released all the Manipur rebels, who were apprehended in November, 2001 following military interaction between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with Myanmar; and

(c) if so, the reasons put forward by Myanmar Government to release these rebels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Myanmar security forces in an operation in November 2001 in the Tamu area, reportedly apprehended a large number of Indian Insurgent Groups. It was learnt that a huge cache of arms, fake currency notes etc. were seized.

(b) and (c) India had requested through diplomatic channels that an Indian team be allowed to interrogate the insurgents who had been captured. We have been following up through the existing institutional mechanisms and through diplomatic channels.

Rules/Schemes to CGHS Beneficiaries

4788. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce new rules and schemes for the benefits of CGHS beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The Central Government Health Scheme was introduced as a welfare measure on 1.5.1954 to look after the medical needs of the Central Government employees, pensioners, and other specified categories along with their family members. Though

amendment of the rules governing the CGHS is an ongoing process which is based upon the suggestions of the beneficiaries and day-to-day administrative requirements, there is no proposal at present for introduction of new rule/scheme.

[Translation]

Children Covered under Pulse Polio Drive

4789. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of children covered under the pulse polio drive the last three years in the country, State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether the children have died due to the overdose of the pulse polio drops;

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

(d) whether the Government have made efforts to popularize the pulse polio programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government popularizes the Pulse Polio Programme through the press, radio, TV, folk and cultural programmes, field publicity, posters, banners, photo exhibitions, short films etc. and widespread involvement of Non-government organizations and local people.

Statement

Coverage under Pulse Polio Immunization for 1999-2002

(In Lakh)

Sl.No.	State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1	A&N Islands	1.60	0.89	0.77
2	Andhra Pradesh	408.88	212.52	212.29
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7.86	3.33	3.40

1	2	3	4	5
4	Assam	263.58	135.83	67.48
5	Bihar	1175.73	831.02	552.98
6	Chandigarh	4.44	2.14	2.39
7	Chhattisgarh*	0.00	0.00	64.55
8	D&N Haveli	1.21	0.65	0.66
9	Daman & Diu	0.70	0.36	0.37
10	Delhi	102.78	93.35	76.96
11	Goa	4.95	2.51	2.51
12	Gujarat	383.56	214.05	172.41
13	Haryana	135.21	108.63	74.69
14	Himachal Pradesh	27.14	13.58	13.86
15	Jammu & Kashmir	47.41	31.35	32.56
16	Jharkhand*	0.00	0.00	107.43
17	Karnataka	274.15	137.14	166.23
18	Kerala	114.88	58.23	58.38
19	Lakshadweep	0.13	0.13	0.13
20	Madhya Pradesh	776.61	372.75	204.00
21	Maharashtra	378.40	228.36	281.19
22	Manipur	11.78	6.02	6.63
23	Meghalaya	16.97	7.04	7.15
24	Mizoram	4.42	2.08	2.26
25	Nagaland	9.27	4.22	4.59
26	Orissa	266.73	137.97	93.85
27	Pondicherry	4.04	2.09	2.05
28	Punjab	137.81	107.69	72.34
29	Rajasthan	581.85	321.05	220.06
30	Sikkim	2.95	1.41	1.43
31	Tamil Nadu	284.32	146.00	148.49

1	2	3	4	5
32	Tripura	15.73	7.86	8.10
33	Uttar Pradesh	1877.77	1342.48	696.63
34	Uttaranchal*	0.00	0.00	352.80
35	West Bengal	535.07	345.89	276.58
Total		7857.92	4878.62	3988.22

* Newly states

[English]

Private Medical Colleges at Kerala

4790. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of applications submitted by Kerala for establishment of Private Medical Colleges in the State;

(b) the reasons for delay in issue of letter of intent to start this projects;

(c) whether MCI intentionally delayed the process for sanction of Medical Colleges in Kerala State; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The following proposals from Kerala are pending with the Govt. for clearance :

- (1) New Medical College at Tiruvalla by Pushpagiri Medical Society.
- (2) New Medical College at Kolencherry by Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church.
- (3) New Medical College at Kochi by Amrita Instt. of Medical Sciences.
- (4) New Medical College at Karakonam by South Kerala Medical Mission.
- (5) New Medical College at Thrissur by Imam Razi Muslim Educational Trust Palakad.

(b) to (d) Letter of Intent has already been given for establishment of new medical college at Kochi by Amrita Instt. of Medical Sciences. In case of medical colleges at Tiruvalla,

Kolencherry and Karakonam, the process for evaluation of Infra-structural facilities is under way by Medical Council of India. The clearance of these proposals will depend on the facilities available and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon. In case of new medical college at Thrissur the applicant has to furnish a clarification on availability of land for the proposed college.

Routing of Russian Defence Deals

4791. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Russian Deputy Prime Minister during his recent visit pressed India for routing of all Russian defence deals through its trading houses; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Anthrax Letters

4792. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

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

(a) the number of suspected anthrax letters received by the National Institute of Communicable Disease for testing during the last six months; and

(b) the results of the tests conducted thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) During the last six months 393 (Three hundred & ninety-three) suspected anthrax letters were received by National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi for testing.

(b) All the letters were found negative for anthrax.

Scheme for Expansion of Ports in Tamil Nadu

4793. DR. A. D. K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to

expand and modernise ports at Cuddalore and Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Cuddalore and Nagapattinam are minor ports in Tamil Nadu and as per the provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for expansion/development of minor ports lies with the State Government concerned who have administrative control on such ports.

US Help to Relatives of American Centre Attack Victims

4794. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Government has offered to help relatives of cops killed in American Centre attack in Kolkata; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Government is not aware of any such offer of help by the U.S. Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Birth/Death Rate

4795. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the birth and death rate in the country at present and its trend during last three years, Year-wise; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to control the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) As per Sample Registration System, the estimates of Crude Birth Rate (CBR) and Crude Death Rate (CDR) for the last three years are as under :-

	CBR	CDR
1998	26.5	9.0
1999	26.0	8.6
2000	25.8	8.5

(b) Since the year 1997, the following major steps have been taken for bringing down the birth rate :

- An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health that include Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception was taken up.
- Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization. Community involvement in administering family planning services is undertaken.
- For NPP 2000 has the objective of meeting the unmet needs of health infrastructure, health personnel and contraception and providing integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care to be achieved.
- An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister for focused attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services in the eight states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

[English]

Eradication of TB

4796. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :

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

- (a) whether any target date has been fixed to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB) from the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the position as on date State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Due to epidemiological situation pertaining to TB disease, it is not possible to fix any specific target date for its eradication. It is estimated that, on an average, there is a case

load of about 220 TB patients per 1 lakh population in the country, out of which about 135 patients per lakh population are expected to report to the Government sector, for treatment. To achieve a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented in the country in a phased manner. About 460 million population have been covered in about 220 districts of country. It is envisaged to cover 800 million population by 2004 and entire country by 2005.

Garuda Cellular Phone Service

4797. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) the capacity of the telephone exchange installed by MTNL for Garuda Telephone service based on CDMA technique in National Capital Territory of Delhi at present;

(b) whether MTNL's cellular phone service 'Garuda' have been found to be unsuccessful as reported in the Hindu dated March 28, 2002;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the private cellular phone companies are providing much better and economical services than MTNL;

(e) if so the facts thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the MTNL to improve the services by adopting latest technologies in its cellular phone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The total installed capacity for Garuda Telephone Service on CDMA technology in National Capital Territory is 20,000 lines.

(b) No, Sir. MTNL has received very good response on Garuda service.

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

(f) MTNL's cellular phone service uses GSM Technology under brand name Dolphin which is at par with the best technology available.

[Translation]

Closure of Small Scale Industries in Jharkhand

4798. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether several small scale industries have closed down in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard alongwith the extent to which the Government have achieved success in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with RBI, there were 26293, 26909 and 16423 sick units by the end of March 1999, March 2000 and March 2001 respectively in the erstwhile Bihar State, which includes the newly formed Jharkhand State.

(c) The Government is fully seized of the incidence of industrial sickness among SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick Units, which inter-alia include institutional mechanism in the form of State-level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs), Special Rehabilitation Cells

in banks and State Financial Institutions, and elaborate guidelines issued by the RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the then Chairman of Indian Bank's Association, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include inter-alia change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the banks for implementation. As per the RBI, 286 units in 1998-99, 40 units in 1999-2000 and 19 units in 2000-2001 were kept under nursing in the erstwhile Bihar State.

[English]

Telephone Connection in Orissa

4799. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether neither microwave stations have been set up nor cable connections are being done in a large part of the Orissa to cater to the public demand of telephone connections in the State;

(b) if so, whether despite of a large number of telephone consumers in waiting list for years not a single telephone exchanges or satellite stations are set up for years causing serious discontentment amongst the telephone consumers in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to open new exchanges in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) To cater to the public demand for telephone connections in the state of Orissa, the telecom facilities have been expanded in a big way during the last three years. The details of the same and the status as on 3.1.03.2002 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) BSNL has also introduced Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) service during the year 2001-2002 and the same is planned to be expanded in a big way during the current year. Introduction of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service has also been planned during this year which is likely to cover all the district headquarters of Orissa. In addition New Exchanges are also planned to be opened to clear the waiting list.

Statement

Telecom Facility Expanded during the last three years and status as on 31.03.2002

Year	DELs (Wired Lines)	DELs (WLL)	Switching Capacity (Wired Lines)	Switching Capacity (WLL)	New Exchange	Microwave (Route K.m.)	Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) (Route Km.)
1999-00	89036	0	133240	0	56	907	3028
2000-01	103107	0	131950	0	131	317	1517
2001-02	114810	12210	140843	48000	74	140	1921
Total during last 3 years	306953	12210	406033	48000	261	1364	6466
Status as on 31.3.2002	641226	12210	798854	48000	1063	4248	11682

Note : There are 15 Satellite stations working in the State as on 31.3.2002 out of which one 2 MB Intermediate Data Range (IDR) link is working between Bhubaneswar to New Delhi.

Upgradation of Consulate

4800. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates of India in different countries and the total amount of expenditure incurred on these diplomatic agencies in different countries during the year 2001 - 2002;

(b) whether there is any proposal to upgrade any Consulate to Embassy or High Commission during the year 2002-2003; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The total number of Indian Missions/Posts including Embassies/ High Commissions/Consulate Generals and special Missions functioning abroad as on date is 158 and the total expenditure on India's Missions/Posts abroad, in the Financial Year 2001-2002 is Rs. 730 crores as per Revised Estimate (RE).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Response to POTA

4801. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the manner in which the international community including the UN has reacted to the Prevention of Terrorist Act (POTA) passed by Parliament recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : India has expectedly received strong international support for the diplomatic, legal and other measures that it has taken to defeat cross-border terrorism once and for all. The widespread international consensus today is that there is no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists.

[Translation]

Israeli Attacks on Palestine

4802. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Israel has recently launched major attacks on Palestine; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Israeli Defence Forces have launched incursions into Palestinian controlled towns and villages in West Bank and Gaza. Government are deeply concerned at the recent escalation in violence and tension in the region and have called for immediate end to Israeli incursions and also end to the cycle of terror, violence, incitement and provocation.

[English]

Funds for Mother Port

4803. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds allocated to develop port in Chennai a Hub-port or Mother Port;

(b) the details of various development works and infrastructure build-up in this regard;

(c) the quantum of money proposed to be invested for this purpose during 2002-2003 and the role of private and foreign companies in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Chennai Port on the East Coast has been identified for development as container hub port. To achieve this, the existing container terminal of 600 mtrs. length was handed over to a consortium of M/s. P&O Ports (Chennai Container Terminal Ltd.) on 30.11.2001 on a lease period of 30 years. Chennai Port has invested Rs. 36 crores on further expansion of the Chennai Container Terminal by 290 mtrs. and on a Container Freight Station. These works after completion will be handed over to Chennai Container Terminal Ltd. Chennai Container Ltd. has committed to an investment of US\$ 100 million within a period of 5 years on creation of infrastructure like state-of-the-art equipments like Gantry cranes and on civil structures.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal of Chennai Port Trust to invest any money afresh during the year 2002-03 as the container terminal has been leased out, except completing the on going work at an approximate cost of Rs.4 crores which is already included in the contract. As per the Licence Agreement, M/s. Chennai Container Terminal Ltd. will have to bring the mainline vessels and achieve atleast 20% of the containers as Non-transshipment cargo within a period of three years.

[Translation]

Net Telephone Services

4804. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to

permit the Internet Service companies to introduce Net Telephone service;

(b) whether there is any proposal to charge fresh licence fee from them for introducing the said new service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir; however, the Telecom Authority reserves the right to review and impose licence fees anytime during the validity of the licence.

Satellite Money Order in Bihar

4805. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of towns/cities in Bihar where the facilities of satellite money order are available;

(b) whether these facilities are proposed to be extended in other Post Offices of the State during the year 2002-2003; and

(c) if so, the details of proposals under consideration in this connection, Location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Satellite money order service is available in the following nine town/ cities in Bihar :

1. Patna 2. Chapra 3. Motihari 4. Sasaram 5. Darbhanga 6. Muzaffarpur 7. Gaya 8. Purnea 9. Bhagalpur

(b) and (c) Extension of these facilities to other post offices will depend on the proposed up-gradation of some of the VSATs (Very Small Aperture Terminals) and consequent relocation of existing systems.

[English]

Establishment of Environment Research Cell

4806. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish any Environmental Research Cell in the Ministry as a nodal agency to oversee and monitor the progress achieved on co-relation between air pollution and serious ailments which are on the increase; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such a cell likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The work related to Environmental Research is being carried out by Indian Council for Medical Research, New Delhi under this Ministry. However, the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment & Forests has set up an Environmental Health Cell (EHC) on 17th July, 2001 which is the focal point for all the matter relating to environmental health and epidemiological studies.

[Translation]

Assistance to PGI Chandigarh

4807. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of assistance provided by the Union Government to the PGI, Chandigarh during the last three years and current year;

(b) the number of patients registered for treatment in this institute during the above period;

(c) the details in regard to indoor and outdoor patients separately; and

(d) the number of patients out of the above who died during treatment and before providing treatment during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The grants-in-aid provided to PGIMER, Chandigarh during the last three years and the budget estimate for 2002-03 are as under :

Year	Non-Plan (Rs. in lakhs)	Plan (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1999-2000	9606	2500
2000-2001	9120	2200

1	2	3
2001-02	9464	2900
2002-03 (RE)	9450	2500

(b) The number of patients registered for treatment at PGIMER, Chandigarh during the year 1999, 2000 and 2001 is as under :

Year	OPD	Emergency	Total
1999	846403	32149	878552
2000	870234	34543	904777
2001	932783	34562	967345

(c) The number of indoor and outdoor patients during 1999, 2000 and 2001 at PGIMER, Chandigarh is as under :

Year	Indoor Patients	Outdoor Patients
1999	39503	878552
2000	41838	904777
2001	41412	967345

(d) The number of patients died during the year 1999, 2000 and 2001 at PGIMER, Chandigarh are as under :

Year	No. of deaths
1999	2332
2000	2475
2001	2441

All these patients were provided treatment at the Hospital before their deaths.

[English]

Norms for Opening Telephone Exchange in Rural Areas

4808. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

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

(a) the norms laid down for opening Telephone Exchanges in rural areas;

(b) the number of Telephone Exchanges opened in Bongaigaon Telecom District under Assam circle since 1999 till date;

(c) the details thereof, area-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the proposals pending for opening of new telephone exchanges in rural areas and the steps taken thereto projecting the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Minimum registered demand of 10 is required for opening of a new telephone exchange in rural areas. However, the norms are under revision.

(b) and (c) 15 new Telephone Exchanges have been opened in Bongaigaon Telecom District since 1999 as per details in enclosed statement-I.

(d) 10 new telephone exchanges are planned to be opened in rural areas of Bongaigaon district during 2002-2003 subject to availability of rented building and power supply connection. Details are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Telephone Exchanges Opened in Rural Areas of Bongaigaon Telecom District during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

Year	New Telephone Exchange opened in rural areas
1	2
1999-2000	1. Bhowraguri
	2. Agai
	3. Mosalpur
	4. Mornoi
	5. Rangjuli
2000-2001	1. Nityananda
	2. Bhella
	3. Alamganj

1	2
	4. Simlabazar
	5. Kumarikata
	6. Borbari
	7. Khandakarpara
	8. Gograpar
2001-2002	1. Satrasal
	2. Rampur

Statement-II

Telephone Exchanges Planned to be set up during 2002-2003 in Bongaigaon District

1.	Barobazar
2.	Srirampur
3.	Saderi
4.	Damra
5.	Balagaon
6.	Jallah
7.	Kayakuchi
8.	Goalpara (Nalbari District)
9.	Dolgoma
10.	Kachugaon

Telephone Exchange in Rural Areas of Maharashtra

4809. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Maharashtra at present and proposed to be set up during the current financial year, district-wise;

(b) the number of villages in the State where telephone facility is available at present and proposed to be provided during 2002-2003;

(c) the time by which this said facility is likely to be provided in remaining villages;

(d) whether there are inadequate telephone and telecommunication facilities in rural areas of the State particularly in Kolhapur and Ichalkaranji; and

(e) if so, the reason therefor?

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

[Translation]

Introduction of Pre-Paid Credit and Debit Cards

4810. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI Y.V. RAO :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the postal department propose to introduce prepaid, credit and debit Cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) At present the Department of Posts has decided to only launch Prepaid cards. These cards would enable the cardholders to make Cashless transactions at merchant establishments across the country and withdraw cash at identified ATMs and post offices. The Pre-paid Cards will be introduced during the current financial year subject to finalisation of operational and commercial parameters.

Wasteful Expenditure

4811. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has identified such areas in its subordinate departments wherein huge wasteful expenditure is reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of wasteful expenditure reckoned during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the wasteful expenditure, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are no such areas.

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

[English]

Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu

4812. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu connected with telephone connections alongwith FAX and STD/ISD facilities as on March 31, 2002, district-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide the said facilities in all the Gram Panchayats of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 126 Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu have been provided with STD facilities. None of the Gram Panchayat is having FAX or STD facility as on 31.3.2002. District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The said facilities are being provided at the request of franchisees/subscribers.

Statement

District-wise details of Gram Panchayats with STD Facilities in Tamil Nadu

Name of District	Number of Gram Panchayats
1	2
Ariyalur	14

1	2
Coimbatore	1
Cuddalore	0
Dharampuri	15
Dindigul	2
Erode	5
Kancheepuram	0
Kanyakumari	0
Karur	0
Madurai	0
Nagapattinam	0
Namakkal	0
Perambalur	2
Pudukottai	2
Ramanathapuram	0
Salem	0
Sivaganga	0
Thanjavur	35
Nilgiris	1
Theni	0
Thiruvavur	0
Thirunelveli	16
Thiruvannamalai	12
Thiruvellore	0
Trichy	9
Tuticorin	0
Vellore	4
Villupuram	8
Virudhunagar	0
Total	126

*[Translation]***Opening of Post Office in each Gram Panchayat**

4813. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a post office in every Gram Panchayat in the country; .

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

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats in the country in which post offices have been opened at present,

(d) the number of Gram Panchayats in which post offices are yet to be opened; and

(e) the time by which the same are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Expansion of Postal Network is taken up as a Plan activity which depends upon availability of requisite resources and fulfilment of prescribed norms.

(c) 115247 Gram Panchayat villages have been provided with post offices as on 31.3.2001.

(d) and (e) 118992 Gram Panchayat villages were without a Post Office as on 31.3.2001. However, the postal facilities of collection and delivery of mails and sale of stamps & stationary are provided to all the villages in the country including Gram Panchayat villages. Opening of Post Offices in these Gram Panchayat villages is subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

*[English]***Setting up of a Civil Service Commission Board**

4814. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to set up a Civil Service Commission Board is under consideration of the Government for effective transfer policy of senior officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Indo-Myanmar Ties

4815. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has signed any Memorandum of Understanding with Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above MoU is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) India and Myanmar have signed six MoUs pertaining to various subjects so far.

(b) The details regarding the MoUs signed between India and Myanmar are as follows :

- (i) MoU on Cooperation between Civilian Border Authorities of India & Myanmar (signed on 21.01.1994)
- (ii) MoU on Cooperation in the Development of Roads in Myanmar along the Myanmar-India Border. (signed on 19.03.1997)
- (iii) MoU on Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors (signed on 25.04.1998)
- (iv) MoU on Banking Arrangements between the United Bank of India (UBI) and the Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) (signed on 11th April, 2000)
- (v) MoU on maintenance of Tamu-Kalemyo road, between the Government of India and the Government of the Union of Myanmar (signed on 25th May, 2001)
- (vi) MoU on the electrification of the village Yammyoang in Myanmar through Solar Energy (signed on 22nd Feb., 2002)

(c) The MoUs entered into force from the date of their signing.

Cellular Services

4816. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT :

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited propose to start mobile telephone service in certain districts of Maharashtra and Jharkhand in near future;

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

(c) the time by which this service is likely to be launched?

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

(b) The place-wise details in Maharashtra and Jharkhand state are as per enclosed statement-I and II.

(c) The service is likely to be launched in the 3rd Quarter of the current financial year.

Statement-I

Name of the places planned to be covered in Maharashtra State

S.No.	Name of the Places
1	2
1.	Ahmednagar
2.	Shrirampur
3.	Kopargaon
4.	Sangamner
5.	Rahuri
6.	Srigonda
7.	Akola
8.	Washim
9.	Amravati

1	2	1	2	1	2
10.	Achalpur	38.	Jaina	66.	Nanded
11.	Warud	39.	Ambed	67.	Degloor
12.	Aurangabad	40.	Ulhasnagar	68.	Nasik
13.	Sillod	41.	Murbad	69.	Manmad
14.	Vaijapur	42.	Virar	70.	Lasalgaon
15.	Kultabad	43.	Vasai	71.	Pimpalgaon
16.	Paithan	44.	Bhiwandi	72.	Ozar
17.	Beed	45.	Dhahanu	73.	Igatpuri
18.	Ambejogai	46.	Tarapur	74.	Osmanabad
19.	Parli	47.	Palghar	75.	Tuljapur
20.	Bhandara	48.	Ambernath	76.	Parbhani
21.	Gondia	49.	Kulgaon	77.	Hingoli
22.	Tumsar	50.	Wada	78.	Shelu
23.	Buldana	51.	Sahapur	79.	Pune
24.	Khamgaon	52.	Mokhada	80.	Talegaon
25.	Malkapur	53.	Jawahar	81.	Lonavala
26.	Chandrapur	54.	Talasari	82.	Dehuroad
27.	Ballarpur	55.	Kolhapur	83.	Chakan
28.	Dhule	56.	Ichalkaranji	84.	Koregaon-MIDC
29.	Nandurbar	57.	Jaisingpur	85.	Koregaon-BHIMA
30.	Shirpur	58.	Gadhigla	86.	Saswad
31.	Gadchiroli	59.	Bhudargad	87.	Urlikanjan
32.	Desaiganj	60.	Latur	88.	Manchar
33.	Jalgaon	61.	Udgidr	89.	Walchand Nagar
34.	Bhusawal	62.	Ahmedpur	90.	Baramati
35.	Chalisgaon	63.	Nagpur	91.	Alibag
36.	Amalner	64.	Umred	92.	Khopoli
37.	Erandol	65.	Butibori	93.	Pen

1	2	1	2	1	2
94.	Roha	104.	Satara	114.	Pandharpur
95.	Mahad	105.	Karad	115.	Barsi
96.	Ratnagiri	106.	Vai	116.	Wardha
97.	Chiplun	107.	Phaltan	117.	Hingaghat
98.	Rajapur	108.	Mahabaleshwar	118.	Arvi
99.	Sangli	109.	Sawantwadi	119.	Yeotmal
100.	Miraj	110.	Kankawli	120.	Pusad
101.	Islampur	111.	Kudal	121.	Wani
102.	Vita	112.	Solapur	122.	Digrus
103.	Tasgaon	113.	Akluj	123.	Daund
				124.	Dondicha
				125.	Malegaon

Statement-II

Name of the Places planned to be covered in Jharkhand State

[English]

Indo-Bangladesh Ties

4817. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details regarding Indo-Bangladesh relations following the installation of a new Government over there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : The Government of India has welcomed the formation of new Government in Bangladesh through democratic means. India values its ties with Bangladesh and the change in Government has not affected India's commitment towards working with Bangladesh for the progress and betterment of the people of the two countries and of the region as a whole.

High level exchanges and interaction have taken place after the formation of the new government in Bangladesh. Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and National Security Adviser visited Dhaka as special envoy of the Prime Minister in October 2001. Prime Minister of Bangladesh called on PM in Kathmandu on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit in January 2002. This high level interaction was followed by the visit of the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh to hold consultations outside the regular framework of Foreign Office consultations in February 2002.

The other major meetings that have taken place between India and Bangladesh are Talks to review and extend the Agreement and Protocol for the Kolkata-Dhaka bus service.

S.No.	Name of the Places
1.	Bokaro
2.	Chaibasa
3.	Chatra
4.	Daltonganj
5.	Deoghar
6.	Dhanbad
7.	Dumka
8.	Garhwa
9.	Giridih
10.	Godda
11.	Gumla
12.	Hazaribagh
13.	Kordama
14.	Lohardagga
15.	Pakur
16.	Sahebganj

Service is already functional in Ranchi and Jamshedpur.

the Director General-level talks between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles in March 2002 in Dhaka, the second meeting of the Joint Boundary Working Groups relating to implementation of the provisions of the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974 and the annual Trade Review Talks at the level of Commerce Secretaries in early April 2002 in Dhaka.

The Government has also taken up the issue of attacks on minorities and the presence of Indian insurgent outfits in Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has acknowledged our concern and has assured us that anti-Indian activities would not be allowed on its territory.

National Mental Health Policy

4818. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Mental Health Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features thereof;
- (c) the date by which the National Mental Health Policy is likely to be announced; and
- (d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) There is no separate Mental Health Policy at the present time. However, the strategy that is being followed for treating the mentally ill are :

- (1) Integration of Mental Health Care with primary care to promote early diagnosis and treatment at primary level.
- (2) Strengthening of tertiary care facilities.
- (3) Changing the nature of treatment from custodial to therapeutic; and
- (4) Reducing the length of stay of the patients in the hospitals and promoting the process of treatment through family support and in the community as a whole.

Trade Treaty with Nepal

4819. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Nepalese delegation, led by Nepalese Prime Minister, during its recent visit had expressed

unhappiness with recently renewed trade treaty with India; and

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Issues relating to the Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty were discussed during the recent visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister to India from March 20-25, 2002. The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction that the India-Nepal Trade Treaty had been renewed for a period of five years till March 5, 2007 with mutually agreed amendments to the Protocol to the Treaty without changing the basic framework of the Treaty. They expressed the hope that the new Treaty would pave the way for increased bilateral trade and encourage the pace and process of industrialisation in Nepal. The Nepalese side requested that various taxes and levies imposed prior to the renewal of the Trade Treaty may be reviewed.

Reducing of MTNL Work Force

4820. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

- (a) the total number of employees in MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai;
- (b) the total number of employees in class C and D grades;
- (c) whether the Government are considering to reduce this work force;
- (d) if so, the different spheres which are likely to be affected as a result thereof; and
- (e) the details of any plans worked out by MTNL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Total no. of employees as on 31.12.2001 is 59021.

- (b) Total no. of employees in class C and D grades as on 31.12.2001 is 52040.
- (c) There is no such proposal under consideration for the present.

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

[Translation]

[Translation]

Extradition Treaty with Thailand

4821. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the stage at which the negotiation for finalisation of extradition treaty with Thailand stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : India and Thailand have exchanged drafts of the proposed extradition treaty. The matter is at a preliminary stage.

[English]

Post Offices in Kutch

4822. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of post offices/ sub-post offices were destroyed / damaged in the earthquake in the district of Kutch;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) the number of such post offices/sub-post offices repaired/reconstructed and started normal functioning; and

(d) the time by which the remaining Post Offices/ sub post offices are likely to be repaired/reconstructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, 45 out of 67 Post Offices buildings—13 departmental and 32 rented buildings—were damaged in the earthquake in the district of Kutch.

(c) and (d) Repair work of departmental buildings was taken up in a phased manner. Till date, out of 13 departmental buildings, 10 buildings have been repaired completely and one is under repair. Pre-fabricated structures have been provided for the remaining 2 Post Office buildings. Repairs to the rented buildings are to be undertaken by landlords. However, the department has provided pre-fabricated structures in respect of 8 badly damaged rented buildings. Normal postal services have been restored in the earthquake affected Kutch district.

Irregularities in Immunology Department of AIIMS

4823. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the C.B.I. has seized documents showing bungling of funds in the immunology department of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of officers found involved in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)/Anti- Corruption Branch (ACB), Delhi conducted a surprise check in H.L.A. Laboratory, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi on 03.01.2002 in order to verify an information that the testing charges collected from the patients were not being properly accounted/remitted by the H.L.A. Laboratory, AIIMS, New Delhi to the cash/accounts department. The CBI/ACB Delhi has registered a case against Dr. N.K. Mehra, Head of the Department of Immunology and Immunogenetics Department, AIIMS, New Delhi and other staff members of H.L.A. Laboratory.

[English]

Indo-Pak Ties

4824. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Minister of Information & Broadcasting to Islamabad in connection with the SAARC meeting of Information Ministers, Pakistan had indicated its intention to enter into an Extradition Treaty with India for exchange of fugitives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Pak-authorities have also expressed their desire for talks with India on various bilateral issues; and

(d) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Pakistan has not made any formal proposal to India for an extradition treaty.

In comments to the media, in early March, the Pakistan Foreign Minister suggested that the conclusion of an Extradition Treaty between India and Pakistan could be explored when dialogue between the two countries resumes, and that in such a context Pakistan could consider the question of 20 fugitives from law being sought by India.

However, during the visit to India of Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, in July 2001, Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, had specifically proposed to the latter the conclusion of an Extradition Treaty between India and Pakistan. The President of Pakistan turned down the suggestion arguing that such a Treaty was possible only after the normalization of relations between the two countries. It is quite clear that the recent suggestions from Pakistan for an extradition treaty are only meant for propaganda purposes and to delay action on the 20 fugitives from law.

(c) and (d) Pakistani leaders have been calling for a resumption of dialogue with India, even while Pakistan continues to sponsor cross border terrorism in India and its leaders justify continued terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir.

India has always desired the establishment of good neighbourly ties with Pakistan, and for this purpose is committed to resuming the Composite Dialogue initiated by us in 1998. It is for Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism and take urgent action on the list of 20 fugitives from law, so that appropriate conditions for a meaningful dialogue process are created.

[Translation]

Non-availability of Medicines in Hospitals

4825. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-availability and short supply of medicines in medical stores of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital as prescribed by the doctor causing a lot of inconvenience to the patients; and

(b) if so, the measures adopted by the Government to ensure adequate supply of prescribed medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) All the medicines included in the hospital formulary including the life saving medicines are always available in the Medical Store in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The medicines prescribed by the Doctors, which are not included in the hospital formulary are not stocked in the Medical Store. However, these medicines are made available to indoor poor patients on the recommendation of the treating specialists by local purchase.

[English]

Share of I.T. Companies in International Market

4826. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state .

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of Indian I.T. companies in the world market is just 1.6 percent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the share of Indian IT companies in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) India predominantly offers customized solutions, which constitute about 16% of the global demand.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to promote the IT industry are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote the Information Technology Sector

1. Export promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalized and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. 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. Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) Schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and

Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).

4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items in the Domestic Tariff Areas (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 and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes.
6. Accelerated depreciation norms extended to computers and computer peripherals to all units and capital goods of IT 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 for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 15%, tools/moulds/dies for electronics industry from 25% to 15% and on 46 items of raw materials for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 5%.

* Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals continues to be @ 15% and all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors continue at 0%. The concessional rate of customs duty @5% for specified raw materials for the electronics industry (121 items) continues. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @15%, parts of Telecom continue

@5%, parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular telephones continue at 0%.

10. The Central Excise duty structure was rationalized from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, in the Budget 2001-02, and continues.
11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
12. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.
13. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.
15. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act covers transmission of data.
16. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
17. IT Enabled Services are eligible for Income Tax benefit under Sections 10A, 10B and 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act.
18. DEPB rate will be same for a product whether exported as CBU or in CKD/SKD condition.
19. Threshold limit for obtaining 'Export House' status reduced to Rs.5 crores from Rs.15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/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.
20. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognized non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.

21. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognized schools run on a non-commercial basis by any organisation are exempted from customs duties.
22. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
23. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
24. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognized stock exchange in India.
25. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit was raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.
26. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
27. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
28. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.
29. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without a licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs.50 crores.
30. Indian Companies wishing to invest abroad may now invest upto US \$ 100 Million on an annual basis through automatic route without being subject to the three year profitability condition, up from existing limit of US\$ 50 million (Budget announcement 2002-03).
31. Indian Companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).
32. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
33. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.
34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single-shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.
35. Information Technology Act, 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Medical Grants Commission

4827. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have released grants to Government Medical Colleges in Karnataka, which are suffering due to paucity of funds;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to set up a Medical Grants Commission on the lines of University Grants Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) 'Health' being a State subject the Central Government have no regular scheme for providing financial assistance to State run medical colleges. However, a pilot project for providing financial assistance to the selected Government Medical Colleges for strengthening of Diagnostic facilities has been introduced. Under this scheme a proposal of Govt. of Karnataka was received for financial assistance to Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore. The proposal was not found as per the guidelines of the scheme and the State Govt. has been requested to submit the proposal as per the guidelines of the scheme.

(c) and (d) There was a proposal for establishment of Medical Grants Commission but in view of scarce resources, the proposal had been kept in abeyance.

Purchase of Oil Tanker by Andaman and Nicobar Administration

4828. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andaman and

Nicobar Administration has purchased the Dweepshakti Oil Tanker;

(b) if so, the cost thereof;

(c) the details of operating cost, indirect cost, management cost, fuel cost alongwith the revenue earned/loss suffered by this tanker during the last three years; and

(d) the quantity of oil carried and number of trips taken by this oil tanker so far?

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

(b) The cost of the vessel is Rs.1,10,46,000/-.

(c) The details of operating cost, indirect cost, management cost, fuel cost alongwith the revenue earned/loss suffered by this tanker during the last three years are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Direct Operating Cost (Fuel) Indirect Cost, Management Cost, Total Operating Cost, Revenue Realised & Loss since 1999 in respect of M.T. Dweepshakthi (Oil Tanker)

(Figures in Rupees)

Year	Direct Operating Expenses	Indirect Operating Expenses	Management Expenses	Total Expenses	Revenue	Excess of Expenditure	Excess of Revenue
1999-2000	162194	3713586	0	3875780	4334966		459186
2000-2001	1252132	3891830	0	5143962	2915775	2228187	
2001-2002	881969	3017217	0	3899186	4018279		119093

Reduction in Call Rate

4829. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BSNL has announced that it would reduce call rates for the internet users;

(b) if so, whether any order has been issued in this regard; and

(c) if not, the time by which it would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Indo-USA Ties

4830. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the benefits India can achieve through joint training and exchange programmes with United States, port facilities to US warship engaged in operations in Afghanistan, to joining the US sponsored "Community of Democracies"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : The joint training and exchange programmes with the United States is part of the process of strengthening mutually beneficial defence and security cooperation between India and the United States in pursuit of their shared goals of advancing peace, security and prosperity in Asia and beyond. Government supported the ongoing Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan against the Taliban and the Al Qaida, who have contributed to and supported terrorism directed against India. Government offered logistical support to the U.S. operations in accordance with existing guidelines for military assistance to friendly countries. As the largest democracy in the world, India's participation in the Community of Democracies as a member of the Convening Group is natural.

Dolphin Service

4831. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of subscribers for MTNL Cellular Service, Garuda, Dolphin at present;
- (b) whether any evaluation of these services have been made; and
- (c) if so, the details of funding thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of subscribers for MTNL Cellular Services, Garuda and Dolphin as on 31.3.2002 are as under :

	Delhi	Mumbai
Garuda	22,881	6,750
Dolphin	94,199	1,06,348

(b) and (c) Not yet, Sir.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

4832. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
YOGI ADITYA NATH :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

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

- (a) the number of villages targeted to be provided with telephone connections during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the number of villages provided with telephone connections during this period, State-wise;
- (c) the total amount spent by the Government thereon;
- (d) the number of villages in Maharashtra where telephone connections are yet to be provided; and
- (e) the time by which these villages are likely to be provided telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Original target for providing Village Public Telephone during the Ninth Five Year Plan was 239000 numbers. Revised target of 278866 numbers Village Public Telephone (VPT's) were fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan.

- (b) Information is being collected and will be supplied later on.
- (c) Rs. 652.66 crores have been spent by the Government for provision of the Village Public Telephone from 1997 to September 2000. The expenditure on Village Public Telephone from October 2000 to March 2002 is being collected and will be supplied later on.
- (d) 10926 nos. of villages in Maharashtra are yet to be provided with telephone connections.
- (e) By end of year 2002.

[English]

International Phone Service Throughout Internet

4833. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the government have introduced international phone service through Internet;
- (b) if so, whether it would be just like local calls from April, 2002; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) can offer Internet Telephony Service after taking permission for the same. This service can be availed by customers of ISP by use of Personal Computer (PC) or Internet Protocol (IP) based Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) connecting the following :

- (i) PC to PC within India or outside.
- (ii) PC within India to Telephone outside India.
- (iii) IP based H.323/Session Initiated Protocol (SIP) terminals connected directly to ISP nodes to similar terminals within India or outside.

As on date, the ISPs are free to fix the tariff for Internet Telephony Service.

Suggestion for Tenth Plan

4834. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have called for suggestions from the States and Union Territories for the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the States which have already given their suggestions and those States which are yet to give their report to the Planning Commission;

(c) the reasons for not giving their reports to the Government till date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) As soon as the Draft Approach to the Tenth Plan was finalised, States and Union Territories were requested to examine and send their suggestions. Taking into account the suggestions received, the final Draft Approach was then placed before the National Development Council meeting attended by Chief Ministers of

States and Governor and Lt. Governor of Union Territories held on 1st September 2001. Following discussions, the National Development Council approved the Approach to the Tenth Plan. The detailed Tenth Plan document is being prepared on the basis of this Approach, and will be again placed before the National Development Council for consideration prior to its approval.

Non-Utilisation of Amount on Development Scheme

4835. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat State Government has spent hardly even half the amount on development schemes/works as reported in the Indian Express dated December 12, 2001;

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

(c) the action the Government propose to take in the matter and to ensure that the money given to State Governments for development work is fully utilized by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The requisite information is awaited from the Government of Gujarat.

Agricultural Aid to Afghanistan

4836. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to assist Afghanistan for rebuilding its agricultural institutions;

(b) if so, the assistance proposed; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Government of India is committed to offer assistance in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. During the visit of H.E. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration, to India on 26-27 February 2002, many areas were identified for bilateral cooperation, including proposals for assistance in the field of agriculture which are being examined.

Grant-in-aid to Orissa

4837. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the grant-in-aid provided to the State Government of Orissa during the Ninth Five Year Plan and Tenth Five Year Plan till date;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the effect of the utilisation of the said amount;

(c) whether the amount provided by the Union Government is sufficient for the State Government of Orissa; and

(d) if not, the decision of the Government regarding providing special grant-in-aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Grants-in-Aid to any State Government are released based on the recommendations of the successive Finance Commissions. The Ninth Plan period (1997-2002) is covered by the awards given by the Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) as well as Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC). The recommendations of the successive Finance Commissions cover the Grants-in-Aid in respect of (i) Non-Plan Revenue Deficit Grant; (ii) Grants for Upgradation and Special Problems; (iii) Grants for Local Bodies; (iv) Grants from Incentive Fund; (v) Centre's Share of States' Calamity Relief Funds; and (vi) Assistance from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) / National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The total Grants-in-Aid recommended to the Government of Orissa by the TFC/EFC for the Ninth Plan period (1997-2002) was Rs. 1341.91 crore and releases made there-against were Rs. 2178.83 crore. The Tenth Plan period has commenced from 2002-03. The EFC has recommended total Grants-in-Aid of Rs. 527.90 crore to Orissa for 2002-03 of which Grants-in-Aid of Rs. 78.96 crore has been released till date.

Further, Central Assistance is provided to the State Governments for their Annual Plans based on the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula. In addition, Grants-in-Aid are also provided to State Governments, including Government of Orissa, by various Central Ministries for financing Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Funds for Buckingham Canal

4838. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for Inland Waterways in the Ninth Plan;

(b) whether the Buckingham Canal has been considered for repair- and revival for navigational and other facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to allocate funds for the desilting and repair of Buckingham Canal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) An amount of Rs. 308 crores was allocated for development of inland waterways during 9th Five Year Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Techno Economic feasibility study of integrated canal system between Kakina and Mercanum in Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu i.e. Kakina canal, Eluru canal, Commamur canal, North Buckingham canal and South Buckingham canal integrated with river Godavari from Cherla to Rajahmundry and Krishna river from Nagarjuna Sagar Dam to Vijayawada has been conducted by Inland Waterway Authority of India through M/s RITES. This study has shown that this integrated waterway system is viable for Inland Water Transport development.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

WLL Service in Madhya Pradesh

4839. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether WLL system service is proposed to be provided in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which consumers are likely to get the benefit of this system?

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

(b) WLL based on Cor-Dect Technology is already in operation at Jabalpur w.e.f. 12-2-2002.

Funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes

4840. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the funds allocated for various centrally sponsored health programmes are not being utilized properly;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for these programmes during last three years, year-wise and the amount actually

spent on these programmes;

(c) whether the funds allocated under budget provision have been deducted due to non-utilisation of funds;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the difference between expenditure capacity and budgetary allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Funds are utilized with due care as per set procedures and for the purpose for which they are approved. Allocations of funds and expenditure in respect of major National Health Programmes during 1999-2000 to 2001- 2002 are as under :

(Rs. In Crore)

		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-02	
		A.	Exp.	A.	Exp.	A.	Exp.
01	National Anti-Malaria Prog.	250.00	176.01	255.00	188.32	225.00	225.00
02	National Leprosy Eradication Prog.	85.00	82.05	74.00	73.86	75.00	70.73
03	National TB Control Prog.	105.00	87.54	125.00	108.75	136.00	103.50
04	National Programme for Control of Blindness	85.00	83.73	110.00	109.41	140.00	126.97
05	National AIDS Control Programme	140.00	135.25	145.00	173.30	210.00	229.00

*Estimate

(c) and (d) Budget Provision for different health programmes is made keeping in view various factors like past performance including utilisation of funds, the incidence of particular disease and the overall availability of plan outlays.

(e) Implementation of various health programmes is closely monitored through periodic reports and meetings, held both at the centre and in the States with a view to improve the absorptive capacity of funds.

[English]

Asian Security Conference

4841. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asian Security Conference was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the number of countries which participated in the conference;

(c) the main issues discussed in the meeting;

(d) whether any strategy was chalked out in regard to nuclear terrorism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The 4th Asian Security Conference was organised by the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi from 18-19 March 2002.

(b) Non-governmental experts from 20 countries, besides India, participated.

(c) The Conference discussed issues of global political and military challenges post- 11 September, regional political and military strategies, national strategic perspectives, global and regional economic challenges, and international and regional cooperation to combat terrorism.

(d) and (e) The subject of terrorism was discussed in a generic sense, but Conferences such as these are not designed to chalk out any specific strategies.

Extradition Treaty between India and Nepal

4842. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have negotiated with Nepal to update the 1953 Extradition Treaty between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to sign a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Nepal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) The existing Treaty of Extradition between India and Nepal was signed on October 2, 1953, and needs to be updated in the light of current international practices and the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, to which both India and Nepal are signatory. With this objective, the Government of India on June 22, 1999 handed over to His Majesty's Government of Nepal a model text of an updated Extradition Treaty. A draft Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters was also transmitted to His Majesty's Government of Nepal by Government of India on 22 June, 1999. These two drafts are presently under consideration of the Government of Nepal. The issue was discussed during the recent Home Secretary-level talks between India and Nepal, held in New Delhi from February 6-7, 2002, and both sides agreed to hold expert level discussions.

During the recent visit of the Nepalese Prime Minister to India from March 20-25, 2002, the two Prime Ministers reviewed the outcome of the Home Secretary-level talks and stressed the need for expeditious implementation of the decisions taken during that meeting, including an early conclusion of the Agreement for Mutual Legal Assistance and updating the Extradition Treaty.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

4843. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI SHASHI KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Bharat San char Nigam Limited is introducing a scheme by which new phones may be provided on making a telephone call in the Karnataka State;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the department is also making the efforts to make the services user-friendly and reduce paper work;

(e) if so, whether the department is also planning to introduce a new facility wherein the subscribers can use both internet and telephone simultaneously on a single telephone line; and

(f) if so, the total connections so far provided in the Karnataka under this scheme?

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

(b) and (c) To start with, the scheme for providing new telephones on making a telephone call has been introduced in the cities of Mysore and Hassan in April 2002. The scheme is going to be extended to other cities of Karnataka State after making the required infrastructure ready.

(d) Efforts are afoot to reduce paper work and make telecom services user friendly through computerization.

(e) and (f) The BSNL has planned to introduce Direct Internet Access Service (DIAS) which permits Internet as well as Telephone calls simultaneously on a single telephone line. A Pilot Project of 30 lines in Bangalore city has been completed for extension of services to the customers.

[Translation]

National Population Stabilization Funds

4844. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of programmes/ schemes proposed for the fulfilment of the objectives of the National Population Stabilization Fund alongwith the stage and medium through which they are to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : The aims and objectives of the National Population Stabilization Fund (NPSF) are the following :

- (a) to promote or undertake activities aimed to achieve population stabilization, at a level consistent with the needs of sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection, by the year 2045;
- (b) to promote and support schemes, programmes, projects and initiatives for meeting the unmet needs for contraception and reproductive and child health care;
- (c) to promote and support innovative ideas in the Government, private and voluntary sectors with a view to achieve the objectives of the National Population Policy 2000;
- (d) to facilitate the development of a vigorous peoples' movement in favour of the national effort for population stabilization;
- (e) to provide a window for canalizing contributions from individuals, trade organization and other legal entities within the country and outside, in furtherance of the national cause of population stabilization.

The formalities for setting up of the National Population Stabilization Fund are yet to be completed. The stage and medium through which the aims and objectives of the NPSF will be implemented can be decided as and when the (NPSF) becomes operational.

[English]

Blood Bank

4845. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

- (a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding the Blood Banks (Government and Non-Government) are functioning in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government are aware that the quality of blood being supplied by these blood banks are not found in

order particularly of private blood banks and charges are also high; and

- (d) the details of the norms fixed to the blood banks to maintain quality?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) All the blood banks including private blood banks are required to be licensed. Licence is issued/renewed only after requirements as stipulated under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, as amended from time to time, are met with. Apart from Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs)/Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the stipulations cover other aspects such as general location and surroundings, accommodation, personnel maintenance, equipment, supplies and reagents, etc. which have a bearing on quality maintenance. Also it is mandatory for the blood banks to test the blood for HIV I & II antibodies, Hbs Ag, Hepatitis C antibody, VDRL and Malaria parasite before issue.

Telephone Services by Private Companies in Delhi

4846. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the private companies have been permitted to start basic phone service in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the names of the companies allowed to start the basic phone service;
- (c) the conditions on which these companies have been allowed to operate this service; and
- (d) how for the revenue earning of the MTNL is to be affected as a result thereof?

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

(b) and (c) M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd., M/s Reliance Communications Ltd. and M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. have been granted licence to start basic phone service in Delhi after fulfilling the eligibility criteria, payment of entry fee, submission of Performance Bank Guarantee.

- (d) The competition in basic telephone service

sector will result in efficiency and better service to the consumers. In a fast changing technological scenario, with the introduction of new features and facilities by the various service operators including MTNL, it is not possible to quantify at this stage the effect on the revenues of MTNL.

