

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 23, 2003/Vaisakha 3, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be discussion on POTA immediately. ...(Interruptions) The issue pertaining to POTA is very serious. ...(Interruptions) POTA is being discussed all over the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is being raised time and again ...(Interruptions) On the other hand, persons are dying of starvation ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please hold discussion on POTA ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given an Adjournment notice on POTA. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received several notices regarding misuse of POTA. I have no objection for taking up these notices for discussion during the 'Zero Hour'. You can discuss this issue during the 'Zero Hour'.

As regards the Adjournment notices, I have already informed the concerned hon. Members that their notices for Adjournment cannot be accepted.

I have also received a notice regarding misuse of POTA from Shri Ramjilal Suman. His notice is for suspension of Question Hour. I have also received a

notice from Shri Dasmunsi for suspension of Question Hour regarding some issue on Defence. These are the two notices for suspension of the Question Hour. I only ask two Members to tell me in one or two minutes why they want the Question Hour to be suspended.

Now, Shri Ramjilal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, I have also given a notice...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is not for suspension of the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter pertaining to misuse of POTA is a serious one. On 26th March last year when there was a joint session of the Parliament...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell me as to why the Question Hour should be suspended.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: At that time it was assured that now POTA would not be misused as all the provisions due to which TADA was misused have been modified. In the cases which have come into light till now in Jharkhand alone 210 persons including some children of the age group of 12-14 have been arrested. They belong to tribals, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The editor of the 'Nakeeran', Shri R.R. Gopal has been arrested under POTA. It is a very serious matter. We were apprehensive that POTA would be misused owing to political malice...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice for suspension of the Question Hour cannot be accepted. Please sit down.

[Translation]

You can make a mention of all such things during Zero Hour.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to have your protection. I want to now as to what is being done by the Review Committee set up by the Union Government...(Interruptions) It is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak after the Question Hour is over.

...(Interruptions)

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

[English]

11.03 hrs.

(I) RE: Certain observations made in the Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for 2003-2004.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I move my notice for suspending the Question Hour on a very important question. It is the most important question—the Prime Minister also will agree of the national security of the country. It is not my saying and it is not the saying of the Congress Party—please do not treat it as an allegation—it is the collective wisdom of the House which has been reflected. Yesterday, the 19th Report of the Standing Committee on Defence has been presented in the House. It has been publicly exposed today in all the newspapers, paragraph-wise. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is very important. The Prime Minister and the entire House have been asking for the last several months and years to support the cause of Defence and the House unanimously stood by the Government every time.

Whatever is the requirement of Defence, right from the days of Jawaharlal Nehru to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the country stands by it. Now, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question, which I raise today, should be the main question. That is why, I gave the notice for suspension of Question Hour. The Report says, "The Committee are distressed to observe substantial under-utilisation of Defence allocation, particularly in respect of capital expenditure to the tune of Rs. 6,499 crore, which constitutes 30 per cent of the total capital expenditure earmarked for the year 2002-2003." It is unutilised. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country's defence alertness, the morale of the *jawans* and the entire services have gone down today because of the exposure of the Report about the Defence Ministry's total failure at the behest of the hon. Prime Minister.

Not only that, it is also further says of the Kargil tax, which not only the patriotic people of the country devotedly

donated but they also gracefully expected that this money should be utilised for further capital expenditure on the security apparatus. The Standing Committee on Defence is headed by Shri Madan Lal Khurana. The Report says, "Rs. 4,235 crore was clubbed with the general revenue without upgrading the special arrangement of the defence." This is shocking. This shocking revelation has come in the newspaper today paragraph-wise. Shri Madan Lal Khurana is absent here. He could be requested to enlighten more on this matter. This is a serious situation. Since the hon. Defence Minister is in China—I hope, on his return he will be put into quarantine for SARS—at this situation, it is only the hon. Prime Minister who is in a position, either now or during his statement at 12 o'clock, to take the House into confidence why the country's defence has been compromised, why the interest of security has been compromised because of the inability and inefficiency of the Defence Ministry and this hour of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the fall of Iraq, after so many calculations, manipulations and speculations to destabilise India's unity and security, the important point of concern for the entire nation is about security and defence. This Report, which is the property of the House, exposed the Government for its total callousness and inept handling of the Ministry of Defence in such a critical situation. Therefore, I feel that since the Demand for Grant of Defence cannot be taken up and it will be guillotined on 25th, and the Minister is away, the Prime Minister is immediately accountable to the House under article 75, and he should clarify the position what is the latest situation of the preparedness of the defence.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I say that the Question Hour should be suspended and this particular issue should be taken up as greater priority of the nation.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going into the technicalities, but the notice for the suspension of Question Hour has already been rejected by me. I agree with you, but I cannot accept the notice for suspension of Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not my allegation, but it is an allegation in the salutary wisdom of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, you have rightly said that the Government should respond. Some other device can be used for this. I am prepared to help you to see which device can be used. You can use that device and the Government will reply on this.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is not my charge, but it is the charge of the Parliamentary Committee which you have constituted. That Parliamentary Committee gave a Report yesterday. Shri Madan Lal Khurana has gone public. Even there is a stricture on the Government. Now the Prime Minister is present here in the House. How can this question be compromised? It is the property of this House. It is not the question of Congress Party. Your Committee gave a report asking the Government how they mismanaged the defence, and the country is in a crisis. Why does the Prime Minister not respond how he will take care of this matter? It is a serious matter...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there cannot be any issue more important than that of the security of the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot suspend the Question Hour. But I do not mind the Government to respond, if they think so, at the proper time.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The distinguished Member of the BJP, Shri Madan Lal Khurana, is absent in the House. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this country is not safe in their hands. This country's security is not safe in their hands. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Prime Minister is here. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: On such an important issue, the Government will definitely require a notice. I have already told you that any of the other devices can be used to ask the Government to make a statement on this issue. If the Government is in a position to make the statement on this issue right now, I have no objection. The Prime Minister is here, he can go into it. You can use any of the other devices, and the Government will reply to the issue that you have raised.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is Question Hour and I

do not know. What we have started doing during Question Hour. This is also an approach that when there is