[Translation]

Dolphin Service

4847. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumers of Dolphine Mobile Service of MTNL have to face protracted delay/ difficulties in getting the reimbursement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any time limit fixed for refunding the deposit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There have been some delays in settling the accounts of surrendered cell phones, primarily due to technical reasons.

(c) and (d) Although there is no prescribed time limit fixed for refund cases, all such requests are being processed on top priority.

[English]

Survey of AIDS

4848. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "NGOs trash Government claims on AIDS spread" appearing in the Times of India, dated March 15, 2002;

(b) if so, whether surveillance reports pertaining to Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar are either wrong or inadequate;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal for fresh survey basing estimates on the scientifically agreed sample strength of 400 centres to draw correct conclusions; and

(d) if so, the time by which more authentic figures are likely to be available?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Conclusions have been drawn based on adequate sample size in designated sentinel sites during HIV Sentinel Surveillance round 2001.

(d) Question does not arise.

Blood Bank/Red Cross Society

4849. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated units of blood being collected annually by the blood banks and Red Cross Society from the donors;

(b) the actual units of blood out of total collection is being used annually;

(c) whether the Government are aware that generally the blood banks and Red Cross Society refuse to supply the blood to the common and poor people; and

(d) if so, the action propose to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) During 2001, 29,97,459 units of blood are reported to have been collected by the blood banks including Red Cross Society. The same number of units of blood collected is used except a very small fraction of blood discarded due to reactivity to mandatory tests.

(c) and (d) No needy patient is refused blood subject to availability. Poor patients are issued with blood free of service charges by most of the government blood banks.

New Technique to improve safety of Blood

4850. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food and Drug Administration has recently developed a new technique to improve safety of donated blood;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the new technique would be helpful in reducing the chances of blood getting infected with HIV or the Hepatitis 'C' virus through a transfusion; and

(d) the estimated cost likely to be borne by the Government in adoption of this technique in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Food and Drug Administration is a regulatory authority in United States of America and is concerned with maintaining quality in food products and pharmaceuticals. It has not developed any new technique to improve safety of donated blood.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Impact of Liberalisation Policy

4851. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

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

(a) whether the liberalisation policy of the Government is comparatively less favourable to small rural industries sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of small and rural industries sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) While liberalisation has implied greater competition in the economy, promoting and safeguarding the interest of small and rural industries has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. Special trust is given to small and rural industries through schemes like the Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme, Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the National programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRI). In addition, a Comprehensive Policy Package has been announced on 30th August, 2000 to strengthen the small industries sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, which inter-

alia includes easier access to credit, availability to collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs and capital subsidy for technology upgradation.

[English]

Development of Inland Waterway Grid

4852. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government to develop Inland Waterway Grid connecting the entire State; and

(b) if so, the present position of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI-SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Company Accounting System of Ports

4853. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposals to introduce company accounting procedures at all the eleven major ports in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which it differs from the existing management accounting system;

(c) whether the Government also propose to take steps to expedite the corporatisation of all ports; and

(d) if so, the status of corporatisation of different ports in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A decision has been taken to corporatize the Major Ports in a phased manner. Ennore Port, the 12th Major Port has already been set up as a corporate entity. Corporatisation of other eleven Major Ports would involve converting them into companies under the Companies Act, 1956. To enable corporatisation of these Major Ports, the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 31.8.2001, which stands referred to the Department Related Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism for examination and report.

Medical Board for Disability Certificate

4854. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government propose to set up medical boards in each hospital for issuance of disability certificates to disabled persons under various Acts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) According to the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules, 1996 notified on 31.12.1996 by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and (2) of section 73 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, authorities to give medical certificates will be a medical board duly constituted by the Central and the State Government. The State Government may constitute a Medical Board consisting of at least three members out of which at least one shall be a specialist in the particular field for assessing locomotor/visual including low vision/hearing and speech disability mental retardation and leprosy cured, as the case may be.

In so far as Central Government are concerned such medical boards already exist in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital for issuing disability certificates.

US Investment in Telecom Sector

4855. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the US investment in telecom sector in India is likely to be double in the next two years;
- (b) if so, whether the products of at least 1,100 US manufactures and supplies of communication and information technology will be introduced during the current financial year in the county;
- (c) whether the US companies are eyeing wireless and broadband markets in India;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether India is also emerging as the second choice after China by US; and

(f) If so, the total investment US is likely to be made during the current financial year in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (f) Indian Telecom sector is one of the fastest growing infrastructure sector in the country recording over 22% annual growth in the last 5 years. Indian telecom network is second largest network among emerging economies (after China).

US Companies have made a significant investment in telecom sector, both directly and also through Mauritius based subsidiaries. Out of total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow of Rs. 8,591.33 crores from August 1991 to Feb 2002, in telecom sector, the direct investment from US Companies has been about Rs. 487.43 crores. FDI inflow from Mauritius Companies has been about Rs. 6,730.46 crores, wherein contribution of US based Companies has been quite significant. Such investment covers most of the sub-sectors of telecom including wireless and broadband.

The Government has not made any forecast of the investment that US companies will make in telecom sector in India during the current financial year. However, with the liberalization and opening up of the telecom sector particularly international long distance, national long distance, basic telephone, cellular mobile, and Internet telephony etc., the investment from US companies is likely to be substantial.

Security Related Ties with USA

4856. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the government have a proposal to establish security related ties with the United States of America; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) India and the United States are strengthening mutually beneficial defence cooperation in pursuit of the shared goal of advancing peace, security and prosperity in Asia and beyond. Besides discussing defence and security issues in regional and international contexts at the political levels, the two sides have revived the institutional framework of dialogue and cooperation in defence, covering international security environment, military-military exchanges, defence supplies and technical cooperation in defence production. The two sides are also engaged in consultations on the U.S. missile

defence programme and have agreed to commence a dialogue on politico-military affairs.

In addition, the two sides continue to expand and deepen their ongoing cooperation in combating terrorism through the institutional mechanism of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism.

[Translation]

Cellular Services in Jaipur

4857. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities provided to the existing and new subscribers by the B.S.N.L., Jaipur;

(b) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Jaipur has not been able to provide mobile service in the Jaipur city even after expiry of time limit announced by it;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether due to delay in providing city mobile service by BSNL, the private companies are getting benefit indirectly;

(e) if so, the time by which the BSNL is likely to provide mobile service in Jaipur;

(f) whether Tata's Tele services have any partnership in B.S.N.L; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Presently fixed lines services along with the host of value added services are being offered to the existing as well as new subscribers of Jaipur. Wireless in local loop is also available in fixed network. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has also planned to offer mobile services to its customers in the near future.

(b) to (d) There has been no delay so far in provisioning of mobile services by BSNL.

(e) The mobile services are likely to be available in the 3rd quarter of current financial year.

(f) and (g) No Sir.

[English]

Grants for AIDS Programme

4858. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations Foundation and the Netherlands have announced a grant of U.S. dollar 2.8 million each to the UNAIDS awareness programme against HIV/AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has cancelled its sponsorship of the classical music show on Doordarshan;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other options being considered by the Government to create awareness of AIDS in rural and urban areas?

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

(b) The Project CHARCA, which aims to address information needs of young people particularly young girls on HIV/AIDS will be implemented in six districts namely :

- Bellary (Karnataka)
- Guntur (Andhra Pradesh)
- Jaipur (Rajasthan)
- Aizwal (Mizoram)
- Kishanganj (Bihar)
- Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)

and the project period is for 3 years i.e. April, 2002 till March, 2005.

(c) and (d) The Programme has been discontinued. The Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor has been asked to look into the matter by the Hon'ble Health and Family Welfare Minister.

(e) Various programmes are in operation to increase the level of awareness about HIV/ AIDS among the people. These include :

- Family Health Awareness Campaigns in rural & urban slum areas.
- Mass Media campaigns through radio, television and print media.
- Targetted interventions programmes for high risk groups.

[Translation]

Reduction in Telephone Tariffs

4859. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) the types of the reductions in the telephone tariffs effected during March, 1999 to February 2002; and

(b) the percentage benefit accrued to various categories of telephone subscribers as a result of the above cut during the aforesaid period along with the reasons for lowering the telephone tariffs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The power of fixing tariffs for telecom services has been mandated to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under the TRAI, Act, 1997, as amended by TRAI (Amendment Act,2000). The TRAI initiated the process of tariff re-balancing for basic telephone services, and issued the Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) 1999 in March 1999. As a part of the tariff re-balancing exercise, in this order the domestic long distance (DLD) and International long distance (ILD) call charges were reduced by about 23%, effective from 1.5.99.

In the second phase of tariff re-balancing done by TRAI, vide the 9th Amendment to TTO 1999 effective from 1.10.2000 there was a further 13% reduction in DLD & ILD call charges. The third phase of tariff re-balancing vide TRAI's 20th Amendment to TTO '99, effective from 1st April, 2002, further lowered the tariffs for DLD & ILD call by about 12% and 20% respectively. Within the above reduced ceiling tariffs, the Service Providers including the Public Sector Undertakings are free to fix their own tariff. The percentage reduction in DLD/ILD charges indicated for each of the 3 phases of rebalancing has been passed on to all categories of subscribers using STD/ISD.

[English]

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal

4860. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges along with their respective capacity functioning at present in West Bengal, district-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set up new Telephone exchanges and expand the capacity of existing exchanges in this State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposed to introduce cellular phone services in all district Head Quarters of West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the time by which it will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to commission around 180 numbers of telephone exchanges including main and expansion, with capacity addition of approximately 3.23 lakh lines during the current financial year in West Bengal.

(d) and (e) Cellular phone service is already working for the entire area under the jurisdiction of Kolkata Telephone District. In remaining districts of West Bengal, first commissioning of cellular phone service is likely to commence from November, 2002.

Statement

District-wise number of Telephone Exchanges with their respective capacity functioning at present in West Bengal

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges	Total Capacity
1	2	3	4
1	Burdwan	173	224722
2	Murshidabad	90	81484

1	2	3	4
3	Bankura	65	49910
4	Howrah	28	19416
5	Hooghly	91	98704
6	24 Parganas (N)	60	64736
7	24 Parganas (S)	56	49464
8	Coochbehar	33	38304
9	Jalpaiguri	51	55088
10	Midnapur	164	144652
11	Nadia	74	87610
12	Malda	54	57476
13	Purulia	28	23452
14	Dinajpur (N)	45	47776
15	Dinajpur (S)	30	33476
16	Darjeeling	78	106456
17	Birbhum	83	57416
18	Calcutta	322	1470141

Visit of Kazakhstan President

4861. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of Kazakhstan visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed with him;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Kazakhstan's President advocated India's presence in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as reported in the 'Hindu' dated February 13, 2002; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes Sir, from 11 to 14 February 2002.

(b) Issues discussed during the visit of Kazakhstan President related to matters of bilateral interest, regional and international developments. Additionally issues concerning economic cooperation and the fight against terrorism were also discussed.

(c) A Joint Declaration was signed by the President of Kazakhstan and Prime Minister of India setting out the understanding reached on these matters.

(d) Yes Sir

(e) The India-Kazakhstan Joint Declaration signed by the President of Kazakhstan and the Prime Minister of India mentions the following on Shanghai Cooperation Organization :

"We have also noted the progress being made by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a regional organization. Kazakhstan expressed the belief that considering India's geographical proximity in the neighbourhood and its active participation on regional and global matters of cooperation, India's membership of SCO would add to the strength of that organization."

[Translation]

BSNL Rates

4862. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn regarding BSNL Not adhering to TRAI rates, as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated March 25, 2002;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government to check financial losses to the people on this account?

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

(b) The report of the 'Danik Jagran' is not correct to the extent that the Tariff of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

(BSNL) for long distance calls have been fixed in accordance with TRAI guidelines, and under due reporting to TRAI. The anomaly pointed out pertains to difference between intra circle & inter circle tariff for distance slab of 100-200 km during off peak hours. This anomaly continues due to dispute pending in TDSAT.

The present BSNL tariff for long distance calls is in any case lower than the tariff prescribed by TRAI.

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

[English]

International Maritime Organisations

4863. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has participated in International Maritime Organisations held recently to discuss maritime security and counter-terrorist issue;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decisions taken thereon;

(c) whether any changes have been suggested in existing regulation in the safety at sea convention (Solus);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

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

(b) The Intercessional meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee working group on maritime security reviewed the nature and procedures under the existing investments of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to prevent acts of terrorism and other unlawful acts against ships, passengers/crews on board ships, port personnel, ports and port facilities, with a view to ascertaining the need to update these instruments. Proposals on maritime security issues circulated by various countries including USA, France, Australia, Spain, Argentina etc. were discussed. The Working Group made various recommendations which are required to be deliberated further for a decision.

(c) and (d) The Working Group recommended modifications of the existing Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) to incorporate requirement for ship security officer, port security plans, port vulnerability assessment and Automatic Identification System (AIS) implementation schedule. Besides, it was also recommended that a new

regulation may be brought in SOLAS, in case it was not found possible to bring in the seafarers identity document requirement through a Protocol to ILO Convention 108.

(e) Indian delegation would participate in the discussions in various committees of IMO on these issues and project India's views taking into account India's security concerns and the interests of Indian seafarers.

National Family Welfare Programme

4864. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have failed to implement the National Family Welfare Programme effectively during the past few years in their States;

(b) if so, the details of these States and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of guidelines issued by the Union Government to State Governments for effective implementation of the programme; and

(d) the targets fixed for the programme and achievement made in the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) For the country as a whole the achievements under the "Family Welfare Programmes" have been quite substantial. Some States/UTs like Goa, Nagaland, Delhi, Kerala, Pondichery, A&N Islands, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh and Mizoram have already achieved goals set for the year 2010 and States/UTs like Manipur, Daman & Diu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Lakshadweep are close to achieving the goals. However, some States are lagging behind primarily on account of slow achievements of socio-economic indicators.

(c) The State Governments have been advised to formulate State Population Policy with state specific strategies while maintaining the general spirit of National Population Policy, 2000 and also to constitute State Population Commission under the chairmanship of Chief Minister of respective State to review, monitor and give directions for the implementation of the State Population Policy with a view to meeting the goals set out in the National Population Policy,

2000. The State Governments have also been advised to prepare firm and detailed action plan taking into account the ground realities and their area specific problems (region wise/ district wise) for effective implementation of family welfare programme

(d) There was a paradigm shift in the Family Welfare Programme after International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Cairo in 1994 when fixing of targets was abandoned. Instead the 'Target Free Approach (TFA)' was adopted since 1st April 1996 all over India and the system of decentralized participatory planning

was brought in place. TFA has been renamed as Community Needs Assessment Approach (CNAA) from 1997. Under this approach, planning of family welfare services are formulated in consultation with the community at the grass root level. Under this approach, monitoring and evaluation of the performance required a fresh look with a view to ensuring quality of care at different levels of the primary health care system. The manual on CNAA on Family Welfare Programme has already been circulated to all the States and UTs to provide guidance in formulation of decentralized planning. The physical achievements of Ninth Five Year Plan are enclosed as statement.

Statement

No.	Indicator	Goals Ninth Plan	Achievement
1.	Family Planning Indicators		
-	Crude Birth Rate	23	25.8 (2000)
-	Total Fertility Rate	2.6	2.97 (NFHS-2)
-	Couple Protection Rate	60%	48.2% (NFHS-2)
2.	Mortality Indicators		
-	Maternal Mortality Ratio	300	407 (SRS 1998)
-	Perinatal Mortality Rate		
-	Neo Natal Mortality Rate	35	43.4 (NFHS-2)
-	Infant Mortality Rate	56-50	68 (NFHS-2)
-	Under 5 Mortality Rate		94.9 (NFHS-2)
3.	Full Immunisation of Infants (six vaccine preventable diseases)	65%	56% (WHO/UNICEF 2000)
-	Measles		56%
-	DPT		64%
-	Polio		72%
-	BCG		73%
4.	Pregnant Mothers Receiving Ante-natal Care	95%	NFHS-II
-	% received at least 3 ANC		43.8
-	% received IFA for 3 or 4 months		47.5
-	% received 2TT vaccine		66.8
5.	Deliveries		
-	Institutional Deliveries	35%	34% (NFHS-2)
-	Deliveries by trained health personnel including trained birth attendants	45%	42.3% (-do-)

Foreign Training to IAS, IPS and IFS Officers

4865. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of IAS, IPS and IFS (Forest) Officers who took training abroad during the last three years, Year-wise; and

(b) the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Department of personnel & Training has been nominating officers belonging to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Central Secretariat Service (CSS), State Civil Services for various training programmes abroad. In addition, such officers belonging to the Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Forest Service (IFS) and various Group 'A' Central Civil Services, as have been holding posts in the Centre under Central Staffing Scheme, have also been nominated by the DoP&T for foreign training programmes.

In the past, till the year 1999, these officers had been deputed by this Department for training programmes abroad under various technical programmes such as Colombo Plan, Indo- Australia Training and Capacity Building Project, which had been fully funded by the foreign governments/donor agencies. However, due to withdrawal of sponsorship by Government of U.K., 26 officers were deputed with funding by Government of India (through Department of Personnel & Training) to three programmes in U.K during 2000-2001. A total amount of Rs. 2 crore, 86 lacs (approximately) has been incurred on the training of these 26 officers.

During the year 2001-2002, a total of 25 officers have been deputed to attend training programmes in U.K. and in Manila by funding of this Department. An amount of Rs. 2 crore, 63 lacs (approximately) has been incurred on the training of these 25 officers.

Telephone Facilities to Village Panchayats

4866. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) the number of Villages/Gram panchayats

proposed to be provided with telephone facilities in the country during 2002-2003, State-wise; and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose?

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

[Translation]

Internet Facility in Villages

4867. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to link all the villages of the country with internet;

(b) if so, the time by which it will be linked; and

(c) the allocation of funds made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) National Telecom Policy, 1999 (NTP-99) had envisaged internet access to all District Headquarters by the year 2000 which was also achieved. Subsequently, a scheme was taken up to provide Internet Dhabas (kiosks) to all Block Headquarters. Access to Internet facility has been provided in 5625 Block Headquarters (both Rural & Urban) in the country as on 28.02.2002 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). BSNL, through the scheme of Internet Dhabas set up through Franchisees, has provided Internet Dial-up connections to 3051 Internet Dhabas in both Rural and Urban Block Headquarters as of 28.2.2002.

Discontinuance or Merger of Health Schemes for Rural Areas

4868. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the Government have discontinued certain health schemes which were implemented in rural areas or have decided to merge them with other schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and average annual expenditure incurred on their implementation;

(c) the reasons for discontinuing these schemes or merging them with other schemes; and

(d) the details of other health care schemes being implemented in villages at present?

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

(b) and (c) Under the "Special Health Scheme for Rural Areas" financial assistance to a voluntary organisation was provided at the ratio of 40:40:20 of the project cost by the Central Govt., State Govt. and the voluntary organization respectively. However, this scheme has been discontinued from the financial year 2001-2002 on account of unwillingness of State Govts. to bear their share of financial assistance. During the financial year 2000-2001, an expenditure of Rs.5.56 lakhs was incurred in implementation of this scheme.

Financial assistance under the "Scheme for Improvement of Medical Services" was available to voluntary organizations which were running hospitals in rural areas or in urban areas but catering to urban slums only. This scheme has been discontinued from the financial year 2002-2003 on advice of the Planning Commission as voluntary organizations are getting assistance under various Disease Control Programmes. An expenditure of Rs.7.40 lakhs was incurred during the year 2001-2002 under this scheme.

(d) National Programmes for control of T.B., Blindness, Malaria, Leprosy, AIDS, Cancer etc. are being implemented throughout the country, including rural areas.

[English]

Visit of Pak Dignitaries

4869. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dignitaries from Pakistan who visited India during the last six months; and

(b) the purpose thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, paid a private visit to India, from 25-29 November 2001, on an invitation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

There have been no bilateral official visits from Pakistan since the Agra Summit level talks in July 2001.

Ports in Tamil Nadu

4870. DR. A. D. K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for setting up of ports at Kulaicchal in Kanyakumari and Valinokkam Pamban in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Hindustan Latex Limited

4871. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the installed capacity of Hindustan Latex Limited (HLL), product-wise;

(b) the details of commercial order given by the Ministry to HLL, for its different products during the year 2000 and 2001;

(c) whether it is a fact that HLL procure condoms from private manufacturers in order to execute its order given by the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The product-wise installed capacity of the Hindustan Latex Limited (HLL) is as under :

1. Condom	670 Million pcs.
2. Non-Steroidal OCP	30 Million Pcs. (Single shift)
3. Steroidal OCP	60 Million Cycles.
4. Shunt	5000 Pcs.
5. Copper- T	5.91 Million Pcs. (Single shift)
6. Blood Bag	2 Million Pcs.

(b) Commercial orders given by Govt. of India during 2000-2001 to HLL are as follows:

Condoms	621.50 Million Pcs.
OCP (Steroidal)	454.00 Lakh Cycles
Copper-T	0.96 Million Pcs.

(c) and (d) M/s. HLL does not normally procure condoms from outside. During the year 2000-01, condoms were not procured by HLL from outside source. However, in January 2002, M/s. HLL were allowed outsourcing of 120 million pieces of condoms. Against this M/s. HLL could procure 13.641 million pieces of condoms from domestic source.

Immuno Deficiency Virus

4872. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people who suffered from Human Immuno deficiency virus during the year 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(b) the details thereof State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to check the spreading of this disease; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) As per the analysis of HIV Sentinel Surveillance data 2000 and 2001, it is estimated that there are 3.86 million and 3.97 million HIV infections in the country respectively. As the estimation exercise is done for national estimates, the State-Wise figures are not available.

In order to prevent and control HIV/ AIDS, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consist of :

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target population and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counselling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.

- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

Extension of DFID Assistance in Orissa

4873. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend DFID (Department for International Development) assistance in health sector in Orissa beyond 2001-2003;

(b) whether in view of the poverty of Orissa the Government propose for a special package of 100 percent Central assistance health projects in the State; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) A Department For International Development (DFID) assisted Orissa Health & Family Welfare Reform project under implementation since September 1997, will come to an end on 30th June 2002. A proposal for interim DFID assistance for Orissa Health Sector Reform Plan for a period of two years from July, 2002 was received. Comments of the Ministry on the proposal have since been conveyed to the State Government with a request to send a complete proposal with all required information for transmission to the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission. In addition, a Concept Note for long term DFID support for Health Sector as a whole, received from the Government of Orissa has since been forwarded to the Department of Economic Affairs for its consideration and onward transmission to DFID for starting a dialogue with the State Government for designing and appraisal of the proposed project.

Number of Persons Employed under PMRY

4874. SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES pleased to state :

(a) the number of jobs provided under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in the seven North-Eastern States, during the year 2001, Year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether a large number of applications for loans are pending under this scheme; and

(c) If so, the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Based on the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), a statement showing State-wise details of employment created in the seven North Eastern States during the year 2000-01 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) is enclosed.

(b) and (c) As per the latest reports received from the RBI, 91,378 applications were pending with the banks in the country as on 31.03. 2002. According to the PMRY norms, the applications to be sponsored to the banks should be equal to 125 percent of the target. Therefore, at the end of any financial year, there are likely to be some pending applications. As per the instructions of the Government of India and the RBI, all pending applications are to be expeditiously processed by banks to enable eligible beneficiaries to avail of the Scheme.

Statement

State-wise estimates of employment created in the North Eastern States during the year 2000-01 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

As Reported by the RBI

Sl. State/UTs No	Cases disbursed by banks (nos.)	Estimated employment generated*
1 Assam	3379	5069
2 Manipur	16	24
3 Meghalaya	213	320
4 Nagaland	26	39
5 Tripura	332	498
6 Arunachal Pradesh	265	398
7 Mizoram	75	113

* Employment is estimated at the rate of 1.5 persons per unit disbursed loan which is based on the physical verification report of the cases disbursed and employment generated report received from the State Governments.

Telephone Services in Uttaranchal

4875. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for the development of telecommunication network in Uttaranchal during the last three years;

(b) whether the development work has since been completed as per the targets fixed for the State particularly in Rudraprayag District, of the State;

(c) if so, the details of the amount spent for the development work in Rudraprayag District during each of the last three years and till date, separately; and

(d) the number of new telephone connections provided in the State, District-wise during the last three years, and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Funds allocated for the development of telecommunication network in Uttaranchal circle during the last three years are as under :

Sl.No.	Year	Funds allocated
1	1999-2000	Rs. 143.70 crores
2	2000-2001	Rs. 185.00 crores
3	2001-2002	Rs. 206.43 crores
Total		Rs. 535.13 crores

(b) Yes, Sir. The development work has been completed in the circle as per targets fixed including Rudraprayag District.

(c) The details of the amount spent for the development work in Rudraprayag District during each of the last three years are as under :

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated
1	1999-2000	Rs. 1.46 crores
2	2000-2001	Rs. 0.68 crores
3	2001-2002	Rs. 0.83 crores
Total		Rs. 2.97 crores

(d) The details of the number of new telephone connections provided in the State District-wise during the last three years are furnished in the statement.

Statement

Number of New Telephone Connections Provided during the last three years in Uttaranchal BSNL Circle (District-wise)

Sl.No.	Name of Distt.	Years		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Chamoli	1114	1291	1752
2.	Rudraprayag	640	695	889
3.	Pauri	3832	3170	4039
4.	Almora	3152	2888	1950
5.	Pithoragarh	1972	2762	1324
6.	Bageshwar	574	522	546
7.	Champawat	613	870	300
8.	Hardwar	4377	3315	11739
9.	Dehradun	14001	15271	12940
10.	Tehri	972	1378	2014
11.	Uttarkashi	1036	1408	872
12.	Nainital	4665	5871	5985
13.	Udhamsingh Nagar	5476	6813	6736
Total		42424	46334	51086

Telephone Facility to Village Panchayats in Assam

4876. SHRI A.F.GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone facilities has been provided to all Gram Panchayats in Assam Circle;

(b) if so, the number of Panchayats covered so far and those yet to be covered, district-wise;

(c) the time by which the telephone facility to all Gram Panchayats will be provided; and

(d) the budgetary allocations made for the purpose in 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?

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

(b) In Assam out of 2486 Gram Panchayats 2095 have been provided with telecom facilities as on 31-03-2002. District-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Telecom facilities are planned to be provided in all the remaining Gram Panchayats by December 2002 subject to availability of material and SACFA/Security clearance.

(d) An amount of Rs. 123.86 crore was allocated for the year 2001-2002. Circle-wise budgetary allocation for the year 2002-2003 is being finalized.

Statement

District-wise number of Gram Panchayats with and without telephone facilities

Sl.No.	District	No. of Gram Panchayats covered	No. of Gram Panchayats yet to be covered
1	2	3	4
1.	Kamrup	177	0
2.	Dibrugarh	84	9
3.	Tinsukia	81	7
4.	Cachar	161	2
5.	Karimganj	92	4
6.	Hailakandi	60	2
7.	N.C. Hills	0	0
8.	Jorhat	90	21
9.	Sibsagar	105	13
10.	Golaghat	100	2
11.	Bongaigaon	66	25
12.	Goalpara	60	21
13.	Dhubri	147	25
14.	Kokrajhar	62	26

1	2	3	4
15.	Barpeta	113	37
16.	Nalbari	87	23
17.	Darrang	106	50
18.	Sonitpur	151	8
19.	Lakhimpur	55	26
20.	Dhemaji	20	45
21.	Nagaon	210	24
22.	Morigaon	68	21
23.	Karbi Anglong	0	0
Total		2095	391

[Translation]

**Adding of Interest on Deposits in
Saving Bank Accounts**

4877. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken positive steps to push up the number of depositors in various post offices of the country and to encourage deposits in savings bank in the post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of a provision for adding interests on deposits in the same post office in which the account is kept the passbooks of the depositors sent to the superintendent of posts remains pending there for years;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide for adding interest in the passbook in the same post office in which the account is kept; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steps are taken by the Union and State Governments for continued and enhanced mobilization of resources by promoting small saving schemes throughout the country through advertisements in electronic as well as print media and carrying out publicity

campaigns. Investments of the small investors are safeguarded by offering implicit guarantee, attractive returns, tax benefits, liquidity and accessibility in regard to the small savings schemes.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. As per the extant instructions on the subject all Post Offices of and above the Lower Selection Grade are authorized to post interest in passbooks of their account holders in respect of savings accounts, National Savings Scheme, 1987, National Savings Scheme, 1992, Monthly Income Account Scheme and Time Deposit Schemes based upon interest statements provided to them by their respective account offices. Only smaller Post Offices are required to send passbooks of their account holders for interest posting to their respective account offices.

Funds for PHCs in Uttar Pradesh

4878. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds allocated by the Union Government to the Uttar Pradesh during the last three years for opening of Primary Health Centres; and

(b) the allocation made to Uttar Pradesh for opening of such centres during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Primary Health Centres are established and maintained by the respective State Governments out of the funds provided under the health sector outlay of state plan and Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme. The funds provided to Uttar Pradesh under sector outlay and BMS, during last three years are as under :

Rs. in lakh		
Year	Health Sector Outlay	BMS/PMGY
1999-2000	42816.00	15413.57
2000-2001	30200.00	8526.25
2001-2002	37278.00	5651.00

(b) The allocation under the Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalized.

[English]

Naturopathy

4879. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the

Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that certain registered societies are running training programmes in Naturopathy System of Medicines in the country and on qualifying such training programmes, a large number of Naturopathy Doctors and Institutions/Organisations are functioning/practising in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such registered institutions/organizations functioning as on date, State-wise;

(c) the number of these institutions which have been recognized by the Government so far for treatment of Central Government Employees; and

(d) the details of the conditions for recognitions of a doctor/Institution/organizing practicing in Naturopathy under Indian System of Medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Six institutions are running 5 years of 5½ years Degree Course and are affiliated to the Universities. A number of other institutions are conducting courses of smaller duration. The Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi is assisting 19 Non-Governmental Organisations for conducting Diploma course.

(c) The Department of Health have recognised 3 Naturopathy institutions under Central Government Health Scheme for treatment through Naturopathy.

(d) There is no statutory council at central level to register naturopathy practitioners. Some states have evolved their own registration procedures.

Handing Over of Fugitives by Pak

4880. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. has endorsed the Indian demand that Pakistan handover the 20 fugitives sought by New Delhi;

(b) if so, the response of Pakistan thereto;

(c) whether the U.S. has also given an option to Pakistan to try and convict them in Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) The United States have publicly stated on a number of occasions that Pakistan must act on the list of 20 fugitives sought by India, though it has not invariably been articulated in the form of their being handed over to India. Pakistan has so far not taken any action against any of the 20 fugitives.

Income Generated from I.T.

4881. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the income earned from the Information Technology Industries during the last financial year 2001-2002 and its percentage to the Gross Domestic Product;

(b) the income likely to be earned during the first half of the current financial year 2002-2003; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to maximise the income from these industries?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) The income earned from software industry, which forms the largest segment of the IT industry, during the financial year 2001-2002 is as follows :

Software Exports	Rs.36,500 crores
Domestic Software	Rs.11,634 crores
Total	Rs.48,134 crores

This amount constitutes about 2% of the Gross Domestic Product.

(b) As per the NASSCOM estimate, the income likely to be earned during the first half of the current financial year 2002-2003 is Rs.40,000 crores.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to promote the IT industry are given in the statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote the Information Technology Sector

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG) has been rationalized and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. 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. Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) Schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items in the Domestic Tariff Areas (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 and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes.
6. Accelerated depreciation norms extended to computers and computer peripherals to all units and capital goods of IT 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 for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 15%, tools/moulds/dies for electronics industry from 25% to 15% and on 46 items of raw materials for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 5%.

* Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals continues

to be @ 15% and all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors continue at 0%. The concessional rate of customs duty @5% for specified raw materials for the electronics industry (121 items) continues. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @15%, parts of Telecom continue @5%, parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular telephones continue at 0%.

10. The Central Excise duty structure was rationalized from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, in the Budget 2001-02, and continues.
11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
12. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.
13. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.
15. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act covers transmission of data.
16. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
17. IT Enabled Services are eligible for Income Tax benefit under Sections 10A, 10B and 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act.
18. DEPB rate will be same for a product whether exported as CBU or in CKD/SKD condition.
19. Threshold limit for obtaining 'Export House' status reduced to Rs.5 crores from Rs.15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/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.

20. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognized non-commercial educational Institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.
21. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognized schools run on a non-commercial basis by any organisation are exempted from customs duties.
22. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
23. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
24. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the Investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognized stock exchange in India.
25. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit was raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.
26. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISP) and Broadband Network providers.
27. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
28. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.
29. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without a licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs.50 crores.
30. Indian Companies wishing to invest abroad may now invest upto US \$ 100 Million on an annual basis through automatic route without being subject to the three year profitability condition, up from existing limit of US\$ 50 million (Budget announcement 2002-03).
31. Indian Companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).
32. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
33. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.
34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single-shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.
35. Information Technology Act, 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

[Translation]

Shortfall in Growth Rate

4882. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether after introducing economic reforms the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya have registered steep fall in the growth rate;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to declare these States as special category States which had been adversely affected by liberalisation ; and

(c) the details of the growth rate of the above States in the eighties in comparison to the present decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The growth rate of States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, measured by the growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant (1993- 94) prices are indicated in the table below.

Growth rate of GSDP at constant prices

(in percent)

Sl.No.	States	1989-90	1999-2000
1	Bihar	4.4	3.2
2	Uttar Pradesh	5.0	4.5
3	Assam	4.2	3.1
4	Meghalaya	5.4	5.5

As indicated in the table the States of Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have experienced a fall in the growth rate and the State of Meghalaya has experienced a marginal increase in the growth rate during the post reform period.

The States of Assam and Meghalaya are already classified as Special Category States for the purpose of Central Assistance for Plan Financing. At present, there is no proposal to declare Bihar and Uttar Pradesh as Special Category States.

OFC in Dhule District

4883. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated area in kilometres wherein optical-fibre-cable has been laid by the Government in Dhule district of Maharashtra by March 31, 2002;

(b) whether the Government have received representations for allocation of more optical-fibre-cables in the above said district;

(c) if so, the steps taken /proposed to be taken to execute this scheme; and

(d) the details of estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Approximately 542 Rkms of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid in Dhule district of Maharashtra by March 31, 2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 100 Rkms of Optical Fibre Cable has been proposed for the year 2002-2003.

(d) Approximate estimated cost for Dhule district is Rs. 1.72 crores.

[English]

Lifting Ban on Recruitment

4884. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ban on recruitments in postal department has since been lifted; and

(b) if so, the number of posts likely to be filled up during the current financial year in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Department of Personnel and Training vide their OM No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001 has issued guidelines for preparation of Annual Direct Recruitment Plan to fill up only 1/3rd of the direct recruitment vacancies subject to further ceiling of 1 % of the total sanctioned strength. The Annual Direct Recruitment Plan is to be approved by the Screening Committee.

(b) The number of direct recruitment vacancies likely to be filled up during the year in the State of Andhra Pradesh will be in accordance with clearance of Annual Direct Recruitment Plan by the Screening Committee.

Indo-US Meet

4885. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indo-US official level meet was

lately held in New Delhi to discuss among others the Nuclear issues like the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

- (b) if so, the outcome of the talks; and
- (c) the other issues discussed therein and the decision, if any, arrived at?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The two sides hold regular dialogue at ministerial and official levels in pursuit of the shared commitment to complete the process of qualitatively transforming India-US relations. The two sides discuss strengthening cooperation in counter-terrorism, defence, economic and commercial relations, science and technology, health, energy and environment, besides regional and international issues of mutual concern, including Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Black Listing of Dubious Manpower Agencies

4886. SHRI T .M. SELVAGANPATHI :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India has urged Kuwait to blacklist dubious manpower agencies as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 19, 2002;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Government have raised the issue with the Kuwait Foreign Ministry; and
- (d) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Indian Embassy in Kuwait has formally brought to the notice of the Government of Kuwait the involvement of some manpower agencies in Kuwait which recruit workers from India on false promises.

- (d) It is understood that action has been taken by the Kuwaiti authorities against such manpower agencies.

Monthly Unused Calls

4887. SHRI Y.V. RAO :

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :

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

- (a) whether the Government proposed to introduce a scheme to carry forward monthly unused calls of local telephones to help retired employees and poor customers;
- (b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The number of free calls clubbed with the rental is a part of the tariff regime. Regulation of tariff is a function of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in terms of TRAI Act, 1997 and TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000. All the telecom service providers in the country are bound to follow the Telecom Tariff Orders as notified by TRAI from time to time.

Exploration of IT

4888. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the spheres of Information Technology in which the Indian I.T. companies have excelled;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Indian I.T. companies have explored only the 12 percent of the total sphere of Information Technology; and
- (c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to encourage to explore the maximum spheres in Information Technology?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Indian I.T. companies have excelled in the field of software export and services.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) The steps taken by the Government to promote

the information technology sector are given in the enclosed statement. The Government propose to continue steps like "India Inc" brand promotion, Road shows, participation in international exhibitions, collection of market intelligence.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote the Information Technology Sector

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG) has been rationalized and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. 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. Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) Schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items in the Domestic Tariff Areas (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 and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes.
6. Accelerated depreciation norms extended to computers and computer peripherals to all units and capital goods of IT 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 for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 15%, tools/moulds/dies for electronics industry from 25% to 15% and on 46 items of raw materials for manufacture of electronic components from 25-35% to 5%.

* Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals continues to be @ 15% and all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors continue at 0%. The concessional rate of customs duty @5% for specified raw materials for the electronics industry (121 items) continues. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @15%, parts of Telecom continue @5%, parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular telephones continue at 0%.

10. The Central Excise duty structure was rationalized from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, in the Budget 2001-02, and continues.
11. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
12. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.
13. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.
15. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act covers transmission of data.
16. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
17. IT Enabled Services are eligible for Income Tax benefit under Sections 10A, 10B and 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act.
18. DEPB rate will be same for a product whether exported as CBU or in CKD/SKD condition.

19. Threshold limit for obtaining 'Export House' status reduced to Rs.5 crores from Rs.15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/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.
20. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognized non-commercial educational Institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.
21. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognized schools run on a non-commercial basis by any organisation are exempted from customs duties.
22. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
23. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
24. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognized stock exchange in India.
25. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit was raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.
26. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISP) and Broadband Network providers.
27. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
28. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further sum of 15% of the actual cost of such machinery or plant acquired and installed after 31.3.2002 in case of new industrial undertaking or substantial expansion by an existing industrial undertaking. The proposed amendment will take effect from 1.4.2003 and will, accordingly, apply in relation to the assessment year 2003-04 and subsequent years.
29. To encourage re-location of industries to India, plant and machineries would be permitted to be imported without a licence, where the depreciated value of such relocating plants exceeds Rs.50 crores.
30. Indian Companies wishing to invest abroad may now invest upto US \$ 100 Million on an annual basis through automatic route without being subject to the three year profitability condition, up from existing limit of US\$ 50 million (Budget announcement 2002-03).
31. Indian Companies making overseas investment in joint ventures abroad by market purchases may now do so without prior approval upto 50% of their net worth, up from existing limit of 25% (Budget announcement 2002-03).
32. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research is available.
33. For reduction of transaction time for export/import clearances, Ministry of Civil Aviation has finalized the scheme of 'Known-Shippers' for doing away with the 24 hours cooling off period.
34. Two shifts have been introduced on week days and single-shift on holidays at the Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Goa.
35. Information Technology Act, 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security

related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Goitre, Disease in Karnataka

4889. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cases of goitre and diseases related to iodine deficiency were on the rise in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been undertaken in the State in this regard;

(c) the estimated number of such cases reported; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services and the State Health Directorate have revealed that 7 districts are endemic for Iodine Deficiency Disorders (i.e. where the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency Disorders is 10% or more) out of the 20 districts in the State. However, as per re-survey conducted in one district namely Chickmagalur, the prevalence of IDD has declined from 32.14% in 1986 to 25.0% in 1998 as a result of supply of iodated salt.

(d) In order to control the problem of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders, the Government of Karnataka has banned the sale of salt other than iodised salt in the entire State w.e.f. 25.2.1996. Further, the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is providing financial assistance to the State Government for establishment of Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Cell. Health Education and Publicity, surveys to assess the magnitude of Iodine Deficiency Disorders and establishment of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, Monitoring Laboratory under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. In addition, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare through the various agencies of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting namely Directorate of Field Publicity, Song and Drama Division, Doordarshan and All India Radio is also educating the masses about the consequences of Iodine Deficiency and the benefits of consuming iodised salt.

Buying and Selling of Foreign Currency

4890. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide facility for buying and selling of foreign exchange in all post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) A proposal to provide facility for buying and selling of foreign exchange from identified post offices is being considered. However, final decision in this regard will be taken based upon technical and commercial feasibility.

Clearance of Road Projects

4891. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of road projects cleared by the Government for implementation during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of projects completed so far with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Year-wise projects cleared are as given below :

			Amount (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	-	533 Nos.	727
2000-2001	-	679 Nos.	1372
2001-2002	-	709 Nos.	1871

In addition the implementation of 6349 Kms. of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been cleared at the investment of Rs. 30.300 crores in the year 2000-01.

(c) Year-wise projects completed are as given below :

			Amount (Rs. in crores)
1999-2000	-	470 Nos.	593
2000-2001	-	795 Nos.	1105
2001-2002	-	549 Nos.	1176

Also, an aggregate length of 2052 Kms. of NHDP has been completed.

Indo-Iran Ties

4892. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish better relations with Iran;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Iran bilateral ties have been established so far;

(c) whether the Governments of both the countries have proposed to diversify bilateral relations at all levels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) India-Iran relations are rooted in history and are based on close cultural and civilisational affinities. In the modern context, our relationship has been marked by a continuity of high level political exchanges between the two countries which have led to ties being established in diverse areas, such as trade and commerce industry, energy (including on the transfer of Iranian gas to India), transport and communications, agriculture, consular, education and culture.

Prime Minister's visit to Iran from 10-13 April 2001 imparted a new direction to India-Iran relations. During the visit, PM and President of Iran H.E. Seyed Mohammad Khatami signed the Tehran Declaration. In addition, agreements on Trade and Economic Cooperation, and Customs; and MoUs on Cooperation in the field of Energy, Power, Technical Cooperation and in the field of Information Technology, were signed.

The entire gamut of bilateral relations is regularly reviewed during the sessions of the India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting. The last session was held in Tehran in May 2000 and the next session is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in May 2002.

Regularisation of Services of Casual Labour

4893. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down by the Government to regularise the services of a casual labour;

(b) whether a number of casual labour are serving in the Kendriya Bhandar for more than 10 years;

(c) if so, the Government propose to regularise the services of casual labours particularly of those who have completed more than five years of service as on June 30, 2001;

(d) if so, the time by which these casual labourers are likely to be regularise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Under the existing guidelines, the services of casual workers are obtained for works of purely casual/seasonal in nature and their services are liable to be terminated as and when the specific casual work is over. The casual workers can be considered to regularization against Group 'D' posts provided they have worked continuously for a period of 240 days in two consecutive years. The offices observing five days a week this prescribed minimum limit is 206 days. The regularization is subject to the condition that the concerned person fulfils all other eligibility conditions laid down in the notified recruitment rules for the posts in question and a regular Group 'D' posts in the establishment where casual workers may be working is available. Relaxation in age limit, as may be prescribed in the recruitment rules, can be provided to the extent of casual service rendered.

(b) to (e) The casual labourers in Kendriya Bhandar are for casual work and are engaged on piece rate basis on minimum wages as notified by Government of NCT of Delhi. They are not against any regular post.

Some of these workers have filed petition in Delhi High Court/Labour Court praying that they be regularized with all consequential benefits. The matter is sub-judice.

Central Assistance for Scheme

4894. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the list of projects and programmes for which the Central assistance was provided to Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received the

utilization certificates from Tamil Nadu for the expenditure incurred;

(c) the quantum of money yet to be released by the Government to Tamil Nadu for the above said projects and programmes; and

(d) whether the Government have asked the Tamil Nadu Government to furnish the utilization certificates of the expenditure incurred ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

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

(b) No Sir.

(c) The entire amount has been released.

(d) Yes Sir.

Statement

Sl.No.	List of Projects/Programmes	Year of Sanction	Additional Central Assistance (Rs. crore)
1.	Preparation of State Human Development Report	1999-2000	0.25
2.	Updating the computer facilities & building up of library of Madras School of Economics	1999-2000	0.50
3.	General endowment & special endowment for the library of the Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai	1999-2000	1.00
4.	Prevention of Coastal Erosion in North Chennai	2000-01	1.00
5.	Rural Roads under PMGSY	2000-01	74.0
6.	Nil	2001-02	Nil

Internet Telephony

4895. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

(a) the details of the guidelines issued by the Government to the Internet Service Providers offering internet telephony;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the quality of voice on internet telephony system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Broad Guidelines for issue of

permission to offer Internet Telephony Services is at enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Quality of Service (QOS) shall be prescribed from time to time by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)/Licensor; however, at present QOS is not prescribed.

Statement

Broad Guidelines for Issue of Permission to Offer Internet Telephony Services

1. Internet Service Provider(ISP) licensees are permitted within their service area, to offer Internet Telephony Service.
2. The customers of ISPs can avail the service through their Personal Computers (PC) or other Internet Protocol (IP) based Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) as mentioned below :-

- a) PC to PC (Both within as well as outside India).
 - b) PC to Telephone (PC in India to Telephone outside India).
 - c) IP based H.323/Session Initiated Protocol (SIP) Terminals in India to similar Terminals both in India and abroad, employing IP addressing scheme of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA).
3. The addressing scheme will conform to IP Addressing scheme of "IANA".
 4. Quality of Service (QOS) shall be as prescribed from time to time by TRAI/Licensor; however, at present QOS is not prescribed.
 5. The tariff for Internet Telephony Service can be fixed by the ISPs.
 6. If found necessary at any time during the validity of the ISP license, the licensor reserves the right to impose license fee.
 7. Suitable monitoring system is to be set up by ISPs carrying Internet Telephony traffic.
 8. ISPs desirous of offering Internet Telephony Services shall be required to sign an Amendment to the ISP license agreement to such effect.
 9. The detailed guidelines are available in the Department of Telecom (DOT) website *dotindia.com*.

Conversion into Four Lanes of National Highway

4896. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to expand the Hyderabad Godavari Khani Rajiv Rahadari Highway into a four lanes National Highway in view of the increasing traffic density on the route;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government on the proposal of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Task Force on Internet Telephony

4897. SHRI NAGMANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow Internet Telephony;

(b) if so, whether the Department of Telecommunication decided to constitute special task force to formulate a strategy for this purpose;

(c) whether this task force has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by this task force; and

(e) if not, the time by which this task force is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Internet Telephony Service has been allowed from 1st April, 2002.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Promotion of Small Industries in Rural Areas

4898. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

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

(a) whether any target were fixed for the setting up of small scale industries in rural areas for the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2002-2003, State-wise details thereof;

(b) if so, the details of actual achievements made in this regard, Year-wise and State-wise respectively;

(c) the funds allocated to each State during the above period for the purpose; and

(d) the proposals of the Government for the development of small scale industries during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Central Government do not fix targets for setting up of small scale industries (SSI) as it is a State subject and comes under the purview of the State/U/T. Governments.

(d) With a view to strengthen the SSI Sector and enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally, the Government announced a Comprehensive Policy Package in August 2000. The policy package, which continues during 2002-2003, consists of enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

[English]

National Cyberspace Cell

4899. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a National Cyberspace Cell;

(b) the manner in which this cell is likely to check anti-national activities of terrorists who use latest communication techniques for transmission of their messages; and

(c) the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Palace on Wheels

4900. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has sent any proposal regarding Palace-on-Wheels on the lines of Oriented Express in Europe seeking approval and financial assistance;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has turned down the proposal of the state Government;

(c) if so, reasons therefore;

(d) whether the State Government has further requested to reconsider the proposal; and

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

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

(b) to (e) The proposal was approved and the sanction order issued to the Government of Maharashtra on 28.3.2002 by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Roads Funded by World Bank

4901. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that various Centrally Sponsored Road Development Schemes funded by World Bank in various States are dogged by the activities of the underworld mafia;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have received reports that mafias are not allowing such schemes/programmes to be implemented; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure implementation of various road development schemes without the interference of mafias?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Some contractors have reported that they have received threats relating to extortion, etc. However, the works are in progress.

(c) and (d) Ministry has requested the concerned authority to provide adequate safety measures.

Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats in Gujarat

4902. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with the public telephone facilities in Gujarat State as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats which were provided with telephone facilities as on march 31, 2000 and March 31, 2001;

(c) whether the above facilities have been provided within the stipulated time;

(d) if not, reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided to the remaining Gram Panchayats in the State?

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

Iodised Salt

4903. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether iodised salt has been made compulsory for human consumption in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether production and selling of common salt has been made illegal in various States particularly in Orissa;

(d) whether excessive consumption of iodised salt results in thyroid problem; and

(e) if so, Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) All the State UT Governments except State of Kerala and Gujarat have prohibited the sale of common salt other than iodised salt for human consumption for the time being, in the interest of public health under the provision of Section 7(iv) of the PFA Act 1954. However, the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have banned only in the endemic districts.

(d) and (e) No adverse effect has been reported so far on account of excessive consumption of iodised salt as the standards of iodised salt stipulate that it will contain not less than 30 parts per million of iodine at the manufacturing level and not less than 15 parts per million at retail label which is considered to be absolutely safe. Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, the State Governments are required to ensure effective implementation of these standards in their respective States.

[Translation]

Advisory Committee

4904. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Advisory Committee on Communications and Information Technology has been constituted; and

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee and the terms of reference thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, the Government proposes to reorganise the Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs). Accordingly, Hon'ble members of parliament have been requested to recommend name of five eminent persons of his/her constituency for consideration for nomination in the reorganized TACs. However, no final decision regarding composition, functions and other aspects of the reorganized Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) has been taken.

Reserved Vacancies

4905. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue instructions to keep the posts reserved for SCs/STs vacant on non-availability of a suitable candidate from these categories instead of filling the same from the candidates belonging to other backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received any representations from the Members of Parliament and other social organizations during the last three years till date in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal or instruction to fill posts reserved for SCs/STs by candidates belonging to other backward classes, if SC/ST candidates are not available.

(d) to (f) The drafting committee constituted during the three day convention of Members of Parliament belonging to Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes recommended in December, 1999 that posts reserved for SCs and STs should be filled up only by candidates belonging to these communities and in case of non-availability of candidates among SCs/STs, these vacancies/posts should be exchanged between these communities.

Existing instructions also provide that as far as possible posts reserved for SCs and STs should be filled up only by candidates belonging to these communities and that in case of non-availability of candidates among SCs or STs, these vacancies/posts exchanged between these communities.

STD/ISD Connections in Uttar Pradesh

4906. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the norms laid down for providing STD/ISD connections;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for quick disposal of applications seeking STD/ISD facility;

(c) the number of applications pending for setting up PCOs in Uttar Pradesh with STD/ISD facilities; and

(d) the time by which these application are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, according to the present policy of BSNL, STD/ISD PCOs are allotted to all the eligible applicants on first come first served basis as per their registration.

(b) STD/ISD PCOs are to be allotted on day to

day basis in areas where there is no waiting list In the areas where there is a waiting list, priority efforts are made for expansion of the exchange capacity and augmentation of external plant to clear the waiting list.

(c) 2249.

(d) The pending applications are to be cleared by September 2002 progressively as and when the areas become technically feasible and the applicants fulfil other conditions.

[English]

Government Accommodation to Kendriya Bhandar

4907. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided accommodation to the Kendriya Bhandar on a nominal rent of Re. 1/- p.m. for running their branch stores to sell items of daily need to the Government Servants but the same has been discontinued long time back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Raisina Road premises is being got vacated due to security reasons;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to make alternative accommodation to them to run business of stationery etc.;

(e) whether the NCCF and Super Bazar were not allotted any accommodation at nominal rent of Re. 1/- p.m. for running their business;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken to cancel the allotment made in lieu of Raisina Road accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As a part of

the Welfare Measures for its employees. Government of India provides Kendriya Bhandar with accommodation at a nominal rent and such facility has not been discontinued.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Kendriya Bhandar has been provided with alternative accommodation at R.K.Puram (West) Block No.VIII, Wing No.III, Ground Floor, New Delhi and R.K. Puram (East) Block No. 10, Ground Floor, New Delhi-66.

(e) and (f) Super Bazar has informed that they have been allotted accommodation on token license fee of Re.1 p.m. in respect of then 25 branches. NCCF has not been allotted accommodation at this rate.

(g) Kendriya Bhandar being a Welfare Project of the Government of India, the question of canceling the allotment made does not arise.

[Translation]

Dispensaries/Health Centres in Rajasthan

4908. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of dispensaries and Health Centres under Central Government Health Scheme in Rajasthan is very less in proportion to the area and population of the State;

(b) if so, the location of dispensaries and Health Centres opened in the State so far;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposals to open more such CGHS dispensaries there; and

(d) if so, the time by which these are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government Health Scheme in Rajasthan is presently available only in the city of Jaipur where there are five Allopathic dispensaries, one Ayurvedic and one Homeopathic Unit, one Dental Unit, one polyclinic and two laboratories. The CGHS dispensaries have been opened in Jaipur keeping in view the demands of the Government servants/pensioners based upon justification subject to availability of resources.

Keeping in view constraints of manpower and resources, it will not be possible to open more CGHS dispensaries in various parts of Rajasthan at present.

(c) The Government has received a proposal for extension of CGHS facilities to the city of Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

(d) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Nuclear Safety Programme with US

4909. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the Nuclear Safety Cooperation with US; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(b) It has been decided to resume safety cooperation which was discontinued in May 1998.

Removal of Restriction on High Performance Computer

4910. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the united states of America have decided to remove the restrictions on the export of high performance computers and other high-tech, items to India;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is likely to have useful impact on the further expansion and upgradation of Indian Information Technology Industry and development of high quality computers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) The united States of America controls the export of high performance computers to India through a system of export licenses and notification requirements. From time to time, the US Government reviews the guidelines and parameters for export of high performance computers. In January 2002, the US

Government has further liberalized the export control regime for such computers, enabling export of computers capable of running at 190,000 Millions of Theoretical Operations Per Second (MTOPS) without the US exporters having to notify the US Federal Government.

(b) and (c) Only for very specialized applications like weather forecasting India needs to import high performance computers/super computers.

Spectrum to Cellular Phone Industry

4911. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is serious congestion of cellular phone network particularly among major metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether the Government has noted this congestion and deterioration of cellular phone services in terms of quality;

(c) the steps taken to award sufficient spectrum to the cellular phone industry to improve the quality of phone services; and

(d) the details of the monitoring being done by the Government to assure periodic upgrade of such services and facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, some Cellular Operators in Delhi and Mumbai metro city Service Areas have reported to Department of Telecom (DoT) as well as to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), congestion of their networks and deterioration in quality of service due to paucity of frequency spectrum.

(b) and (c) DoT have issued an Order on 1st February, 2002 for allocation of additional radio frequency spectrum to the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Providers. It has been decided to assign additional spectrum of 1.8 MHz (Megahertz) + 1.8 MHz beyond already permitted spectrum of 6.2 MHz + 6.2 MHz, on payment of additional charges and subject to other conditions, to the CMTS Operators in order to meet the requirement of growth of subscribers.

(d) TRAI is entrusted with the task of monitoring the performance of CMTS Networks; this is done by TRAI through Quarterly Performance Monitoring and Quality of Service (QOS) Monitoring Reports.

Guidelines for By-Pass

4912. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National Highways Authority of India guidelines for taking up a particular route for construction of by-pass on a National Highway;

(b) whether a cost-benefit study is also done by competent bodies; and

(c) if so, the details of the mechanism followed in deciding a particular route for a by-pass?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Bypasses on National Highways are planned to avoid congested areas/towns, so as to provide safe and efficient movement of through traffic. The alignment for the bypass is selected on the basis of Feasibility Study. A detailed engineering is undertaken for the selected alignment, whereby traffic studies, design of the facility and economical analysis including cost-benefit study are done.

Visit of US Assistant Secretary of State

4913. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Assistant Secretary of State visited New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) United States Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Ms. Christina Rocca visited New Delhi from 9-11 April, 2002. The visit was part of periodic consultations between the foreign offices of the two countries.

(b) and (c) During the visit, the two sides undertook a review of the status of bilateral cooperation including in the areas of counter-terrorism, security, defence, export controls, investment and trade, including high technology commerce, and energy and environment. The discussions furthered the growing India-U.S. engagement on a broad range of issues of mutual interest. The two sides also agreed to establish a dialogue on political-military affairs.

*[Translation]***Wastage of Blood**

4914. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Wastage of Blood" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 26 March, 2002;

(b) if so, details thereof including the reasons and steps taken to check wastage of blood in hospitals;

(c) the impediments encountered in proper storage of blood, installation of equipment for segregation of its components and steps taken to remove the hindrances;

(d) whether the Government propose to make it mandatory to test the blood before it is administered to the patients to ensure that infected blood is not administered to the patients; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The figures quoted in the report on magnitude of Wastage of Blood is not based on facts. However, the government as a policy has been promoting rational use of blood by setting up Blood Component Separation Units (BCSUs) all over the Country. In Phase-I (1992-99) of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) the Government has assisted in the modernization/setting up of 40 BCSUs in the Country and in Phase-II another 41 centres have been identified. Guidelines on rational use of blood have been circulated and equipment are being procured for the 41 BCSUs under NACP Phase-II.

(d) and (e) It is mandatory to test the blood for Transfusion Transmitted Infections such as HIV, HCV, Hbs Ag, VDRL and malaria parasite.

*[English]***Private Hospitals/Nursing Homes**

4915. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the private hospitals and nursing homes functioning in each State and Union Territory are registered with appropriate authorities;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have laid down any norms, roles and guidelines for opening of a hospital or nursing home by an individual; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, the functions of the Nursing Homes/Private clinics in the States are regulated by the respective State Governments according to the provisions of the rules/laws effective in the State concerned.

Compliance of Official Language Policy by UPSC

4916. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV .

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UPSC are following the orders pertaining to the official language policy; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far by Government for the compliance of the O.M. No. 13034/37/92 O.L. (C), dated the 2nd June, 1992 of the Ministry of Home Affairs in connection with recruitments and interviews?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Provisions of the Official Language Act are followed in UPSC.

(b) The call letters for interview are issued by UPSC to candidates both in English and Hindi. In respect of

recruitment through interview the option of the candidates is not obtained in writing regarding the medium for interview. They are allowed to choose the medium of interview i.e. in Hindi or in English. UPSC conducts one limited departmental examination viz. the Section Officers/Stenographers (Grade 'B'/Grade 'I') Limited Departmental Competitive Examination every year. The candidates are allowed the option of Hindi medium for certain papers. Hindi medium could not be allowed for some of the papers as the reference books for these papers are not available in Hindi. The question of getting these books translated into Hindi has been taken up with the concerned Ministries/Departments. Once the books in Hindi are made available, the facility of answering the papers of this examination in Hindi will be extended to all the papers of the examination.

Growth in STD

4917. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was 30 percent market growth after the cut in the STD rates recently;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to permit phone-to-phone internet telephony to achieve the growth; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, as per a sample study done by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), STD traffic has increased by about 25% on an average.

(b) and (c) As on date, there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

Spending of Less Amount in the Ninth Plan

4918. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ninth Five Year Plan has slipped on target by a massive Rs. 82,786 crore as reported in Indian Express dated March 22, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the names of the developmental schemes/projects affected as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Central Sector outlay for the Ninth Five Year Plan was projected at Rs. 489361 crore (at 1996-97 prices) which was to be financed through Budget support of Rs. 203982 crore and Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) of the order of Rs. 285379 crore. The Budget support realized for the Central Plan has been Rs. 177797 crore for the Ninth Five Year Plan (as per actuals of Budget Support for 1997-98 to 2000-01 and revised estimates for 2001-02). The IEBR of CPSEs realized during the Ninth Plan period has been Rs. 228795 crore (as per the revised estimates available for each of the years of the Ninth Plan). Thus, the total Plan expenditure realized for the Central Plan is estimated to be Rs. 406592 crore (at 1996-97 prices) as against the projected level of Rs. 489361 crore for the Ninth Plan.

The Five Year Plan outlay is indicative which is operationalized through Annual Plans based on the availability of resources. The short fall in actual realization of the Ninth Plan targets was mainly on account of inability of the CPSEs to generate IEBR as envisaged at the time of formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan due to overall slowdown of the economy. There has been delay in taking up some of the Joint Venture Refinery Projects like Bhatinda Refinery, Eastern India Refinery and Bina Refinery.

[English]

Kalajaar Programme in Bihar

4919. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kalajaar has been included in the National Eradication Programme; and

(b) if so, details of the names of the Institutions, agencies, NGO's, Scientific Laboratories, etc. in Bihar, which has been selected/identified for undertaking this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Kala-azar Control Programme is an ongoing centrally sponsored scheme and being implemented by the State Health

Authorities through existing Health Infrastructure in the endemic States including Bihar.

Internet Enabled I.T. Kiosks/Cyber Cafes

4920. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to set up internet enabled I.T. Kiosks/Cyber Cafes in the country during Tenth Plan;

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

(c) the steps taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The Working Group on Telecom Sector for Tenth Five Year Plan set up by the Planning Commission, has proposed to set up Internet Enabled I.T. Kiosks/Cyber Cafes in the country. However, state-wise targets have not been proposed in the Working Group report. Meanwhile, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is following a programme of providing Internet Dhabas (Kiosks) in Block Headquarters and so far 3097 block headquarters have been covered and remaining will be covered during the Tenth Five Years Plan Subject to demand.

Khadi Bhandar

4921. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Khadi Bhandars functioning in the country;

(b) whether all Khadi Bhandars are running in profits;

(c) if not, the details of those not making profit and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken to make these Khadi Bhandars economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) There are more than 7000 sales outlets of various khadi institutions, KVIC and KVIBs.

(b) Information on profitability of all these sales outlets is not maintained centrally.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the Khadi package, funds have been earmarked for renovation and modernization of Khadi sales outlets. Standard designs and standard logos have been created for Khadi outlets. Besides, provision has also been made for contemporary product designs and packaging facilities. Provision has also been made for planned advertisements and publicity campaigns.

New National Highway in Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal

4922. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal for construction of new National Highways;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) 13 proposals aggregating to a length of about 2800 km in Andhra Pradesh and 3 proposals aggregating to a length of about 700 km in Uttaranchal have been received for conversion of State roads into National Highways.

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

Telephone Directories of Assam

4923. SHRI A. F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Telephone Directory of Assam Circle was published last;

(b) whether the Directory is being updated;

(c) if so, the time by which the updated Directory is likely to be published;

(d) whether the Directories for telephone districts are published separately; and

(e) if so, the dates on which the latest District Telecom Directories were published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, telephone directories are not printed telecom circle-wise. Telephone directories are printed telecom district-wise.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The telecom district-wise

printing schedule is given in column 4 of the enclosed statement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The dates on which the latest district telephone directories were published are given in the column 3 of enclosed statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Telecom District	Date of Publication of Last Directory	Target for publishing next Directory
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
1.	Bongaigaon	December, 1999	January, 2003
2.	Dibrugarh	June, 2001	June, 2003
3.	Guwahati (Kamrup)	February, 2002	Already Published
4.	Jorhat	September, 2000	January, 2003
5.	Nagaon	August, 2000	June, 2002
6.	Silchar	September, 2000	December, 2002
7.	Tezpur	January, 2000	December, 2002

Elimination of Leprosy

4924. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite of the efforts made, India is still far behind its neighbouring countries in eliminating leprosy;

(b) if so, whether other South-East Asian countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and Nepal too are ahead of India in their efforts of eradicating the dreaded disease;

(c) if so, the Government have fixed any target date by which the leprosy is to be eradicated;

(d) the main problems being faced by the Government in surfacing of hidden cases particularly in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand;

(e) whether there has been a decline in leprosy cases in other endemic States in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The information as received from South East Asia Regional Office of WHO at New Delhi, indicates that as in October, 2001, India had leprosy prevalence rate (per 10,000 population) of 3.79 as against 3.40 in Nepal and 2.37 in Myanmar whereas remaining South East Asian countries have achieved prevalence rate of less than one case per 10,000 population.

(c) The Government of India has a goal of achieving elimination of leprosy i.e. Prevalence Rate less than of 1/10,000 by March, 2004.

(d) These two States are having large tribal population living in forests and difficult to reach areas.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The details are given at enclosed statement. In 2000-01, Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaign (MLEC) was not carried out in the country. Hence, the PR for 2000-01 is lower than 2001-02.

Statement

Prevalence Rate of Leprosy /10,000 Population in the Endemic States.

At the beginning of World Bank supported National Leprosy Eradication Programme and Current Position

S.No.	States	1993-94	2001-02 (As on March' 2002)
1.	West Bengal	21.27	4.48
2.	Orissa	21.19	9.26
3.	Bihar	20.92	12.77
4.	Madhya Pradesh	11.79	2.58
5.	Andhra Pradesh	11.45	3.61
6.	Uttar Pradesh	10.58	6.19
7.	Maharashtra	10.18	3.56
8.	Tamil Nadu	9.30	4.34
9.	Karnataka	5.17	2.57
10.	Jharkhand	Not Applicable	15.05
11.	Chhattisgarh	Not Applicable	11.55

[Translation]

STM-16 Equipment

4925. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Telecom/BSNL has invited tenders during the year 2000- 2001 for the supply of STM -16 equipment;

(b) if so, whether the companies who were awarded contract have failed to supply this equipment;

(c) if so, the details of those companies;

(d) whether it is a fact that the same companies have been awarded contract to supply STM-16 equipment again in the year 2001; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Orders were placed on three suppliers out of which two of the suppliers have completed the full supplies and one has completed approximately 70% supplies.

(c) M/s HFCL has not completed the full supplies which are in progress.

(d) No, Sir. Out of four companies selected against tender for the year 2001-2002 only one company is same.

(e) The tendered quantity is awarded as per the terms and conditions of the tender. The selection of eligible bidders is done through open tender process and distribution of tendered quantity is done among them as per the concerned clause of Tender Document.

Health Schemes of Uttar Pradesh and Delhi

4926. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of health schemes implemented/ being implemented and lying pending for clearance for Uttar Pradesh and Delhi;

(b) the funds allocated by the Union Government for these schemes during the last three years alongwith the funds actually utilized by State Governments;

(c) whether State Governments have not utilized the funds allocated for the health sector within the prescribed time;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the State Governments have recently sent any new health schemes for approval for grant-in-aid and assistance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) National Health Programmes for control of major diseases such as Malaria, TB, Blindness, AIDS and Leprosy are being implemented in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. A statement showing the details of their allocations/releases and funds utilized for the last 3 years is enclosed. In addition a World Bank assisted Health Systems Development Project with the project cost of US\$ 110 million is also under implementation in U.P. for a period of five and half years since 1.7.2000 to augment the rural health infrastructure.

(c) and (d) Funds allocated to U.P. and Delhi have largely been utilized within the prescribed time.

(e) and (f) Delhi and U.P. Governments have forwarded proposal for augmentation of their infrastructure and manpower in respect of drugs control administration and drugs testing facilities under Capacity Building Project assisted by World Bank. In this project, the Central Government has approximately kept a provision of Rs. 133 lakhs for Delhi and Rs. 440 lakhs for U.P. State to upgrade their drug testing facilities.

Statement

Allocation/release and Expenditure of U.P. and Delhi under major Health Schemes

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	U.P.		Delhi	
	A/R	Expn.	A/R	Expn.
1	2	3	4	5
NAMP				
1999-2000	622.18	527.80	75.40	20.10
2000-2001	591.14	544.11	90.97	100.45
2001-2002	540.44	N.R.	97.57	N.R.
TB				
1999-2000	897.57	1130.63	0.00	100.00
2000-2001	1695.07	449.06	195.04	255.78
2001-2002	836.10	120.52	310.85	79.29
Blindness				
1999-2000	789.32	822.25	42.40	29.44
2000-2001	588.00	1327.98	38.13	26.37
2001-2002	1893.98	365.62	13.00	24.28
AIDS				
1999-2000	851.00	343.77	283.00	383.39
2000-2001	1175.00	448.53	239.00	168.15
2001-2002	1465.65	2170.08	334.00	149.54

1	2	3	4	5
Leprosy				
1999-2000	1417.10	1175.10	14.38	14.38
2000-2001	1093.51	1002.97	41.50	41.50
2001-2002	1282.50	N.R.	48.36	N.R.

N.R. Expenditure not reported by State Governments so far.

Note : Expenditure figure for 2001-02 are provisional as States have not reported expenditure for full year so far.

[English]

Opening of Head Post Offices

4927. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether government have decided to set up at least one Head Post Office in each District Headquarters in the country;

(b) if so, number of districts in Maharashtra which do not have a Head Post Office at their District Headquarters as on date; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be opened in all the District Headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to have one Head Post Office (HPO) at the headquarters of each district in the country, primarily through rationalizing the existing network of HPOs. Further, for district headquarters not having a Head Post Office, an office of appropriate status will be designated as "Mukhya Dak Ghar", which will provide self-contained service in respect of all counter transactions to all its customers.

(b) and (c) There are 5 districts in Maharashtra Circle which do not have a Head Post Office at their district headquarters. The creation of Head Post Offices in these districts will depend on justification from administrative and financial angles. Meanwhile establishment of Mukhya Dak Ghars in these places is under way.

Availability of Uranium

4928. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate uranium reserves in the country;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any plan for the proper use of uranium reserves available in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) During the last five decades of exploration, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) has so far identified approximately 92000 tonnes of uranium resources.

(b) and (c) Consistent with the modest uranium and large thorium resources available in the country, DAE have drawn up a three stage long term nuclear power programme for setting up Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors using natural uranium as fuel in the first stage, Fast Breeder Reactors using plutonium as fuel in the second stage followed by Breeder Reactors using uranium ²³³ as fuel in thorium ²³² - uranium ²³³ cycle in the third stage.

India's Position in Global Telecom Map

4929. SHRISULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the position of India at present in global telecom map;

(b) the tele-density target set by new telecom policy per persons by 2005, 2010;

(c) whether it is a fact that transmission of data is likely to play crucial role in pushing down voice charges world wide; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) India is the 8th largest telecom network in the world.

(b) The tele-density target set up by the New

Telecom Policy 1999 is 7% by the year 2005 and 15% by the year 2010.

(c) and (d) The tariff for transmission of data is different than voice tariff. Normally, voice charges are charged on the basis of duration of time, whereas the charges for data are on the volume of data being transmitted. However, in case the voice is converted to data form, it can also be transmitted under the category of data, and as such, may become cheaper but the quality of service may also go down simultaneously: Such facilities are available through Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). This is possible through Internet also and Government has already allowed the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to operate VOIP over internet on PC to PC basis anywhere in the world including our country and PC to internet phone only for international calls.

Cross Border Terrorism

4930. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports that the U.S. has offered rewards to Pak Government, if latter takes effective steps to prevent cross border terrorism against India;

(b) if so, the precise offer reportedly made by the U.S. to Pakistan; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The United States has on a number of occasions called upon Pakistan to take effective steps against terrorist organisations operating out of Pakistan, including Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, and check cross-border infiltration into India. The United States has not stated that it is offering rewards to Pakistan to take these steps.

(c) Government believes that it is the obligation of every State to deny support, sustenance and sanctuaries to terrorists and to do so without any expectation or receipt of any rewards.

Withdrawal of Duties on Mobile Communication

4931. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh

regarding withdrawing basic counter healing and special duties on all parts and components for manufacturing mobile communication equipment, mobile handsets and fixed wireless terminals in the country; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action in this regard?

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

(b) The Government has exempted parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including that of cellular phones from basic customs duty, countervailing duty (CVD) and special additional duty (SAD).

The customs duty on parts required for the manufacture of mobile communication equipment and fixed wireless terminals are at 5% to 15%.

Enhancement of MBBS Seats in Medical Colleges

4932. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of MBBS seats available in various Medical Colleges in the country, State-wise and college-wise;

(b) the number of seats allotted through Common Entrance Test and All India Quota Merit and Payment category in each college;

(c) whether the Government have enhanced the intake of MBBS seats in Medical Colleges during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of applications received from Karnataka for the increase in intake of MBBS seats and pending for approval; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to accord approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) The admission process in private medical colleges was spelt out by the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement in Unnikrishnan's case, according to which at least 50% of the seats in private medical colleges are to be given on merit basis. The remaining 50% seats are filled in payment category. 15% of seats of total intake capacity of the college are carved out from the payment category to be filled up by the Management under NRI/Management quota. Admissions against 85% seats which include free and payment category, are required to be filled by the competent authority of the State Government. However, the admission process in minority medical colleges is guided by various Supreme Court Judgement by respective State Governments.

Admission against All India quota are done through an open competitive examination conducted by CBSE, only in Government medical colleges who voluntarily contribute to the 15% All India quota and all such seats are merit seats. 1483 seats were made available for All India quota during the year 2001-02 and all the seats were filled.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are given in enclosed statement-II.

(e) Nil.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Statement-I

State-wise and College-wise number of MBBS Seats Available

S.No.	Name of the Medical College	Whether Govt./Private	Approved Admission Capacity
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam	Govt.	126
2.	Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada	Govt.	100

1	2	3	4
3.	Guntur Medical College, Guntur	Govt.	125
4.	Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada	Govt.	100
5.	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad	Govt.	200
6.	Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad	Govt.	150
7.	Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal	Govt.	150
8.	Kurnool Medical College, Kurnool	Govt.	150
9.	S.V. Medical College, Tirupati	Govt.	150
10.	Deccan College of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad	Private	150
11.	Mamta Medical College, Khammam	Private	100
12.	Kamineni Medical College, Narketpalli, Nalgonda	Private	100
13.	S.V.S. Medical College, Mehboobnagar	Private	100
14.	Narayana Medical College, Nellore	Private	100
15.	Govt. Medical College, Anantapur	Govt.	100
16.	ASRAM Medical College, Eluru	Private	100
17.	MNR Medical College, Sangareddy, Distt. Medak	Private	100
Total			2101

Assam

1.	Guwahati Medical College, Guwahati	Govt.	156
2.	Silchar Medical College, Silchar	Govt.	65
3.	Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh	Govt.	170
Total			391

Bihar

1.	Darbhanga Medical College, Laheriasarae	Govt.	90
2.	Sree Krishna Medical College, Muzaffarpur	Govt.	50
3.	Patna Medical College, Patna	Govt.	100
4.	Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Bhagalpur	Govt.	50
5.	A.N. Magadh Medical College	Govt.	50
6.	Nalanda Medical College	Govt.	50

1	2	3	4
7.	Katihar Medical College	Private	60
8.	Mata Gujri Medical College, Kishanganj	Private	60
Total			510
Chandigarh			
1.	Govt. Medical College	Govt.	50
Total			50
Chhattisgarh			
1.	Chattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur	Univ.	100
2.	Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur	Govt.	100
Total			200
Delhi			
1.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi	Govt.	50
2.	Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi	Govt.	130
3.	Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi	Govt.	180
4.	University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi	Univ.	100
5.	Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi	Govt.	100
Total			560
Goa			
1.	Goa Medical College, Panaji	Govt.	100
Total			100
Gujarat			
1.	B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad	Govt.	250
2.	Municipal Medical College, Ahmedabad	Govt.	100
3.	Medical College, Baroda	Govt.	180
4.	M.P. Shah Medical College, Jamnagar	Govt.	175
5.	Govt. Medical College, Rajkot	Govt.	50
6.	Govt. Medical College, Surat	Govt.	120
7.	Pramukh Swamy Medical College, Karamsad	Private	100

1	2	3	4
8.	Govt. Medical College, Bhavnagar	Govt.	50
9.	C.U. Shah Medical College, Surendranagar	Private	100
10.	Municipal Corporation Medical College, Surat	Govt.	100
Total			1225

Haryana

1.	Pd. Bhagwan Dayal Sharma Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak	Govt.	150
Total			150

Himachal Pradesh

1.	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla	Govt.	65
2.	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Govt. Medical College, Tanda	Govt.	50
Total			115

Jammu & Kashmir

1.	Govt. Medical College, Srinagar	Govt.	100
2.	Govt. Medical College, Jammu	Govt.	100
3.	Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences & Hospital, Jammu	Private	100
4.	SKIMS, Srinagar	Govt.	50
Total			350

Jharkhand

1.	Rajendra Medical College, Ranchi	Govt.	90
2.	MGM Medical College, Jamshedpur	Govt.	50
3.	Patliputra Medical College, Dhanbad	Govt.	50
Total			190

Karnataka

1.	Kasturba Medical College, Manipal	Private	250
2.	Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore	Private	250
3.	Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore	Govt.	150
4.	St. John's Medical College, Bangalore	Private	60

1	2	3	4
5.	M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore	Private	150
6.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Medical College, Bangalore	Private	100
7.	Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangalore	Private	120
8.	Siddhartha Medical College, Tumkur	Private	130
9.	Sre Devraj Urs Medical College, Tamka Kolar	Private	150
10.	Mysore Medical College, Mysore	Govt.	100
11.	JSS Medical College, Mysore	Private	150
12.	Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, Bellur	Private	100
13.	JJM Medical College, Davangere	Private	245
14.	Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli	Govt.	100
15.	JN Medical College, Belgaum	Private	150
16.	B.L.D.E.A's Sre B.M. Patil Medical College, Hospital Research Centre, Bijapur	Private	150
17.	Al-Ameen Medical College, Bijapur	Private	100
18.	M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga	Private	150
19.	Vijaynagar Institute of Medical Sciences, Bellary	Govt.	100
20.	Fr. Muller's Medical College, Mangalore	Private	100
21.	K.S. Hegde Medical Academy Mangalore	Private	100
22.	Yenepoya Medical College and Hospital, Chitradurga	Private	100
23.	Khaja Banda Nawaz Institute of Medical Hospital, Gulbarga	Private	100
24.	Basaveswara Medical College and Hospital, Chitradurga	Private	100
25.	MVJ Medical College & Research Hospital, Bangalore	Private	100
26.	KVJ Medical College, Sullia	Private	100
Total			3355

Kerala

1.	Medical College, Trivandrum	Govt.	200
2.	T .D. Medical College, Alappuzha	Govt.	100

1	2	3	4
3.	Medical College, Kottayam	Govt.	100
4.	Medical College, Calicut	Govt.	200
5.	Medical College, Trichur	Govt.	100
6.	Academy of Medical Sciences, Pariyaram, Kannur	Govt.	100
7.	Co-operative Medical College, Kochi	Govt.	50
Total			850

Madhya Pradesh

1.	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College, Jabalpur	Govt.	140
2.	GR Medical College, Gwalior	Govt.	140
3.	MGM Medical College, Indore	Govt.	140
4.	Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal	Govt.	140
5.	S.S. Medical College, Rewa	Govt.	60
6.	RD Gardhi Medical College, Uliain	Private	100
Total			720

Maharashtra

1.	Grant Medical College, Mumbai	Govt.	200
2.	Seth GS Medical College, Mumbai	Govt.	180
3.	TN Medical College, Mumbai	Govt.	120
4.	LTM Medical College, Mumbai	Govt.	100
5.	Padmashree Dr. D. Y. Patil Medical College, New Mumbai	Private	100
6.	Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Medical College, New Mumbai	Private	100
7.	KJ Somaiyya Medical College and Research Centre, Sion, Mumbai	Private	100
8.	Rajiv Gandhi Medical College and Chhtrapati Shivaji Maharaj Hospital, Thane	Govt.	60
9.	Terna Medical College, Terna, Navi Mumbai	Private	100
10.	BJ Medical College, Pune	Govt.	200
11.	Armed Force Medical College, Pune	Govt.	140
12.	Rural Medical College, Loni	Private	125

1	2	3	4
13.	NDMVP Samaj's Medical College, Nasik	Private	120
14.	Bharati Vidyapeeth's Medical College, Pune	Private	120
15.	Sre Bhausaheb Hire Govt. Medical College, Dhule	Govt.	.50
16.	Jawahar Medical Foundation's ACPI Medical College, Dhule	Private	100
17.	Miraj Medical College, Miraj	Govt.	100
18.	Dr. VM Medical College, Solapur	Govt.	100
19.	Kirshna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad	Private	100
20.	D.Y. Patil Education Society's D. Y. Patil Medical College, Kolhapur	Private	100
21.	Govt Medical College, Aurangabad	Govt.	150
22.	SRTR Medical College, Ambajogai	Govt.	50
23.	Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Medical College, Aurangabad	Private	100
24.	Govt. Medical College, Nanded	Govt.	50
25.	Maharashtra Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Latur	Private	100
26.	Govt. Medical College	Govt.	200
27.	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur	Govt.	100
28.	Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram, Wardha	Private	65
29.	JN Medical College, Swangi, Wardha	Private	100
30.	NKP Salve Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur	Private	100
31.	Dr. Panjabrao Alias Bhausahe's Deshmukh Memorial Medical College, Amrawati	Private	100
32.	Shree Vasanttrao Naik Govt Medical College, Yavatmal	Govt.	100
33.	Maharashtra Institute of Medical Education & Research, Talegaon, Dabhade, Pune	Private	100
34.	Dr.D.Y.Patil Pratishthan's Medical College for Women, Pimpri, Pune	Private	100
35.	Govt Medical College, Kolhapur	Govt.	100
Total			3830

Manipur

1.	Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal	Private	100
Total			100

1	2	3	4
Orissa			
1.	SCB Medical College, Cuttack	Govt.	107
2.	MKC Medical College, Berhampur	Govt.	107
3.	VSS Medical College, Burla	Govt.	107
Total			321
Pondicherry			
1.	Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, Pondicherry	Govt.	75
2.	Vinayak Mission's Medical College, Karaikal, Pondicherry	Private	100
3.	Aarupadai Veedu Medical College, Pondicherry	Private	100
4.	Mahatma Gandhi Medical College, Pondicherry	Private	100
Total			375
Punjab			
1.	Govt. Medical College, Patiala	Govt.	150
2.	Guru Govind Singh Medical College, Faridkot	Govt.	50
3.	Christian Medical College, Ludhiana	Private	50
4.	Dayanand Medical College, Ludhiana	Private	70
5.	Govt Medical College, Amritsar	Govt.	150
6.	Sree Guru Ram Das Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Sri Amritsar	Private	50
Total			520
Rajasthan			
1.	SMS Medical College, Jaipur	Govt.	150
2.	SP Medical College, Bikaner	Govt.	100
3.	RNT Medical College, Udaipur	Govt.	100
4.	Dr. SN Medical College, Jodhpur	Govt.	100
5.	JLN Medical College, Ajmer	Govt.	100
6.	Govt. Medical College, Kota	Govt.	50
7.	Indira Gandhi National Institute of Medical Sciences, Jaipur	Private	100
Total			700

1	2	3	4
Sikkim			
1.	New Medical College at Gangtok by Sikkim-Manipal University	Univ.	100
	Total		100
Tamil Nadu			
1	Chennai Medical College, Chennai	Govt.	165
2	Stanley Medical College, Chennai	Govt.	150
3	Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai	Govt.	100
4	Christian Medical College, Vellore	Private	60
5	Chengalpattu Medical College, Chengalpattu	Govt.	50
6	Tanjavur Medical College, Thanjavur	Govt.	150
7	Coimbatore Medical College, Coimbatore	Govt.	110
8	Tirunelveli Medical College, Tirunelveli	Govt.	100
9	Madurai Medical College, Madurai	Govt.	155
10	Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College, Selam	Govt.	75
11	PSG Institute of Medical Sciences, Coimbatore	Private	100
12	Perunthurai Medical College, Perunthurai	Govt.	60
13	Vinayaka Mission's Medical College, Salem	Private	100
14	Sre Ramachandra Medical College & Research Institute, Porur, Madras	Private	150
15	Rajah Muthiah Medical College, Annamalainagar	Private	100
16	KAP Vishwanathan Govt. Medical College, Trichy	Govt.	100
17	New Medical College at Toothukudi	Govt.	100
	Total		1825
Uttar Pradesh			
1	SN Medical College, Agra	Govt.	128
2	MLN Medical College, Allahabad	Govt.	100
3	JN Medical College, Aligarh	Univ.	150
4	Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi	Univ.	59
5	GSVM Medical College, Kanpur	Govt.	190

1	2	3	4
6	MLB Medical College, Jhansi	Govt.	50
7	KG's Medical College, Lucknow	Govt.	185
8	LLR Medical College, Meerut	Govt.	100
9	BRA Medical College, Gorakhpur	Govt.	50
10	Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad	Private	43
11	Subharati Medical College, Meerut	Private	100
12	Era Lucknow Medical College, Lucknow	Private	100
Total			1255

Uttaranchal

1	Himalaya Institute of Medical Sciences, Dehradun	Private	100
Total			100

West Bengal

1	Medical College, Calcutta	Govt.	155
2	RG Kao Medical College, Calcutta.	Govt.	150
3	NRS Medical College, Calcutta	Govt.	150
4	Calcutta National Medical College, Calcutta	Govt.	150
5	BS Medical College, Bankura	Govt.	100
6	North Bengal Medical College, Darjeeling	Govt.	100
7	Burdwan Medical College, Burdwan	Govt.	100
Total			905

Statement-II*Increase in Intake in MBBS Courses Permitted during 2000-01 and 2001-02*

S.No.	Name of the Medical College	Increase of Intake from
1	2	3
2000-2001		
1.	K.J. Somaiya Medical College, Mumbai	50 to 100
2.	Vasantrao Naik Govt. Medical College, Yavatmal	50 to 100
3.	N.H.L. Medical College, Ahmedabad	100 to 150

1	2	3
4.	PGIMS, Rohtak	115 to 150
5.	S.V. Medical College, Tirupati	100 to 150
2001-2002		
1.	Burdwan Medical College, Burdwan	50 to 100
2.	B.S. Medical College, Bangalore	50 to 100
3.	North Bengal Medical College, Darjeeling	50 to 100
4.	N .K.P. Salve Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagpur	50 to 100
5.	Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli	50 to 100
6.	Goa Medical College, Goa	70 to 100
7.	M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga	100 to 150

Nutrition Programme

4933. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have ever surveyed the nutritional problems among the people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to address nutritional programme in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Though no specific survey of nutritional problems of people living below poverty line was carried out at national level; the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) of Indian Council of Medical Research conducts regular diet and nutritional surveys covering different segments of population including rural urban, tribal, areas of ten States. Department of Women and Child Development in the Government of India has carried out district level nutritional surveys during 1995-96 in 187 districts of 18 States/UTs covering rural and urban population. Further, National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99) has also covered nutritional status in its report. According to these surveys, pre-school children, pregnant and lactating women are nutritionally vulnerable.

(c) The policy of the Government to tackle the nutritional problems of various target groups in a systematic

manner and in close coordination with the State Governments and Union Territories.

Assistance for Introduction of Metro Bus Service in States

4934. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the State Governments requesting for external assistance particularly of Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA) for introduction of Metro Bus Service in major cities in respective States during the last three years;

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

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) This Ministry had received a proposal from Government of Karnataka seeking financial and technical assistance from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for the project relating to introduction of Metro Bus System in Bangalore city. The proposal has already been recommended to Department of Economic Affairs for taking up the matter with SIDA. This Ministry do not extend any financial assistance for such projects.

Concrete Roads on National Highways

4935. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cement industry has urged the Government to make construction of concrete roads mandatory on all National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have accepted this proposal;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to use Cement for the construction of road in the country; 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) Cement industry through Cement Manufacturers Association has urged the Government for adoption of Cement concrete pavement on National Highways.

(c) to (e) Cement concrete pavements are considered for adoption in stretches of National Highways depending on the type of soil, traffic, design life, size of project, availability of requisite materials and equipments etc. National Highways Authority of India has identified an aggregate length of 1680 kilometers (two-lane equivalent) for adopting cement concrete pavement on Golden Quadrilateral under National Highways Development Project.

[Translation]

ISRO's Research and Development Centres

4936. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation propose to set up Research and Development Centres in the border areas of Rajasthan, Punjab and Bihar touching Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SIDBI Role in SSI Development in Maharashtra

4937. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the role played by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to promote small scale sector in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of small scale units set-up/revived by the SIDBI in the State by providing loans during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether SIDBI propose to increase its operation in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) extends financial assistance to small scale sector for new and existing projects and for modernization and diversification through direct and indirect finance schemes which are in operation on an all-India basis including in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) The assistance provided by the SIDBI in Maharashtra during the last three years is given below :

Year	No. of units	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. crore)	Amount Disbursed (Rs. crore)
1999-2000	2226	1036.85	820.67
2000-2001	1125	640.21	627.32
2001-2002	731	2457.66	1620.58

(P) : Provisional

Further, the SIDBI has also sanctioned and disbursed Rs. 4.41 crore and Rs. 2.59 crore respectively to 48 Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units since inception (i.e. April, 1990 to March, 2001) under its Refinance Rehabilitation scheme in Maharashtra.

(c) SIDBI, has been continuously adopting new strategies to facilitate healthy growth to SSI sector. SIDBI would continue to take new initiatives for the SSI sector and the new activities would cover the entire country including Maharashtra.

(d) In view of (b) and (c) above, does not arise.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Pune City

4938. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new telephone exchanges opened so far in Pune City of Maharashtra during the last three years;

- (b) the installed capacity of these exchanges;
- (c) whether applications for telephone connections through these exchanges have been cleared;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of applications still pending; and
- (f) action being taken by the Government to clear all the applications at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Details are given at enclosed statement.

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) The telephone connections are available on demand in all exchanges in Pune city.
- (f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Statement

Details of New Exchanges Opened in Pune City with respective Installed Capacity

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity	Technology	Main/RSU	Capacity as on 31.3.2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
Year 1999- 2000					
1	Model Colony	640	E-10B	RLU	Nil
2	MKR III	2000	EWSD	Main	6994
3	Kothrud	9000	EWSD	RSU	12494
4	Khadki CNE	32	OCB		Nil
5	MKR II CNE	32	OCB		Nil
6	Model Colony	1700	EWSD	RSU	4348
7	Khadki	1000	EWSD	RSU	2568
8	Hadapsar CNE	32	OCB		Nil
9	Banar	3000	EWSD	RSU	3458

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Kondhwe	7000	EWSD	RSU	9192
11	Gultekadi	4028	EWSD	RSU	4222
12	Shivajinagar	2000	EWSD	RLU	3748
13	Hadapsar	976	EWSD	RSU	Nil
14	Guletkadi CNE	32	OCB		Nil
15	MHS II	2000	EWSD	RSU	Nil
16	Vimannagar	6000	OCB	RSU	8246
17	CME Dapodi	5000	EWSD	RSU	3944
18	Sukhasagamagar	3000	OCB	RSU	7180
19	Aundh	1000	EWSD	RSU	3552
Year 2000-2001					
1	Bavdhan	2000	EWSD	RSU	2272
2	Salunke Vihar	4000	EWSD	RSU	4752
3	Warje	4000	EWSD	RSU	3636
4	Cantonment	2000	EWSD	RSU	2032
5	Shukrawar Peth	1000	EWSD	RSU	1064
Year 2001-2002					
1	UCCA	2000	EWSD	RSU	2000
2	WLL	3000	CDMA	Main	3000
3	Hinghne Kh	7644	5 ESS	RSU	7644
4	Bhusen Colony	2000	EWSD	RSU	3906
5	Sohrab Hall	1000	OCB	RSU	1092
6	Bhavani Peth	11788	5 ESS	RSU	11788
7	Kondhawa BK	1500	EWSD	RSU	1468
8	Hadapsar-II	3000	EWSD	Main	3976
9	Badgaon Shery	6000	EWSD	RSU	5968
10	MHS-III	7570	5 ESS	Main	7570

Note : The exchanges where capacity have been shown as Nil as on 31st March, 2002 are already closed due to merger/introduction of new technology switches.

Integrated Infrastructure Development Works

4939. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from various States for integrated infrastructure development works for small scale industries in the country;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) A statement indicating the proposals received from various States Governments/Union Territories for Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Centres and eventually sanctioned including nine projects which have been abandoned by the State Governments/Union territories concerned is enclosed. Three more proposals for setting up IID Centres one each in District Cachar of Assam, District Lunglei of Mizoram and District Krishna of Andhra Pradesh have been received and are being examined with reference to the parameters of the IID Scheme.

Statement

State-wise List of Centres Sanctioned under IID Scheme

Andhra Pradesh	1. Kurnool 2. Rangareddy 3. Nellore 4. Warrangal 5. Chittoor
Assam	1. Darrang 2. Nagaon
Gujarat	1. Junagarh 2. Banaskantha
Haryana	1. Sirsa 2. Bhiwani* 3. Jind* 4. Yamunanagar
Himachal Pradesh	1. Mandi* 2. Bilaspur
Jammu & Kashmir	1. Udhampur
Karnataka	1. Belgaum 2. Bijapur 3. Kolar 4. Bagalkot
Kerala	1. Trivandrum 2. Kannur

3. Malappuram 4. Ernakulam 5. Wayanad 6. Kasargod 7. Trichur 8. Pathanamthitta.

Maharashtra	1. Yeotmal
Madhya Pradesh	1. Seoni* 2. Satna 3. Mandsaur 4. Khargone 5. Katni
Manipur	1. Chandel
Orissa	1. Khurda 2. Rayagada 3. Jagatsinghpur
Punjab	1. Hoshiarpur 2. Muktsar 3. Kapurthala 4. Mansa 5. Ludhiana
Rajasthan	1. Jodhpur 2. Nagaur 3. Tonk 4. Udaipur
Tamil Nadu	1. Madurai 2. Coimbatore 3. Thirumudivakkam (Kanchipuram) 4. Kattur Avadi MGR Distt. 5. Thiruvellore (Vichoor)
Daman & Diu	1. Ringwada*
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1. Vellagaum*
Uttar Pradesh	1. Bulandsahar* 2. Khurja 3. Etah 4. Allahabad* 5. Badaun* 6. Mathura 7. Unnao 8. Bhadohi. 9. Bhagpat. 10. Barabanki 11. Ghaziabad.
Pondicherry	1. Sadarpet

* Abandoned.

Treatment of Cancer

4940. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) whether a International Conference on "Cancer Treatment in Developing Countries and the problems and opportunities for clinical research" was held recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held alongwith outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the suggestions/recommendations made in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) This Ministry has neither organized nor funded any such conference.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Completion of Projects on National Highway

4941. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have in the process of completing all the projects of the laying of the National Highways in country;

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

(c) the funds allocated for each States as well the funds spent;

(d) whether the Government have received any request from the Tamil Nadu for improvement and speedy execution of four lanning of all the National Highways passing through the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the work done so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Development of National Highways is a continuous process.

(b) State-wise number of ongoing works is at enclosed statement-I.

(c) State-wise funds allocation & expenditure is at enclosed statement-II.

(d) and (e) Four lanning of NH-4 (Valejapet-Poonamalee section), 5, 7, 46 and 47 (Salem-Kerala border section) in Tamil Nadu is proposed to be done under Golden Quadrilateral and North-South corridor of National Highway Development Project. Presently fourteen works having a length of 395 kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 1685 crores are in progress.

Statement-I

State-wise number of the on-going works as on 01-04-2002

S.No	Name of the State	On going works as on 1-04-2002	Sanctioned Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50	128.04
2.	Assam	86	190.93
3.	Bihar	71	117.19
4.	Chandigarh	2	5.16
5.	Chhattisgarh	35	64.06
6.	Delhi	4	11.38
7.	Goa	9	27.66
8.	Gujarat	32	153.34
9.	Haryana	16	83.90
10.	Himachal Pradesh	19	90.35
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	9	6.26
12.	Jharkhand	28	47.34
13.	Karnataka	48	140.15
14.	Kerala	46	149.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	80	152.83
16.	Maharashtra	68	135.27
17.	Manipur	39	43.94
18.	Meghalaya	32	94.24
19.	Mizoram	14	45.43
20.	Nagaland	14	25.12
21.	Orissa	50	120.15
22.	Pondicherry	7	9.59
23.	Punjab	24	82.31
24.	Rajasthan	71	154.42

1	2	3	4
25.	Tamil Nadu	56	98.44
26.	Uttaranchal	26	66.24
27.	Uttar Pradesh	73	337.75
28.	West Bengal	20	285.02
29.	NHAI	145	21165.00

Statement-II

State-wise Allocation of Funds and Expenditure under 5054 for the year 2001-2002

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the State	Allocation	*Expenditure
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	103.80	103.80
2.	Assam	76.05	75.00
3.	Bihar	65.32	50.18
4.	Chandigarh	1.50	0.51
5.	Chhattisgarh	32.28	35.20
6.	Delhi	6.00	6.00
7.	Goa	20.00	20.00
8.	Gujarat	70.43	55.00
9.	Haryana	103.88	63.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	55.00	55.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.30	2.30
12.	Jharkhand	35.00	29.71
13.	Karnataka	109.47	107.48
14.	Kerala	92.61	85.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	90.99	69.15
16.	Maharashtra	193.72	138.26
17.	Manipur	14.53	8.70
18.	Meghalaya	22.70	16.00

1	2	3	4
19.	Mizoram	26.00	20.36
20.	Nagaland	15.00	13.38
21.	Orissa	79.13	46.40
22.	Pondicherry	2.12	2.12
23.	Punjab	64.13	39.50
24.	Rajasthan	87.46	82.96
25.	Tamil Nadu	97.39	95.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	146.63	120.00
27.	Uttaranchal	25.00	25.00
28.	West Bengal	84.22	72.00
29.	NHAI	4189.17	4189.17

* Tentative expenditure up to 31st March, 2002

PMRY in Orissa

4942. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed youths in Orissa who have been provided with loans under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated and disbursed under the above scheme, district-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that rural youths have been ignored while providing the loans under PMRY; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to issue instructions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) As reported by the State Government of Orissa, statement-I showing the district-wise details of loans sanctioned to educated unemployed youth in Orissa under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is enclosed.

(b) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), the Central Government releases funds for Subsidy

as well as for Training and Entrepreneurial Development etc. While the funds for Subsidy are authorised to the Reserve Bank of India for passing on to the individual beneficiaries through the implementing banks, the funds for Training and Entrepreneurial Development etc. are released to the States/UTs. In turn, the State governments allocate and disburse these funds on their own to their districts. Rs. 231.22 lakhs have been released to the State of Orissa from 1998-99 to 2000-01 under the PMRY. Based on the reports received from the State Government, statement-II showing district-wise details of funds disbursed during the last three years i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-01 under PMRY is enclosed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per the findings of the Evaluation Study (2nd round) for the PMRY conducted by Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), New Delhi, 49.9% of the beneficiaries belong to the rural areas.

Statement-I

District-wise details of unemployed youths sanctioned loans during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 in Orissa under the PMRY

As reported by the State Govt.

Name of the District	Persons sanctioned loans by the Banks		
	1998-99 (Nos.)	1999-2000 (Nos.)	2000-2001 (Nos.)
1	2	3	4
Balasore	418	550	707
Bhadrak	274	328	379
Bolangir	216	316	328
Sonepur	80	120	140
Cuttack	534	623	902
Jagatsinghpur	295	402	432
Kendrapara	207	286	255
Jagatpur	517	575	622
Dhenkanal	320	287	380
Angul	213	243	386
Ganjam	707	735	964

1	2	3	4
Gajapati	83	95	93
Kalahandi	292	301	366
Nuapada	75	91	78
Keonjhar	363	386	467
Koraput	221	225	255
Nowrangpur	87	94	77
Malkangiri	32	55	55
Rayagada	296	288	277
Mayurbhanj	266	333	354
Phulbani	126	129	178
Boudh	76	74	117
Puri	549	556	718
Bhubaneshwar	797	885	1018
Nayagarh	108	148	161
Sambalpur	441	414	512
Bargarh	225	301	362
Jharsuguda	201	215	226
Deogarh	49	53	45
Sundargarh	386	253	315
Rourkela	396	421	574

Statement-II

District-wise details of funds disbursed by the State Government during the last three years i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-01 in Orissa under the PMRY

As reported by the State Govt.

Name of the District	Training funds (Rs.)	Contingency (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
Balasore	1103999	390600	1494599
Bhadrak	247622	135225	382847
Bolangir	528696	186300	714996

1	2	3	4
Sonepur	121950	48600	170550
Cuttack	1464500	521100	1985600
Jagatsinghpur	273450	158400	431850
Kendrapara	192200	101250	293450
Jagatpur	901150	337950	1239100
Dhenkanal	743165	244350	987515
Angul	244750	119250	364000
Ganjam	1284000	500625	1784625
Gajapati	43500	36000	79500
Kalahandi	498600	207675	706275
Nuapada	50700	31500	82200
Keonjhar	549000	242100	791100
Koraput	410100	166500	576600
Nowarangpur	54650	32175	86825
Malkangiri	43300	22950	66250
Rayagada	428500	172350	600850
Mayurbhanj	389000	188775	577775
Phulbani	259150	102825	361975
Boudh	75000	35775	110775
Puri	1000629	360675	1361304
Bhubaneswar	1448600	554625	2003225
Nayagarh	95800	56925	152725
Sambalpur	994550	379575	1374125
Bargarh	254650	125325	379975
Jharsuguda	146600	83700	230300
Deogarh	33000	20025	53025
Sundargarh	413000	192600	605600
Rourkela	504612	275400	780012

*[Translation]***Complaints Received in P.M. Office**

4943. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received in the anti-corruption cell, set up in the Prime Minister's office during the last one year;

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

(c) the latest position and details of the complaints under consideration at present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Between 19.4.2001 and 19.4.2002, the anti-corruption cell has received 857 complaints concerning the Central Ministries and State Governments.

(b) and (c) All complaints relating to the functioning of the Government of India are being pursued with the concerned Ministry/Department. Complaints, which relate to the functioning of the State Government officials are forwarded through letters addressed to the Chief Secretary of the concerned State and the State Governments are requested to undertake necessary inquiries. State-wise details of all complaints received in the Anti-corruption Cell as on 19.4.2002 are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise status of Feedback received regarding Complaint's on Corruption/Irregularities in Prime Minister's office.

(As on 19 April 2002)

No.	State	No. of Complaints Referred to State	Cases in which Feed (Closed)	Back Received (in Process)	Cases in which Feed Back not Received
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	21	9	2	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	53	5	15	33

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	1
4.	Assam	21	5	1	15
5.	Bihar	179	1	30	148
6.	Chhattisgarh	3	0	0	3
7.	Chandigarh	14	4	1	9
8.	Delhi	217	69	41	107
9.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	2	0	0
10.	Goa	7	1	2	4
11.	Gujarat	19	3	2	14
12.	Haryana	73	11	19	43
13.	Himachal Pradesh	15	0	0	15
14.	Jharkhand	2	0	0	2
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	1	1	6
16.	Karnataka	23	5	16	2
17.	Kerala	9	1	1	7
18.	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	1
19.	Maharashtra	71	5	3	63
20.	Meghalaya	2	0	1	1
21.	Mizoram	4	0	0	4
22.	Manipur	8	1	1	6
23.	Madhya Pradesh	175	11	31	133
24.	Orissa	69	8	40	21
25.	Pondicherry	3	1	0	2
26.	Punjab	116	9	9	98
27.	Rajasthan	118	18	10	90
28.	Sikkim	4	0	0	4
29.	Tamil Nadu	55	11	21	23
30.	Tripura	1	1	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
31.	Uttaranchal	2	0	0	2
32.	Uttar Pradesh	461	40	82	339
33.	West Bengal	20	2	6	12
Total		1777	224	335	1218

[English]

Scheme for Development and Expansion of National Highways

4944. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government formulated a scheme for the development and expansion of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of quantum of funds made available by the Government during the Ninth Plan period for the purpose; and

(d) the details of funds actually spent on this with special reference to Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) Development including expansion of National Highways is a continuing process based on traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds. During Ninth Plan period a length of about 23,814 km has been added to the National Highways network. An amount of Rs. 16844.09 crore was allocated for development of National Highways during the Ninth Plan and an expenditure of Rs. 15557.41 crore was incurred (upto Feb. 2002). For Maharashtra the allocation was Rs. 1007.59 crore and expenditure of Rs. 848.88 crore (upto Feb. 2002).

Assessment of IT Professionals

4945. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to monitor international migration of Indian Information Technology workers and set up a common database for IT professionals so as to readily meet growing demand for skilled professionals;

(b) if so, whether such a recommendation has also

been made by the Task Force on Human Resource Development in Information Technology;

(c) if so, the extent to which the Task Force has so far agreed to make quality workers to be made available to the various countries where demand for Indian IT professionals have been increasing;

(d) whether any assessment has been made as to how much Indian IT professionals are needed annually; and

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

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Sale of Organically Grown Foodgrains by KVIC

4946. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether KVIC has diversified its activities into procuring and selling organically grown foodgrains at its various outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States from which these foodgrains have been procured; and

(d) the details of measure taken by KVIC to ensure the quality of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (b) The role of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is, restricted to post harvest stage. For generating awareness among the public about organic foods, the KVIC has decided to intervene in the area of organic food by procuring and marketing these products. Trial launch of organic food was made on 13th January, 2002 and a new brand 'Deshi Aahar' was launched on 13.04.2002.

(c) Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Orissa are the States from where the foodgrains are procured.

(d) The KVIC has established linkages with IIT, Delhi in this regard and presently, the quality control is being ensured by the IIT, Delhi by testing the products on three tier

basis i.e. at Farm State, at Processing stage and at selling point.

Distribution of Directories in Hyderabad

4947. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Telephone Directories distributed in areas under Hyderabad Telecom district;

(b) the number yet to be distributed;

(c) whether it is a fact that changes in numbers, addresses are not rapidly corrected by Hyderabad Telecom;

(d) whether there exists any monitoring mechanism to ensure that the aforesaid changes are made quickly and accurately;

(e) if so, the reasons for slow-reaction on the part of Hyderabad Telecom; and

(f) the steps proposed by BSNL to improve the functioning of Hyderabad Telecom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, 4.75 lakh Telephone Directories and 7000 compact discs have been distributed since April, 2001 in the areas under Hyderabad Telecom District.

(b) Out of 2.2 lakh remaining subscribers, telephone directories are made available through various outlets of the telecom district to the customers who desire to have the same.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) The monitoring system exists and the corrections are timely incorporated in the database on regular basis. However, Hyderabad Telecom District has been advised to bring in more improvements with regard to data base updation.

Free Medicines in AIIMS

4948. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the patients admitted in General ward of AIIMS are entitled for free medicines as per the vocabulary prepared by AIIMS;

(b) if so, the reasons for General ward patients are given prescription for purchasing each and every medicines from the market; and

(c) the amount incurred by AIIMS in procuring medicines for free distribution in General ward during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) All patients who are admitted in the General wards in AIIMS hospital are provided with common and emergency medicines/ surgical items including cotton gauge, syringes etc. Only those patients who can afford to buy the medicines not available in the hospital are asked to buy such items. In case of very poor indigent patients, who all the required medicines and surgical items are provided by the AIIMS Hospital.

(c) The expenditure incurred by the AIIMS hospital in procuring medicines for the hospitalized patient (and EHS beneficiaries) for the financial year 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 is Rs. 9.67 crores, Rs. 9.80 crores & Rs. 14.10 crores respectively.

MoU of I.T. with New Zealand

4949. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and New Zealand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which India has agreed to provide all co-operation in software development and training in New Zealand?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) An Arrangement was signed on 7th December, 2001 between Government of the Republic of India and Government of New Zealand for cooperation in Information Technology sector to promote the development of relations between business, research bodies, educational institutions, central and local Government agencies and other ancillary organisations in this sector.

(c) India has, inter-alia, agreed to cooperate with New Zealand in software and multimedia development through exchange of information, promoting understanding of

regulatory approaches, facilitating trade in information industry, encouraging trade and business networks & partnerships between Indian and New Zealand information industry companies for, participation in bilateral, regional and international dialogue and cooperation in this area.

The cooperation is however, subject to the availability of funds & resources and observance of applicable laws and regulations of both countries.

Performance of Kaiga Atomic Power Plant

4950. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of Kaiga Atomic Power Plant was not satisfactory during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of this Atomic Power Plant; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Kaiga Nuclear Power Station consists of 2 units of 220 MWe each. Kaiga Unit 2 started commercial operation w.e.f. 16.3.2000 and Kaiga Unit 1 started commercial operation w.e.f. 16.11.2000. The performance of both the units has been quite satisfactory right from the first year after commercial operation.

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

Financial Resources of Terrorists

4951. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and the U.S. have lately been working together to turn off the tap of financial resources to the international terrorists; and

(b) if so, the success achieved so far in blocking the flow of financial resources to such terrorist outfits, indicating the names of the outfits and the action taken by India and the U.S. to block their resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) At the fourth meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, the two sides discussed financing of terrorist activities and agreed that the widespread use of informal channels for financial flows presents a special challenge to governments. They agreed that closer cooperation and strengthening mutual capabilities in cutting off financial flows to terrorist organisations will constitute an important component of their counter-terrorism cooperation.

(b) The two sides pursue these goals in accordance with their domestic law and their obligations as members of the United Nations. Government is acting against terrorist organisations named under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The United States has taken action under its domestic law against over 150 terrorist organisations, including a number of organisations based in Pakistan such as Lashkar-e-Tolba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen.

Virtual Calling Cards

4952. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the virtual calling card was introduced to regulate STD and ISD facility;

(b) If so, whether it is a fact that the sale of this card has increased many folds;

(c) If so, whether Government are aware that there is a lot of call jam particularly during peak times and people are not getting the lines; and

(d) If so, the steps being taken to increase the capacity of the lines on the cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, the VCC Card has been introduced to facilitate STD/ISD usage for STD barred phones.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During peak hours, particularly when concessional STD rate starts, there is sudden rise in traffic. However, during day time, normally there is no such incident of heavy congestion.

(d) Following steps are being taken :

(i) To meet the growing demand, Service Control Points (SCPs) were added at Mumbai and Bangalore. The Service Switching Point (SSP) at Kolkata has been upgraded.

(ii) Further, new switches at Ahmedabad and Lucknow have been planned and shall be commissioned shortly.

Telephone System on IGI Airport

4953. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone system at the Terminal of Indira Gandhi International Airport collapsed on February 7, 2002 due to certain snags in the system; and

(b) If so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to prevent occurrence of such incidents in future?

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

(b) Sir, some telephones at the terminal of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) became out of order due to optical fibre cuts by unknown agencies. However, 105 telephones working at IGI airport which are from Delhi Cantonment Exchange (569 level) on copper pairs were not affected by the breakdown.

FIR has been lodged in Police Station, Vasant Kunj. Apart from this, CGM, MTNL has taken up the matter with Commissioner of Police for detailed investigation. The manholes of optical fibre ducts are being sealed by concrete as a special measure.

Cases Pending in CAT

4954. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending with the Central Administrative Tribunal has crossed 50,000 as on the March 31, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite disposal of these cases during the last two years; and

(d) the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No Sir. There were 33434 cases pending in the Central Administrative Tribunal as on 31.03.2002. The pendency has been steadily decreasing since 1999.

(c) and (d) The Government does not interfere in the judicial functioning of the Tribunal. However, efforts are made by the Government to fill up the vacant posts of Chairman, Vice Chairmen and Members as expeditiously as possible. On account of this and steps taken by the Central Administrative Tribunal itself for expeditious disposal of cases, there has been increase in the rate of disposal of cases in as much as 31,398 cases and 31,953 cases were decided in the years 2000 and 2001 respectively. The rate of disposal of cases now exceeds the number of cases instituted.

National AIDS and Blood Policy

4955. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved National Policy for Prevention and Control of AIIIMS and the National Blood Policy for safe use of blood;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy;

(c) the extent to which this new policy is likely to curb AIDS; and

(d) the guidelines formulated by the Government for effective implementation of AIDS control programme by the States?

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

(b) The salient features of National Policy for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and the National Blood Policy are as under :-

- i) To reaffirm Government's commitment for prevention and control of HIV infection and reduce its social impact.
- ii) To generate a feeling of ownership among all the participants, both in the Government and civil

society, by treating it as a developmental issue and not merely as a public health programme.

- iii) To promote an enabling social environment for prevention of HIV/AIDS and for providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS by protecting their human rights including right to access health care system, right to education, employment and privacy.
- iv) To enlarge community mobilization by enlisting support of a large number of NGOs and community-based Organisations.
- v) To prevent women, children and other socially vulnerable groups from becoming infected by HIV/AIDS by improving health education, legal status and economic prospects.
- vi) To promote better understanding of HIV Infection among young people, especially students, by educational programmes aimed at adopting safe behavioural practices.
- vii) To bring in horizontal integration with other national programmes like Reproductive and Child Health, TB Control, Integrated Child Development and primary health care system.
- viii) To ensure availability of adequate and safe blood and blood products for the general population through promotion of voluntary blood donation and rational use of blood.

(c) The general objective of the policy is to prevent the epidemic from spreading further and to reduce the impact of the epidemic not only upon the infected persons but upon the health and socio-economic status of the general population at all levels. The policy envisages effective containment of the infection level of HIV/AIDS in the general population in order to achieve zero level of new infections by 2007.

(d) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs for the effective implementation of the National AIDS Control programme on the basis of which each State/UTs prepare their state specific action plan every year.

Task Force on Information Technology in SSI

4956. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a task force to chart out a road map to boost Information Technology at Small Scale Industry Units in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which it will benefit the SSI units?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However a Task Force on Financing Knowledge Based Industries in the Small Enterprises Sector has been constituted recently by Government.

- (c) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

Widening of National Highway in West Bengal

4957. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the National Highways in the West Bengal on which widening, expansion and repair work are being undertaken;

(b) the time by which such works are likely to be carried out on the remaining National Highways passing through the State; and

(c) the details of the estimated expenditure in this regard and the actual amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Improvement of National Highways is a continuous process. At present 20 nos. of improvement works at a sanctioned cost of Rs.285.02 crore on National Highway No.2, 31, 31C, 32, 34, 35, 55 and 60 are in progress. Recently declared National Highway No.80 and 81 are yet to be taken over by National Highway organization.

(c) Details of amounts of allocation and expenditure for the year 2001-02 are as under :

	Allocation	Expenditure
	(in Rs. Crore)	(in Rs. Crore)
Improvement works	80.00	71.0
Maintenance & Repair works	39.07	40.0

Deaths due to AIDS

4958. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons died due to AIDS in the country during the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the total number of AIDS cases registered in the country during the above period State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Statement-I indicating state-wise number of persons died due to AIDS as reported to NACO during the last three years in the country is enclosed.

(b) Statement-II indicating state-wise number of reported AIDS cases during the last three years in the country is enclosed.

Statement-I

No. of Deaths due to AIDS

S.No.	State/UT	1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	53
2	Assam	-	1	-
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
4	A&N Islands	-	7	2
5	Bihar	5	7	1
6	Chandigarh	-	13	29
7	Punjab	-	-	-
8	Delhi	-	24	27
9	Daman & Diu	-	-	-
10	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	-	-
11	Goa	-	3	15
12	Gujarat	12	-	20

1	2	3	4	5
13	Haryana	-	5	-
14	Himachal Pradesh	6	-	-
15	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-
16	Karnataka	20	19	27
17	Kerala	13	-	-
18	Lakshadweep	4	-	-
19	Madhya Pradesh	-	50	5
20	Maharashtra	80	77	176
21	Manipur	2	17	50
22	Mizoram	-	7	-
23	Meghalaya	1	-	-
24	Nagaland	12	25	28
25	Orissa	-	-	-
26	Pondichery	71	-	-
27	Rajasthan	-	-	-
28	Sikkim	1	-	-
29	Tamil Nadu	-	119	249
30	Tripura	-	-	-
31	Uttar Pradesh	-	4	15
32	West Bengal	-	-	68
Total		229	378	765

Statement-II

No. of AIDS Cases

S.No.	State	1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4	5
1	A&N Islands	0	9	8
2	Andhra Pradesh	2	0	1217
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
4	Assam	11	62	30
5	Bihar	0	36	53
6	Chandigarh	124	114	189
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
8	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
9	Delhi	0	64	358
10	Goa	7	10	46
11	Gujarat	1	245	877
12	Haryana	0	47	141
13	Himachal Pradesh	16	15	51
14	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
15	Karnataka	47	541	516
16	Kerala	0	56	105
17	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	116	294	139
19	Maharashtra	64	348	2728
20	Manipur	61	364	307
21	Meghalaya	0	0	0
22	Mizoram	7	3	5
23	Nagaland	19	51	131
24	Orissa	0	52	28
25	Pondicherry	0	0	0
26	Punjab	52	31	4
27	Rajasthan	27	106	136
28	Sikkim	0	0	2
29	Tamil Nadu	2730	4206	6484
30	Tripura	0	0	0
31	Uttar Pradesh	41	93	202
32	West Bengal	0	0	668
33	A.bad Munci. Corp.	0	0	189
Total		3325	6747	14614

[Translation]

National Highway from Surat to Bhusawal

4959. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to construct a new national highway from Surat (Gujarat) to Bhusawal (Maharashtra) via-Nawapur, Nandurbar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal with the Government to declare the road from Surat (Gujarat) to Bhusawal (Maharashtra) via-Nawapur, Nandurbar as National Highway.

Recommendations of CVC

4960. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission recommends disciplinary action against those officers found responsible for committing irregularities after completion of inquiry in any Ministry of the Central Government; and

(b) if so, whether it is obligatory for the Ministry to implement the recommendations of CVC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) tenders advice to the concerned disciplinary authorities at two stages. The first stage advice is given after the completion of investigations about initiation of disciplinary proceedings for any misconduct under the provisions of the concerned Disciplinary Rules. The second stage advice, given after conclusion of formal inquiry, is about the penalty to be awarded. The decision to initiate action or to impose penalties on such officials can only be taken by the Disciplinary Authorities enumerated in the relevant Rules. It is not obligatory for the Disciplinary Authority to implement the recommendation of the CVC. If such an authority does

not accept/implement the Commission's advice, the matter is reported in the Commission's Annual Report in terms of paragraph 2(xiv) of the Ministry of Home Affairs' Resolution No. 24/7/64-AVD dated 11.02.1964. The Commission's Annual Report together with a memorandum explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of the Commission's recommendations is laid by the Government on the Table of the House.

[English]

Top Level Posts

4961. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 2037 dated March 15, 2002 and state :

(a) whether 10 per cent cut was to be applied on post at all levels and not on the overall strength of a department as per reply given to Starred Question No. 50 dated July 25, 2001;

(b) if so, the exact position in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to cut short reservation of 40 per cent of deputation posts from State to Centre;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to limit the number of years of service that the all India service officers can put in as is done in the case of Service Officers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As per the information made available by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure), the exercise of 10% cut in posts with reference to the sanctioned strength as on 1.1.1992 is applicable on the overall strength of a Ministry/Department as a whole and not separately for each and every grade or level of posts.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal under consideration to cut short 40% of Central deputation reserve for IAS and IPS officers and 20% for IFS officers.

G.D.P. Declined in SSI

4962. DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any Policy for Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether contribution of SSI Sector to the G.D.P. has declined in the first nine months of year 2001 over the corresponding period of previous year:

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase its contribution in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Policy measures already exist for promoting and strengthening Small Scale Industries (SSI) in the country. In order to enhance their competitiveness both domestically and globally, Government have announced a Comprehensive Policy Package SSIs on 30th August, 2000 which provides for easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Support to the SSI sector shall continue in the current year through the implementation of ongoing programmes and schemes to enable them to further enhance their contribution to the GDP.

[Translation]

CBI Cases

4963. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of corruption against bureaucrats category-wise investigated by the Central Bureau of investigation (CBI) during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the number of out of these cases in which the

CBI has filed the charge sheets state-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the number of persons convicted out of them during the period, State-wise and the category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) As per the information provided by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the details of cases registered against the officers belonging to Group 'A' services, the number of charge-sheets issued against such officers and the number of Group 'A' officers convicted, during the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 are indicated below :-

	1999	2000	2001
No. of officers belonging to Gr. A services against whom cases were registered.	131	140	150
No. of charge-sheets issued.	5	23	31
No. of officers belonging to Gr. A services convicted.	-	1	-

As far as State-wise details are concerned, the data is not centrally maintained by CBI.

[English]

Coast Lines Connected with National Highway

4964. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the States coast lines are connected with National Highways;

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

(c) if not, plans of the Government to provide National Highways alongwith the coast lines of the country, particularly Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Most of the States coast lines are connected with National Highways as per details enclosed as statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of National Highways connecting States Coast lines

S. No.	State	National Highways running/ touching the coast
1	Gujarat	6, 8, 8A, 8B, 8D, & 8E
2	Maharashtra	3, 4B, 8, 17 & 204
3	Goa	4A, 17, 17A & 17B
4	Karnataka	13, 17, 48, 63 & 206
5	Kerala	17, 47, 47A, 49, 208, 212, 213 & 220
6	Tamil Nadu	5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 45B, 47, 49, 67, 205 & 210
7	Pondicherry	17, 45A & 67
8	Andhra Pradesh	5, 9, 43 & 214
9	Orissa	5, 5A, 203 & 217
10	West Bengal	6 & 41

Free Calls and Rental Charges

4965. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase free calls and reduce rental charges to help poor telephone subscribers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The fixation and regulation of tariff is a function of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). For this purpose, TRAI issues Telecom Tariff Order (TTO) from time to time. The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) 1999 as notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recognizes that social objectives of Telecommunication policy are important particularly in relation to those sections of the society for whom affordability is the most important issue. Thus, the TTO has specified monthly rentals, which are different for rural and urban subscribers. Monthly rentals specified in TTO, 1999 have been purposely

kept below cost for rural and small sized exchanges so that basic telephone services are largely affordable. Presently, Government have no proposal to increase the number of free calls and reduce the rental charges.

Cess on Petrol and Diesel

4966. SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

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

(a) the total amount collected through petrol and diesel cess to develop road infrastructure as on date; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) State-wise data on collection of cess (Additional duty) on petrol and diesel is not maintained. The collection of cess on petrol and diesel during the Financial Year 2001-2002 (upto November, 2001) was Rs.3397.54 crore.

[Translation]

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

4967. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI SURESH PASI :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) the names of State Highways decided to be converted into the National Highways in the country during the last three years;

(b) the highway-wise amount allocated to these National Highways converted from the State Highways during the above period;

(c) the proposals received by the Union Government from various States for the maintenance of these National Highways which have declared so during the period; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on the proposals particularly received from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Statement-I giving details of State Roads converted into National Highways during the last 3 years is enclosed.

(b) Funds for development of National Highways are allocated State-wise and not National Highway-wise.

Statement-II giving details of funds allocated to various States for development of National Highways during last three years is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Funds for maintenance of National Highways are allocated State-wise and not National Highways-wise. Statement-III giving details of funds allocated to various States for maintenance of National Highways is enclosed.

Statement-I

State Roads converted into National Highways during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002

Sl.No.	Name of State	National Highway No.	Total Length (in Kms.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	214 & 219	398
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	153	40
3.	Assam	151, 152, 153 & 154	184
4.	Bihar	81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 & 107	1313
5.	Chhattisgarh	12A, 216 & 217	278
6.	Gujarat	8E	220
7.	Himachal Pradesh	88	115
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	Extn. of 1B	85
9.	Jharkhand	Extn. of 75, 98, 99 & 100	523
10.	Karnataka	212 & 218	336
11.	Kerala	212, 213 & 220	430
12.	Madhya Pradesh	12A, 59A, Extn. of 75, 86, Extn. of 86 & 92	1166
13.	Mizoram	154	70
14.	Orissa	215 & 217	786
15.	Punjab	95	225
16.	Rajasthan	Extn. of 11A, 79A, 89 & 90	516
17.	Tamil Nadu	219 & 220	77
18.	Uttaranchal	72A, 87, 94, 108 & 109	429
19.	Uttar Pradesh	2A, 24A, Extn. of 58, 72A, Ext. of 75, 86, 87, 91, 92, 93, 96 & 97	1281
20.	West Bengal	81	55

Statement-II*Details of funds allocated to States for development of National Highways*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Allocation of funds (Rs. in crore)			
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total for last 3 years
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	50.95	101.00	90.00	241.95
2	Assam	41.87	52.00	75.00	168.87
3	Bihar	60.00	62.00	51.00	173.00
4	Chandigarh	1.00	1.44	1.50	3.94
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00	12.28	32.28	44.56
6	Delhi	7.00	4.83	6.00	17.83
7	Goa	17.00	23.00	20.00	60.00
8	Gujarat	73.07	77.70	55.00	205.77
9	Haryana	100.00	101.00	103.88	304.88
10	Himachal Pradesh	40.00	44.15	55.00	139.15
11	Jammu & Kashmir	1.00	2.50	2.30	5.80
12	Jharkhand	0.00	22.00	35.00	57.00
13	Karnataka	58.24	77.99	104.32	240.55
14	Kerala	125.68	87.54	88.01	301.23
15	Madhya Pradesh	120.37	132.55	88.38	341.30
16	Maharashtra	173.50	208.00	188.46	569.96
17	Manipur	10.11	8.50	14.50	33.11
18	Meghalaya	17.30	16.50	22.00	55.80
19	Mizoram	3.00	10.00	26.00	39.00
20	Nagaland	8.00	15.00	15.00	38.00
21	Orissa	90.50	99.51	77.73	267.74
22	Pondicherry	3.19	2.00	2.12	7.31
23	Punjab	51.19	51.99	60.55	163.73
24	Rajasthan	47.50	83.51	83.50	214.51

1	2	3	4	5	6
25	Tamil Nadu	65.00	102.00	95.00	262.00
26	Tripura	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50
27	Uttar Pradesh	120.20	144.64	134.90	399.74
28	Uttaranchal	0.00	1.99	25.00	26.99
29	West Bengal	88.18	128.00	98.14	314.32
	Total	1374.35	1673.62	1650.57	4698.54

Statement-III

Details of funds allocated to States during last 3 years for maintenance of National Highways

Sl. No.	Name of State	Allocation of funds (Rs. in crore)			
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total for last 3 years
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	34.40	38.45	42.20	115.05
2	Assam	34.20	28.84	39.99	103.03
3	Bihar	58.08	42.99	44.90	145.97
4	Chandigarh	0.91	0.21	0.46	1.58
5	Chhattisgarh	0.00	10.30	24.20	34.50
6	Delhi	1.40	0.82	1.02	3.24
7	Goa	8.27	3.74	3.70	15.71
8	Gujarat	23.18	21.45	25.75	70.38
9	Haryana	16.12	15.44	18.50	50.06
10	Himachal Pradesh	23.26	25.11	19.39	67.76
11	Jammu & Kashmir	3.02	2.84	0.86	6.72
12	Jharkhand	0.00	8.46	20.00	28.46
13	Karnataka	39.21	30.97	39.02	109.20
14	Kerala	40.59	28.16	23.36	92.11
15	Madhya Pradesh	55.73	50.36	59.35	165.44
16	Maharashtra	46.55	40.65	52.01	139.21
17	Manipur	8.76	8.24	9.36	26.36

1	2	3	4	5	6
18	Meghalaya	9.06	7.99	11.35	28.40
19	Mizoram	3.80	6.95	5.00	15.75
20	Nagaland	5.02	3.61	2.03	10.66
21	Orissa	36.22	42.77	47.31	126.30
22	Pondicherry	1.05	0.80	0.85	2.70
23	Punjab	12.36	16.90	24.06	53.32
24	Rajasthan	33.20	34.12	44.49	111.81
25	Tamil Nadu	54.80	36.10	44.75	135.65
26	Tripura	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.24
27	Uttar Pradesh	61.05	53.90	66.19	181.14
28	Uttaranchal	0.00	4.09	10.68	14.77
29	West Bengal	37.00	37.09	39.07	113.16
Total		647.48	601.35	719.85	1968.68

*[English]***West Bengal Corridor Development Project**

4968. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received US \$210 million loan recently for West Bengal Corridor Development Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with total cost of the project and the details of central participation in the project; and

(c) the time by which the project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) A loan of US \$210 million for West Bengal Corridor Development Project has been approved by Asian Development Bank. Negotiations for the loan are completed and loan agreement is yet to be signed.

(b) The loan assistance is proposed to be utilised for the improvement of 370 km length of National Highway-34, 150 km length of State Highways Nos. 1 and 10 and 100

km length of Rural Access Roads. Total cost of the project is Rs. 1518 crore with Central participation of Rs. 329 crore.

(c) The project is targeted to be completed by March, 2007.

National Highway from Madurai to Ernakulam

4969. SHRI S. MURUGESAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a national highway from Madurai to Ernakulam via Tenkasi and Sengotta;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Madurai and Ernakulam via Tenkasi and Sengotta are already connected by following National Highways :

(i) Madurai - Thirumangalam (NH -7)

(ii) Thirumangalam - Tenkasi - Sengotta - Kollam (NH - 208)

(iii) Kollam - Ernakulam (NH - 47)

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Promotion of Village Industries in Orissa and West Bengal

4970. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has formulated and executed any special plan to promote village industries in Orissa and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the role played by the KVIC so far in promoting village industries in Orissa and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) to (c) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country including the State of Orissa and West Bengal to promote Village industries. Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), back-ended Capital Subsidy in the form of Margin Money is provided at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and an additional of 10% on the balance project cost upto Rs. 25 lakhs. The beneficiary is required to invest his own contribution of 10% of the project cost. For weaker section viz. SC/ST/OBC/Women/Physically Handicapped/ Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/ Institution and for hill border and tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and 10% of the remaining cost of the project upto Rs. 25 lakhs. In such cases beneficiary's contribution is only 5% of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks etc. Moreover, the Government of India has announced a package for the development of Khadi and Village Industries sector on 14.05.2001. The package has been devised in accordance with the Government's prime objective of creating more jobs in rural areas and empowering the women and backward classes in India. The package inter-alia has a provision for a Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA),

Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of designs and quality of Khadi and Village Industries products etc.

The number of projects sanctioned and employment generated so far in the State of Orissa and West Bengal under the Rural employment generation programme are given as under :-

State	Projects
Orissa	898
West Bengal	9982

Double Lane Surat-Dhule National Highway

4971. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Governments regarding construction of double-lane at Surat-Dhule Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir. The Surat-Dhule road (National Highway No.6) is already two lane.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Raniganj-Balasore Road

4972. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has declared Raniganj to Balasore Road as National Highway-60;

(b) if so, the funds allocated for improvement and widening of NH-60; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be commenced and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) The Ministry has declared Raniganj to Balasore road as National Highway No.60.

(b) and (c) Raniganj-Kharagpur section (163 km) is being improved in phases, subject to availability of resources. A length of 10 km has already been improved under Improvement of Riding Quality Programme. Widening of 5 km is presently in progress at a cost of Rs. 3.25 crore and is targeted to be completed by March 2003. Four laning of Balasore-Kharagpur section (119.27 km) is in progress at an estimated cost of Rs. 663 crore and is targeted to be substantially completed by December 2003.

Plan Outlay for Major Ports

4973. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the total plan outlay for the development of major ports during 2001-2002;

(b) the total outlay utilized by these major ports during the above period, port-wise;

(c) whether some ports have not utilized the allocated amount during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken or being taken to use the full amount of allocation and expedite the work on these project during the stipulated period to avoid cost over run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Rs.960.18 crores.

(b) Port-wise utilization of the plan outlay during 2001-02 is given below :-

S. No.	Name of the Port Trust	Utilization (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
(i)	Kolkata	11.82
(ii)	Mumbai	63.93
(iii)	Jawaharlal Nehru	15.79
(iv)	Chennai	143.03
(v)	Cochin	3.40

1	2	3
(vi)	Vizag	69.99
(vii)	Kandla	48.83
(viii)	Mormugao	25.29
(ix)	Paradip	53.65
(x)	New Mangalore	27.45
(xi)	Tuticorin	32.13
(xii)	Ennore Port Limited	0.00
Total		495.31

(c) to (e) The main reasons for non-utilisation of the plan outlay by the Ports include delay in sanctioning of new schemes owing to protracted procedure; contractual disputes/litigation; delay in finalisation of tenders and award of contracts; dropping/deferment of schemes; delay in environmental clearance etc.

Utilization of the plan outlays are monitored closely through monthly reports and appropriate correctives are applied. Instructions have also been issued that Budget Estimates should be realistic so as to avoid shortfall in plan expenditure.

Mashelkar Committee Report

4974. SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendations of the Mashelkar Committee Report regarding the Euro II and Euro III norms for the motor vehicles;

(b) the progress made in their implementation; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that quality auto fuels are available throughout the country to ensure clean air?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) The Mashelkar Committee, in its interim report has made the following recommendations regarding Euro II and Euro III norms for motor vehicles.

(i) Bharat Stage II norms which are equivalent to Euro II norms and have already been extended to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, should

be extended to three mega cities of Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad also before end of 2003 and in the entire country from 1st April, 2005.

- (ii) Euro III equivalent norms for all categories of vehicles (excluding two and three wheelers) should be introduced in seven mega cities (i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad) from 1st April, 2005 and to other parts of country from 2010.

(b) and (c) The process of evolving the testing norms and procedures for Euro III equivalent specifications is already in hand. The availability of corresponding fuel would be a necessary concomitant requirement. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has advised the oil companies to upgrade petrol and diesel quality to match Bharat Stage II and Euro III equivalent emission norms.

Monopoly of Indian Small Scale Industries

4975. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any items have been identified on which Indian Small Scale Industries have the monopoly or near monopoly in the world;

(b) if so, details thereof and the value of their exports during last three years;

(c) what incentives are being given to small scale industries to export their products;

(d) the names of items and countries to which small scale industries products are being exported; and

(e) the steps being taken to boost the production of small scale industries?

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

(c) The Government have taken several steps to promote the export from the small scale industries (SSI) which include assistance for acquiring ISO-9000 certification, assistance for obtaining registration for bar-coding, scheme for Market Development Assistance to enable participation in the domestic and International Fairs/Exhibitions, conduct of

management development programmes for exports, Training on Packaging for Exports, National quality Award to encourage quality amongst SSIs, etc.

(d) The main products, with substantial share in exports from Indian SSI sector, are ready-made Garments, Processed Foods, Finished Leather and Leather Products, Marine Products, Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics, Engineering Goods, Plastic Products, Electronics and Computer Software etc. Destinations for these exports include USA, UAE, Hong-Kong, UK, Germany, Japan, Belgium, Italy, etc.

(e) In order to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness, both domestic and globally, Government have announced a Comprehensive Policy Package for SSIs on 30.08.2000, which provides for easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Intake of Seats in Medical Colleges

4976. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to put a cap on the total intake of seats in the medical colleges for each State;

(b) if so, the intake sanctioned for each State for MBBS course as on January 31, 2002; and

(c) the other significant changes contemplated by the Government in the medical education policy from the next academic year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no such proposal with the Government.

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

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Use of Rubberised Bitumen

4977. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy to use rubberised bitumen in road construction as recommended by Indian Road Congress;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have issued directives to all State Governments to use the material at least in 10 per cent of the road works;

(d) if so, whether these directives has been implemented by the States; and

(e) if not, the measures 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) Government have formulated strategy to use rubber/polymer modified bitumen in road construction.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Directives have been issued to use modified bitumen in atleast 10% length of periodical renewal and also on project works on National Highways.

(d) Implementation of the directives is a continuous process. Presently, provision of rubber/polymer modified bitumen surfacing has been sanctioned on 1541 kilometer length of National Highways in various States, out of which works on 793 kilometer length have been completed.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Ambulances on National Highways

4978. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ambulances being operated by National Highway Authority of India;

(b) the number of such ambulance likely to be added to the present fleet during the year 2002-2003;

(c) whether cooperation of NGOs has also been sought in this task; 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) One ambulance is being operated by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), at present.

(b) Additional ambulances are likely to be added during the year 2002-2003 by NHAI.

(c) and (d) Under National Highways Accident Relief Scheme of the Ministry, 13 ambulances have been provided to NGOs during the last two years.

[English]

Profit/Loss Suffered by Major Ports

4979. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the total profit made by the various ports in different parts of the country during 2001-2002;

(b) the name of the ports which are incurring losses during the above mentioned period alongwith the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The total net surplus of eleven Major Port Trusts in different parts of the country during 2001-2002 was approximately Rupees 231.41 crores (provisional).

(b) and (c) The Cochin Port Trust and Mumbai Port Trust have incurred a net deficit of Rupees 35.15 crores and Rupees 182.02 crores respectively mainly due to increasing administrative expenses including payment on account of voluntary retirement scheme and retirement benefits. The net deficit of Mumbai Port Trust is also due to decline in traffic at that port. Efforts to improve the working of ports are made on a continuous basis. The financial condition of the ports is reviewed periodically and the ports are given suitable instructions for curtailing expenditure in non-priority areas and generally optimising the resource use including control on establishment costs, for improving their financial condition.

Comparison of Bitumen and Cement Road

4980. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the cost of laying of kilometre of bitumen road and cement road and the life span of bitumen and cement road separately;

(b) whether roads laid in concrete in comparison to bitumen roads will save upto 15 per cent of fuel;

(c) whether Rakesh Mohan Committee has also recommended for construction of cement roads; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Costs of bituminous road and cement concrete road depend upon a number of factors viz. type of soil, class of roads, traffic, design life, size of project, availability of materials and requisite equipments etc. The cost of cement road is about 15-20% more than bituminous road. Cement concrete road has longer design life of 20-30 years in comparison to bituminous road designed for 10-15 years.

(b) No study has been conducted for savings in fuel on concrete roads in comparison to bituminous roads.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Performance of Rural Industries in North-Eastern States

4981. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers engaged in rural industries in North-Eastern States;

(b) whether a large number of these industries are including losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bail out the loss making industries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) to (d) Information in respect of workers engaged and number of rural industries incurring losses in North-Eastern States, is not maintained centrally. However, it is a fact that many rural industries are incurring losses primarily because of lack of proper marketing opportunities.

(e) The Government of India has announced a package for the promotion of Khadi & Village Industries Sector on 14th May, 2001, with the prime objective of strengthening and promoting rural industries. The main features of the package comprise creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing through advertisements and brand building, cluster development, strengthening of Quality Assurance Mechanism and R&D efforts.

Heart Problem

4982. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether coronary heart disease, which cause heart attack is the leading cause of death in the country, particularly among women;

(b) if so, whether 2.5 million persons die in the country of heart attack every year, and more than one third of these are women;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Coronary Heart Disease is one of the major factors leading to deaths both amongst men as well as women.

(d) Cardio Vascular diseases are managed at various levels in the Urban Health Care Institutions and Rural Health Care Delivery System in the country both in the public and private sectors. Apart from several district level hospitals, which provide secondary level health care facilities, premier government hospitals and autonomous institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh provide specialized tertiary care facilities in the field.

Financial Assistance to NGOs by Japan

4983. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japan has provided financial assistance to NGOs Research Institutions and Hospitals working towards promoting welfare of the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of NGOs Research Institutions and Hospitals receiving such aids during each of the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Japan through their Embassy and Consulate General Offices administer Grassroots Assistance Scheme for financial assistance to the Indian NGOs directly. The Indian NGOs apply for such funds directly to the Embassy and Consulate General Offices at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. The Embassy after scrutiny forwards the proposals for no objection from Government of India.

(b) and (c) A statement of proposals from NGOs given no objection for direct funding during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Name of proposal & Organisation	Amount
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1999-2000

---Nil---

2000-2001

The project to construct home US \$ 80041 for orphan children by Ma-Niketan Society in Mumbai

2001-2002

Maharashtra

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 1. | Physically Rehabilitation Centre & Mobile Leprosy Treatment Unit for the leprosy affected persons & handicapped by Bombay Leprosy Project | US \$ 76628 |
| 2. | Project for constructing 'Shanti Avedana Centre' for palliative care for terminal cancer and terminal cancer affiliated with AIDS by Shanti Avedna Ashram | US \$ 91303 |
| 3. | The project to construct rehabilitation centre for the people living with HIV and AIDS by Society of the sister of the destitute | US \$ 91397 |

Karnataka

Project De-Addiction Hospital Building by Sri Shakthi Association Rs. 35,63,5000/-

Hepatitis-B

4984. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

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

(a) the number of persons suffering from Hepatitis in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government are considering to include Hepatitis-B vaccination in National Programme;

(c) if so, whether private sector have been asked to help in vaccination of Hepatitis-B in various districts of the country; and

(d) if so, the time by which Hepatitis-B vaccination would be covered in the entire country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) As per provisional information available with Central Bureau of health Intelligence, 131798 cases of viral hepatitis were reported in 1999.

(b) to (d) Government of India have decided to introduce Hepatitis B vaccine for infants under the Universal Immunization Programme on Pilot basis. This programme will be implemented in slum areas of 15 metropolitan cities during 2002-03 and 32 districts during 2003-04. The pilot project is supported by the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization. Professional Organizations will be involved in the pilot activities. Based on the experience gained from the pilot, further expansion of the programme during the Tenth Plan period will be considered.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 339 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. 556 (E) dated the 7th June, 2000 under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5476/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Economic Growth, 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 Institute of Economic Growth, 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. 5477/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, 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 Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5478/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy of the Petroleum Rules, 2002 (Hindi and

English versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 204(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2002, under sub-section (4) of section 29 of the Petroleum Act, 1934.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5479/2002]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and its subsidiary ONGC Videsh Limited, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and its subsidiary ONGC Videsh Limited, New Delhi for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5480/2002]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5481/2002]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Gas Authority of India and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5482/2002]

- (5) A copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Tenth, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha :-

TENTH LOK SABHA

1 Statement No. XXIV Fifteenth Session 1995

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5483/2002]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

2 Statement No. XXIII Second Session 1998

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5484/2002]

3 Statement No. XVIII Third Session 1999

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5485/2002]

4 Statement No. XVIII Fourth Session 1999

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5486/2002]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

5 Statement No. XVI Second Session 1999

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5487/2002]

6 Statement No. XV Third Session 2000

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5488/2002]

7 Statement No. XI Fourth Session 2000

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5489/2002]

8 Statement No. IX Fifth Session 2000

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5490/2002]

9 Statement No. VIII Sixth Session 2001

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5491/2002]

10 Statement No. V Seventh Session 2001

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5492/2002]

11 Statement No. III Eighth Session 2001

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5493/2002]

12 Statement No. I Ninth Session 2002

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5494/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table –

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :-

(i) G.S.R. No. 72(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2002 approving the Paradip Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Department) Amendment Regulations, 2002.

(ii) G.S.R. No. 73(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2002 approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Allotment of Occupancy of Residences) Amendment Regulations, 2002.

(iii) G.S.R. No. 180(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2002 approving the Cochin Port Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotions) Amendment Regulations, 2002.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5495/2002]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. No. 181(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 2002 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 289 (E) dated the 24th April, 2001 issued under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5496/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : I beg to lay on the Table –

(1) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (1st Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 251 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2002 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in the Library. See No. L.T. 5497/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Board of Examination, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Board of Examination, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5498/2002]

- (4) (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 1999-2000 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 1999-2000.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5499/2002]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 1999-2000.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5500/2002]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, 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 Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5501/2002]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5502/2002]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2000-2001.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2000-2001.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5503/2002]

- (14) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 :-

- (i) The Drugs and Cosmetics (1st Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No.

G.S.R. 249 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2002.

- (ii) The Drugs and Cosmetics (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No.G.S.R. 250 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 5504/2002]

12.02 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Thirty-Fourth to Thirty-Seventh Reports

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2001-2002) :-

- (1) Thirty-fourth Report on "Export Incentives and Deductions in respect of profits retained for Export Business."
- (2) Thirty-fifth Report on Action Taken on Sixth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of Public Accounts Committee on "Excesses Over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (1997-98)".
- (3) Thirty-sixth Report on "Avoidable Import of High Capacity Diesel Powered Breakdown Cranes".
- (4) Thirty-seventh Report on Action Taken on Seventeenth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of Public Accounts Committee on "Working of Circle Stamp Depots".

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Twenty-Seventh Report

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (MAHASAMUND) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals on Demands for Grants 2002-2003 of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-Fourth Report

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (PONDICHERRY) : I beg to present the Twenty-fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Thirty-Second to Thirty-Sixth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development (2002) :-

- (1) Thirty-second report on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (2) Thirty-third report on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (3) Thirty-fourth report on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (4) Thirty-fifth report on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation); and
- (5) Thirty-sixth report on Demands for Grants (2002-2003) of the Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation);

12.04 hrs.

MOTION RE : THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 23rd April, 2002."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 23rd April, 2002."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice under rule 222 that honourable Prime Minister has insulted the House. ...*(Interruptions)* On the occasion of 75th birth day of Shri Chandra Shekhar he said that had the Godhra incident been deplored then such a dispute would not have cropped up. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In the beginning I told you that. This is not the way. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, in the beginning itself I told that when your notice comes, I will consider. It is under consideration. When I say that it is under consideration, it means that we will verify whether the statement is correct or not. Then, the House is there to take care of it. That is how, it will go on. It is not like this, standing up and saying something. That is not the proper way. Now, we will take up Matters under Rule 377.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT) : I want to raise a very serious matter. This is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is on a point of order.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Yesterday I submitted a Report of Business Advisory Committee to the hon. House. The Report says that immediately after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, he is on a point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It is our right in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* It is our privilege.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What are you asking about. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : This Report has just now been adopted by the House. Now, the House has adopted the Report. It is not my report. It is not the report of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He is unnecessarily getting angry. The Report has been adopted by the House and I request the House that since we have adopted the Report let us act according to the Report and the decision contained in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We do not agree to it. How can the Zero Hour in the House be suspended? It is our privilege.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has presented the Report of the Business Advisory Committee and the House has accepted it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : How can we be deprived of our rights? Who are they to do it? Even yesterday incidents of violence of killings were continuing in Shahpur and other localities of Ahmedabad. ...*(Interruptions)* The incidents of violence have not stopped there. Our adjournment notice is based on it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : When we have adopted a Report, we should go by that Report. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, I will give you permission. Now, I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, as the Business Advisory Committee has already decided there is no 'Zero Hour' going to be taken up and there is going to be no lunch hour, both of them are dispensed with. I will now call as many as 15 hon. Members who have given notices under rule 377 and then straightway the House will take up the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

12.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to expedite construction of a bridge on river Rapti on National Highway No. 28, Gorakhpur, UP.**

[Translation]

YOGIADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR) : Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India have approved in the principle construction of a bridge on the Rapti river at 262nd kilometre and construction of a 20 kilometre long Bypass road on National Highway No. 28 in Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh). The proposed four lane new bridge and 20 km long bypass could only be practically utilised in public interest to the optimum level when the proposed bridge is constructed with in a half kilometre area from the present bridge and the bypass. Joining both the bridges connecting the Deoria bypass is constructed. Therefore, it is requested that the said proposal may be approved immediately and the construction work of new bridge and bypass may be started.

- (ii) **Need to roll back excise duty on clay roofing tiles**

[English]

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (UDUPI) : Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance in a hurry to raise tax revenue has imposed 4 per cent excise duty on clay roofing tiles, which provide shelter to the rural poor masses in the South, especially in my region.

Roofing tile is a small scale, rural based and labour oriented industry. It is already beset with numerous problems like increase in fuel prices, wages and raw material.

Not only the roofing tile industry will be crippled due to imposition of excise duty, but it will have cascading effect on the rural poor who depend on clay roofing tiles to keep their shelter in good repair.

I would, therefore, urge the hon. Minister of Finance to roll back the duty on clay roofing tiles.

- (iii) **Need to protect the interests of local fishermen by banning foreign trawlers**

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI) : Sir, the foreign trawlers with latest fishing techniques are active in our territorial waters and amassing sea fish of all varieties with ease.

These trawlers and mechanised boats are destroying many varieties of fishes, eggs and young ones and thereby playing havoc with marine fisheries and also causing pollution and ecological imbalance.

As the seafaring of the fishermen folk, of late, is not rewarding, many have started abandoning the sea-going. At this juncture, they have been ordered to keep off the sea for 45 days with immediate effect.

I request the Government to ensure that indiscriminate exploitation of sea wealth is stopped and marine fisheries and ecological system should be preserved. Lastly fishermen are to be ensured of proper livelihood and they may be considered for a dole out during the ordered sea holiday.

- (iv) **Need to take steps to solve electricity problem in U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Sir, in today's situation electricity has a major role in the development of the area. In Uttar Pradesh, there is a need of 2,600 MW electricity which is met through purchase from Hydel, Thermal and National Power Grid, but today there is short supply of almost 1800 MW electricity as a result of which a power cut of four hours to sixteen hours is continuing in the different areas of the State. The State has to pay an outstanding amount of Rs.4000 crore to NTPC but no payment has been made so far on this account and the result is that NTPC has decided to discontinue the electricity supply. Actually the problem can't be solved by raising the electricity tariff rates and thus earning more revenue. We have to stop the theft of electricity alongwith the loss in distribution and transmission. Therefore, it is my suggestion that the efficiency of the State Electricity Board should be improved and the present installed capacity of the power units should be tapped upto the optimum level. Further, we also need to raise our electricity production on the one hand and reduce the production cost on the other.

(v) Need to provide moratorium on interest payment for a period of five years to Government of Orissa to correct fiscal imbalances

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR) : Sir, the Government of Orissa is facing severe financial crisis. Interest payment constitutes nearly 120 per cent and salary and pension of the employees received from the Consolidated Fund of Orissa constitute nearly 180 per cent of State's own revenue. The State has to depend upon a huge borrowing with high interest rate to have both ends met. The State could not have necessary financial resources to develop the infrastructures like road, railways, electricity, irrigation, education and healthcare. Skewed distributions of financial resources among States have pushed backward States further backward over the years.

The Gadgil formula of 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant in Plan assistance aggravated the miseries. A moratorium on interest payment for a period of five years would help put the fiscal balance on an even keel and accelerate the process of development so as to stand on its own after the above time frame. I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister of Finance to act upon the suggestion quickly.

(vi) Need to declare Nagpur Airport as an international airport

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Sir, the Government have decided to bring about major reforms in the aviation sector - improve the existing infrastructure of the four metro airports, 100 per cent foreign direct investment, develop small and uneconomically managed airports to encourage private participation. With this decision, the airports which have remained neglected should get immediate attention for their proper development.

The proposal for the development of Nagpur airport as an International Multi Modal Hub on B.O.T. basis has already been approved by the Government of Maharashtra and is awaiting the clearance of the Central Government. Nagpur has a strategic place along the international aviation route. Its unique centrality in the Indian subcontinent makes it a logical passenger and cargo hub. Within the country, it is connected with more than 100 cities and is accessible within one and one-and-a-half hours. The Tourism industry too has a tremendous scope for attracting large number of Indian and foreign tourists.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to declare Nagpur airport as an international airport both for passenger and cargo and to make all the necessary arrangements for landing and taking off of the International flights from there. The people of Vidarbha region will also be happy if the proposed International Multi Modal Hub airport at Nagpur is dedicated to the memory of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and named it as Dikshabhoomi International Hub Airport.

(vii) Need to take steps for resettlement of slum dwellers residing near Mumbai Airport, Kurla

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Sir, attention of the Ministry of Civil Aviation is drawn towards the delay in resettling 1,450 slum-dwellers near Mumbai airport, Kurla. People affected by these projects have agreed for resettlement. Lack of coordination between the Airports Authority of India and the State Government is causing concern.

I request the Union Government to take steps to resettle them at a new place before the monsoon sets in.

12.20 hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET (2002-2003) –
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS**

(i) Ministry of Agriculture

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demands Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. Hon. Members present in the House, who desire to move their cut motions, may send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. They will be treated as moved. These three demands, that is, Demands Nos. 1 to 3 will be discussed till 6.00 p.m. As the Members are already aware, guillotine will take place at 6.00 p.m.

Motion moved :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2003, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

LOK SABHA

*Demands for Grants 2002-2003 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture,
submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. and Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 20, 2002		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the vote of House.	
	Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)	Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)
Ministry of Agriculture				
1 Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	539,76,00,000	36,16,00,000	1553,61,00,000	150,27,00,000
2 Department of Agricultural Research and Education	249,80,00,000	---	1249,00,00,000	---
3 Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	71,70,00,000	3,89,00,000	358,52,00,000	19,44,00,000

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, I want one observation from your side. Sir, it will be helping us. Yesterday, we discussed and we all agreed that there would be guillotine at the appropriate time. Sir, there is a large number of speakers from every Party to take part in the debate on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. If the House agrees, then, we can start the discussion now and skip the lunch so that we can accommodate some more speakers before the outstanding Demands are guillotined. Otherwise, if there is lunch hour, then, few more speakers will be deprived of their chance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have already decided that in the Business Advisory Committee and the House has endorsed it. So, we will forego the lunch hour today. We need not forego lunch; we will forego lunch hour.

Now, Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how it has been said that lunch hour should be suspended? The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs read a paper yesterday which has been treated as consensus of the House but the House has no information about it. This is not the right practice. If Zero Hour is suspended, Lunch Hour is suspended then what remains? Our rights have been taken away....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are here to protect your rights, not to withdraw them.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this should not happen. It should be reconsidered. The rights of the House and members are being withdrawn unknowingly. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is our duty to safeguard the rights of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not aware whether you come to the sitting of the Business Advisory Committee or not.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : My name was struck off deliberately from it. Therefore I will exercise my rights in this House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has been decided in the Business Advisory Committee that there will be no Zero Hour and Lunch Hour today. The lunch will be there but there will be Lunch Hour.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I used to speak against them in the Business Advisory Committee therefore my name was struck off. But I would like to say how will they exclude my name from this House? ...*(Interruptions)* It is our duty to upkeep the glory and pride of the House and continue our fight for the causes of the crore of our people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Shri Shivraj Patil to speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR) : Mr. Deputy, Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing agriculture. Alongwith this it is necessary to discuss animal husbandry, fisheries, and horticulture also. We have made progress in the field of agriculture and milk but have not made any progress in the field of fisheries and fruit production. If we do not take up this issue in the House then the debate would be incomplete. The Government has formulated an agriculture policy. It has said that agriculture policy has been made for the first time which is not true. Agriculture policy was formulated in the time of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi which was presented in the House. Before that agriculture policy was formulated during the regime of Shrimati Indira Gandhi which led to an increase in the yield of foodgrains. Before that agriculture policy had been formulated in the era of Late Shri Nehruji due to which the land which was in the hands of few people, was distributed among all. It increased the yield. You can say whatever you like, but the agriculture policy that has been presented was considered by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has given a good report. The Standing Committee has stated that you have formulated a policy, but it has loopholes. But the Committee has made a major point that an action plan should be formulated. Please prepare a plan to implement the agriculture policy and it should not be made by the Central Government but the State Governments should also be consulted. State Governments have to take initiatives to implement agriculture policy and if the views of the State Governments are not assimilated in the action plan then it will create difficulties. Therefore, I want to tell the House that the policy should not remain only on papers, it is essential to implement it.

We have here several reports of Standing Committee. Due to shortage of time we cannot discuss all the issues here. The report of Standing Committee is also about agriculture animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture and milk producing industries. I think the recommendations that have been made in the report are very good. We expect the Government to implement them. If these recommendations are implemented in toto then I think we can make much progress in these fields.

Another major point that has been made in the report is

that Agriculture has not been given the required amount of money. The Finance Ministry has not allocated the amount that was asked for by the Agriculture Ministry. The Standing Committee has stated very clearly that if you do not allocate sufficient amount of money then you will not be able to achieve your target of doubling the production of foodgrains and other things. Sufficient amount of money should be given. The Agriculture Minister can not say here that the Finance Minister has not given him money because he can say it in cabinet during discussions. If the Agriculture Minister is demanding more money then we support him and want to say that the money allocated for agriculture is not sufficient and the amount should be increased. Even we feel that the amount has been reduced. Irrigation, new seeds, new types of equipments, fertilizers and extending loan are certain things important for the agricultural yield. Issues regarding arrangement for irrigation, seeds equipments and fertilizers have always been discussed here. I do not want to say more about this but I would like to say this much about irrigation that the money spent on it is less than the amount that was spent during the era of Shri Nehruji and Indiraji and due to this reason, the agricultural yield is not increasing as expected. I think the rate of growth is less. If it continues so, the rate of growth of agriculture will become negative in the near future and attention has to be paid in this regard.

The Most important issue is regarding loan. Before nationalisation of banks 200 crore rupees were given as loan but after it an increased amount of 67,000 crore rupees are given as loan to agriculture. When we come to think of it, it seems to be a big amount. Is it really so? 5 or 10 or 12 lakh crore rupees are given for other purposes, and only 67000 crore rupees are given for agriculture. 75% people earn their livelihood from agriculture and 100 percent people get their food, in such a situation whether the loan of 67000 crore rupees is sufficient or not. Many rules have been made by the previous Governments and this Government also. Previous Government had formulated a rule that 18% should be given as loan to agriculture. It has also been said that banks are not extending this loan and some of the banks have not even given 6 or 7 percent loan. After seeing this a rule was formulated that banks should give money to the NABARD. If a certain bank has not given loan to farmers then total money should be given to the NABARD and then the NABARD in turn will give that money to farmers as loan. But it is unfortunate that though the rule has been made, the NABARD is not giving money to farmers. Are the rules formulated by you not being implemented?

Will the government will not look towards it? If it is not paying attention to it and not implementing its orders and is not taking firm action for that, then we should consider whether

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

this government can be called good or not. In my opinion a lot is required to be done in respect of loan Rs. 67 thousand crore might appear more, but it is not enough for agriculture. Even if we give Rs. two lac crore in five years that would not be excess.

Farmers are not getting proper price, too much discussion takes place on it. Farmer grows cereals. When he takes his commodity into market its price slumps. When that commodity goes into market from the hands of farmers and the consumers purchase it its price gets increased. What does it imply we all know it. The producer does not get the proper price and the consumer who purchases, also does not get it at a cheaper rate, the intermediary does all these, sitting only in the shop. How to prevent it, merits consideration.

Some State governments have formulated procurement schemes. They purchase commodities from farmers at a certain rate and all sell them to the consumers at another rate. If the farmer is getting less money, he is given less and the consumer too is provided the commodity at the same price. If the farmer gets profit, they find out the ratio and give that commodity to the consumer. Procurement scheme is going on in Maharashtra, it was existing in Kerala and some other places too. But this scheme is not being fully implemented. Due to that the situation has become such as the procurement scheme itself is becoming meaningless. The farmer demands a lot of money, the government gives a big amount. The burden of that falls on the government. When the government faces the burden it says that it does have so much fund and it will scrap this scheme. As soon as the scheme is scraped the price will come down in the market and the farmer will not be able to take money from anybody. I am to say that there is a need to formulate a procurement scheme at the national level. It needs to be implemented in every state. While implementing it, appropriate price should be given to the farmer and the consumer too should get it at a proper price. If it does not happen so, the procurement scheme will be rendered meaningless and the farmer will suffer loss due to it.

As an example I want to tell the government that if it truly wants that the farmer gets the proper price and the consumer also gets the commodity at an appropriate rate, then the procurement scheme be implemented, It would not cause burden on the government and the farmer and the consumer also would get the benefit. So attention towards it should be paid.

Here it is being said that the prices of cereals are decreasing. It is easily said that due to the World Trade Organisation it is happening. So it is true that if the cereals are imported from abroad and the imported commodity has got a less cost of production, it will have some impact over

here. But this should not be viewed in this manner. The agreement of the World Trade Organisation should be gone through thoroughly to see as to how we can provide protection to the farmers. The commerce Minister has formulated a scheme, he has submitted it just a day before yesterday. It is understood that the scheme of the Commerce Minister would help them export their commodities. They are saying that they have given us permission and export will take place later on. It does not appear to me that this is going to happen so because they are small farmers. Now a days no farmer has got more than 50 acres of land and the owner of fifty acres will not be able to sell his commodity after taking it to a foreign land. If it has to be sold, it will have to be sold through cooperative societies or through the government or some trader will have to intervene internally and purchase the commodity. If in real sense the commodity has to be sent to the foreign countries and proper rates have to be paid to the farmers, then it is not enough to say that we can export it. For this scheme will have to be framed for providing loan to him, making his commodity better, carrying his commodity and transporting it through airport, seaport for sending it to other countries where it can be sold, and rendering the earned amount to the farmer. I would like to say very modestly that I had made such a plan in 1983 when I was in the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Today also that is on record. It would be good if you implement that.

It is your objective that the agricultural commodity is exported to the foreign countries. It would be beneficial for you as well as others. It is essential to do so. Now a days talks about BT Cotton is going on here find the government has said that the BT Cotton can be sown at some places. We have seen that when the produce of cotton gets decreased and its expense gets increased, some farmers commit suicide also. Our leader has especially visited Karnataka to see what sort of difficulties exist there and we have deliberated as to what should be done. Now people are putting forward their views about BT Cotton in different ways. Some people say that it is good and some others say that it is dangerous. But whenever efforts are made to do something novel, people call it dangerous. If anything dangerous or detrimental is there, it should be understood and steps need to be taken for preventing the occurrence of that detriment. So it appears to me that BT Cotton should be grown and we will do it.

It is necessary to provide mechanical equipments to the farmers if we want to increase our agriculture production. It is often said that switching over to these implements would reduce employment opportunities. It is also said that modernization and mechanization would reduce employment potential but with utmost regard I would like to say that it is not the case when we use implements, it is used to increase

employment potential. Tractor is used on large scale in Punjab. But for the use of tractors, farmers in Punjab would not have been able to grow three crops in a year. Because through any other means, he would not have been able to undertake ploughing, sowing and harvesting thrice in a year. But today it is happening in Punjab. It means if we switch over to two crops from one crop or three crops from two crops farming, it would definitely increase employment. Therefore, modernisation and mechanization is necessary to increase employment opportunities in the country. Genetic engineering is being much talked about today in the entire world. It is a matter of great happiness that we are having so much genetic wealth, which could be used for increasing our agriculture production and manufacturing pharmaceutical products as well. We can utilize genetic engineering for treatment of human diseases. We are not spending as much amount on genetic engineering as it requires. The Deptt. of genetic engineering which was set up during Rajiv Gandhi government is still working and have done some work. The facility it requires, has not been provided to it. Hence, it is not registering required progress. Our country has abundant resources of electronic and genetic. Genetic material is in abundance in our country. It is available in Himalaya, Western Ghat, Eastern Ghat and other parts of the country. Only we will be blamed, if we do not tap our natural resources properly. Therefore, we need to give more thrust on genetic form of agriculture.

I will conclude after saying one more thing. About other things, other hon. Members will make their submissions. If we want to think about agriculture at all, then we have to think about today's agriculture. We have to think about the situation likely to emerge over the next ten years. We will have to think about the situation, which would be there after fifty years. It would have ill effect if we do not think about it today and we would be held responsible therefor. It is distressing to note that the fertility of our soil is declining. I do not think that government or other bodies are not doing anything in this regard. But we have to address to this problem seriously. We have to put our collective efforts to stop this decline. Shortage of water is also posing a great threat to us. Today, we are producing foodgrains in abundance but we have failed to provide adequate drinking water, not to speak of providing irrigation water. Like other countries we also need to ensure that there is no wastage of water at all. Even a single drop of water should not be allowed to go waste. Like a person is given injection, we have to think about water injection. But we need not to go to that extreme. But we need to think is to ensure that how best we can use the water without wasting any drop of it.

My third point is regarding, scientific and technical knowledge in respect of agriculture. It is necessary to spread

technical and scientific knowledge for agricultural growth. For this, we need to allocate more funds for research and development work. I know very well that the scientists in ICAR are working hard. I would like to congratulate them. But their problem is that the amount required by them is not being given to them. They have not been provided latest equipments and they are not getting proper direction. As a result of which they are not succeeding in doing these important work which they can do easily if they are given these facilities properly. It is affecting agriculture adversely. I would like to say that the government is not paying as much attention to agriculture as it is paying to other sectors. We are bound to suffer its affect, if not today, then tomorrow. No doubt industries and trade should grow. Development of science and technology is a must. Research and development should take place but you can not provide employment to the people of the country if agriculture remains neglected. Hence, we need to formulate an agriculture policy for all round development and we should act sincerely on it. The policy the government has formulated is neither complete nor good enough. It is full of lacunae. Your efforts in agricultural sector would ultimately benefit the country.

With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (SONEPAT) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Demand for Grants in respect of Agriculture is being discussed in the House. Everybody in our country knows that our country is primarily based on agriculture. About 80 per cent population of this country is directly or indirectly linked with agriculture. Be it any Government, no special attention has been paid to agriculture. The industrial policy was formulated in 1951 but thereafter it took 51 years to formulate an agricultural policy and it was formulated only last year. Had the agricultural policy been formulated in 1951 along with the industrial policy the condition of the farmers would not have been as bad as it is today. I certainly want to congratulate this Government for having formulated an agriculture policy, no matter, if it has come after 51 years.

You know that the farmer is facing several problems. Every year it is discussed in this House in one way or the other, several good suggestions also come up, but no concrete results emerge. The condition of the farmers has not considerably improved even after 54 years of independence because the geographical condition of our country is such that somewhere there is flood, somewhere there is drought, somewhere crops get infested with pests due to which our farmer in some or other state suffers from starvation. Had efforts been made and strategies chalked out continuously

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

during the last 50-51 years to divert the water from flood affected areas to other areas. Such problems would have been solved. But every issue here becomes a political one. State to State disputes are going on. This is a threatening issue, some concrete policy should be formulated for it, the dry areas should get water and arrangements should be made to save the crops from flood destruction. The Government should pay firm attention towards this.

The second problem relates to market. Godowns are full of foodgrains but the farmer is not getting remunerative price therefor. Now the situation has become so bad that there is no space left for their storage. You look at Haryana, Punjab, Western U.P., food grains are lying in open fields, there is no space available for keeping them safely. For this also we should make some arrangement. Ajit Singhjee is sitting here. He belongs to a farmer family and is the leader of farmers also. I would like to give some suggestions to him. If he really wants to give benefit to the farmer, the prices of various crops should be fixed before the sowing season so that the farmer could sow the crop of his choice. The Government fix the minimum support price. The crops reach the Mandi but finds no buyer. So the rates should be decided in advance. If such a system is evolved, the farmers of the whole country will be able to sow their crops as per their desire and convenience.

The population of the country is increasing continuously. Holdings have become smaller. Only small farmers are left, people do not have much land. 22 percent farmers are owning only one acre of land. 59.4 percent farmers are owning only two and a half acres of land and 18.6 percent are the owners of only five acres. The holding has become so smaller that it has become difficult to earn a living. So the population has also become a problem. Some steps should be taken in this regard also. This issue is terrific. Besides agriculture livestock is also a very valuable property in villages. Alongwith agriculture people also do cattle rearing. Milk and manure is also derived from them, but livestock is also being ignored. We are living in villages, now the number of livestock has also decreased. You will be surprised to know that as per the figures of 1952 our livestock used to be 452 against one thousand persons at that time, but after 40 years, in 1992 that livestock came down to just 232 and the subsequent figures have not come. Our livestock is declining so much that in the time to come we will neither get milk nor food. The additional income that the farmer used to earn therefrom is also no more there. So the livestock need to be taken care of.

Subsidy is being given on fertilizer and diesel but the farmer is not content with that. The subsidy for the farmer is decreasing and the prices of commodities produced by him is also decreasing. For our farmers the subsidy on fertilizer has too much importance. The Government of India is giving

several thousand crores of rupees as subsidy on fertilizer but where does it go, it goes into the industry. So, it is my suggestion that if you control the FICC, which determines the prices of fertilizer and directly provide to the farmer the half of the subsidy being given to the factories, it will benefit the farmer. The intermediaries who are profiting from the subsidy in the name of the farmer will also get reduced in numbers and the farmer will get fertilizer at cheaper rates also.

Today the farmer is reeling under the burden of debt. At many places the farmer is committing suicide due to hunger and debt. Punjab and Haryana are considered prosperous states but there also a farmer is having loan at the rate of Rs. 7600 per acre. These are the figures of the University of Punjab. By this you can assume what would be the fate of the farmers in other states? It is my request that the farmer should get loan at a cheaper rate and the subsidy being given on other items should be stopped.

The Government have come up with credit cards for the farmers but the modus operandi of the banks is so complicated that the common farmer is failing to take benefit of the bank. He has to fulfil hundred types of formalities for taking loan and the farmers are hankering around the banks. It is my request that for providing loan at a cheaper rate to the farmer there is a need to improve the system of the banks also.

Today if you go to market, you will get car loan in an hour but there are too much formalities for a tractor loan and it takes one month for farmer to complete them. The farmer will have to mortgage his land and after fulfilling other formalities he gets the loan. Besides, he gets the loan at an interest rate of more than normal rate. You should pay attention to this problem also.

Council of Agricultural Research was set up with an objective to the problems of the farmers but it has turned into merely an office. There should be some control over its functioning also. Attention of the Government should go towards achieving the objective it had envisaged.

Hon'ble Ajit Singhjee is sitting here, he is the son of a farmer, he is a man of knowledge and experience and he knows the problems of the farmers. God has given him an opportunity to do something for the farmers. The issue of water and power is a very important issue. The dispute between Punjab and Haryana over the SYL canal has been solved by the Supreme Court, but it needs to be implemented today. It would be proper if unanimity is achieved at the national level over the sharing of water and power.

The hon'ble Minister is getting full co-operation of the Government, so he should do something for solving the

problems of the farmers—he should not remain merely as an Agriculture Minister rather should work as a representative of the farmers. After saying this much I conclude my speech and thank you.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (KATWA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject. It is being discussed everywhere in and outside the House that an all India agriculture policy has been formulated for the farmers and some works are proposed to be undertaken under the policy. If you go through it, you will come to know that various problems of poor farmers are related to it. The Agriculture Minister is present here. I would like to bring to his notice that many other issues have also got intermingled with agriculture. Through this House I would like to submit four or five points before you.

Just now, Shri Patil has told that very less budgetary allocation is being made. What is the situation in this regard? The Prime Minister and Agriculture Ministry are saying that the budgetary allocation will be doubled during the next ten years. You should say something about water and power, what can you say about nation? You will double the allocation for education. The budget allocation of Rs.1000 crore has been demanded from Planning Commission and the Government during the ninth plan. As per the available figures, budget allocation of Rs. 531 crores in 1997-98 and Rs.712 crores in 1998-99 were asked for but the same was reduced to Rs.495 crores. I want to ask what was actually provided. As per the Ninth Plan, Rs.323, crores and Rs. 427 crore were provided separately. We have again demanded that Rs.1082 crore should be provided this time. It is a difficult task. Agriculture is being discussed everywhere. We people are helping, agriculture and contributing 26.8% in GDP. But what has been and is being provided to agriculture? Agriculture is a low priority as far as budget allocation is concerned. In fact less allocation is being made for everything. If we look at the research, we will find that I.C.A.R. is being provided less allocation. All these departments under Ministry of Agriculture have contributed 26.8% share in GDP but what is being provided to them? Only 0.16 to 0.27 allocation is being provided to them and it is being provided as per pricing agriculture production. Therefore we are requesting the Government and the Planning Commission to increase the allocation.

[English]

I was on the Standing Committee on Agriculture and I am still working with it. Not once but we have, many times, said that we want, at least, one per cent of the GDP for the agriculture sector.

13.00 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

But we are not getting higher allocation. Today, this issue is being raised everywhere. For example, animal husbandry, a couple of things are important in this area. The Government provides Rs. 300 crore for animal husbandry. But this department has provided Rs.207 crores in 1999-2000 and Rs.213 crores and Rs. 240 crores thereafter. I have always been telling Shri Ajit Singh that small country like, Israel ranks first in milk production. When small country like Israel can go for the development of animal husbandry, why can not we? Animal husbandry is the only profession of poor people. Be it poultry or goat rearing, this profession is the only source of income for them. But you people pay less attention to this area due to which it is still neglected. I want to know what expenditure the Government is incurring on animal husbandry. Hon. Ajit Singh, four former Prime Ministers along with 101 Hon. Members had requested your to bring Anderson and Sikka under I.C.V.R. as animals are being infected with new diseases. Opening a veterinary research centre has become necessary. We have been making this request for a long time. I have been advocating this cause since I started my parliamentary career. But there is no body to listen to me.

[English]

In every State you have got a separate department of Animal Husbandry; but in the Central Government you have no separate research institute on animal husbandry.

[Translation]

Every state has got a separate Unani, Allopathic and Homeopathic systems of medicine for human health. The Government says that there is financial crunch. But you should provide funds for animal husbandry. Today, Raghuvansh Prasad is not present there. When he was Minister for few days, he had made some efforts in this regard. When Chennai University was set up, people were opposed to it but now it is proved that this university has created its own palace in the area of agriculture and animal husbandry. This university ranks first in this regard. When I was Minister in Bengal, I had worked on animal husbandry which is still going on. I would like to tell Shri Ajit Singh that he is not only a Minister.

[English]

You are the Minister of the land.

[Shri Mahboob Zahedi]

[Translation]

Since you are from rural background and son of a farmer, you will have to ponder over it.

[English]

Whether the officers who have not got any experience in agriculture will guide you or you will guide them.

[Translation]

The Government should lay much emphasis on I.C.V.R in animal and fisheries and develop it. We had approached Prime Minister in this regard and he had said that

[English]

this is an integration question

[Translation]

Even America and France had emphasized it.

[English]

This is not an integration question; animal husbandry and fishery are another question.

[Translation]

We have a long coastal area.

[English]

What we can do; how we can have money from outside.

[Translation]

Therefore, please think over it. I am happy with the Prime Minister and would like to congratulate him for having founded an animal husbandry college in Mithila before U.P. election, which is going to be recognised. I have also given an application, please recognise it also. There is a college in Punjab, Mithila and Pune. Therefore, ICVR should be set up to boost development because we are comparatively far ahead in milk production.

Though, we are among the top producers of milk yet 40 percent people do not get milk to drink. How can poor people drink milk? We are moving ahead in various fields and food processing is also on the rise, therefore, you have to think about it.

Just now discussion on SACHI was going on. This scheme involves 300 crore rupees, but what is the fact, how

much amount has been given by you to SACHI. We have demanded Rs.1062 crore and it was approved also.

[English]

But the final approval is Rs.550 crore.

[Translation]

This amount is approved and this year Government has done the right thing that

[English]

no restriction on the new Plan and the Old Plan.

[Translation]

If therefore the Govt. has taken right step in this matter.

[English]

If there is any restriction on new plan and old plan,

[Translation]

then in SACHI then how can we move ahead and make it double.

We claim that we are far ahead in Food Processing Industry. But what is the fact? It has declined from 0.91 percent to 0.42 percent. Such reports have come but we all know that

[English]

this is the question of a State.

[Translation]

But as I have already said those who sweat and do hardwork should be given a piece of land. We got good results by doing this in West Bengal. We have always said that we need to do so that we give a piece of land to poor, agriculture labourers and ask him to grow crops on that piece of land. Then you will realise what his sweat can grow on that piece of land.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have said something about market. The removal of quantitative restriction has ruined us. It has ruined us in the field of oil and other things. It has been said earlier that market has ruined.

[English]

You are opening the door to the multinationals in the name of developmental science.

[Translation]

We are opening the door in the field of Science but it will be very harmful. This field is already in a bad condition and the situation is still continuing. There is a bumper crop of onion in Mumbai due to which there are no takers of onion. Here the incidents of suicide have become a part of farmer's life. Although there is quantitative restrictions yet the condition of the market is very bad. Yesterday, an hon'ble member was saying in the meeting that

[English]

The price of crops grown in Punjab is going in such a bad way.

[Translation]

Perhaps you have said the same thing that the prices are going down. FCI are the buyer. But where are their shops, who have given them money?

[English]

Have you given any money to purchase them?

[Translation]

Are they in every mohalla, mandi to purchase it? If they are not given money then how will they purchase? But they say Jai Jawan Jai Kisan.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : As there is another speaker from your party, you may please conclude now.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : With great respect, I request for five more minutes and then I will conclude.

[Translation]

The farmers from abroad are sending it at cheaper prices. One day in this House I said something in a lighter way that our people will eat those chicken leg being imported from America which is not eaten even by a dog in America. They are exporting it and we are buying. What is the condition of our farmers there is no market and place for them, FCI has no money to buy their products.

There is another case of BT cotton. We want to germinate BT cotton seed. But do you know how much land is under the possession of the Government seed farms in the name of seed germination programme.

[English]

If you come with me, I will show you at least in West Bengal as to how many seed farms are lying vacant.

[Translation]

There is too much land lying unused in farms. Why do we not germinate seeds?

[English]

It must be inquired into properly.

[Translation]

We are depending upon them. What are they giving? They are giving germinated seeds and B.T. seeds. Yesterday a women from Punjab has also said that BT has ruined the cotton. Such a situation has to be corrected.

Cooperation means to work together.

[English]

The collector of cooperation is changing now.

[Translation]

The hon'ble members of the House know that you are bringing a company Amendment Bill.

[English]

Any corporator can come and form a company.

[Translation]

The work should be done through cooperation. There is no place for capitalisation in Cooperative. They form a company to earn benefit. But such a company can not be a cooperative. Cooperative extends help to farmers. The Amendment Bill, you are bringing, will not prove enough for it.

[English]

I am requesting you to press this question. The Chairman of Standing Committee on Agriculture is present here.

[Translation]

I should not talk about the member of DMK Party and the Chairman of Standing Committee on Agriculture. This matter should be referred to this Committee. It should be discussed, thoroughly which is very important. You are making arrangements to close down the cooperative.

You look at the pathetic condition of agriculture worker. Today agriculture workers are being ruined. They are going down. I speak about West Bengal.

[Shri Mahboob Zahedi]

[English]

Worker is going down.

[Translation]

The provident fund scheme started in Bengal. There if a worker gets five rupees then Government contributes five rupees towards his provident fund.

[English]

Provident Fund System started in West Bengal.

[Translation]

Those who are talking about this can't they think about that?

[English]

We cannot think of it.

I am concluding now.

[Translation]

There is poem by Ravindra Nath Tagore in Bangla-

"Hethaye Vrata Kaanda,

Deoyalete paye baadha

Kaandone phire aashe

Aapon kachel."

If I am not shedding my painful tears in vain, my voice will not go unheard and note will be taken if whatever I have said. Not only on my behalf but also on behalf of the farmers of India, I urge that more allocation should be made for agriculture.

I would request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture also to take care of our farmer so that he does not become our object of mockery and an object of fun. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that today our country is mainly dependent on agriculture and agriculture is the backbone of this country. I would say that agriculture is the main factor for us to maintain and sustain the growth and the economy of this country. Even the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget

Speech has made it very clear that our inflation control or GDP growth is mainly because of agricultural production. Also, more than seventy per cent of our people are dependent on agriculture. This is a very important aspect as far as this country is concerned. I am sure that every one of us will be able to concentrate on this. We should give maximum thought as to how we should help it and sustain it further.

Agriculture requires a lot of basic requirements. It mainly requires water, seeds, implements, the latest technology to increase productivity. Today, as far as agriculture is concerned, we are surplus in this country. The price of wheat or sugar is at a low level. But, at the same time, we are facing shortage of some of the items like edible-oils and pulses. What I would suggest to the hon. Agriculture Minister is that he should plan a balanced way of producing these items. We should be able to do it in order to see that our requirements are met first. I know that our import of agricultural things has definitely come down. Now we have come to a stage where we are exporting some items. When we have come to the export stage, this sector requires a different type of a treatment. We have to do it because we have to compete with the other countries. Even China and other countries are producing much more than India. So, we have to increase production. For that, there should be improvement of science and technology, research work in agriculture in order to make agriculture more productive. The farmers should have better type of facilities.

We are now producing rice, wheat and other things. For the last two years, the farmers are finding it very difficult even to sustain and get a reasonable price for their produces. On the other hand, the Food Corporation of India thinks the other way. It wants to come of the procurement process slowly and it wants to give the responsibility of procurement to the State Governments. I am sure that this will create a lot more problems because the country has different type of problems. We have different type of calamity conditions. There are droughts, floods, cyclones and various other things. Overall, the Government of India should be able to know how things should be distributed; where the requirements are more etc. So, the Food Corporation of India should do more procurement and the farmers should be given the reasonable price in order to encourage more production.

In this process, we have also realised the at our warehousing capacity is not sufficient. I think, they have started giving more incentives for production. Further, more incentives should be given to increase the warehousing capacity for storage of goods. Cold storage capacity is also required. Some of the items like tomatoes, vegetables and fruits should be stored. When there is surplus production of these items, the prices come down. Again, the prices shoot up within a few months. That means, a lot of damage is done. We have to

prevent the damage in respect of various produces that we are producing in this country. In order to do this, there should be support for agriculture. One Committee has recommended even the financial requirements for that. In the Ninth Plan, they required more than Rs.18,000 crore but the Planning Commission had given only Rs. 7,800 crore. In the Tenth Plan, they required Rs.25,000 crore but the Planning Commission had given only Rs.13,200 crore. So, financing of all agricultural activities is very important. Without this, the farmers cannot sustain it.

In this process, one very important item is insurance. A lot of farmers are suffering because they are not getting enough facilities in regard to insurance. The insurance policy that we have formulated is not at all adequate for any purpose. The premium is so high that the farmers find it very difficult to go and take it. I am sure, the new insurance policy, which is under consideration, will come out soon. I am sure that it would be worked out taking into consideration the village as the basis and not the *mandal* or *samiti* as the basis which is creating a lot of problems in every part of the country.

There is another important aspect. It is about movement of goods. I feel that free movement of agricultural products is always very important because farmers are not really getting the benefit. The benefit goes into the hands of the traders. The traders are taking the benefit and they are making money out of it. As I mentioned earlier, when we have export-oriented things, the export subsidy is very important.

Developed countries are giving high subsidy for agriculture whereas we are not in a position to do that much. We must at least give some support in order to see that farmers are in a position to export enough. Otherwise, we get into more problems.

When we talk of agriculture, irrigation is important. The budget for irrigation is equally important because we find that there are high cyclones or floods with the result a lot of damage is done and water goes into the sea. We have to construct more dams and irrigation projects to preserve the rainwater and utilise it for agriculture and drinking water resources. This is actually important along with other things.

Today, we have only small irrigated areas which require expansion and development. We have to give support to farmers in this regard. It is also important to give support in terms of providing irrigation facilities to the farmers. In the drought-affected areas, what we require is watershed projects. The rainwater goes into the sea and after one or two months, we find that there is shortage of water. Today, people have started going in for watershed management where the level of subsoil water is going down. Installing of pump sets is not

useful in such circumstances. Hence, we need watershed management.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM) : It should be developed as a peoples' movement.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Yes, that is what I said. We have to give support to the farmers because it is connected with agriculture and it is inter-dependent. I feel that we should also take into consideration watershed projects, which is very important.

There are some crops. As I said earlier, we should be able to have a good method of distribution. Coconut prices have gone up and the farmers in this area are finding it difficult to sustain. Guaranteed price is not there. The entire thing depends on agriculture. Cotton is required for the entire textile industry. So also sugarcane for sugar. In the case of rice, we get a lot of husk, bran and bran oil to the tune of five to six lakh tonnes. They are all inter-dependent. The hon. Agriculture Minister has to take this into consideration.

Another important thing is the food processing industry. As I mentioned earlier, we are producing more fruits, vegetable and various other things. We have to see that we shall be able to produce more. We have to preserve and use the same in this country. This is the area where we require a lot of support. In fact, even in the case of export of some of the fruits and vegetables also, we cannot use any type of insecticides. In this regard, I would like to say that we must give the technology to the farmers. Farmers are using too much of nitrogen, which is causing a lot of problems. Farmers should be educated not to use too much of manure, which is not required. Along with the increase in the use of nitrogen, the use of insecticides is also going up. What is actually required is that we have to maximise productivity. Farmers should be educated on these lines. We have to improve the quality of insecticides. The prices of these insecticides should be decreased. Prices of fertilizers, which we are supplying to the farmers, have already gone up. Farmers have forgotten to use organic manures. The Government should be able to give initiative and incentive for those people who can produce organic manure and see that soil condition is not affected. They should be able to sustain for a longer period to give better productivity.

Another important thing when we talk of agriculture is that the farmers depend more on poultry, fisheries and dairy, which has expanded tremendously. But in the developed country we see that they give 60-70 per cent subsidy in this sector. Neighbouring and the Gulf countries are not able to give subsidy to that extent. If we can give high subsidy, we can develop this sector. Production has gone up in the case

[Dr. B. B. Ramaiah]

of dairy production along with cheese, butter and other products.

When we talk of agriculture, as I said earlier, giving finance at a lower interest rate is very important. Farmers are exploited and harassed by those people who charge high interest rates. Minimum support price is very essential because unless you give the minimum support price, the farmers will not be able to survive. They cannot do speculative activities with the middlemen and in the process they get into a lot of problems.

In regard to the Kisan Credit Cards, which was introduced recently, I would like to say that it is giving very good support to the farmers. We should be able to expand this scheme with the result more farmers derive the benefit.

On the research side also, we should be able to do more development so that the farmers are able to benefit from it. The farmers are not able to do it themselves. They are hard working people. In spite of difficult conditions and growth in population, we are able to achieve surplus with the hard work of the farmers in this country. If you could give a lot of help to them, they can increase the production further. The agricultural production must go up by at least four to five per cent in order to sustain our economy and also to minimise inflation. Thus, the growth in GDP would be able to come up.

I hope the Minister of Agriculture would take more interest in these things and see that other Ministries should also give proper cooperation in developing it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the demands of grants of Ministry of Agriculture. Agriculture is the lifeline of Indian society. As our hon. Friends have said that 70 to 75 per cent people depend on agriculture. Today our traditional industries and cottage industries are closing down, we are disinvesting public sector undertakings due to which there will be less opportunities of employment, new opportunities of employment are not available. In such a situation it seems that agriculture is the only thing that can stabilize the economy of India. A nominal increase has been made in the budget for agriculture this year in comparison to last year's budget. Serious efforts are not being made to strengthen agriculture. I do not know whether it is right or wrong but recently it came out in the papers that Agriculture Minister is not satisfied with the Finance Minister. It would have been good had they quarrelled. I know that hon. Agriculture Minister is the son of Late. Chaudhary

Charan Singh. He definitely knows more about the farmers. He may say it or not but he accepts it that agriculture is not receiving the support in the budget that it deserves.

Government of India has been implementing 27 projects in the fields of agriculture during last three years. It has come to light that the money that is given to state Governments is not used rightly. I want to say that the Government should see to it that the money that is given to state Governments is used properly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there were big posters of hon. Prime Minister and Food Minister recently. It was said that India had become the main exporter of foodgrains. But from the data of the last three years it seems that the yields has gone down. In 1999-2000 the yield of wheat was 2778 kilogram per hectare and in 2000-2001 it was 2743 kilogram per hectare. Similarly, in 1999-2000, the yield of paddy was 2978 kilograms and in 2000-2001 it was 2871 kilograms per hectare. In 1999-2000, the yield of oilseeds was 853 kilograms per hectare and in 2001-2002 it is 791 kilogram per hectare. Similar is the cost of cotton. The yield has not increased. Production cost has increased rapidly in our country and due to this our farmers are facing severe problems in the world market. It is true that there were lots of foodgrains in the godowns last time in our country but it is also true that on one hand there were lots of foodgrains in godowns and on the other hand people were compelled to eat kernels of mangoes. People died of starvation. It has been said that we have exported more foodgrains in one year than their quantity that was exported in the last ten years. I would like to know the profits that you have earned. The foodgrains were exported with subsidy. Today, the rates of fertilizers are less in international market and more in India and the subsidy that is given for the farmers is usurped by the mediators. Today it is essential that the farmers should get the benefits of subsidy. The production costs have increased so much that the interests of the farmers can not be protected. Irrigation is the lifeline of agriculture and all the irrigation projects are pending. There is only 38 percent irrigated land in our country. Sincere efforts have not been made to make proper arrangements for irrigation in our country. We have prepared infrastructure of development. Irrigation has not been mentioned in it. Unless we make proper arrangements for irrigation, we can not save our crops and cannot increase the yield. The research work that is being done in the field of agriculture seems to be confined to laboratories only. The Government should make arrangements to make the farmers aware of them so that they can learn the techniques which may prove beneficial to them. The farmers are not getting the benefits of the research work. I want to say that these research works should be applied in the fields for practical use. I only want to say this that earlier there was just

one department, the Ministry of Agriculture and there was Ministry of Food alongwith it. The Food Minister is not present here. The Government has said that it will begin the purchase of wheat from 1st April. Uttar Pradesh is the third state after Punjab and Haryana where the yield of foodgrains is in surplus. The government has said that the work of purchase of wheat will begin from 1st April. This is right that the minimum price of wheat has been increased by 10 rupees. It has been increased from 610 rupees to 620 Rupees per quintal. The Uttar Pradesh Government had to buy 20 lakh metric tonne of wheat. The Government had fixed this target and seven agencies were entrusted with the task of setting up 4400 centres for the purchase of wheat but not even a single centre was set up till 10th April. Even if the Centres have been set up, the job of purchase of wheat has not yet started. Due to it the farmers were compelled to sell their wheat to the traders at the rate of Rs. 450 to 500 per quintal. The reason is that the farmers have to complete their transaction in this months and fulfil other responsibilities like marriage in the family. The farmers are in a very bad condition. On the other hand, the Government has fixed the target of storing 25 lakh metric tonnes of wheat while the state Government's capacity of storing is only 7 lakh metric tonnes. The Government has lifted restrictions from the trade of foodgrains in the name of economic reforms and now there are no restrictions. If the FCI has opened centres of the purchase of wheat they are ineffectual. I request the hon. Agriculture Minister to speak to hon. Food Minister in this regard.

As far as the issue of flood and drought is concerned, every time we discharge our duty in Lok Sabha and discuss it in the House. You will have to come up with a permanent solution. Apart from this when we go to our constituency we find that the crops have been destroyed by fire and the farmers crops have been ruined. The criterion for getting compensation relating to such a situation was laid down during the time of the Britishers. The farmer's product worth Rs. 4-5 lakh is destroyed by fire. The district magistrate provides help after receiving the report from tehsildar and the farmer gets rupees 500 to rupees 2000. This criterion is the oldest of all. I think these criteria need to be changed and modified keeping in view the changing scenario.

I believe that the hon. Agriculture Minister will make sincere efforts and strengthen agriculture which is the life line of our society. Only this much I intended to make submission through you.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (AMRAVATI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the eyes of the entire world are focused on the agriculture of India. There was a time when our country made concrete efforts to enhance production of foodgrains. The hard work and perseverance of our farmers led to the enhancement of

agricultural production. Today our country is in a position to launch third revolution in agricultural production in the world. Our country has achieved a good position in agricultural production. Today, India is regarded with high esteem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, however the way the production of food grains has been done, we have not been successful in preserving and utilizing the same food grains. Today, the food grains at the value of Rs. 9000 crore are lying rotten and perished in godowns. The food grains lying in the godowns get putrefied but we are not able to do anything. If we air pack these food grains as today many items are air-packed, they at last for a long time. There are various agricultural products which are imported to India from foreign countries and the people in India use these products effectively. Similarly, if the foodgrains are well preserved and saved from putridification, they can be made available to the public. Many unemployed persons of our country can get job by doing so. Our hon. Member of Parliament Shri Prakash Paranjape has submitted this scheme to the Government. Even Agriculture and Commerce Minister have been informed about the scheme. It is necessary to pay attention to it. If we pay attention to it, we can save the food grains on the large scale which are perishing in godowns.

Sir, I belong to Vidarbha. It is a region where all kinds of agricultural crops are grown. Wheat, Rice, Pulses and Oranges are grown there? These items are exported to the entire world as there is a demand of these items all-over the world. There farmers use mostly, manure and the use of Chemical fertilizers is comparatively less there. Vidarbha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu are the states which produces cotton on the large scale as there is a big demand of this agricultural product in every part of the world. But we have listed cotton as nonessential item. We do not get permission for the export of this product. Though there is a heavy demand of cotton in foreign countries, we are not able to export it as we do not get permission. The Maharashtra Government did not get permission for export even after purchasing the cotton of crore of rupees. Today, the payment of crores of rupees is yet to be made to the farmers on account of all which the farmers of Maharashtra are in difficulty.

I would like to submit to Agriculture Minister that it is very necessary to export onion and cotton and equally important is to get permission for exporting these items as there is a world-wide demand of Indian cotton. If we want to make the farmers of this country prosperous and channelise agriculture in a right direction, it is very necessary to create agriculture export zone in Vidarbha. The hon. Minister has also stated that such zones are being opened in various states to boost agriculture export. You have also stated that such zones have been approved. A National care centre is being

[Shri Anant Gudhe]

started in Vidarbha and the work on it is going on with much fanfare. I request that a agriculture export zone must be set up in Vidarbha so that the farmers of Vidarbha may become self reliant and prosperous.

Secondly, many of our Members of Parliament have also said that it has become compulsory for the farmers to take agriculture insurance if they get loan from the bank. I want to ask Hon. Ministry whether this agriculture insurance is for the benefits of insurance companies or for the benefit the farmers. We want to know to what extent the farmers who have been affected with flood or due to other reasons, have been benefited with this insurance. Today the farmers do not get the benefit of insurance. Suppose the crops of a farmer get perished in a village and in the same way the farmer in other village gets good crop, the farmer does not get the benefit of insurance. Farmers can be benefited from insurance only when the entire zone is affected. I request that this insurance should be provided safeguarding the interests of the farmers. Though there is a good crop in the rain, but the farmers whose crop are ruined and who have taken bank loan, do not get the benefit of insurance for the perished crop. Therefore this insurance scheme should be framed keeping in view the interests of the farmers in rural areas. It is my demand because the farmers are suffering losses due to this insurance scheme. There are farmers who raise loan from the bank. There are farmers who raise loan from the bank but are not able to repay it. There is a need to ponder over it as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a considerable production of milk in Maharashtra and those who deal in milk production business are directly related with agriculture. You are very well aware that every farmer has milk-giving animals at home and yet milk powder is being imported on large scale. Today there is a zero percent import duty levied on milk powder. I want to submit that on the one hand our milk surplus and on the other hand there is zero percent import duty on imported milk powder. Mr. Chairman, Sir, import duty on the other milk products should be raised. There should be at least 15 to 20 per cent import duty on these items so that our farmers may be protected. It is also very important.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, another important issue related to agriculture is chemical fertilizer. There is need to reduce import duty on chemical fertilizer. Chemical fertilizer is not manufactured in our country. Therefore, huge quantity of chemical fertilizers is imported and it is essential for farmers because without it they can not grow their crops.

There is need to reduce import duty on it. My submission is that the government should withdraw the duty completely from it and provide relief to the farmers. Agriculture policy is formulated to provide benefit to the farmers. But after going

through the budgetary figures it seems that they do not get the help provided by the government. Cooperative banks give loan to the farmers whereas the nationalized banks do not provide any assistance to them. Yes, nationalized banks provide assistance to the industrialists and businessmen. The government do not provide any financial assistance to the cooperative banks to make up their loss. Rs. 60,000 crore has been provided to the nationalized banks as assistance whereas Rs. 200 crore has been provided to the Cooperative banks in the current budget. What is this?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that hon. Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister pay attention to the farmers. But sometimes they could not have paid attention to their problems. Assistance can reach the farmers if the assistance provided to the nationalized banks by the government is provided to the Cooperative banks. The farmers will not progress if loan is not provided to them. Therefore, there is need to provide more assistance to the Cooperative banks in the budget. The government should think in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the percentage of water is receding day by day in the country. Neither the government nor we are doing anything in this regard. If drinking water is not sufficient, then from where would we provide water to the farmers for irrigation? When the crops dry up then the production will also reduce. Therefore, there is urgent need of water. If in this manner the water is provided to the farmers then you can easily understand that what will happen in the coming days. Drip irrigation method is used to save water. The government provide subsidy for drip irrigation. Drip irrigation subsidy should be increased to 100 per cent. For drip-irrigation, 100 per cent subsidy should be provided to the farmers with whom water is available. It would be a good news to the farmers. I think water can be saved in this manner.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are some other problems of the farmers. One problem is related to seeds. Seed growing companies sell their seeds to the farmers at higher rates.

Millet, Wheat and cotton seeds of the company are low yielding. Big packages are announced to give seeds. Even 50 per cent seeds are not good. Do the government not have any control over these seed companies? Have the government ascertained that the farmers are getting proper quantity of seeds or not? The government should pay attention in this regard so that the farmers can get proper quantity of seeds and they may not suffer any loss.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, soyabean oil is being imported. The government have imposed 75 to 95 percent import duty on edible oils. But edible oil is being imported at lower rates. My submission is that the government should procure oil- seed

and soyabean through NAFED in the country. Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are the main producers of soyabean. The farmers are suffering because they are not getting remunerative price in the market and oil companies and oil producing sector of our country are being closed. Therefore, instead of importing oil, subsidy should be provided to the farmers of the country. 100 to 140 per cent subsidy is being provided to the farmers in foreign countries. But subsidy is being curtailed in our country. However, we talk about paying attention to the farmers. Therefore, there is need to enhance the subsidy being provided to them. I hope that the government would pay full attention to all these issues. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to dispose of my constituency matter before I address myself to the larger questions that are here before us. Sir, my reference is to my cut motion no. 59 which relates to the assistance required by the farmers of the Cauvery delta who have been very severely and adversely affected by heavy unseasonal rains at the beginning of February, 2002, which not only comprehensively damaged the harvested crop that was awaiting procurement but also the crop that had ripened in the fields and was waiting to be harvested. Virtually, no assistance has been given to these farmers or to the affected *khet mazdoors* by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. The reason for this is that the State Government lacks apparently the resources and the Central Government has taken no interest whatsoever in these farmers and farm labour on the plea that there has been no complaint made to them by the State Government.

On the other hand, Sir, we have received, we have seen in the Press statements made by responsible members of the State Government of Tamil Nadu that they have, in fact, brought the problems of the Cauvery delta farmers and farm labour arising from the unseasonal rains of February, 2002 to the attention of the Central Government.

13.58 hrs.

(Dr. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

I plead, Sir, that we should receive from the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh, in the course of his reply to this debate a clarification about the following points. First, has or has not the State Government of Tamil Nadu brought the problems of the Cauvery delta farmers to the attention of the Union Government? Second, with regard to the funds made available to the State Government for meeting natural calamities, has or has not the State Government of Tamil Nadu

sent in their utilisation certificate for such moneys as have already been released to them by the Central Government? Third, if, in fact, these utilisation certificates have been received, is it not the duty of the Central Government to go to the assistance of farmers who, for no fault of theirs whatsoever, have been subjected to the most severe hardships on account of this natural calamity?

I need to have a clarification from the Agriculture Minister on this point because we are getting conflicting reports from the Union Government in Parliament in answer to questions which we put and statements made in the Press and elsewhere by the concerned Ministers in the State Government. So, please clarify this situation to us.

Secondly, I would like to request the Union Agriculture Minister to recognise that it is not only his *harit pradesh* which is the bowl of agriculture in this country; the Cauvery delta has been feeding the people of India for the last 2000 years. The rust barrage that was put up on the Cauvery goes back to the time of Raja Rajendra Cholan more than a thousand years ago.

14.00 hrs.

This Minister of Agriculture is like a political jack-rabbit jumping between Delhi and Lucknow, Lucknow and Delhi, completely forgetting that there are large parts of our country which require his attention, among them an area of this country, the Cauvery Delta, which has made a notable contribution for over two thousand years to feeding the people of India. I not only request, I demand, Sir, that the Union Minister of Agriculture make arrangements for an early visit to the Cauvery Delta which falls in three districts of Tamil Nadu - Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam.

By happy coincidence, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture has been elected from the Cauvery Delta constituency of Thanjavur; I myself happen to come from mostly the Nagapattinam constituency, and my colleague from the DMK is the representative of the Nagapattinam District. All three of us, without consideration of party, assure the Union Minister of an extremely warm welcome in the Cauvery Delta. But it is necessary that he stop at least for a little while this politicking in Uttar Pradesh, and turn to his portfolio responsibility, visit us in the Cauvery Delta and deal with problems that have been aggravated by the fact that water supply in the Cauvery from the upstream area is not coming in accordance with the Interim Award of the Cauvery Tribunal. The matter is under adjudication. The Prime Minister has set up a Committee under himself, which never meets, despite

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

the fact that year after year after year the supplies of water beyond the Mettur Dam have been consistently far below what is required of them by the Interim Award of the Tribunal.

In these circumstances, although this is a constituency matter, recognising the importance of the Cauvery Delta to agriculture in India as a whole, specifically to food production in India, I do hope that the Union Minister of Agriculture will find the time to visit us and discuss with our people in detail the agricultural requirements of the Cauvery farmers, who are not only continuing to make a noble contribution to all of India, but are also being severely, adversely affected in the summer *kuruva* crop by the absence of water in the Cauvery and, this time, in the samba crop, by these heavy unseasonal rains that have wrecked the efforts of an entire year of a people who are devoted to the welfare and development of this country.

Having said this, I now turn to the single most important document which should inform the Government's reaction to agriculture and its problems. This is the National Agriculture Policy that was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 28th of July, 2000 and, subsequently, in this House. It is a document that is two years old and we, therefore, have the opportunity of discovering now in this debate whether the Government takes its own National Agriculture Policy seriously or not.

In paragraph 5 of the National Agriculture Policy, there are two targets that are set. One is that there must be growth in excess of four per cent per annum in the agriculture sector. The record is that throughout the Ninth Plan, that is, the Governments that have extended through the United Front, the National Front, and the National Democratic Alliance, during this period, agricultural growth has been half, 2.1 per cent in the Ninth Plan, of what they had promised in the National Agriculture Policy.

They had also stated in paragraph 5 that one of their major objectives was to create employment in rural areas. What has been the reality? The growth rate of rural employment was, between 1983 and 1993, that decade, 1.7 per cent per annum. What has it been between 1993 and 2000? It is down to half a per cent per annum. They say that they will accelerate agricultural growth to four per cent; their performance is half of that. They say that they will accelerate rural employment but their performance is under one-third of what it was before this National Agriculture Policy came out. It is heartbreaking to realise that in regard to Rural non-Farm Employment, (I am not talking about agricultural employment) during the reforms period, that is from 1993 to 2000, the growth rate of employment in RNFE has been lower than in the pre-reforms period. Moreover, as compared to the East Asian

experience, the growth in RNFE in India has been much lower than that. Why do they produce these policies if they have no intention whatsoever of implementing them? Your growth rate is half of what you intended it to be. Your employment growth rate is one-third of what it was before you produced this policy. The explanation, I think, is to be found in recommendation number one of the Standing Committee on Agriculture where it has been pointed out that the outlay in the Ninth Five Year Plan on agriculture was about half of what the Ministry of Agriculture wanted and that the outlay in the Tenth Five Year Plan is also under half of what the Ministry of Agriculture had asked for and in this Budget of 2002-03, the amount granted to agriculture is under half of what they themselves had demanded.

Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture is only a part of the Government of India. But the Government of India has stated in this policy, it is unexceptionable, that "agriculture is central to all strategies for planned socio-economic development of the country." This is stated in the first paragraph of the National Agriculture Policy. The Government says that it is central in rhetoric but when it comes to hard cash, when it comes to the essence of what needs to be done for agriculture, they slash what is required to half and naturally the consequence is that their growth rate is half of what they said it would be. You cannot manufacture growth either in output or employment by writing very good English in the National Agriculture Policy. You have to back it up by the Ministry of Finance, the Planning Commission, the Prime Minister's Office understanding that if the rhetoric of the Government is that agriculture is central, then the outlays must also be central to the total outlay of the Government. We have not seen this.

Sir, we have, in the National Agriculture Policy, a very clear recognition - this is in paragraph 29 - of the importance of Public investment in agriculture. In paragraph 29 it is said :

"The agriculture sector has been starved of capital. There has been a decline in public sector investment in the agriculture sector. Public investment will be stepped up."

This is what the Government says at paragraph 29 of its National Agriculture Policy. What do we actually see? I would now quote from an article in *The Economic and Political Weekly* by an expert, Shri S. Mahendra Dev. I am not inventing these words and I trust that they would listen to an expert even if they would not listen to the Opposition. He said :

"In 2000-01 public investment in agriculture was Rs. 4007 crore. It was less than in 1999-2000. As a percentage of agriculture GDP, public investment is only between seven to eight per cent in the whole of the 1990s."

If public investment in agriculture does not take place in accordance with their own National Agriculture Policy, then who is going to come and invest? Is it the small farmer? Yes, he is doing what he can. But because the Government knows that the contribution which a small farmer could make to invest in agriculture is a fraction of what is required, and because the Government does not have the political will or the priority or even the heart to make public investment in agriculture, what they are doing is trying to get the international sector into agriculture in India and thereby jeopardising the livelihood of millions upon millions of farmers in a country where most farmers are small farmers and marginal farmers. This is no way of implementing the National Agriculture Policy. What they are doing completely lacks any credibility.

I now come to sectoral matters. It is recognised at paragraph 13 of the National Agriculture Policy. I read :

"Special efforts will be made to raise the productivity and production of crops to meet the increasing demand for food generated by unabated demographic pressure."

The National Agriculture Policy recognises that there is unabated demographic pressure.

14.11 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*)

It promises that it will increase food production. And the Prime Minister of the same Government who handed us this National Agriculture Policy goes to Punjab and asks foodgrains producers there to stop producing foodgrains and start diversifying into other crops. Why? It is because, he says, "We have got so much stocks in our FCI godowns that if you go on producing foodgrains we cannot buy it." But why are the stocks there? It is because the Minister of Food, along with his comrade-in-arms the Minister of Finance, has raised the prices of foodgrains in the PDS system to such a high level that although we warned him again and again from these Opposition benches that you are outpricing it for the BPL consumer, they would not listen! And the consequence is we have got huge stocks. But malnutrition in the country is increasing. The poor are still poor. There is a big demand for foodgrains and foodgrains output is simply not matching this demand.

In the decade of 1980s, the last decade of socialism, we increased foodgrains production in India by 36 per cent. The increase in the last decade has been of the order of 18 per cent. Half of it! We are now down to a rate of growth of food grains production which is almost exactly equivalent to the rate of growth of population. If this persists, the self-sufficiency in foodgrains which we have secured with great

difficulty, will be in serious jeopardy. Indeed, in the last five years, I am taking the whole quinquennium, our foodgrains output has increased by only 9 per cent, one-fourth of the rate at which foodgrains output was increasing in the period between 1980 and 1990. How are we going to remain self-sufficient in food? Do you want us to go back to the state in which we were in the mid-60s where we had to beg the Americans for every grain that we got?

I want the Agriculture Minister to explain. Does he believe in increased foodgrains production or not? Does he agree with the Prime Minister of India that, that part of India which is most responsible for foodgrains production should reduce its output? If so, where does he think that it is going to be compensated from? We need to know whether agriculture policy is being run by the Agriculture Minister of India or by the Prime Minister of India. Certainly those two policies are not the same policies. We cannot have a Government where the house is so divided that on a matter which is central to the lives of our people, we have a situation where the Prime Minister wants us to cut down on foodgrains production and the National Agriculture Policy says that we must increase the production.

We see a similar situation with regard to oilseeds and horticulture. I am linking the two because they have linked the two in the National Agriculture Policy itself. On oil seeds we doubled production of oilseeds from about nine million tonnes to 18 million tonnes. At the end of a whole decade, our output of oilseeds is lower today than it was ten years ago.

What sort of a policy are they running? In the 1980s, we reduced imports of edible oil from 850 million dollars to 152 million dollars. In the decade of the 90s, what a brilliant Agriculture Policy you run! ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (ALWAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is talking about farmers or India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : He has not said a single word about what the farmers want. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : It is surprising that my friend has not been able to understand what I am saying so now I would speak in his own language. I was saying about oil seeds that the yield had doubled in the decade of 80's, while in the decade of 90's the yield is less than what it was in 1990.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Please state the difficulties of the farmers. Why has yield come down?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I am afraid, he is unable to understand. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It is unfortunate for the farmers that your Government never translates his words into action. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down and let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This Government is anti farmer, the yield of oilseeds and foodgrains will definitely go down. This anti farmer Government is ruining the farmers. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I was saying that whereas our imports of edible oil were reduced during the decade of the 80s from 850 million dollars to about 150 million dollars, in the decade of the 90s, their performance with regard to oilseeds, which has been described as a major thrust area in the National Agriculture Policy, has resulted in an increase to 1,500 million dollars. And, I am being asked by the Treasury Benches, what should the *kisan* be doing!

How can the *kisan* do anything when you have this completely anti-*kisan* Government sitting over here? I am not surprised that the gentleman sitting in here for the Minister of Agriculture went to sleep while I was talking about this, and if Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had not come and woken him up, we would have still found him snoring. And the Minister has absented himself because he wants to go and eat while the poor in India do not have anything to eat.

But let me continue. Sir, we have got such a tragic situation in agriculture in this country that whereas sugarcane output rose by 60 per cent during the decade of the 80s in the quinquennium 1995-2001, output at the end of the quinquennium is 6.5 per cent lower than it was at the beginning. We are not only not progressing, we are regressing.

The same is the situation in cotton. Output in 2001-02 was a million tonne lower than it was five years ago. And they are giving us this National Agriculture Policy to swallow! How

on earth can we trust a Government which does not put its money where its mouth is, which talks big in its policy but whose performance is despicably poor, which neither has been able to increase the income of the farmer nor give him the employment that he seeks?

I now turn to a related question. It is about another divide in this Government. It is the divide between the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Commerce. The Minister of Commerce, in a formal written statement tabled in this House after the Doha WTO round, stated: "The key concerns of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration."

Sir, I want to repeat it so that every word sears into the heart of Shri Ajit Singh and his colleagues. Shri Murasoli Maran stated here: "The key concerns of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration."

Does Shri Ajit Singh agree? Does Shri Ajit Singh, the Union Minister of Agriculture agree with the Union Minister of Commerce that the key concerns of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration? I want an answer to that question because we cannot continue to have this Janus-faced Government, where in order to back themselves out of the mess that they made in Doha, they make one claim here and then they go around the whole country saying that it is the WTO and the Congress' signature in Marrakech that is responsible for the ruin of this country. This hypocrisy must be brought to all end. I want an answer from the Union Minister of Agriculture as to whether he agrees with the assessment of the Union Minister of Commerce,

In Doha, after he arrived there, the Union Minister of Commerce made three key demands in his opening speech, which I believe reflected the true position of Shri Ajit Singh, the Union Minister of Agriculture. He demanded these; and all the three sentences are quotations.

- "1. Elimination of large scale domestic support to agriculture;
2. Elimination of other trade distorting subsidies; and
3. Removal of all unfair barriers facing farm exports of developing countries."

These were the three demands made by the Union Minister of Commerce on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture in Doha. At the end of it, he said - he also added this - that "we cannot be held hostage to unreasonable demands." This is

what Shri Maran said. Three days later, he concluded it in Doha, came to this House and told us that all our key concerns have been adequately safeguarded.

Have domestic subsidies in agriculture been eliminated in developed countries? Is there even a promise of so-doing it? Has the Minister of Agriculture any knowledge of what is the scale of domestic subsidies in the OECD countries, which are the richest developed countries? The scale of domestic subsidies is 326 billion dollars a year, that amounts to a support of one billion dollars a day. Domestic subsidy in the developed countries is being given to agriculture, an occupation which accounts for some 2-3 per cent of the GDP and not more than four or five per cent of their employment. But he comes back here and says that he is satisfied. They have not made any commitments with regard to domestic subsidies what they have done is that as a result of this new package of negotiations, they will, over a time period, phase out export subsidies. But export subsidies are a tiny percentage of the total subsidy. When they subsidise agriculture so-heavily in the developed countries, how can we compete with them by exporting to them? At the same time, how can we, in India, stand the assault of imports of these heavily subsidised agricultural products from the developed countries?

It has not happened yet, I agree. I know that despite all the propaganda made by the NDA allies, Indian agriculture has not been wrecked by imports so far. But we have seen that with edible oil; we have seen that with milk. What has been happening? Now, you ask us to accept the statement that all our interests have been safeguarded in Doha.

I want to know from the Union Minister of Agriculture as to why, in the negotiations that took place in December 1999 for raising bound tariffs within GATT, he did not raise the bound tariff of soyabean oil when he actually did it for mustard oil? Why did he do that? He increased the bound tariffs for milk and skimmed milk powder. Good. But why did he not do it for soyabean oil? Why is it that you are allowing such massive imports of palmolein oil to take place from Malaysia, as also huge imports of coconut oil. This has, according to an answer given by the Treasury Benches here in this House, closed down more than half of soyabean oil factories in Madhya Pradesh, which is our main State for the production of soyabean oil.

Why are you ruining agriculture in this way? There is nothing wrong with the WTO or the agreement that we signed. What is wrong is that instead of recognising the fact that there is a long way to go and that they did not achieve what they set out to achieve in Doha, they are trying to fool the people into imagining that they are as great diplomats as they are great protectors of Indian agriculture. Such deep harm has been

done to us that I think we are entitled to an answer from this Government as to whether the Minister of Agriculture agrees with the Minister of Commerce.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I would like to conclude as quickly as I can.

There is another point. We in India have been compelled under WTO to start the process of dismantling our tariff and non-tariff protection against imports from outside. What our diplomacy has not done is to link the dismantling of tariff or trade barriers generally with the reduction in domestic subsidies in the developed West. If they reduce their subsidies, the entire 60 million tonnes of foodgrains that we claim as surplus here could be sold tomorrow. It is only not being sold because of heavy subsidies in the West. We can sell massive quantities of horticultural products from the North-East. It cannot be done, I do not believe it can be done, because horticulture is heavily subsidised in the West. Unless and until Indian diplomacy links the reduction in our trade barriers to the reduction of domestic subsidies in the West, we are not going to be able to achieve the protection and promotion of Indian agriculture. There is nothing that the Commerce Minister has said which matches up to the promise that has been made in this document, the National Agriculture Policy, that they will in fact be careful of all this. I draw the attention of the Minister to paragraph three of the National Agriculture Policy which says :

"Agriculture has become a relatively unrewarding profession. This situation is likely to be exacerbated further in the wake of integration of agricultural trade in the global system unless immediate corrective measures are taken."

What immediate corrective measures has the Union Minister of Agriculture or the Union Minister of Commerce taken to protect the interests of our farmers? That is certainly something that we are entitled to know.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for the time that you have given to me. I also see that with the exquisite sense of timing that Shri Ajit Singh always has, in opportunistically jumping from one place to the other, he has taken the utmost care to leave the House when I started speaking and to return when I have finished. I plead with him to please ask his officers as to what were the points I made in the course of my speech and to give us his answers when he intervenes specifically what is the situation with regard to the Cauvery Delta farmers. I have asked a number of questions on that. I seek his answers.

Secondly, I have invited him to come to the Cauvery

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Delta. I would like his answer on that in the course of his reply. I have asked him to clarify the dissonance between his demands for finances for agriculture and what he is being allotted by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. I have asked him to clear up the contradiction between the National Agriculture Policy demand for higher foodgrains production and the Prime Minister's statement in Punjab asking the farmers there to lower their foodgrains production. I have asked him to clarify a large number of contradictions that apparently exist between himself and the Union Minister of Commerce, the hon. Shri Maran; specifically the claim that he made here. Since I see the Minister's eyebrow rising, in a written statement laid on the Table of the House after his return from Doha, the hon. Minister mentioned that the key concerns of India in agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Declaration. Do you believe that the key concerns of Indian agriculture have been adequately safeguarded in the Doha Declaration?

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand up to support demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. I begin with a quotation. The troubles of a society are doubled when half of its needs are fulfilled. So many years have passed since independence, it has become a tradition and we have become used to discuss agriculture. Whenever anything happens to the farmers, it becomes a medium of speaking against the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the present budget. I want to congratulate the Government. I am not congratulating the Government because I belong to the ruling party. I definitely want to speak about the farmers. 48 percent of the area from which I come is irrigated and 52 percent of that area is covered by forest. The district to which I belong is different from the district which I represent. The most fertile land of Asia lies in Narsinghpur district. I do not want to talk about higher things. My learned friends have talked about agro-export etc. I will definitely speak about the fundamental things and the interests of the farmers. I will speak about the things that the Government should consider. The development of the villages and agriculture is complementary to each other. The Government has given 60 percent of the money for rural development. The Government deserves to be applauded for this but plans should be made to spend it. We have to keep two things in mind. Today if the Agriculture Ministry thinks that it can prove beneficial for farmers then it is not possible because there is no coordination between the Ministries of power, water resources and chemicals. If this coordination is missing then you can not do the farmers good even if you want to. I have mentioned about my district and I would like to tell you that water level which was earlier at 8 feet has receded

to 90 feet over there. In such a situation, the farmers can not earn profit. I am not aware but may be the similar conditions prevail in other regions also and in these conditions the farmers can not earn profit from their crops. If the farmers do not have water and electricity then the farmers can not achieve anything. Even if you make latest techniques available to them. I do not think he can achieve anything. Today the farmer is facing problems due to more production. We should get the profit from the produce in proportion to the cost but it is not so. The farmers of Madhya Pradesh have earned profit from the yield of garlic. But next year there will be more areas producing garlic and as a result there will be no buyers. Who will prevent this. I said it last time while speaking about agriculture policy that this Government deserves to be applauded for bringing in agriculture policy. Law relating to Plant variety which should have been formulated 20 years earlier, has been formulated only recently. Due to its absence the farmers have suffered the most and they have not earned any profit. Research scholars join some multinational company and the farmers do not get what is their right. Even erstwhile governments have not considered this. Had this act been formulated 20 years earlier, it would have protected the interests of the farmers.

The third thing I want to mention is a National Agriculture channel. I had mentioned it while speaking about agriculture policy. Can we have a National Agriculture Policy in this country. Officers from ICAR are sitting here. The Government does not have to invest anything National channel can be floated under Agriculture policy. It is essential because until Government directly interferes in the crop cycle, the farmers would not earn profit. If you want farmers to earn profit then you will have to issue directions. It is not as if only one type of crop is grown all over the country or only wheat and gram is grown all-over the country. The pattern of crop is not uniform. There are variety of crops, the farmer sows wheat if he wishes to but we all know the result. Our godowns are full. Today the new stock of wheat are lying outside the godowns, we can not decide about old stocks since such a step will invite criticism. Why can not we decide? Our wheat will get spoiled, it does not remain edible for long. You may preserve it in the best possible method but it can not be saved for more than 2-3 years. Whether the farmers can not use that wheat as feedstock. The Government has tried to do so but I am not satisfied with it. There should be a policy that wherever there are stocks of wheat which are 2 or 3 years old, it should be given as feedstock to farmers so that they can benefit by it. You have to clear the stocks from godowns. Nobody is prepared to think or speak in this regard. National Agriculture channel is needed for all these things and also for communication between the Government and the farmers. This Channel should not be dragged into any controversy like

the autonomy of Prasar Bharti. It should be owned totally by the Government. The Government should establish direct contact with the farmers and make them aware about its policies in their own regional language, only then the interests of the farmers can be protected.

The Government should be applauded in one another matter. We have minor irrigation schemes and we have to think over it. There can be differences over minor irrigation schemes or major irrigation schemes. I want that there should be minor irrigation schemes. The schemes having long-term strategy have not proved successful in this country. We have been their victims. The old Rani Avnti Sagar dam in Narmada valley had to be completed in 1982 but its second right back canal could not be started in 2002. You may see its ill effects. On the one side the most fertile land of Asia is acquired. The land was acquired 20-25 years back. We can't get tubewells drilled there. We were given compensation 20 years back. We have been waiting since then expecting water there. We can't dig wells. If we dig tubewells we will not get compensation. Imagine the condition in which a farmer has to live. The need of the hour is that the minor irrigation schemes which are 70 to 90 year old should be revived. I have put forth an issue of my area that the target of a 90 years old scheme was to irrigate 5000 hectare area but after 90 years still it is irrigating 6000 hectare area only. The scheme formulated by the planners are mostly successful. Many State Governments have ruled in this period. You have mentioned about Madhya Pradesh. The dam is being irrigating more than its average. The dam is over-aged and is on the verge of collapse. Nobody is spending money on its repair because it is irrigating more than its average. A friend of mine has said that it is foolishness whom we called progress. Only the Central Government will talk about the revival the minor irrigation schemes. I can say about Madhya Pradesh that the projects, which the State deserved, have not come. Should it not be considered? Can't they be constructed after they collapse. Who will think over it? Please talk about farmers here. I feel that it should not be like this.

I would like to request the Minister that he is a farmer, and he and other public representative take interest in the struggle of farmers. I request through this House that we have to be serious in this regard because the farmers are not united. Therefore, perhaps their views are not taken seriously. We discuss this here. Everybody claims for vote that he is with the farmers but have we ever prepared ourselves to formulate a time bound and systematic programme for discussion? The another budget will come after this one. It should be proposed as to what will be our next step. The criticism does not hurt me. There must be criticism but if I feel that it lacks something then despite my being from the treasury benches. I have no objection in giving suggestion. But if we do not want to go

beyond it then it would be a difficult path. Today there is a need to think over farmers, to give them time bound and systematic information and today I would strongly demand from the Minister to think over it. If the channel can be started without any Government funds then it would be the most equitable step from your side.

The second thing I would like to talk about is insurance. We are all habituated to speak our party language. I have expressed my views in Madhya Pradesh. The State Government implement their insurance policies and the Union Government implement their own policies. Did the State Governments implement the Union Government policies. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Madhya Pradesh Government have not implemented them. To implement the central insurance policy, three successive years record is required, the Madhya Pradesh Government have not maintained the ANAWARI record of three years, therefore National Agricultural Insurance Policy can't be implemented. Hence no farmer can be benefited from it. Who is the culprit for this? It should be considered. These mistakes of the State Governments have made us victims of party politics. By blaming one another we affect such a vast section of population who have nothing to do with party politics. When natural calamities occur it does not spare any particular area of any particular party. It proves harmful for everybody. But even today we use the parameter of 1937 to decide the loss of farmers caused by drought, excessive rain or hail storms, which is called ANAWARU when I raised a question, I was asked as to what ANAWARI meant.

I hail from that district which produces 15 quintals of gram per acre which accounts to around 35 quintals per hectare and according to ANAWARI report, only two and half quintals of gram per acre was produced. Will any farmer get justice from it? If the loss is less than 36 per cent then he will not get twenty five paise. The criteria of RBC was fixed in the time of the Britishers. This House has not tried to review it. Will farmers benefited from this? Whether we are effected by hail storm or excessive rain, we can't get our rights because the farmers can't get be benefited with these standards. The House will have to consider that these standards should be different. If we have raised the production then we have to raise the limit of loss. Through this House, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that if we want to give benefit to the farmers then there is a need to bring an uniformity in the attitude of State and Union Govt. in regard to Agriculture insurance policy.

If you want to give compensation, it is the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture to change the criteria of losses and this should be initiated by the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a lot of talks have taken place about the interests of the farmers. We have discussed exports. I

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

would like to say this much that there is problem of input in agriculture and everybody would accept this. If I have taken birth in a farmer's family I can not adopt other profession despite being desirous to do so because I do not have capital. Despite my desire, I am bound to live in that condition after getting education because I can not do any business without capital.

The credit cards have been issued by the Government to two crore farmers. Rs. 55 thousand crore distributed as loan under it. Our friend from the Shiv Sena was talking about Cooperative Bank. I, too, want to say that there is need to strengthen the co-operative banks also and that is directly responsible to the farmers. I appreciate the agriculture policy and other laws that the Government have formulated. The Government will go ahead adopting the few suggestions that I have given and will pave the way for the farmers. Before criticising, do think over it that our criticism will at least help this House raise the voice of those unorganised farmers of the agricultural sector whose voice is heard nowhere. By when the other fora will come up, I do not know.

Coconut growers may make their separate organisation, we the oilseeds and pulse growers may make separate organisation, the wheat growers may set up separate organisation and tomorrow the exporters may raise separate organisation. But this House can become such a forum from where the joint voice of the farmers can emanate. With this submission I am concluding my speech with supporting it again.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants on Agriculture, this year also. We have been deliberating about agriculture and agriculturists. But even after long deliberations, the challenges faced by agriculturists have not been remedied till date. We all know that India is the second largest food producer in the whole world. We have attained that distinction though the agriculturists have not been fully satisfied and are even deprived of their livelihood. Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. Though mass production and heavy storage in different godowns have caused loss to the producers, the agriculturists, it has benefited the consumers. When the consumers are being benefited, the producers are being affected. The agriculturists and producers are not able to determine the price for their own produce. It is the middlemen who determine the rate for their produce. Some doctors, some lawyers, some MPs and some Ministers say that they are agriculturists. But it is not so. Agriculturist is the one who ploughs the land. Otherwise, he is a landlord.

Landlords are not agriculturists. They have land holdings. As early as, in the fifties, our late leader, Aringar Anna demanded that tiller should get the land. Tiller should get the ownership. That was surpassed by my late leader, Dr. MGR, the Puratchi Thalaivar. Tiller should be given the ownership.

14.48 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

In Tamil Nadu, we have effected so many agrarian changes in the Act to benefit the agriculturists. This year, fifty lakh acres of wasteland have been taken over by the present Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi. The land should be reclaimed. But, for everything there is a financial crunch. She has been writing letters to the Central Government requesting for a package worth Rs. 3,000 crore. It is because the treasury has been emptied by spending on different projects and reclamation, we need crores of rupees. The most important thing in Tamil Nadu is that we give free electricity to the agriculturists. We have not taken away that. The State pays. All the agriculturists get free electricity. We must appreciate this pioneering work. Has it been followed by other States? An agriculturist is an agriculturist, whether he is from Kanyakumari or from Kashmir. There is no distinction or discrimination among the agriculturists. They are all food producers.

So, I would say that the Central Government should treat agriculture as a top-priority item. For that, there should be active participation by the Central Government in the agricultural sector. To what extent has the Central Government been participating for the last so many years? Sometimes, first the subsidy was increased, then, there was a roll-back. Sometimes, the price of certain items was increased and afterwards there was a roll-back. The important point is that the agriculturists are mostly unorganised. They belong to the backward classes. The real agriculturists, who are ploughing the land, belong to the backward sections of the society. So, the Government must encourage the backward class people to continue their agricultural operations. If the agricultural operations are to come to a standstill, where will we go for food? We have now enough foodgrains to export. But even then, we are importing rice, milk products and so many agricultural products. Our agriculturists have been affected badly because of the WTO agreement that was entered in the year 1992. Here, I cite the example of the Milk Products Import Order, 1992. Last year also, I stressed that this Order had badly affected our agricultural sector. By the enactment of the Milk Products Import Order, 1992, butter, cheese and even ice-creams can be imported. So, the Central Government should actively participate in the agricultural sector by amending the clause in the WTO agreement.

There was a call that agriculture should be treated as an industry. The industrial workers get a different treatment. The agriculturists are labourers. The real agricultural operators are the labourers. The landlord is the owner. So, there must be a drastic focus made by the Government for the better growth in the agricultural sector. The priorities of agricultural sector should be taken into consideration.

The essential commodity for agriculture is water. There is a lot of water being wasted into the sea. The rivers are mixing up into the sea. For example, the west-flowing rivers are mixing up into the sea in the southern part of Tamil Nadu. That is a classic example. Why should we waste water? If a dam is constructed to prevent the mixing up of river water into the sea, we can do cultivation in thousands of acres of land. We can reclaim the waste land. We can allow the poor agriculturists to become rich. I have seen that no real agriculturist has become rich. I have been watching this. For the last thirty years, no real agriculturist has become rich. The person who is ploughing the land has not become rich. The land-lord has become rich. The real agriculturist's blood is being suck. There are some parasites sucking the blood of these poor agricultural labourers. So, there must be concrete steps to improve the lot of the farmers. To sustain agricultural productivity, what are the steps the Government has taken? We deliberate this subject every year in a routine manner. On the foodgrains production front, we claim that India is the second largest foodgrains producer in the world. So, the farmer has to be rewarded. The Government has not produced it. The poor agriculturists have been producing foodgrains. So, I would say that the farmers need better treatment. The Government should take the farmers into its arms.

The Government should take them into its arms. I would say that they should be the adopted children of the Government. The real farmers should be treated as adopted children of the Government. There are a number of matters rattling the minds of the agriculturists. I would say that for an agriculturist if he wants to get a loan, it would be very difficult for him to get a loan. He cannot easily get a loan. We can easily get a loan for purchasing a car at zero per cent interest. He cannot get a loan at zero per cent interest for purchasing pump sets or any other agricultural implements like tractor or motor. I would say that the Government should be liberal in helping the agriculturists because on this agricultural demand, we can talk about only the agriculturists and not the consumers. Consumers are sitting pretty. They are depending on the food producer. So, the whole House should focus its eye on the real agriculturists.

If all the State Governments implement the welfare

measures concerning health, education of their children, and for the social security of the agriculturists, they would have come up. There is no provision for any agriculturist to go and admit him in hospital saying that he is an agriculturist and I should get a special treatment. No, he cannot do that. Even an ordinary person who is charged of a crime gets a free treatment because he is in the custody of policy whereas scores of agriculturists who are helping the country to be second in the world in the case of food production are not being protected. So, I would say that they must be protected.

Regarding the statistics, I would like to point out one or two figures to show as to how the farming sector growth was four per cent. We need about Rs. 7,36,570 crore in the Tenth Plan. In the previous Plan, it was Rs.6,14,250 crore. There should be a rationale behind the increase. The figure is three times higher than the projections made by the previous Plan at Rs.2,29,750 crore. Mathematically, it is totally different. But I would inform the House that in the first three years of the Ninth Plan, the credit flow of Rs.1,13,428 crore was achieved against the target of Rs.1,16,800 crore. The actual credit flow during 2001-02 was projected at Rs.52,108 crore leaving a balance of about Rs.65,000 crore to be achieved in the terminal year of the Ninth Plan against the target of Rs.60,840 crore.

Statistics show that we depend on the producer, on the real agricultural labour. I cannot go beyond the scope or reference of the real agricultural labour, real agriculturists. I would say that the Agriculture Minister heads the *kisan* movement. His father has led the *kisan* movement. I would like to urge him to tap more funds from the Central Government to the agriculture sector to disseminate, distribute to the State equitably so that all the agriculturists can get the financial assistance or whatever they want. If they want to construct a house, they must be given a loan and if they want to buy a tractor, they must be given a loan without any interest.

15.00 hrs.

In that way, the hon. Minister should take further steps to boost agricultural production in the years to come. During the last three years, you have been speaking on that subject but the plight of the agriculturists has not improved.

I would like to say that the Government of Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in the agricultural sector. There was a challenge that the supply of free electricity would be given up. The Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thailaivi, has mentioned in the State Assembly that free electricity would not be given up. The

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

agriculturists will get free electricity. On that score, you must sacrifice for the agriculturists. You must sacrifice for the poor agriculturists. All the State Governments should follow that system.

In that way, I welcome and support the Demands for Grants. At the same time, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister to get more money from the Central Government and distribute it to the State Governments to better the lives of the agriculturists in India.

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM) : Hon. Chairman, I am happy to participate on behalf of DMK in this discussion on Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture. India has attained the second place in the gross agricultural production. Yet it is not enough considering our ever increasing large population. When compared to the per capita food production of many other countries our country lags behind. Let me quote a couplet from the great Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar when he glorified the agriculturists.

*"Uzhuthundu vazhvare vazhvar matrellamu
thozhundu pin selpavar"*

meaning that every other occupation comes only after agriculture which alone can provide life sustenance. Agriculture is the basis of our nation's economy. But the plight of our farmers do not have much to boast about. There is a saying that even a small quantity of grain is not left behind if the input and output are considered together. And it is true. Governments may come and go. All of us say that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. But we must ask ourselves whether we have ensured guaranteed returns to farmers evolving a long term plan perspective.

We need to extend subsidy to agricultural inputs like fertilisers such as urea. We must come forward to help the farming community to carry on their livelihood if not an occupation with sustainable returns. We must help them to increase production and productivity.

When our leader Dr. Kalam Karunanidhi was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu he took up with the Union Government headed by our former Prime Minister Thiru. V.P. Singh the case for a judicious share of Cauvery waters. We were pressing for a lasting solution which resulted in the setting up of a tribunal. We have got an interim award to have 205 TMC of water. But still every year at the time when water is needed to be released there is always snag. The Cauvery delta farmers are facing a problem on every June twelfth when the water is to be released. It was an acute problem last year too. Hence I urge upon the Prime Minister to convene a meeting of the panel on Cauvery river water sharing ahead of June 12th.

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is not yielding desired results. This is because of the fact that it is only the block administration that can be a unit to go in for this

insurance. It must be brought down to Panchayat level and every village must be made a unit to come in the ambit of tins insurance scheme. Now that the Union Government has set up an exclusive Agricultural Insurance Corporation we must ensure that every farmer gets an insurance cover to be assured of a guaranteed return if not less due to calamities. We welcome the announcement made in this regard in this year's Budget.

As far as procurement of food grains is concerned there must be a uniform policy throughout the country. This will ensure minimum support price to the farmers. Last year when farmers were faced with a problem of saving their crops at the time of harvest due to unforeseen rain havoc, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu our leader Dr. Kalam Karunanidhi issued orders to procure paddy even with the humidity rate of about 25%. That was how the then DMK Government came to the rescue of farmers who were finding it a problem to get buyers for their crisis-sales. I urge upon the Union Government to evolve a uniform policy to ensure procurement to benefit farmers all over the country. Union Government must come forward to directly procure the paddy from the fields.

The Exim policy for the current year was announced recently. The policy statement made by our Union Industries and Commerce Minister Thiru. Murasoli Maran was an encouraging one and it enthruses the agricultural sector to promote liberal export of agricultural products. The exim policy is widely appreciated as it would directly benefit the agriculturists. He has also proposed to increase import duty on certain agricultural products like rubber to ensure an insulated market to our own agricultural produce.

The farmers must get the benefit of technological strides that are achieved through research and development. Union Agriculture Ministry must ensure this taking a well coordinated approach.

Due to lack of technical and technological know-how support that could be derived from research activities on coconut, the coconut growers face huge problem due to pest menace that greatly affect coconut production. The farmers of the coconut growing States that are mostly in the peninsular India have to face a grim situation. I urge upon the Union Agriculture Ministry to take immediate steps to provide relief and solution to coconut growers of the country.

Hon. Railway Minister had announced recently that Railways propose to set up storage godowns for agricultural products and processed food while in transit as railway cargo. Department of Agriculture must seize this opportunity and must take coordinated efforts to conserve and preserve agricultural products and to avoid wastage of agricultural produce like fruits and grain.

Hybrid seeds, soil testing facilities and improved water management techniques must reach the farmers and they must be extended with the benefits of these activities pursued by the Ministry of Agriculture. The technical know-how for crop management must be taken to the farmers. Hence there is a need to have an exclusive census on agricultural activities

throughout the country. The fruits of the labour put in by our agricultural scientists must reach the farmers of the country. That alone can ensure a durable and sustained agricultural development and increase in production.

Distribution of electricity to the farmers free of cost was envisaged by our former Chief Minister and our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi in Tamil Nadu. As this would help increase the agricultural production this free supply of electricity for agricultural activities must not be discontinued. Instead it should be extended to all the States of the country. Then alone we would be able to help farmers to boost the production unhindered. Expressing my support to these Demands for Grants and thanking the Chair again for the opportunity provided to me to speak on this occasion let me conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : You have not said even a word about the Cauvery Delta farmers. I have placed a request here before the Union Agriculture Minister to visit areas in the Cauvery delta region in Tamil Nadu. Please express your support to my request.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Please extend your support to my request to the Union Minister to visit our area and see the plight of our Cauvery Delta farmers.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN : Of course I mentioned about the sorry state of affairs in the Cauvery Delta and the problems faced by our farmers. I have no hesitation in supporting the request hon. Member has made.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (ARRAH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many, many thanks for the time you provided me for speaking here. Today we are discussing the supplementary demand for grants on agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of our country. According to Mahatma Gandhi the farmer of the nation India is an agricultural country and its major population lives in villages. If the people residing in village are prosperous, the country will become prosperous. Even after such a long period, although we often referred to the name of Mahatma Gandhi yet we did not emulate his deeds. He had said that the soil of the country lies in villages, it passes through the agricultural fields and the alleys of villages. This was the thought of that great man whom we call the father of the nation. Today the position of the farmers is so bad that they do not want to engage themselves in cultivation. They are dejected, sad. Their hopes have become bleak. They are fleeing towards the cities leaving agriculture in the villages themselves. The result will not be good if care is not taken in time.

The Hon'ble Agriculture Minister is the son of a farmer. He has come here after getting education in America. His father never believed that his son would talk about the welfare

of the farmers. Our Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Hukumdeo Narayanjee is sitting here. He has joined that government which do not want to promote agriculture. Till now all-over this country, I am not talking about Bihar, irrigation facility has been provided to 33 to 34 percent of land. Every year we have debate, discussion here but we could not till now enhance the means of irrigation. Power is required in villages. The means for the arrangement of irrigation are available but power is not available there. The farmers want to irrigate their land with wells, small tube-wells with the help of electricity but he fails to irrigate the land due to the poor availability of electricity. The farmers are involved in production. When there is drought, flood the Government say that it is a natural calamity but when the farmers have enough production through their labour, technique and drudgery, our Government say that this year grains produced is less by 50 lac tons but in the time to come they would produce 22 crore tons of grains. But what do the farmers get from it? Pesticides and fertilizers are used in the agricultural lands. The prices of the spare parts of the tractor we use for agriculture are considerably increasing. The prices of the crops of the farmer are decreasing, how will you save them? Why is it that today the cultivators of cotton, sugarcane are committing suicide. This Government is heartless, they little care for the farmers who are dying. They do not find any remedy. You have not got a survey conducted in this regard by constituting any committee. You had announced National Agricultural Policy in the Year 2000-2001. What happened to that? Chaudhary Sahab had said that they would introduce crop insurance. When we had come in 1989, it was decided that the agriculture insurance scheme would be implemented on 23rd December, 1990 on the occasion of the birthday of Chaudharyji, but this was not implemented.

You never think about farmers. The farmers are disappointed every year. The farmers sell their valuables to educate their children but the children do not get employment. The farmers are frustrated.

Hon. Prime Minister has announced rural road scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. This is a good scheme but what I want to say is that the farmers should be given the price of their food grains. When the farmers have means they themselves will construct cemented houses and roads etc. They will not need the Government-money. Please take the case of Bihar. There is Sone Canal system in the area to which I belong. There is the Kosi project in the northern part of Bihar which is meant for irrigation, but there is perennial problem of floods and drought over there. It is 52 years since our country became independent. Till now we have not been able to solve the problem of floods and drought.

Right now, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji was discussing Tamil Nadu. When the tornado hit Andhra Pradesh and Orissa then the crops were ruined and the farmers could not save themselves, but the Government do not insure their crops. The farmers will not be benefited by conducting a debate in the House and seeking the opinion of the officers. You can not stem corruption when there is so much poverty. There is a saying- "Vibhukshatam kim na karoti papam." -when farmers

[Shri Ram Prasad Singh]

are so much distressed how can you live in peace. Today the farmers are migrating towards cities leaving agriculture, cities are over crowded. What are the reasons behind this? Why is crime increasing? You know that money related crimes are increasing. I believe that whatever murders and other crimes are being committed, they are money related and there is poverty and wealth at the root of it. The capital of industrialists has increased and that of the farmers has reduced. The farmers have become poorer. I am not saying that there has not been any development in the last 52 years. We believe in this because it is a tenet of economics that economic condition of the country can be gauged by the standard of life of its people. The standard of living of people has improved in our country also. There are skyscrapers in our country now. Today the whole world is following globalisation even we are adopting it. But we are lagging behind even in this. China got independence in 1949. Today it produces 40 crore tonnes of food grains every year. While in our country 5½ crore tonnes of food grains were produced at the time of independence and today we are producing 20-22 crore tonnes. The population of our country is increasing at a fast pace. It is true that we have surplus food grains but the Government have failed to distribute it among poor persons. There are many agriculture related activities like horticulture, dairy, pisciculture, pig breeding etc. We have not been able to pay proper attention towards them. When we were discussing globalisation, it was said that developed countries are providing subsidy in big amounts. Even then there is lot of development. We have increased the percentage of loan and reduced subsidy, even then we have not made progress. It has to be considered that in this way we can not compete with the developed countries.

The Government is catering to the multinational companies and big industrialists and it has forced farmers to do the same. We can not be benefited by this. You are in majority, you will do as you please, you will not listen to us. We want to have a permanent solution for floods, drought and natural disasters. In Bihar, Darbhanga produces a lot of makhana. It can be considered. Apart from this we should promote horticulture. We should encourage the farmers to produce vegetables. Today India is at number one position regarding milk and it is at number 2 in the case of vegetables. If we make arrangements for exporting vegetables through cargo to gulf countries then the farmers can contribute to the development of the country since it is a cash crop. Sugar cane is also a cash crop but it is not in fit condition right now. Jute is also a cash crop but jute related works are also dwindling. The hon. Minister is the son of a farmer, Hukum Dev Narayanji is also a farmer, you talk about the welfare of the farmers but you should actually take steps in this direction. You will come to power only if the farmers want so. Only devotion to Rama will not bring you to power. If attention is paid towards the hard-working people then they can take the country on the road of prosperity. We can even prevent crime by it.

I urge upon the Government to give financial assistance to Bihar to combat floods, drought and natural disasters. Jharkhand is now a separate state. All our industries have

been shifted there. All the MPs from Bihar have asked for a special package worth Rs. 30,000 crore for Bihar. But we have not been given even a single penny. It was said that the loan that Bihar owed to the Government had been recovered from that money. Bihar constitutes tenth part of the population. It has a glorious past. It has produced social workers, talented an Intellectual people. It was the chosen land of Gautam Budha, followers of Jainism and Vinoba Bhavaji, even then Bihar is being neglected. Why is Bihar being neglected? We have been demanding modernisation of Sone Canal system for years but it has not been done while it is the biggest irrigation scheme and it irrigates 40 lakh hectare of land. There are stocks of paddy in Punjab and I claim that there are stocks of paddy in the districts of Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Arrah, Buxser and Rohtas and you have failed to set up a preservation centre for farmers over there. I asked a question in this regard and was told that there are only 40000 tonnes while our leader Laloo Prasad Yadavji and our Chief Minister Rabriji said that they would give 2 lakh tonnes but first you make arrangements. But what will the farmers do if they are unable to sell their food grains. Subsidy has been withdrawn and the prices have increased and what used to be sold at Rs. 500 per quintal is being sold at Rs. 300 per quintal now. The farmers are unable to recover even their costs. He can not educate his children and give them clothes. The farmers are living in such a miserable condition. If you really want to improve the condition of the farmers then chalk out a special package for them and promote irrigation. Formulate a special package for floods and natural calamities. Allocate money for modernisation of the Sone canal. Embankment Reservoir Scheme whose foundation stone was laid by Babu Jagjivan Ram way back in 1974 in Bihar is still pending. It has not been completed as yet. 65 crore rupees have been provided for it. Its cost has increased. Agriculture and irrigation are complementary to each other. Please see to it that this scheme is completed.

We should come together to combat the challenges that the farmers are facing in following the standards of World Trade Organisation and the farmers should be given loans at low rates of interest. You give money to the traders by keeping their goods with you, make similar arrangements for the farmers, when they produce foodgrains and they are not sold, you give 75 percent to the traders, you should give it to the farmers also. You should implement your father's ideology about crop insurance. You should make arrangements for power which is essential for agriculture and I would say that for overall development of agriculture, for strengthening the economy of the country and for making the nation prosperous and powerful, you should give every possible support to agriculture.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (ALWAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate to hon'ble Prime Minister, Agriculture Minister and the Government of India that they have now started something for the welfare of farmers. Agriculture policy, kisan credit cards, crop Insurance Scheme have been introduced. Today hon'ble Agriculture Minister has increased the support price for the farmers and hon'ble Prime Minister has launched "Gramin Sarak Yojana" for the development of village. We have always been discussing

about the farmers. The speakers prior to me have expressed their concern that farmer, agriculture should be protected. The agricultural production should be increased. All the members in the House want the Government to take utmost care of agricultural growth.

The credit card scheme has been introduced very recently which is a welcome step. But the manner in which valuation of credit card is done is not in favour of farmers. The farmer gets credit against the value of his crops and no credit is given to him against his land. It needs to be amended. Alongwith the value of his crops the value of his land, on which he is producing the crops, should also be taken into account while giving loan to him under the credit card scheme. The speakers earlier to me have said that farmer can't buy a tractor or a pump set. If farmer gets this facility according to the value of his land under the credit card scheme then farmer can buy anything he wishes and there will be no need for him to depend on anybody else. The farmer should get the loan facility for agriculture the same way as the industrialist gets for his industry. The farmer gets one fourth loan even after getting his land mortgaged whereas the same condition does not apply in industrial sector. This injustice has been done only with farmers and not with industrialists.

Likewise, we have crop insurance scheme, but how many farmers are getting benefit thereof? The small farmers are unaware of this scheme. So, how can they get benefit therefrom? I think, about 90 percent of our farmers are unaware of this scheme and if at all any farmer has any idea about this then certainly he would and if at all any farmer has any idea about this then he certainly would be a big farmer. Similarly there is the issue of determining the production cost. Bigger industries like textile industry or for that matter any other such industry determine their production cost themselves but here it is the Government who determine the production cost. Here we discuss, subsidy and support price should be increased. The ground water level has also gone down from ten feet to five hundred feet and as such the consumption of oil in pumpsets to get the water has also increased but it is never taken into account. Today we announce support price but about 78 percent of our farmers have less than 2 hectares of land. They do not have adequate clothings to cover their bodies. They can't afford the fee required to educate their children. They can't afford to buy medicines for their children. They are living in worst conditions. We all know about their plight but we have not tried to give adequate publicity to this scheme. Last time millet was grown in Rajasthan. Be it the State Government or the Union Government they should let the farmers know in advance as to which crop they should grow and which they should not. They should have told the farmers in Rajasthan that growing millet would not fetch them any benefit as the Government would not be able to buy it. If there is no storage capacity, it is no use to grow it. The Ministry of Agriculture should give wide publicity that such and such

crop should be grown in the future, the country needs it and we can export it. You can get higher prices for it but such efforts have never been made. We have been taking about 21st century but no attention has been paid towards it. We are still having the same tractor which we used to have 20 years back. Today the consumption is same. New agro-technologies are being introduced but the Ministry of Agriculture has never laid much emphasis thereon. New tractors are coming for new cultivation. New pump sets are coming in the market but the situation here remains unchanged. Today they use the same implement to harvest the crops as were used 500 years back. The situation remains unchanged. No attention has been paid towards new technology for this. Actually so long as we do not give new technologies for cultivation, the production will not increase and the farmers will not feel secured. If the farmer increases his production by his hard work, he does not get benefit from it. If any farmer does not want to sell his onion, tomato or potato crops there is no place for its storage, there is no cold storage and if there is a cold storage at all, perhaps it is at the district Headquarter. The Government should set up godowns at panchayats and tehsil headquarters. But till date no steps have been taken to set up them. They charge arbitrary rates at tehsil headquarters. Therefore, the government should set up godowns to provide storage facilities to farmers so that they can store their crops for as many days as they may like and sell them as and when they may like. But so far nothing has been done in this respect. Though, the Prime Minister took the first initiative by announcing to link the villages with roads so that farmers can carry their produces & crops easily to the market. No doubt farmers have been benefited from it. It would definitely increase the production.

Sir, I do not know about other states. Just now some members from that side were saying, their party is also in power in some of the states. In this connection, I would like to give you an example. If a farmer's educated son likes to adopt modern method of agriculture, it takes him 8 to 12 years before he sets electricity connection in Rajasthan. If asked, any industrialist dare to set up his industry in such conditions. Without power connection for 8 to 12 years, do you think, is it possible for anyone to set up any industry there and flourish? It is the patience and courage of a farmer who gives money and deposits security to get electricity connection. You can get electricity connection in 12 years in Rajasthan. We discuss here about our farmer. We all are criticising each other. Unless we have positive thinking we would not succeed. Members sitting on the other side are blaming Bharatiya Janata Party and saying this government is going to do nothing. But I would submit that you are also in power in various states. Why do not you do something and show others that we have done this and that for our farmers. Why cannot you give them power connections on demand. If you claim to be the well-wisher of the farmer then please do only this favour to him and give him power connection as and when he asks for so that he is able to make some progress.

[Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav]

Today, I would like to make request to the hon. Agriculture Minister. He should announce a package for the farmers in mentioning that loan on lower interest rates would be available to those who are graduate in agriculture as is provided to the doctors and engineers. Special concession and special package would be given to the farmers if they want to make their agriculture modern. If it happens, I am sure educated youth would like to think of it. Today, herbal medicines have become popular in the world market and people are dealing in it. We want to earn dollars by all means. But perhaps you are not aware how much dollar our farmers can earn? He can earn as much dollars as you can not think of. Today herbal medicines are becoming quite popular in the whole world and the climate of our country is also suitable for growing herbal medicines. You may tell the farmers that instead of going for millet or wheat crop, they should grow herbal plants of any medicinal value. Like they can grow white "Moosali" that will earn them a lot dollars. We are laying so much emphasis on the advertisement of radio, TV, refrigerators but seldom we pay any attention to improve the condition of our farmer who toil hard to feed the entire nation. Hardly we tell him as to what he should grow and what not. Today we need to spread the information regarding cultivation of herbal plants. Be it a state Government for that matter, the Centre itself everyday we come across so many advertisement given by them in various newspapers. But hardly we find any advertisement related to Ministry of Agriculture. Perhaps, the Agriculture Minister does not like to get his photographs or else he also could have given such advertisements in newspapers appear in newspapers wherein he could have highlighted various schemes being run by his Ministry. Today newspapers are reaching in almost every village and advertisement in these papers in bound to benefit, both, the farmer and the government. Your supervisors do not visit the villages rather they keep sitting at the headquarter. They do not want to go to villages.

GATT and WTO is much talked about today and it is said that our farmers have not succeeded in competing with foreign countries. Today, the whole House is admitting that 78 per cent of our farmers possess only one or two hectare of land whereas in foreign countries, a farmer is having hundred hectares of land. How can we compete with them. We do have neither irrigation water nor adequate electricity nor other resources to give to farmers. I would like to talk about Alwar district which has already been declared as dark zone. Today there is need to give latest information about new techniques of farming, new techniques of sowing so that they could grow such crops as are useful for them. That will benefit the country as well. But it is sad that even adequate water is not available to irrigate crops in my constituency. When will the Government pay their attention towards that area? Will they pay their

attention only when the area has been completed migrated by the people?

We are importing quality seeds from foreign countries. Research centres of the Ministry of Agriculture possess lakhs of hectares of land. There is need to enhance the budget of those research centres. Promotion should be given to the centres so that they may develop new variety of seeds. If spurious seed is given to the farmer then not only his crop destroys but even he does not get the compensation for the same. It should be certified that the seed given to the farmer is genuine and the farmer has not been cheated. The farmer will prosper if we improve upon our agriculture technique. The farmer should know that by which crop, be it Rabi or Kharif he will get profit.

Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Sir, the entire House know that you are son of a farmer. Every member in the House says that your father struggled for the welfare of the farmers. You have also left no stone unturned in this regard. The government must announce the support price of the Kharif crops before the commencement of the season so that the farmer can decide to sow the crop or not. Then it would be easy for him to decide as to whether he should go for that crop or not? Likewise same announcement should be made in case of Rabi Crops. Because what is happening is that traders purchase the crop of the farmer at improper rates even before the crops have reached the market.

The farmer does not get remunerative prices of his crops and he already stands of loser. He is exploited. This is the reason why a farmer remains poor and does not get remunerative price for his crop. The government should make adequate arrangements in this regard so that the farmer can get suitable price of his crop. The hon. Minister of Agriculture knows what are the Kharif Crops and what are Rabi crops, and when they are sown. Therefore, their support prices should be announced before the commencement of their season.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kisan Credit Card has been widely publicized. I helped the farmers of my constituency in taking the advantage thereof. In this regard, my submission is that instead of crop the farmer should get profit from his land. It will help the farmer in getting loan. It can help him in improving his economic condition. The House should seriously consider the condition of the farmers and the hon. Minister should take some bold innovative steps to do something new for the farmers. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Minister of Agriculture is sitting here. I represent a

State called Kerala. I do not know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the existence of any such State or not. It is in the Southern most tip of this country.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : That is my most favourite State.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, whether it is your favourite State or not, you have never come to that State. The word 'Kerala' we believe has evolved from the Sanskrit. The word 'Kera' means Coconut and 'Keralam' means the storehouse of coconut. So, coconut is the backbone of our economy. Coconut cultivation is the mainstay of our State. But the present position is that coconut does not have any price. It has been afflicted by a very serious disease for the last four years. The Government has not done anything to find out the mite that is causing the disease and have not done anything to prevent it.

Sir, in fact, I am happy to state that the Standing Committee in its 30th Report, submitted to this House in the month of April, have stated:

"The Committee notes its serious concern about the large scale damage to coconut crops due to pest infection in the States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The Committee is constrained to note that the disease that came to be noticed in 1998 has still not been controlled even after four years. It is apprehended that if the disease is not controlled, then the economy of the entire Southern States would be affected and the phenomenon of suicide by cotton farmers would reach the coconut farmers."

The suicide by farmers is not a new phenomenon. More than 32 families have already committed suicide in this year itself. So, the position of the coconut growers could well be imagined. I do not find any incentive that is sought to be given for the cultivation of coconut in Kerala in this year's Budget.

In his *Discovery of India*, Jawaharlal Nehru mentioned about some people who were 'disowned by the West' and 'disregarded by the East'. Our situation is just like that. The Commerce Ministry has disregarded us; and the Agriculture Ministry has disowned us. All our agricultural produce - coconut, rubber, cardamom and everything - comes under the category of cash crops. We do not know whom to approach. Our coconut farmers are committing suicide. Rubber farmers are not getting any price. Cardamom cannot be grown properly. All of them are cash crops. The Agriculture Minister has to seriously take into consideration all the problems faced by the coconut growers.

When the Prime Minister spent his holiday in Kerala last year, he had written his musings. In that, some mention was

made of a coconut mission. We have a very big Coconut Board but precious little is done by it for the salvation of the coconut growers. Same is the case with rubber. Rubber is not considered agricultural produce even now. My request to the hon. Agriculture Minister is that he should consider rubber, along with cotton, as an agriculture commodity. It is grown on the land. It is not manufactured from somewhere else. Cotton is also not edible produce. Rubber is not considered agricultural produce and as a result of that, as I mentioned earlier, it is disowned by the Agriculture Ministry and disregarded by the Commerce Ministry.

In fact almost all produces of Kerala come under the purview of Commerce Ministry. The Commerce Minister has nothing to do with the subject of agriculture. All our produces are divided among different Boards. As a result of that they are not at all properly looked after. Rubber growers are not getting their price. Cardamom growers are not getting their price. Whom should we approach? When we approach the Agriculture Ministry they say it is a matter dealt by the Commerce Ministry. When we approach the Commerce Ministry they say that all those items are dependent on the agriculture produce. Why can rubber not be considered agricultural produce and taken care of by the Agriculture Minister?

This is a very fortunate country, very lucky country. Nearly 51 per cent of our land is arable whereas the world average is 11 per cent. We get rains throughout the year throughout the country. However, unfortunately all our waters are drained into rivulets and rivers. There is no provision in the entire budget of Agriculture Ministry for water conservation. It is scientifically proved that if we conserve even 10 per cent of the rainwater, it would naturally help. We do not have any scientific method to conserve our waters with the result we are not only losing water on the ground but we are losing our underground water reserves also.

The most unfortunate part of the whole issue is, agriculture is a State subject. It is the main avocation of the people of the country. The Central Government does not have proper control over agricultural fields. I suggest, and Mr. Pandian has also mentioned it, that the Central Government should have a more active participation in the agricultural fields of the country. Then only general policies can be evolved and enunciated. One is water conservation. Water conservation will make our underground water supply much better and many of our problems can be solved. We have got 37 million hectare of waste, arable, cultivable land in this country. This is more than the land available for cultivation in Japan and the three of our neighbouring countries, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan put together.

[Shri A.C. Jos]

All these four countries put together have less than 37 million hectares of land for cultivation for the living of 400 million people whereas we have got 37 million hectares of cultivable land, apart from the cultivable waste land.

Sir, at one point of time, it was reported that a Waste Land Corporation or an Authority will be formed. What happened to that? What prevents them from bringing all these cultivable 37 million hectares of land under cultivation so that our problem can be solved?

What was the picture immediately after Independence? Whenever our Prime Minister went out, there was a hue and cry by the then Opposition parties that the Prime Minister was going with begging bowls for wheat and rice from the United States. But what is the position now? The position now is that we have sufficient foodgrains to eat today. Rather the situation is such that we have the problem of storage of surplus foodgrains. We do not have enough storage facilities to store them. The foodgrains are in plenty. It has all become possible only because of the foresighted policies of the earlier Congress Governments.

We had the Green Revolution three decades back. With that Green Revolution, we had given the high yield variety of seeds, irrigation etc. As a result of it, we had got 190 million tonnes of foodgrains.

Now, the problem as the hon. Minister Shri Shanta Kumar has been saying in this House repeatedly, is that it is difficult for the Food Corporation of India to store the entire foodgrains.

But even then, there is a problem. Though the food grains are in plenty, it may not be sufficient after some time. The present trend is that the upper class people are using more milk, more milk products, eggs, meats etc. Now, the foodgrains which they have produced are to be used for the animals' food also. With the result, after three to four years, the foodgrains will not become sufficient. The Planning Commission was also mentioning about it. The calculation is that we are not investing as much of money as is needed for the growth of the agricultural produce.

In the First Five Year Plan, we had invested 37 per cent of the total investment only on agriculture. But after the Congress Government, during the Ninth Plan, by the United Front Government and subsequently by the NDA Government, the investment on agriculture has been only 20 per cent. It is 17 per cent less than what we had invested in the First Five Year Plan.

Sir, the National Agriculture Policy which was enunciated

by this Government two years back, is not working at all. The most important business of the Government has to be to concentrate more and more on agriculture. But the money that has been allotted in the Ninth Plan is 17 per cent less than what had been allotted by the Congress Government in the First Five Year Plan. What are they doing? What is the investment that they had made on the agriculture sector? They are not doing any immediate investment on the agriculture sector.

Sir, during the Green Revolution, the growth on agriculture sector was 3.12 per cent per annum. But now, it is only 1.06 per cent. We needed about 247 million tonnes of food grains. We are not producing it. If our population growth is more and it is not commensurate with our production of food grains, the result would be that we would have malnutrition, we would have starvation. If we want to achieve 4.5 per cent GDP growth as envisaged in the National Agriculture Policy, we will have to invest about seven lakh crores of rupees in the Tenth Plan.

But what is the trend now? The Approach Paper of the Tenth Plan which is before us is rather apprehensive that this much money cannot be invested in the agricultural sector. After 1995, with liberalisation and globalisation, more money was to be invested in agriculture sector, the sector which gives employment or which is the livelihood of 70 per cent of our population; but the Government is not investing anything. Instead of getting more investment, the agriculture sector has different problems.

The main problem is lack of irrigation. Whatever irrigation plans that we have, were started much early. There is lack of maintenance now and there is lacklustre policy of the Government. So, the irrigation canals started earlier get obsolete and they are leaking; they are not properly maintained.

Another thing is absence of land reforms. There is a notion that smallholdings may not be viable. But it has been proved that smallholdings are more pliable and more productive. Large-scale corporatisation of agriculture will prove disastrous; we should emulate the examples of highly productive small scale farming like China, Japan and South Korea and not of USA.

Another thing is about mechanisation of farming. My friend was mentioning that we are only bothering about motorcycles and different types of cars. We do not give any importance to small tractors which could be utilised for agriculture. My sister Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury is an expert in tractors. ... (Interruptions) She can drive tractors; once she had driven tractor up to this place. Is not it? ... (Interruptions)

We need small tractors. We are importing everything. Does Agriculture Ministry take initiative to import best tillers so that it can be supplied to the farmers? We can produce it. Kerala Agro Machinery Corporation is producing tillers. So, tillers can be made popular. Can we not give subsidy to tractors, tillers, ploughing machines, sowing machines, cropping machines, dryers, etc.? All these things can be made available to the small farmers, which we are not doing.

I have gone through the entire Budget and there is no mention about mechanisation of farming sector. It mentioned about the overall training programme, etc. Each village should have sufficient mechanisation. It can be done by the Central Government. That is a policy matter, which can be taken up by the Central Government. The Central Government is not doing anything.

The Government has got plethora of programmes. But it is not going to the real farmers. The Department knows very well about the diseases; it has diagnosed the disease of the farming sector. It says that capital inadequacy, lack of infrastructural support, constraints in demand such as controls on movements, storage of agricultural products, etc. have continued to affect economic viability of agriculture sector. What is the Government doing? The Government knows what the disease is. It has diagnosed what could be done. What precious little has it done to ameliorate or to rectify the situation?

The Government talks about MSP. It is a very interesting thing. For declaring MSP, the Government takes into consideration the index of 1970. On that basis, MSP is declared. The farmers are purchasing materials at the prices existing at 2002, but the Government is basing its calculation on the whole sale price index of 1970.

16.00 hrs.

The purchases are to be made by the farmers in 2002. So, the MSP becomes absolutely redundant. The Government has fixed MSP for the agriculturists of Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh alone who are producing only 24.75 per cent of foodgrains and the rest 75 per cent of foodgrains are produced by the farmers belonging to the other States who are not benefited by the MSP because there is no procurement. The result is, whatever money the Government has declared as MSP, goes to the farmers of only three States. I have nothing against the farmers of these three States. I appreciate them.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT) : It is not Minimum

Support Price but Maximum Suppressing Price.

SHRI A.C. JOS : It is right. It is the suppressing price.

The Minister of Food is here. I would like to know what is the Government doing towards providing the marketing support. Farmers are producing things but they do not know how to market them. They have no marketing method. A lot is being said about marketing but things are not moving in right direction. So, an effective marketing system will have to be given to the farmers.

During seventies and eighties we used to have very good research in farming sector but thereafter there is no motivation. Because of the Fifth Pay Commission, it is under constraint or badly affected. Our agricultural scientists have since slowed down the research. More money has to be pumped in for research in the farming sector.

I would once again like to emphasise on the marketing system. Unless you have a full-fledged marketing support for the produce, we will have problem. The Food Corporation of India has now become a burden. In order to give some material for the Public Distribution System, how much are you spending? What is the loss we are incurring on it? Why can we not have a re-look on the Food Corporation of India and its functioning? As Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has mentioned, agriculture is the centre-stage of India's activity. Even today we are guillotining the demands of all other ministries but are discussing the Ministry of Agriculture. Why? It is because we attach great importance to it. But I am sorry to say that the Ministry of Agriculture is not attaching that much importance as this House attaches to it.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to express my views relating to the Budget proposals of the Ministry of Agriculture. Nearly three decades after the Green Revolution have changed the topography of our country, especially from a situation like ship to mouth, again, agriculture has taken the Centre-stage, this time not to tackle the frightful food shortages but for a host of other reasons which are no less important, especially, to manage the foodgrains surplus, ensure sustained rural income growth, contain the food subsidy burden and make farming cost efficient so as to withstand competition from outside. Over ten years we have experienced economic liberalisation.

Agriculture which is the largest private sector economic activity accounting for between a third and a fourth of GDP, has witnessed little dynamism. Despite the fact that nearly 70

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

per cent of the population derives its livelihood from agriculture and its allied activities, the sector has received very little.

16.06 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*)

I am reminded of a very caustic remark made by Sardar Patel in this House 50 years ago. When many people were speaking in this House that how cultured the Prime Minister is, Sardar Patel stood up and commented that I know only one culture. My leader, the Prime Minister can speak for hours together on Indian culture and many cultures of this universe but I know only one culture and that is agriculture. To add to that, he had stated that all culture flows from agriculture. India with 2.4 per cent of world area has to support 17 per cent of world population.

We have discussed the success of Green Revolution which occurred some three and a half decades ago during the later part of sixties and early seventies. The benefit, of course, was demonstrated in the first part of seventies. Since Independence, foodgrains production has tripled and dependence on imported grains has declined substantially. But a large number of people in our country are facing chronic under-nourishment and are living below poverty line. This is a dichotomy which faces us today and which is a challenge to every right-thinking citizen of this country. As has been stated, India is the world's second largest food producer and has the potential to be the world's number one. For this, I would humbly state that for the success of green revolution and the white revolution, no political party can claim credit. We read in the newspapers during early seventies or late sixties and even in early eighties when Madam Gandhi used to address the nation, she first used to congratulate the farmers of the country. So, was Shri C. Subramaniam who was the pioneer behind the green revolution. But there are people who take credit that it is because of them the Green Revolution is a success. But I would humbly state that the credit goes to those farmers only who have made it a success. In this Budget, when we are thinking of the third revolution in agriculture which has been stated by the Finance Minister as '*kisan ki azadi*' or 'Freedom to the Farmer', we have to see and discuss actually how far we can go in that direction.

The stress today in this Budget is on giving more responsibility to the States and also to the corporate sector for the purpose of *kisan ki azadi*. In the third revolution of agriculture, which contributes around 25 per cent to the country's GDP, the object is at strengthening and modernising specially the post-harvest and marketing activities of this sector.

As we all know, agriculture is a State subject. I come from a State where because of paucity of funds agriculture does not get much attention as is the case in other States. People must have heard that the Planning Commission has released the Human Development Report yesterday. It is stated in the Report that in Orissa still 47 per cent of the people live below the poverty line. After nine plans and after all these investments made in national development, this is the position.

I have repeatedly drawn the attention of the present Agriculture Minister as also his predecessors that there is a need to shift our attention to other parts of the country. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar confirmed his deliberations initially to the Cauvery Belt. But, I would draw the attention of the Minister that before the Green Revolution, before we attained Independence, it was the eastern belt of India consisting of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, which depended on the traditional farming system, the rain-fed agricultural system and which fed the whole country. In today's context you can add to these five States Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand also.

Even today with all the modernised seeds and farming methods, West Bengal is the highest paddy growing State. But, as you heard just now, it is only the three States - Haryana, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh to a certain extent - which get the market where farmers can sell their produce. Paddy is transported from Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh to the north-east and not from Orissa; nor Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. Why is it transported from Punjab and Haryana and why should FCI purchase in bulk from these three States alone and not from other States?

This year, Orissa has a bumper crop. We have had distress sale too. The Minimum Support Price for paddy is fixed at Rs.530 per quintal whereas I, as a farmer, am forced to sell it at Rs.230 per quintal. You can imagine what happens to other farmers and what would be the price that they are getting. Therefore, I am repeatedly requesting the hon. Minister to pay attention to this area.

Once we have opened up the frontiers of market, competition rules the roost. Farmers of northern India, specially farmers from Western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, are experienced people. I think the third generation of farmers has come up now. They are progressive farmers. They can compete in the world market. All provisions should be made and all necessary arrangements should be made for them so that they can export foodgrains. But, farmers from the eastern India are not in a position to compete in the world market.

The Ministry of Commerce may be asked to look into the market of Eastern India and we can provide surplus stocks

to those areas which are being provided food stocks from other parts.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to a Report of the Standing Committee. Shri Somnath Chatterjee used to complain in the Committee on Information Technology and even in the House he has mentioned it a number of times that reports of Standing Committees are very rarely read. But I would like to draw your attention to a Report which has been very recently placed in the House relating to Agriculture and Cooperation. We are discussing here the Demands for Grants relating to Agriculture. The first recommendation and observation of the 30th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture is relating to reduced allocation in favour of the Department. In the Ninth Five Year Plan, though the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation had asked for Rs.18,253 and odd crores, only Rs. 7813.69 crore were allotted. This is the revised estimates which works out to only 43 per cent of the amount proposed. Again in the Tenth Plan, the Department posed a demand of Rs.25,000 crore from the Planning Commission but only Rs.13,200 crore have been approved which is only 52.8 per cent. In 2002-03, the projected demand was Rs. 5164.41 crore out of which Rs. 2167 crore has been proposed which is 41.96 per cent. Why is this so?

Members have been expressing here that agriculture is the core sector which can, if more investment would be there, rejuvenate not only the rural economy but also the whole national economy and we are expecting 4 per cent growth by investing in agriculture. And this is the allocation which has been made. I think it is necessary that more money is required. The dream which has been seen in the Budget is that the Government proposes to double agricultural production in ten years. That is what we envisage. We want to double the production.

I have referred only to agricultural aspects. Now, I would like to refer to dairy farming and other aspects. So, this is the expectation and this is the allocation. I think there is a need to reconsider and in future, more money should be given.

The major aspect of agriculture which we are discussing is credit. As we know, the farmers are poor and it is for their sustenance they are toiling in the fields. It has been stated that the allocation for agriculture has been increased from Rs. 64,000 crore to Rs.75,000 crore. It is a jump of 17 per cent. But I would like to know how much of this money has been disbursed to co-operative sector. This is one aspect. How much of that money that is with the co-operative sector has been channelised through service co-operative societies which are basically in the rural areas? Of course, NABARD

plays a greater role in developing our rural economy. In this 30th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, there is also an observation on agricultural credit.

"As per the instructions of the Reserve Bank of India every commercial bank has to give minimum 18 per cent of the total credit to agriculture. As informed by the Chairman to the Standing Committee during the evidence, the average credit by banks to agriculture sector is between 14 and 15 per cent."

This is one aspect. The other aspect is this. It further says :

"In the case of NABARD, the Committee notes that NABARD was established mainly for financing the activities relating to agriculture and rural development. NABARD is giving refinance to commercial banks, RRBs and cooperative banks at the interest rate varying from 5.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent on short-term loans to farmers. Commercial banks provide loan to farmers at a high rate of interest. In case of cooperative banks, the loan reaches the farmers through a three-layer system. At each layer, transaction cost is added and ultimately the farmers are getting loans at the interest rate as high as 13 per cent to 17 per cent."

So, how is the farmer benefited? Money is being provided for a specific purpose. The hon. Minister was kind enough to Chair a meeting of the Consultative Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* on this subject.

I would like to draw the attention of the Chair and the House that Government needs to give more attention to this credit system so that the farmers are benefited. Maximum we can add another two per cent. Why is this three-layer system, when in every layer interest gets added up and the farmer ends up paying 17 per cent? Why should we have this system when NABARD is providing money at the interest rate of 5.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent? We can add another two percent. I think, that would be sufficient.

In the last five decades, whenever there is a discussion on agriculture, we start our speech, including me, saying that farmers are backward. Why are they backward? In the last fifty-five years, after Independence, most Governments at the Centre have been applying different standards for agriculturists and non-agriculturists, as has been mentioned. ...*(Interruptions)*

When we fix a price for a produce, especially for the industrial produce, a fixed margin of profit is there. But for the produce of the farmers, there is no fixed price. ...*(Interruptions)* When there is a fixed price for the industrial produce, there is

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

no fixed price for the farm produce, keeping the profit margin in view. You fix the Minimum Support Price or Minimum Suppressing Price, as has been mentioned just now. Even today, the farmer is not allowed to export his commodity. These are the two aspects which can create revolution if the Government takes a concrete decision.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (PALGHAT) : Sir at the outset, I would like to say that almost all the main and important points have been covered by the hon. Members who spoke earlier. I want to start my speech from where Shri A.C. Jos, my respected friend, has stopped his speech. Let me quote the figures relating to the price of some of the agricultural products in a comparative way to show what was the price that prevailed three years back and what is the price prevailing today. I would quote the per-kilogram price of various products.

First, four years back, rubber was sold at Rs.69 per kilogram. But in today's market, it is sold at Rs.22 per kilogram. About copra, four years back, it was sold at Rs.45 per kilogram and now it is sold at Rs.17 per kilogram. Regarding areca-nut, four years back, it was sold at Rs.165 per kilogram but in today's market, it is sold at Rs.30 per kilogram. Coming to black pepper, four years back, it was sold at Rs.240 per kilogram but in today's market it is sold at only Rs.70 per kilogram. Regarding coffee, three years back, it was sold at Rs.90 per kilogram but in today's market, it is sold at Rs.30 per kilogram. About cardamom, four years back, it was sold at Rs.800 per kilogram but in today's market, it is sold at Rs.400 per kilogram. Regarding cocoa, it was sold at Rs.45 but in today's market, it is sold at Rs.13 per kilogram. I am quoting the Kerala market price. That is in my knowledge. While the milk producer is selling out his milk at Rs.11 per litre, in today's market, it is sold at Rs.7 per litre. Last year also, milk was sold at Rs.11 per litre. But the important point is that the market rate is going up. This is the situation. While we are discussing the agricultural sector of our country, we should think about how the farming community of our country would survive. This is the main and important question before us while we are discussing this matter.

In the Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister mentioned about the Budget strategy. I am not quoting it because it has been presented here. In paragraph six, he says about the broad strategy of the Budget. The first strategy is to continue the emphasis on agriculture and food economy reforms. In paragraph nine, he says that the country is now ready for its third revolution of agricultural diversification and food processing. In the last line, he says that the freedom of the farmer, *Kisan Ki Azaadi*, is the overarching goal of our policy. This is the kind of approach the Government is having. It is paying lip service. What is happening today? What is the

meaning of the freedom of the farmer - *Kisan Ki Azaadi*? It is to commit suicide? Has he the freedom to commit suicide? Whenever we discuss this matter in the House, the number of suicide is going up. The Government boasts that all of its godowns are full of foodgrains. While the Government is boasting that all of the godowns are full of foodgrains, the number of starvation deaths is going up. Whenever we discuss the freedom of the farmer, the number of farmers committing suicide is going up. That is the reality. That is the thing happening in our country.

This is the reality in our country. I would like to mention as to what is the cause for all this. Why is it happening in the agricultural sector of our country? The Government should find time to think about all these things. This is the prime important thing.

Now, I will come to rubber. Everybody knows that rubber comes under the purview of the Ministry of Commerce. It is not the agricultural produce. I am not blaming the Minister for this. But the Ministry of Agriculture should take up this matter in the concerned forum. That is the reason why we have been demanding again and again this. Not only the Minister but also the entire Government should take up this matter with the WTO to get recognition of rubber as agricultural produce.

After the presentation of the Budget, while addressing the Press, the Agriculture Minister, the Commerce Minister, the Finance Minister and the entire Government would say that the Government is going to increase the import duty. But what is the reality? Very recently, the Government has given sanction to import 20,000 tonnes of palm oil. Why did the Government do this? Everybody knows that the farming community is suffering. That is the problem. Everybody knows that within the limit of the WTO, we can increase the import duty up to 300 per cent. That is why our demand is that we should make use of this provision of the WTO and increase the import duty up to 300 per cent. We cannot understand as to what is the difficulty in doing it.

On 26th April, that is, day after tomorrow, farming community of Kerala under the all-India leadership of Joint Farmers' Organisation and Agriculture Workers' Organisation has declared a full-day strike. They would be blocking all the Government offices for one day. This kind of agitation is coming up everywhere in our country but the Government is ignoring everything and the Government is not even taking into consideration the sentiments of the farming community of the country. This is the situation in our country.

A number of Members, including Shri A. C. JOS, has mentioned this here many times earlier. One and a half years back, our hon. Prime Minister had a comfortable stay in Kerala. We are proud of it. At that time, he declared a package for

Kerala known as *kumaragam* package. It was announced one and a half years back. Not even a single step has been taken so far. This is the attitude of the Government against the farming community of the country. We are discussing and debating again and again for the welfare of the farming community of our country. The Minister of Agriculture is a very well known engineer. So, I would request him to come to Kerala and see it himself.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : He should come to Tamil Nadu and then to Kerala.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, over Tamil Nadu only, he can reach Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)* He could take into consideration all these matters.

The prices of all cash crops are coming down. We are giving Minimum Support Price for the agricultural products. As mentioned here earlier, in the case of copra when are we declaring the Minimum Support Price? We are declaring the Minimum Support Price in an untimely manner. Many a time, not only the farming community, but everybody - a majority of the Members of this House - irrespective of political barriers, is also requesting the Government that it should be declared timely. Otherwise, if the Government is declaring the Minimum Support Price, it would not be helpful to the farming community of the country. Now, what is happening? As mentioned earlier, this 'Minimum Support Price' is the 'Maximum Suppressing Price' in our country against the farming community. So, the Government should come forward to take into consideration the welfare of the farming community of our country on a top priority basis. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will make a submission to all the Hon'ble Members that there is very little time left and this subject has to be completed by 5.30 PM. The number of the Hon'ble Members is 15 who have to speak and out of them the absent ones will not be able to speak. It would be better if time is kept in view in order that the maximum number of Members could deliver their speech. Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (DAMOH) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I was a first year student in the college, I read about the Indian farmers :

[English]

"The Indian farmer is born in debt, lives in debt and dies in debt".

[Translation]

This saying was applicable at that time and has been holding good today also in the same manner. Why did it not change? Today also farmers are committing suicide. In our state Madhya Pradesh the need to commit suicide does not arise because when the farmers carried out agitation in Multai, the Chief Minister got them shot dead. Suicides are being committed at several places. The reason behind is the two fold problem of the farmer-one of them is the natural calamity and the other one is due to the wrong policy of the government. The losses caused due to excessive rains, want of rain, flood, drought etc. fall under natural calamities and there is no provision for any compensation for the loss suffered due to it. Despite that I can not help myself thanking Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji the hon'ble Agriculture Minister because his govt. have tried to solve this problem by enforcing the crop insurance scheme. The problem here is that despite this scheme being enforced by the Union, this has not been enforced in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years. The Chief Minister of that state is not enforcing it. As lord Indra causes rain from above and in between its evaporation prevents it from reaching the ground, similarly the scheme of the Union fails to reach the farmers due to the State government. There due to lack of power, lacs of acres of standing crops of the farmers have dried up which did not get water. As the thirsty man dies writhing, similarly crops have dried up there. We will have to find solution to this problem. The State Governments cannot pass their buck to the Union. Due to this our farmer is sandwiched.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make a submission that had we made arrangements for water and power and given remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, the farmers would not have been forced to commit suicide. The economic position of the farmers would have improved. Besides, currently we have reached the competition era of the WTO. The position of our farmers is just like a starving person being pitched against a well-fed wrestler. All other developing countries are giving plenty of subsidy to their farmers, but are compelling us to stop subsidy. I make a submission that you should make your farmers strong capable of competing with others. I want to say that today competition for fertiliser in agriculture is on increase. But the fertility of soil is deteriorating due to it. The production derived through it, the food-grains produced with it has not so many nutritional elements and many diseases are also being caused due to that. I have prepared organic manure in my land. I prepared this manure with the urine of cow and when I compared it with other fertilizers, I found that the yield due to this manure was very good and food-grains were more glossy, heavy and powerful. I mean to say that now there is a need to change

[Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria]

our system. It is my request to the hon'ble Minister that he should get research done in this direction and should give maximum facilities to the farmers in this regard so that they could maximum utilise their agricultural land by preparing their lands for the crops of food grains through this method. I thank you for the efforts you have made for the farmers.

You have given much relief to the farmers by making Kisan Credit Cards. You have enhanced their respect and have given them the liberty to purchase from anywhere in the open market the desired things pertaining to agriculture. For it I would express my thanks to you. But I also want to request you to simplify it all the more.

The second thing is that you should essentially implement the crop insurance scheme in all the states. It should not be left at the discretion of the state. For it you should make an arrangement from above so that all the farmers could be benefited from it. I also want to tell you that the obsolete method through which divergent crops of wheat, millet, 'kutaki', 'kodo' etc. were being grown, the method which has been used for a long time is required to be changed today. For example, the cultivation of medicinal plants, horticulture. Besides, the industry which is greatly linked with our agriculture is the dairy industry. Today this industry needs to be protected. But it appears to us that due to the WTO and owing to the foreign pressure, we fail to safeguard the interest of our farmers, we fail to protect our dairy industry. We need to think over this matter. The second think I would like to submit before you is that the farmer have grains and I would congratulate you for the infrastructure you have tried to set up through the roads. You have made provision for the roads. I know that when there were no roads, we used to keep our harvest in our village, but for taking that to the market we had to 'wait for four months, till the rainy season was over, Thereafter also, due to the lack of roads we had to carry that on donkeys. The farmers will certainly get benefit from the infrastructure of roads that has been set up, the scheme that has been enforced for making roads in all the villages through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. They will get the convenience in immediately taking their goods to the market. Similarly, you deserve congratulations for the provisions you have made for warehousing and cold storage. These give much benefit to the farmers in an indirect way. They can keep their harvest there. They can earn profits by selling them when they get a remunerative price. For it also we will give many many thanks to you.

I extend you many many thanks also for the agreement scheme you have enforced to give relief in the loan-interest of the farmers who were unable to repay their loans for the

last several years due to natural calamities. You provided relief to them through a single agreement pertaining the principal amount of their hefty loan.

With these words, I conclude my speech strongly supporting this and with making submission that if efforts are made to minimize the difficulties created due to the wrong policies of the Govt., our farmer will certainly become prosperous.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much of the time as I am aware of the time constraint. But I have a lot of things to say. I would request the Chairman to allow me sufficient time so that I can express all the points here.

During the Budget Speech, our hon. Finance Minister told many things. There was a fear that that Budget was an anti-farmer Budget. It was harming the interests of the agriculture community. The hon. Minister of Agriculture also placed here the Demands for Grants. It seems to me that it follows the anti-farmer Budget of our Union Government. It is needless to say that our country is mostly based on agriculture. More than 70 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture. It is needless to say that the main chunk of the agriculturists are the poor farmers, marginal farmers and agricultural workers. Our Government is trying to compete with the farmers of other countries in the world market. But I do not know how far they are thinking for the upliftment of the poor farmers, upliftment of the agricultural Labourers, and upliftment of the marginal farmers.

First of all, let me go through the sector-wise allocation presented by the Ministry of Agriculture in Appendix-III. It appears that in respect of seed development, natural disaster management, small farmers' agri-business consortiums and soil and water conservation, the allocation is reduced. It appears that you are not for the general upliftment of the poor people and the poor agriculturists.

Many points have been covered here. I would like to say - and it is true - that our agriculture is in a state of stagnation. Rather, it has declined. So, what are the requirements to uplift the poor people? First of all, there is the problem of land reforms. It is needless to say that in most of the States the land reforms programme has been already rejected. May I ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture whether he is willing to set up a commission to monitor and assess the implementation of the land reforms programme all-over the country? Without going through land reforms, how do you expect that the upliftment of the poor people is possible?

Agriculture is a State subject but in spite of that our Union Government is dealing with many aspects of agriculture. They are dealing with the WTO and they are also going to introduce the National Agriculture Policy. I do not know whether the State Governments have been consulted or not.

After addressing the question of land reforms, the productivity of land and yield of agriculture should be raised. Then comes the question of credit. It is known to our hon. Minister of Agriculture that credit flow to agriculture is less than 15 per cent. Why is it so less? It should at least be 18 per cent, so far as the recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India is concerned. It was expected that the nationalised banks should invest sixty per cent of deposits in rural areas but they are not doing that. They are only investing 20 per cent to 30 per cent. Is the Central Government thinking of monitoring the nationalised banks so far as credit is concerned?

The Crop Insurance Scheme is very good but my appeal to the hon. Minister is that he should please take village as the unit. Unless village is taken as the unit, *kisans* would not be benefited. So, so far as the Crop Insurance Scheme is concerned, please take village as the unit.

When it comes to technology, our *kisans* should be enlightened about technology. More training centres should be opened and more agriculture colleges should be opened. Each agriculture-based district should have one Agricultural College, education for bio-technology and genetic engineering colleges. These areas should be emphasised. There are so many young and educated people in the rural areas. They have no jobs. They are unemployed youths. Our Government can come forward to appoint them as 'Green Doctors'. It can be done.

Now, I come to subsidy. The curtailment of subsidies in fertiliser does not help the farmer. It has been pointed out many times and I am reiterating it. Please do not curtail the subsidy in fertiliser and provide more subsidies to the agricultural inputs.

Now, I come to agricultural labourers. There should be a comprehensive legislation for the welfare of the agricultural labourers. There are crores and crores of agricultural labourers. They are very much engaged in the agricultural fields. But there is no comprehensive legislation for the agricultural labourers. It should be taken into consideration. Our Government should come forward with a legislation for the welfare of the agricultural labourers.

Now, I come to rural electrification. I am not saying that in all the States, everywhere, rural electrification should be done free of cost. That should be provided at a cheap rate so

that the poor people, the marginal farmers and small farmers can use this electrification at a cheap rate.

Now, I come to irrigation. What responsibility is being taken by the Union Government for providing irrigation? I am referring to the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). It is nothing, but Central assistance to the States. The sea erosion is going on, the river erosion is going on. What is the responsibility of the Union Government in this regard? If we ask about the major projects so far as irrigation is concerned, the Central Government should have taken the responsibility. The Central assistance is not the responsibility of the Union Government. This is solely the responsibility of the State Governments. So, the Central Government should take some sort of responsibility so that the poor people are benefited as far as irrigation is concerned.

So far as the market is concerned, procurement should be there. FCI is not coming for procurement. But without procurement, how can the Minimum Support Price be guaranteed? If JCI is going to be dismantled, if FCI becomes ineffective, how will the jute producers get the Minimum Support Price?

Now, I come to my State of West Bengal. The price of paddy is below Rs. 350 per quintal, but the Minimum Support Price is Rs. 530. There are harvesting of the high-yield paddy and now it is going on and after harvesting the situation will be more and more grave. So, procurement is a must and without strengthening the procurement system, you cannot guarantee the Minimum Support Price to the farmers. This is my simple point.

Lastly, I will request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, that for the upliftment of the poor people, only the Ministry of Agriculture is not sufficient. There are many Departments in the Government. There should be a coordination and there should be a comprehensive programme for the upliftment of the rural people. This is my opinion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude my speech.

17.00 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (KURUKSHETRA) :
Madam Chairperson, India is primarily an agriculture based country and 80 percent population of our country depends on

[Shrimati Kailasho Devi]

agriculture. Agriculture sector is the backbone of Indian economy. Ignoring this results in bad effects on Indian economy. But even after 55 years of our independence, no government has even formulated any effective and concrete policy for agriculture sector. This sector has been continuously ignored and if any government ever tried to do something for the sector, the benefits thereof could not percolate down to this sector due to lack of strong will power of the then government.

All of you know that earlier we were not self reliant in foodgrains. We virtually used to beg for foodgrains from the foreign countries. But with the hard work of though with little assistance from the Govt. the Indian farmers, particularly the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. There was so much production of food grains that today country has buffer stock of lacks of tonnes of food grains and the problem of storage of food grains has cropped up before the country. The government should and will have to provide funds for constructing godowns in maximum number in Private and Public sectors to deal with the problem of food grain storage. Besides the production, related problem the farmers are facing the problem of not getting incurring on cultivation of their crops.

Water is the most essential thing for agriculture and after that comes, pesticides, fertilizers and agricultural equipments. The under ground water has been utilized so much in agriculture that it has gone down deep various states including Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Even drinking water is not available. Even drinking water is not available adequately in these parts of the country, not to speak of irrigation. Earlier a farmer who used to use electric motor of five horse power capacity, now uses the motor of twenty five horse power. The power consumption has gone up. The power is costly now and farmers can not afford the hefty power bills. Due to smaller holdings, the farmers cannot bear the burden of expenses of deep tube wells. Today the biggest problem before the farmer is that he is spending too much on his crop, but not getting remunerative prices in return. If water commission wants to solve the problem with a firm will power, it is not a difficult task because our country has plenty of natural resources in comparison to other countries. But we are not tapping three resources its optimum level. We can generate 25,000 megawatt hydroelectricity in Himachal Pradesh only. But a single state can not bear the entire expenditure likely to be incurred on completing such a big project. Therefore, government should provide funds to undertake and complete such a big project which has been pending for years so that power is made available to the farmer at cheaper rate and in large quantity, and purchasing power of our 80 percent population is also increased and small and medium industries

are protected. I would like to say that rain water goes waste in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. If the rain water harvest by constructing artificial lakes, dams and bangs rivers, the water requirement of Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat and other couple of states can be met. But a strong will power is required for it.

There is one more option of water recharging before us. The areas where water level has gone down very deep water level there can be raised through boring during rainy days. The water can be used in drought condition. But this is possible only when we tap our all hydroelectricity resources with strong will power and check the wastage of the rain water flowing into the lakes, rivers and ponds. A National grid of water should be set up on the lines of national power grid so that the water of lakes, ponds and rivers may be properly used. You can see yourself that after Sardar Sarovar and Bhakhada dam Projects none of the governments has ever started any meaningful project for agricultural sector. Is there any such project?

When Bhakhada dam project was started, Pandit Jawahar Lal had said on its inauguration that this project would herald development in India. As envisaged, this project has metamorphosed India in the field of power generation and food grains production. Today, the Planning Commission needs these kind of schemes. Likewise, there are projects such as Shahpar, Kandi and Tihari Gadwal projects which have been biting dust in the files of year. Such projects should be cleared immediately. They should be provided with adequate funds so that they are completed without any further delay. The completion of these kind of projects lead to immediate production benefit to the public and provide employment to crores of unemployed persons. It will also help farmers to get power at cheaper rates and in larger quantity. It will enhance purchasing power of our farmer and our industries will also flourish.

Madam Chairman, without going further into details, I would strongly request the government that the farmers should be provided the power at cheaper rates and in larger quantity. If the crop is damaged due to natural calamity, the farmers should be given remunerative prices alongwith the cost incurred thereon. The crop insurance scheme should be fully implemented. The incidents of suicide committed by the farmers due to the damage of these crops is a stigma on nation even after 55 years of independence. The government will have to make concrete efforts to remove this stigma and awaken their will power. For the completion of these projects, we will have to focus on strengthening our own capital potential rather than going to the world Bank. Like our farmers have made the country self reliant in the matter of food grain protections, the government should also show to the 80 percent population that capital wise also we are self reliant.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) :

Madam Chairman, keeping in view the importance of the farmers in the country, the discussion on the demands for grants of the Department of Agriculture is going on in the House. Department of Agriculture plays key role for the welfare of the farmers. Although, 14 departments of the government are related to the farmers yet Department of Agriculture plays vital role. The condition of the farmers of the country is deplorable. The hon. Members participating in the debate have also expressed the same view. Coconut growers of Kerala are also affected, their crop is damaged by natural calamities or diseases. The crops of the farmers are also damaged in other parts of the country. I do not know what kind of researches are being conducted to check the calamity. Sheesam trees have been dried up in Bihar. I do not know what the ICAR is doing in this regard, where is the formula of 'laboratory the land', whether any research is being conducted or not. Training of new techniques should be imparted to the farmers and they should be trained to improve productivity. The condition of all, be they the farmers growing sugarcane, fruit and vegetable, soyabean, Jute, potato and paddy or the milkman is deplorable. It is a matter of concern that agricultural cost is increasing whereas the farmers are not getting remunerative prices of their crop. They are forced to sell their crops even at half rate, I would like to ask whether the Government have common sense or sense of proportion or not. When there was buffer stock of foodgrains, the Prime Minister made a statement to reduce the production of foodgrains. When the BJP came to power then it said that we would double the production of foodgrains within ten years. The production would be double in ten years if there is ten per cent increase in one year. But now a days we talk about reducing the production of foodgrains. There is decline in the production of foodgrains which was 170 lac tonne during the last two or three years. Now it is increasing by two or three per cent. How would you achieve the target to double the production of foodgrains? We are repeatedly saying that this Government is anti-farmers. Because there is no lobby of farmers. A discussion about the farmers was held in the meeting of the CII in which the Prime Minister also took part. Farmers provide food to all people of the country. But they do not have any lobby. We raised an issue for setting up a separate standing Committee for the welfare of the farmers and the Members of all parties had agreed to it. Now a days there is influence of selfish persons and black marketeers. No Committee is being set up for the welfare of the farmers.

What is the reason behind this? Since the problems of the farmers are related to 14 departments therefore we want that there should be a standing committee related to the issues of the farmer from where all the information can be received.

Subsidy is being reduced on fertilizers and it has been increased on luxurious items. What kind of a budget policy is this? I will take up this issue later. During Ninth Five Year Plan approximately 5000 crore of rupees were spent in all the states on centrally sponsored schemes. About 800 to 900 or 1000 crore rupees were spent offhand. We have asked a question as to why during the last four years of Ninth Five Year Plan only 3-4 or 2½ crore rupees were given to Bihar? Bihar constitutes 10th part of India we should have been given 500 crore rupees out of 5000 crore rupees. But only 2 crores or 3 crores are given in 4 years. Sh. Nitish Kumarji was the Minister at that time. A argument also took place over this issue. In 2001-2002, 41 crore rupees have been given for the first time. We should have got 100 crore rupees but we have been given less than half of this amount. Moreover, the amount is given after such a long delay that State Government is unable to make plans to spend the money and it can not use the money in a proper manner. The 10th Five Year Plan has to begin. I want to ask the Government that out of the 5000 crore rupees, which would be spent on centrally sponsored schemes in the 10th five year plan, what will be Bihar's share and what will be the share of other States? If this information is given beforehand then the State Governments can make plans to spend the money. If the money is given in the end then it does not help in anyway. Farmers are facing problems all-over the country. State Governments should be consulted to know what kind of help the farmers need. Decisions are taken here and the problems of the farmers are not kept in mind and money is not spent properly.

Recently a scam relating to subsidy on fertilizer took place. Bihar legislative council has conducted an enquiry into this. I do not know whether they have called for that report or not. You can see from the report that subsidy was given on fertilizer worth 20,000 crore of rupees but it has benefited the factories producing fertilizers and the farmers have not received any subsidy. A scam involving 20,000 crore rupees has taken place which should be looked into. The Government may not be aware of it but this scam has taken place in almost every state on a large scale and the suppliers of fertilizers are responsible for this. The farmers have not got any benefit. Now only this, Ram Krishana Kusmariaji was saying that farmers have to face two types of crises. One is natural calamity and another is crisis created by the Government. Natural calamities include floods, drought, cyclone etc. Apart from this there is the menace of pests. Cotton is attacked by pests. Crop of coconuts gets destroyed. 10th Finance Commission has not given a single penny to Bihar to fight against natural calamities. Whereas one third should have been given by the central Government. But not a single penny

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

has been given. Money was not given even in the last year of the Ninth Five Year plan though it should have been earmarked separately.

Sir, Animal husbandry is being neglected by ICAR also. It was discussed that there should be separate arrangement for Indian Council for veterinary Research. Animal Husbandry is the basis of agriculture in Bihar. But even this is neglected and exploited. Similarly, the Government of India had decided to start Technology Mission on Dairy in Bihar. But it was also closed down. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry both should not be neglected, the farmers should be helped and there should be a separate committee to consider all these issues.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (CHIDAMBARAM) : Madam, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Uzhuthundu Vazhvare Vazhvar Matrellam

Thozhundu Pin Selbavar

There is another couplet.

Suzhandrum Aerppinnathu Ulagam Athanal

Uzhandum Uzhave Thalai

It means that everyone is dependent upon agriculture. People cannot eat the machinery and money. They would need foodgrains for sustenance of life.

Sir, the illustrious father of the present Minister for Agriculture was a *kisan* leader and he comes from that family. So, he would definitely understand the difficulties of the farmers.

Sir, we consider agriculture as the backbone of our economy. But what have we done for the welfare of the farmers? Right from the beginning, the farmers have been facing difficulties in regard to seeds, water, fertilizer, pricing down to selling their produce. The procurement price is not uniform and thus the farmers, particularly in Tamil Nadu, face a lot of difficulty. I can see in one part of my constituency Chidambaram sack full of foodgrains having been dumped on the roadside because of the inability of the Government to procure them. Of course, now the Government has announced removal of restrictions including the middle men and the private traders. But still the farmers are suffering and the worst hit had been the farmers in my constituency in the Chidambaram of Cuddalore district. They are not able to sell their produce. Their produce remain dumped on the roadside because of the inability of the Government to procure them.

In the case of any commodity in the country, the seller can fix the sale price. It is only the farmer who is not in a position to fix the price for his produce. Successive Governments over the last 55 years have talked and talked and talked, continuously and repeatedly, about the problems faced by farmers but were not able to solve their problems permanently. It is a mystery, rather misery, that we are not able to back up the sustenance of our farmers, and we are not able to solve the problems. In spite of the best, rather better than the best, efforts put by the Government and taking steps to solve their problems, I do not know why we are not till date able to solve their problems at all! Take the problem of water. The dispute over Cauvery waters could not be solved for decades. It is being politicised, which is unfortunate.

Their produce on which the farmers depend has to be procured at a uniform price. In our country, prices are being fixed differently in different States. When I met the hon. Agriculture Minister sometime back I found that farmers in his own State were getting more than Rs.800 per quintal of sugarcane whereas the price is lower in other States. Similarly, as against Rs.450 per quintal of foodgrains in Tamil Nadu, the middlemen and traders pay Rs.180 to Rs.200 per quintal. These farmers are deprived of their own produce which is their sole asset. In spite of their best effort to make both ends meet - they are starving. This year, we have surpassed the limit of 210 million tonnes of foodgrains production. In spite of this, we are not able to do anything better to bail out our farmers.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to take necessary steps to help the farmers come out of their woes. We are all one in understanding the problems of the farmers. But we failed somewhere in solving them satisfactorily. I know it is very easy to find fault than doing things properly and perfectly. I understand the difficulties of the Government. The Government alone cannot solve the problem. Other people also have to cooperate.

The basic demand of the farmers that needs to be fulfilled is de-silting and deepening of lakes for water which would solve their problems, especially in Tamil Nadu, when the *kuruvai* crops go without water and the delta people are fighting for sustenance of their agriculture. We have to do something better to solve their problem. We may reach the mark of expectation of the farmer, who is the real backbone of rural community, who expects that we should accomplish his expectations with a human touch.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. I expect that the hon. Minister will take all the necessary steps to help the farmers come out of their difficulties.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : May I request Shri Ponnuswamy to please support my demand that the Agriculture Minister pay a very early visit to Tamil Nadu?

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : I support the demand of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. I have already requested the hon. Minister to visit my constituency and Tamil Nadu to take stock of the situation.

SHRI A.C. JOS : The Minister should visit Kerala also.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : I am sure the Minister will visit Kerala also.

[Translation]

CHOWDHARY TALIB HUSSAIN (JAMMU) : Madam, Chairman, agriculture is a key and most important sector of our economy in country. Our whole economy depends on agriculture. But unfortunately, the fund or resources, which have been provided to this sector, have not been made available to it in this year's budget. I would like to urge upon Agriculture Minister to give utmost importance to this sector because it was due to agriculture that in the past our country was called El Dorado. At that time, there was neither a major industry in India nor adequate infrastructure arrangement for trade and commerce. Those who are under impression that the industry and trade would make this country earn name and fame are harbouring nothing but illusions. We will have to see to it that the attention is paid to the agriculture sector because only agriculture can make our country earn honour. Now but this can provide us insurance and bail us out from our troubles. But unfortunately on the one hand we say that we are producing scrupulous food grains, on the other hand we find news items appearing in the newspapers that our farmers are living a life of penury and starvation and some time some of them die due to starvation. We should pay attention to it. Our poet Ring had equated our country with paradise and termed it, "Jannate Nishan" and this status was conferred because of green revolution, availability of water and soil fertility here. He also said:

"Jis khet se Dahkaan Ko Mayassar Na Ho Rozi

Us khet ke Har Goshaye Gandum ko Hala Do

Tang Aa gaya Hun Main un Mar-Mar ki Shilo se,

Mere Liye Mitti ka Haram koi Aur Bana Do."

Today, the condition of farmer is pitiable to such an extent that though he produces milk, but his children go to school without having milk. In the same way, the other sectors of agriculture are dependent on the Government. These are not

ordinary sectors but there is no coordination among them. I would like to submit to the Agriculture Minister Shri Ajit Singh that though you have neither irrigation department nor rural development with you but there is inseparable things to promote agriculture. Unless Irrigation department works properly, and Water resources are utilized, our production would not go up. There should be coordination between departments and the Ministry. Today there is a need to settle dispute like Kaveri dispute. I would like to draw your attention towards one or two sectors of State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Our State is known for its horticulture, but there is a lack of funds. For the rearing of our apple, cherry and other fruits the requisite arrangement can not be done with such a scant fund. A disease has infested saffron due to which that crop has also got destroyed. If this crop of saffron is eliminated from one part of India, it would be very unfortunate. I want to request the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister that an expert committee be sent to the state of Jammu-Kashmir which should see which quality of seed should be sowed, which remedy or insecticides should be used for curing its disease, it should give suggestions so that the crop of saffron can be saved.

Madam Chairman, it is usually seen that generally the loans of the industries are waived which causes enhanced gap between the rich and the poor. There is big disparity between the industries and commerce due to the rich and the poor, the haves and the have nots. This differentiates between man and man, creates rift among them and makes the rich more rich and the poor more poor. But agriculture brings economic equality. Unfortunately, we see that today India is not attaching importance to it. The position of the farmers is deteriorating day by day. So much quantity of foodgrains has come for storage that there is no space for keeping them, but some areas of India are yearning for two squares meal. So we will have to formulate such an economic policy which can take care of all the difficulties of the people.

Madam, Chairman, the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister is responsible for rehabilitation and where there is drought he takes care of that area. Time and again requests have been made for waiving the loans of the farmers in those areas of Jammu-Kashmir where the crops are getting destroyed for the last four years due to drought.

Our Prime Minister often visits the valley and he has been giving assurance but his commitment has remained unfulfilled.

I am proud of the Hon'ble Minister that he belongs to the family of a great leader and it is my request to him that it would be fine if he waives the loan of the poor farmers. If you

[Chowdhary Talib Hussain]

can waive the loan of big industries then why can you not waive the loan of the poor farmer?

With these words, I would like that it would be better if you can make an increase in the allocation of funds at least for the crop of saffron and horticulture.

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZZHA) : Thank you, Madam. In fact, the farmer who is in real difficulty in India has several needs. Some of the salient needs which have to be considered are : quality seeds, saplings, adequate inputs, adequate infrastructure and latest available technology. These are the few needs which the farmers really do have.

He is prepared to put hard labour, but the labour which he puts does not give him proper returns at the end of the day. This is what we find in the total farming scenario today. Almost every agricultural produce is facing the difficulty of low price; every farmer is facing high cost of production for every agricultural produce of India; unprecedented natural calamities occur off and on. We had floods in Bihar; other natural calamities do occur even in States like Kerala where we do not normally expect them.

But all of a sudden if natural calamities occur in Kerala, within a second, 30 years' growth of rubber, 20 years' growth of areca nut, and 30 years' growth of coconut are completely destroyed. The farmer is in a very difficult situation and there is nothing to save the farmer from these natural calamities.

The farmer often finds himself in a disastrous situation because of the change in policy. It is very hard for the farmers to adjust. It is only the Government that can do something so as to make the farmers adjust. I think the Government must step into the shoes of saving the farmers.

There is a feeling that because of WTO, globalisation or the new global situation, subsidies cannot be increased. As far as WTO is concerned, the per capita income of an Indian farmer is so low that as per the stipulations of WTO itself we can increase the present subsidy on each and every produce so that the farming community can be benefited. The Government should do something in areas of research and development, insurance and such other policy matters. I am sure only after a complete review of all these things, the Government has taken some steps but there are miles to go in this regard.

Recently, the farmers are under great debt, and debt relief is something which the farmers can be given at this stage. I am happy to note that in this Budget the interest on loan up to Rs.25,000 for small holdings has been written off. If this

could be taken to NABARD and through it to the cooperative societies and the cooperative banking sector in the rural areas, farmers will be benefited more.

Because of paucity of time I am not going into other details. However, I would like to come to my State where there are specific problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : I will take only two minutes.

Agri-export zone is something which has been declared in the Budget. There is no agri-export zone in the State of Kerala. Maybe the Kerala State Government has to do something. If that is the case, we will force the State Government to do something. But the Union Government should do something positively so that our pineapples, coconut and other produces can be made use of.

With regard to Kumarakom Package, which the hon. Prime Minister has declared, I am happy that we are taking up the Coconut Mission and something in this regard has come in the Budget also. I would like to submit that the hon. Minister should take it up as a primary need as far as coconut farmers are concerned. The real benefit of the package should go to the farmers because the farmers are not getting the benefit of many of the declared projects.

Though rubber does not come under agriculture – we cannot take up this issue anywhere else – we would like to say that with regard to many of such produces which do not come under agriculture, like the rubber, the Government has to immediately do something. The Minister should take up the issue because in case of rubber its price has come down from Rs.69 to Rs.30; for coffee, the price has come down to almost as low as one-third. For Areca nut, which is there in Mangalore also, the price has come down steeply from Rs.170 to Rs.30. For other produces like pepper, coffee, cardamom, cocoa the price has come down steeply. So, I would like to submit that the Minister of Agriculture may kindly do something in this regard.

Lastly, in two of the talukas of my constituency there has been a lot of disaster.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Otherwise, we will have no time left for the Minister to reply. There is guillotine at 6 o' clock. What will the Minister reply?

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Madam, I am concluding. In two Taluks of my Constituency, namely, Kanjirapally and Meenachil, there has been a total disaster of all the plants as well as trees grown by the agriculturists. I would hope that the

Minister of Agriculture may be pleased to do something for Kerala. It is because for the flood relief, we have not been given funds, maybe because of some defects in the Memorandum or maybe because of some other reason. I would submit that the Minister of Agriculture may be pleased to see that some help is given to the persons who have suffered real loss due to natural calamities recently.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Minister would reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (BULANDSHAHR) : My name is also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can not call you. There is guillotine at 6 o'clock.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is guillotine at 6 o'clock.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPUR, WEST BENGAL) : Madam, the time of the House should be extended.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The guillotine has been announced at 6 o'clock. Therefore, the Minister should be given, at least, 15 minutes to reply. What can I do?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Madam, there is guillotine at 6 o'clock and that cannot be extended. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Madam, guillotine is at 6 o'clock and it is never changed. Do you not want the reply? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : You could easily have the time of the House extended.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I would have got extended the sitting of the House for one month but the question is that guillotine is to be taken up at 6 o'clock and it is always at 6 o'clock. You never extend that time. Please try to understand. You could speak on the Finance Bill and you could take more time also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Minister would reply.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : Madam, Chairman, first, I would like to thank all the

Members of this House. With all their pre-occupations because of which the House could not run, they gave six hours for the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture. That shows that they are concerned about agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture is the only Ministry which has escaped the guillotine. I should thank them for that also.

Lately, I have noticed an urgency about the problems that agriculture is facing and about the plight of the farmers. Many of the Members, in fact, the majority of the Members here have come from rural constituencies. They have been speaking for the plight of the farmers for a long time. But it seems that the speeches were given and there was no impact on the Government, on the Budget, on the media, and on the movers and shakers of this country. But lately, things have changed. People have begun to realize and it has entered into their minds that agriculture is the backbone of our country's economy and that something has to be done about it. That feeling is growing and it is true that even though the CII, ASSOCHAM, and FICCI represent certain other interests, the fact remains that since the last one year or so, they have also begun to talk about agriculture. So, finally, it is donning on, as I said, the movers and shakers, and the policy makers of this country that agriculture is important for the welfare of our country. Since 70 per cent of our people depend on agriculture, there is now no way except to improve the agriculture, the productivity, the quality, and the market share in the world. That is the only way through which our poor people's income can be increased and the quality of their lives could also be improved.

I would also like to thank all the Members, cutting across all party lines, who have said that the budget for all the Departments under the Ministry of Agriculture should be increased. The Standing Committee on Agriculture also has been very helpful in that. Although the Budget has been increased by more than ten per cent over the last year, yet everybody feels that much more is needed. But, we have to live within the financial constraints that we have and within those financial constraints and the Budget that has been allotted to the Agriculture Ministry, I feel a lot of things can still be done.

Let us face it. Agriculture is in transition today. It is true that we have made a lot of progress in agriculture over the last fifty years. We were then a grain deficit nation, we were importing grains; today we are facing the problems of Success. Success has its own problems. Everybody says that we have millions of tonnes in the store and that is true. There is a problem as to what to do with that grain. There is a storage cost and there is a distribution cost. What is passed on as food subsidy, a large percentage of that is really the storage cost and the distribution cost and not subsidy to the farmer.

[Shri Ajit Singh]

There is a lot of hue and cry also about the MSP from the economists that the MSP is too high and it is unviable and something has to be done.

17.45 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Firstly, I would like to say that we should not punish the farmers even if they are in certain States only for being successful and for feeding our country. Yes, we need diversification, we have to go away from these foodgrain crops to other crops. But by punishing them, by saying that MSP is not going to be there any more, or MSP should not be increased, we should not send a signal that we are going to punish the farmer for being successful. In fact, our whole attention for the last fifty years has been on increasing the foodgrains. It has led to, besides the storage problem, a lot of other problems also like fertility of the soil, the water table, etc. Now we have to concentrate on what I would call the sustainable development in agriculture where we have to look at the organic farming. Also, we have to look at the integrated pest management. Not only at the insecticides and pesticides, we also have to look at the soil fertility and we have to look at the crop rotation.

Members have pointed out a lot of these problems. In every area there is a problem. There is a problem about subsidies; about prices there is a problem. A lot of people are concerned about the biotechnology. Also Bt Cotton has created a lot of news at least, if not controversies. Agriculture Extension Services are also under questioning as to what we are doing is really reaching the farmers or not. So, there are problems in all areas and in all crops. But a lot of problems are being today ascribed to WTO that because WTO is there, that is why all these problems are there. Yes, WTO has created some problems, but I would like to point out that many of these problems would be there even if WTO is not there because the world is becoming smaller. There is no way you can avoid competition. As I said, if you look at foodgrains, unless we are able to export them and improve the quality of foodgrains, we cannot sustain it. A lot of problems we face are not WTO created, but a lot of things have come together at the same time to create these problems.

I would like to say agriculture today is in a transition stage. The biggest challenge that we are facing today as a Government, as a scientist, is how the two hectare farmer can be helped. A lot of people still talk about big farmers and about the redistribution of land. But 80 per cent of the holdings are of less than two hectares. Frankly, there are no big farmers. There are only small and marginal farmers. The problem is how those two-hectare farmers can be helped. All these

technologies that we are developing, all these biotechnology, new methods of irrigation, new seeds are focusing on how the two-hectare farmer can be helped. That is the challenge we are facing. We have to see how he can get the information, how he can get credit to use all these things. Even if he knows about it, because the input costs are increasing, we have to see how he can get the money.

The biggest problem is also the marketing. In foodgrains, marketing is not the problem Government is there and MSP scheme is there. But if you want to diversify into horticulture, fruits, vegetables and flowers, then marketing becomes a big problem. Therefore, we have to look at the co-operatives. Co-operative sector has been very important to the Indian economy for the last 50 years. Especially in the farming sector, more than 45 per cent of the rural credit is given by the co-operative sector. More than 25 per cent of the fertilisers is produced in the co-operative sector. More than 50 per cent of sugar is produced in the co-operative sector. Today, in co-operative sector also, we are facing a lot of problems and the Government has taken steps to liberalise, I should say, to reform the co-operative sector. In many States, co-operative sector has become just a handmaiden of the Government. There is no co-operation between the people. It is the Government which runs the co-operatives. So, the Government has brought in the Multi State Cooperatives Bill. It was brought in the last Session and it is listed everyday here. I request the Members to find some time to pass this Bill other than their concerns for their constituencies, their matters under rule 377 and 'Zero Hour'. It is because in the Multi State Co-operatives Bill, we are going to free the co-operatives from Government regulations and control or if I may say, Government clutches.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : When will it come for consideration?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : It has been listed in the last Sessions. But we have to find time to pass it. So, the Multi State Cooperative Bill is here. The NCDC Bill is also before Parliament. We have to find time for that also. The Government is formulating a Bill in the seed sector. In fact, if you look at agriculture, the picture you may have in mind is a poor farmer in some remote field with two bullocks or may be a tractor. That picture is not there today. A lot of laws are required to protect the farmers today. Some of them are necessary because of WTO. In the last Session, we passed the Plant Protection Varieties and Farmers Rights Bill. The Biodiversity Bill is there. The Pesticides and Insecticides Act has to be changed. The Aquaculture Bill has to come before the Parliament.

I would like to again mention that the Multi State

Cooperatives Bill will help the cooperatives which are in more than one State. We also have to persuade the States to change many of their laws. Agriculture is a State subject and many of the laws which were enacted at one time to protect the farmers have become the oppressors of the farmers. Liberalisation in our country has a dirty connotation. When we say liberalisation, people think that some rich guy is going to come and take away his land and that he is going to lose something out of his meagre earnings and savings. But liberalisation is needed in agriculture more than in anything else. There are many laws, as I mentioned, which oppress the farmers rather than help them. The Agriculture Produce Marketing Act was necessary at one time but today, it has become the greatest oppressor of the farmers. If the farmer wants to sell his produce outside the *mandi* or even to a processor directly, he cannot sell it. If a private person wants to set up a marketing *mandi*, he cannot set it up. Therefore, those laws also have to be changed.

Cooperative laws is a State subject. Some States have excellent co-operative laws. Many States do not need cooperatives as there is no cooperation. Those laws also have to be changed.

Coming to credit, when we talk about suicide of farmers whether it is in Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka or Punjab, lack of credit is one big reason for the suicide of farmers. Even today, only 60 per cent of the credit to farmers comes from institutions and 40 per cent comes from money lenders.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : It is not 60 per cent. If 60 per cent comes from institutions, then it is a big development. In my view, it is not 60 per cent.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : All right. My figures may be wrong by a few percentage points. But the fact remains.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, 6 o'clock is the guillotine time.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : He has not answered single question that we have raised. Three minutes are left. I would request him to answer our questions.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I would like to visit Tamil Nadu at any time. Last time when you invited me, you went away to North-East.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : You went away to U.P.

SHRI A.C. JOS : You should visit Kerala also.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Kerala is next to Tamil Nadu. How can I miss Kerala when I come to Tamil Nadu? But let me say

one thing. If I come to Tamil Nadu and Kerala, it does not mean Shri Aiyar that problems in your constituency caused by natural calamities will get resolved. The Finance Commission has given certain amount of money under Calamity Relief Fund to each State. It is given in two instalments. The State Government provides 25 per cent and the Central Government provides 75 per cent. You have to spend that money and then you have to send us a Report. Then, we will send a Committee to look at what has been done and as to how you have spent that money.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I would request you to clarify that. It is because it has become a big controversy. You say you have not received it. The Minister there in the State says that he has sent it. Can you please tell us what is the correct position?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : We will check it up. We will work it out between ourselves. There is no problem. We will send a team. All that I was saying was that my going there will not help. We will send a team of officials to look at these things.

You raised a question about WTO. You said that in Doha, our concerns have not been addressed. I think, we had a full discussion on WTO and what happened at Doha. Still I would like to mention that the main concern before Doha was about implementation; whatever agreements which the European Union and the rich countries had would be carried out and implemented or not. But to a very large extent those concerns have been addressed at Doha and these things will be taken up in the meeting which is going to start in June, 2002. Another issue that was raised at Doha was the special and differential treatment to be given to the developing countries. We said that developing countries should get differential treatment from the developed countries. That thing has also been recognised by WTO. It will be an integral part of the negotiations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, please conclude.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I am sorry that I am not able to address your problems individually. But I do appreciate your concerns. Your concerns about farmers cut across party lines, whether the Members spoke from this side or that side, because seventy per cent of our people depend on agriculture. There is no time to talk about bio-technology and other things.

I wish to thank all the Members for having expressed their concerns.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : A number of cut motions have been moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. Shall I put together all the cut motions to the vote of the House?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, my cut motions may be put separately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put cut motion No. 22 and 23 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let me say something about my cut motion now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no time now. At 6 o'clock, we will have to guillotine.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, if they know about my cut motion, they will support it.

I have moved my cut motions namely :

"That the demand under the head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (page 1) be reduced by Rs. 100.

Need to check distress sale of agricultural produce by the farmers. (22)

Need to check the effects of WTO agreement on the prices of agricultural Products" (23)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall put cut motion Nos. 22 and 23 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

18.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the other cut motions together to the vote of the House.

CUT MOTIONS

SHRI PAWANKUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : I beg to move :-

That the Demands under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page 1) be reduced to Re 1 :

Failure to check adverse impact of import on indigenous agricultural produce. (1)

Failure to improve agricultural infrastructure. (2)

Failure to strengthen marketing system for farmers at village level. (3)

Failure to put in place a sound National Disaster Management Programme for the benefit of farmers in the country. (4)

That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture (Page 1) be reduced to Re. 1:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Failure to check decide in share of agriculture in G.D.P. (32)

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture Research and Education (Page 2) be reduced to Re.1:

Failure to provide adequate funds for development of remunerative varieties of crops. (45)

That the Demands under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Page 3) be reduced to Re.1 :

Failure to develop and increase production of fodder and cattle feeds. (48)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page 1) be reduced to Re. 1 :

Failure to make small farming viable. (5)

Failure to ameliorate the lot of landless agriculture labour in the country. (6)

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (ROPAR) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page1) be reduced to Re.1 :

Failure to achieve the targeted growth rate of agriculture sector. (7)

Failure to check steep hike in prices of fertilizers and other inputs rendering farming highly unprofitable. (8)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Department o. Agriculture and Cooperation (Page1) be reduced to Re.1 :

Failure to check, distress sale of produce by farmers.(9)

Failure to provide adequate and timely credit facilities to farmers. (10)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page1) be reduced to Re.1 :

Failure to provide credit/incentives to farmers for foodgrain storage. (11)

Failure to promote development and use of bio-fertilizers. (12)

Failure to strengthen National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed agriculture. (13)

Failure to strengthen co-operative movement in the country. (14)

Failure to continue subsidies for the promotion of agriculture. (15)

Failure to check suicides by debt-ridden farmers.(16)

Failure to provide necessary infrastructure/mechanism to buy jute from jute growers at the remunerative prices.(17)

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (JALANDHAR) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page1) be reduced to Re.1 :

Failure to continue the minimum support price policy for foodgrains. (19)

Failure to promote diversification of crops. (20)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page1) be reduced to Re.1 :

Failure to declare agriculture as an industry. (21)

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Education (Page2) be reduced to Re.1 :

Failure to develop an effective remedy for the diseases afflicting the coconut trees causing lot of hardship to the coconut growers throughout the country and particularly in the Kerala. (26)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page1) be reduced by Rs.100 :

Failure to check distress sale of agricultural produce by the farmers. (22)

Need to check the effects of WTO agreement on the prices of agricultural products. (23)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (SOLAPUR) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture (Page1) be reduced to Re.1 :

Failure to provide for a farmers-friendly credit system. (33)

Failure to ensure prompt and timely payment to the cane growers by sugar mills. (34)

Failure to provide for adequate storage capacity for foodgrains in public and private sectors. (35)

Failure to provide guidance to farmers for crop rotation and diversification in tune with the varying needs and demands. (36)

Failure to protect the farmers against dumping of imported farm produce under WTO regime. (37)

Failure to check distress sale of produce by farmers. (38)

That the Demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture (Page1) be reduced to Re.1 :

Need to provide for a farmer friendly credit system and to check suicides by debt-ridden farmers. (39)

Need to promote use of bio-fertilizers. (40)

Need to provide for low interest credit to farmers. (41)

Need to provide for credit to farmers at their door steps by way of mobile-banking. (42)

Need to promote and boost up production of pulses and edible oils. (43)

Need to promote cultivation of coarse grains including grams. (44)

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Research and Education (Page2) be reduced by Rs.100 :

Need to provide easy access to scientific research to farmers, especially in the field of bio-diversification. (46)

Need to promote eradication technique for storage of agricultural produce. (47)

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page1) be reduced to Re.1 :

Failure to protect the farmers against natural calamities and national Disasters. (57)

Failure to provide for a comprehensive crop insurance scheme. (58)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page1) be reduced by Rs.100 :

Need to rush Central Government assistance to farmers in the Cauvery delta where heavy unseasonal rain has ruined harvested and ripened samba paddy and other crops. (59)

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA) : I beg to move :

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (Page1) be reduced by Rs.100 :

Need to provide credit facility to the farmers through Co-operative Primary Banks, Rural Banks and Commercial Banks. (81)

That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture and Research and Cooperation (Page2) be reduced by Rs.100 :

Need to establish Agricultural Research and Education Institute at Sivaganga. (82)

That the Demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Page3) be reduced to Rs.100 :

Need to establish an Animal Husbandry and Dairying Research Centre at Sivaganga to help farmers. (83)

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of Agriculture to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the

President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2003, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

The motion was adopted.

18.03 hrs.

(ii) Submission of Outstanding Demands to Vote of the House

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we take up Item No.14 - submission to the vote of the House of the outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2002-2003.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Sir, I would like to say that this should not become a precedent. At least, you should say that this will not become a precedent. This wholesale guillotine is unheard of. Let it be recorded that this will not become a precedent in future. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radharkrishnan, I thought you are a senior Member here.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The demands of all the Ministries/Departments are being guillotined. This should not become a precedent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Were you here last year?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Yes, I was here. Last year, there was some discussion about the Government Departments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This has been the practice of this House that if the Demands are not discussed, the guillotine takes place like this. Please do not disturb the House now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is not a disturbance. As a Member of this House, I have a right to raise it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have a right to raise it. I have already replied to that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This should not become a precedent. We have the right to discuss almost all

the Demands for Grants of all Ministries/Departments. That right is taken away. This is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the outstanding Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries/Departments to the vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2003, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof, against :-

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Demand No.4 relating to Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries. | (15) Demand Nos. 42 to 44 relating to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; |
| (2) Demand Nos. 5 and 6 relating to Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. | (16) Demand Nos. 45 to 49 and 96 to 102 relating to Ministry of Home Affairs; |
| (3) Demand No.7 relating to Ministry of Civil Aviation. | (17) Demand Nos. 50 to 52 relating to Ministry of Human Resource Development; |
| (4) Demand Nos. 8 and 9 relating to Ministry of Coal and Mines; | (18) Demand Nos. 53 and 54 relating to Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises; |
| (5) Demand Nos.10 and 11 relating to Ministry of Commerce and Industry; | (19) Demand No. 55 relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; |
| (6) Demand Nos. 12 to 14 relating to Ministry of Communications and Information Technology; | (20) Demand No. 56 relating to Ministry of Labour; |
| (7) Demand Nos. 15 to 21 relating to Ministry of Defence; | (21) Demand Nos. 57, 58 and 60 relating to Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs; |
| (8) Demand No. 22 relating to Ministry of Disinvestment; | (22) Demand No. 61 relating to Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources; |
| (9) Demand No. 23 relating to the Department of Development of North Eastern Region; | (23) Demand No. 62 relating to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; |
| (10) Demand No. 24 relating to Ministry of Environment and Forests; | (24) Demand No. 63 relating to Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; |
| (11) Demand No. 25 relating to Ministry of External Affairs; | (25) Demand No. 64 relating to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; |
| (12) Demand Nos. 26 to 28, 30, 31 and 33 to 38 relating to Ministry of Finance; | (26) Demand No. 65 relating to Ministry of Planning; |
| (13) Demand Nos. 39 and 40 relating to Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; | (27) Demand No. 66 relating to Ministry of Power; |
| (14) Demand No. 41 relating to Ministry of Food Processing Industries; | (28) Demand Nos. 67 to 69 relating to Ministry of Rural Development; |
| | (29) Demand Nos. 70 to 72 relating to Ministry of Science and Technology; |
| | (30) Demand No. 73 relating to Ministry of Small Scale Industries; |
| | (31) Demand No. 74 relating to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; |
| | (32) Demand No. 75 relating to Ministry of Steel; |
| | (33) Demand No. 76 relating to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; |
| | (34) Demand No. 77 relating to Ministry of Shipping; |
| | (35) Demand No. 78 relating to Ministry of Textiles; |

- (36) Demand Nos. 79 and 80 relating to Ministry of Tourism and Culture;
- (37) Demand No. 81 relating to Ministry of Tribal Affairs;
- (38) Demand Nos. 82 to 85 relating to Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation;
- (39) Demand No. 86 relating to Ministry of Water Resources;
- (40) Demand No. 87 relating to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment;
- (41) Demand No. 88 relating to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports;
- (42) Demand Nos. 89 and 90 relating to Department of Atomic Energy;
- (43) Demand No. 91 relating to Department of Ocean Development; ,
- (44) Demand No. 92 relating to Department of Space;
- (45) Demand No. 94 relating to Rajya Sabha;
- (46) Demand No. 95 relating to Lok Sabha; and
- (47) Demand No. 97 relating to Secretariat of Vice-President."
- The motion was adopted*

LOK SABHA*Demands for Grants—Budget (General) for 2002-2003 submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. and Name of Demand		Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 20, 2002		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the vote of House.	
		Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)	Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries					
4	Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	110,92,00,000	35,00,000	554,61,00,000	1,75,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers					
5	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	8,65,00,000	14,68,00,000	43,26,00,000	73,41,00,000
6	Department of Fertilisers	1949,84,00,000	84,87,00,000	9749,20,00,000	424,33,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation					
7	Ministry of Civil Aviation	180,56,00,000	10,79,00,000	53,80,00,000	53,92,00,000
Ministry of Coal and Mines					
8	Department of Coal	77,34,00,000	16,58,00,000	386,70,00,000	82,90,00,000
9	Department of Mines	177,69,00,000	4,81,00,000	386,70,00,000	24,02,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry					
10	Department of Commerce	221,08,00,000	63,83,00,000	1105,42,00,000	319,17,00,000
11	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	59,46,00,000		97,32,00,000	

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology					
12	Department of Posts	882,98,00,000	21,43,00,000	4414,91,00,000	107,12,00,000
13	Department of Telecommunications	561,65,00,000	17,00,000	2808,27,00,000	83,00,000
14	Department of Information Technology	100,45,00,000	7,94,00,000	352,27,00,000	39,72,000
Ministry of Defence					
15	Ministry of Defence	778,90,00,000	56,13,00,000	3894,50,00,000	280,64,00,000
16	Defence Pensions	1783,31,00,000		8916,56,00,000	
17	Defence Services - Army	5237,56,00,000		26187,79,00,000	
18	Defence Services - Navy	774,69,00,000		3873,42,00,000	
19	Defence Services - Air Force	1404,18,00,000		7020,90,00,000	
20	Defence Ordnance, Factories	1294,50,00,000			
21	Capital Outlay on Defence Services		3565,99,00,000		17829,96,00,000
Ministry of Disinvestment					
22	Ministry of Disinvestment	13,92,00,000		12,87,00,000	
Department of Development of North Eastern Region					
23	Department of Development of North Eastern Region	62,31,00,000	13,45,00,000	311,53,00,000	67,25,00,000
Ministry of Environment and Forests					
24	Ministry of Environment and Forests	181,38,00,000	3,80,00,000	906,88,00,000	18,99,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs					
25	Ministry of External Affairs	527,57,00,000	69,70,00,000	2292,54,00,000	348,50,00,000
Ministry of Finance					
26	Department of Economic Affairs	368,36,00,000	71,93,00,000	1841,82,00,000	359,63,00,000
27	Currency, Coinage and Stamps	149,40,00,000	117,17,00,000	746,98,00,000	585,84,00,000
28	Payments to Financial Institutions	338,30,00,000	291,31,00,000	1691,48,00,000	1456,57,00,000
30	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	3514,17,00,000		17570,83,00,000	

1	2	3	4	5	6
31	Loans to Government Servants, etc.		133,33,00,000		666,67,00,000
33	Department of Expenditure	20,48,00,000	06,00,000	102,41,00,000	27,00,000
34	Pensions	725,88,00,000		3629,38,00,000	
35	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	154,66,00,000	2,00,00,000	773,32,00,000	10,00,00,000
36	Department of Revenue	168,82,00,000	1,36,00,000	220,69,00,000	6,77,00,000
37	Direct Taxes	173,03,00,000	20,83,00,000	865,17,00,000	104,17,00,000
38	Indirect Taxes	178,25,00,000	6,68,00,000	891,26,00,000	33,42,00,000
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution					
39	Department of Consumer Affairs	34,98,00,000	7,30,00,000	24,88,00,000	47,00,000
40	Department of Food and Public Distribution	3570,26,00,000	43,45,00,000	17855,69,00,000	217,26,00,000
Ministry of Food Processing Industries					
41	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	13,50,00,000		67,51,00,000	
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare					
42	Department of Health	417,16,00,000	47,03,00,000	2085,78,00,000	235,17,00,000
43	Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy	32,23,00,000	1,25,00,000	161,12,00,000	6,26,00,000
44	Department of Family Welfare	974,97,00,000		4874,86,00,000	
Ministry of Home Affairs					
45	Ministry of Home Affairs	113,07,00,000	4,04,00,000	565,34,00,000	20,21,00,000
46	Cabinet	29,43,00,000	83,00,000	147,12,00,000	4,17,00,000
47	Police	1576,29,00,000	142,23,00,000	7881,46,00,000	711,16,00,000
48	Other Expenditure of Ministry of Home Affairs	77,83,00,000		389,13,00,000	
49	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	94,15,00,000	62,85,00,000	470,74,00,000	314,26,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development					
50	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy	1194,20,00,000		3710,65,00,000	

1	2	3	4	5	6
51	Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education	813,10,00,000	1,00,000	4073,75,00,000	
52	Department of Women and Child Development	596,17,00,000		1657,47,00,000	
Ministry of Heavy Industries					
53	Department of Public Enterprises	2,11,00,000		10,52,00,000	
54	Department of Heavy Industry	190,10,00,000	286,80,00,000		134,51,00,000*
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting					
55	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	205,76,00,000	49,84,00,000	1028,77,00,000	249,18,00,000
Ministry of Labour					
56	Ministry of Labour	163,96,00,000	2,40,00,000	819,78,00,000	11,97,00,000
Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs					
57	Law and Justice	78,58,00,000	26,00,000	392,88,00,000	1,29,00,000
58	Election Commission	1,69,00,000		8,43,00,000	
60	Department of Company Affairs	9,10,00,000	50,00,000	45,52,00,000	2,50,00,000
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources					
61	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	82,25,00,000	21,68,00,000	417,22,00,000	108,37,00,000
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs					
62	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	70,00,000		3,51,00,000	
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions					
63	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	34,26,00,000	2,00,000	171,29,00,000	8,00,00,000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas					
64	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	1084,91,00,000		5424,52,00,000	
Ministry of Planning					
65	Ministry of Planning	7,69,00,000	1,25,00,000	38,45,00,000	6,25,00,000

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ministry of Rural Development					
67	Ministry of Rural Development	4671,57,00,000	25,00,00,000	8067,84,00,000	25,00,00,000
68	Development of Land Resources	167,30,00,000		836,51,00,000	
69	Department of Drinking Water Supply	921,72,00,000		1479,61,00,000	
Ministry of Science and Technology					
70	Department of Science and Technology	161,20,00,000	8,78,00,000	805,97,00,000	43,87,00,000
71	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	172,64,00,000	85,00,000	863,19,00,000	4,25,00,000
72	Department of Biotechnology	39,26,00,000		196,32,00,000	
Ministry of Small Scale Industries					
73	Ministry of Small Scale Industries	66,19,00,000		330,92,00,000	
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation					
74	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	635,49,00,000	2,72,00,000	1192,84,00,000	26,12,00,000
Ministry of Steel					
75	Ministry of Steel	11,37,00,000	2,33,00,000	56,82,00,000	11,67,00,000
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways					
76	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	1029,69,00,000	1518,21,00,000	4746,53,00,000	4613,01,00,000
Ministry of Shipping					
77	Ministry of Shipping	69,10,00,000	58,99,00,000	345,48,00,000	294,92,00,000
Ministry of Textiles					
78	Ministry of Textiles	164,89,00,000	99,58,00,000	824,43,00,000	497,90,00,000
Ministry of Tourism and Culture					
79	Department of Tourism	24,12,00,000	18,75,00,000	120,59,00,000	93,75,00,000
80	Department of Culture	81,08,00,000		405,37,00,000	
Ministry of Tribal Affairs					
81	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	20,99,00,000	5,34,00,000	104,95,00,000	26,67,00,000
Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation					
82	Department of Urban Development	125,54,00,000	89,16,00,000	627,69,00,000	445,77,00,000

1	2	3	4	5	6
83	Public Works	112,04,00,000	48,52,00,000	560,20,00,000	242,61,00,000
84	Stationery and Printing	29,82,00,000	4,00,000	149,09,00,000	21,00,000
85	Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	70,12,00,000	36,88,00,000	350,60,00,000	184,37,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources					
86	Ministry of Water Resources	124,25,00,000	8,84,00,000	621,22,00,000	44,20,00,000
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment					
87	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	225,92,00,000	18,89,00,000	1129,61,00,000	94,46,000
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports					
88	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	54,61,00,000	24,00,000	276,52,00,000	8,02,00,000
Department of Atomic Energy					
89	Atomic Energy	297,60,00,000	188,99,00,000	1487,97,00,000	944,92,00,000
90	Nuclear Power Schemes	277,60,00,000	265,83,00,000	1388,00,00,000	1329,17,00,000
Department of Ocean Development					
91	Department of Ocean Development	33,05,00,000	17,00,000	165,23,00,000	83,00,000
Department of Space					
92	Department of Space	325,24,00,000	52,16,00,000	1626,17,00,000	260,79,00,000
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President					
94	Rajya Sabha	12,49,00,000		62,47,00,000	
95	Lok Sabha	29,83,00,000		149,17,00,000	
97	Secretariat of the Vice President	17,00,000		84,00,000	
Union Territories (without Legislature)					
98	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	129,76,00,000	32,33,00,000	648,79,00,000	161,62,00,000
99	Chandigarh	127,03,00,000	23,93,00,000	635,17,00,000	119,64,00,000
100	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	63,93,00,000	6,38,00,000	319,65,00,000	31,88,00,000
101	Daman and Diu	37,78,00,000	5,22,00,000	188,87,00,000	26,12,00,000
102	Lakshadweep	36,59,00,000	9,94,00,000	182,95,00,000	49,71,00,000

* In addition, Rs. 49,49,00,000 approved in the "Vote on Account" on 20th March, 2002 and included in the Revenue Section may be utilised towards Capital Section.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : What are they applauding for? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH) : Sir, at least there should be an observation from the Chair. The Ministers of the respective Ministries should have the courtesy to be present here. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Sir, what is your view? ...(Interruptions) Sir, you are the custodian of the House. It is most unfortunate. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, all the Ministers are sitting behind. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : All the Ministers are not present here. Some of them are absent. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, where is the Defence Minister? ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is sitting behind.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, will you please resume your seat?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I cannot be a party to this. I am walking out of the House in protest. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Demands have already been passed. You are now going out.

18.12 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan left the House.

18.12 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO.3) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003."

The motion was adopted

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003 be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2002-2003 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

18.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 26, 2002/Vaisakha 6, 1924 (Saka).

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** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

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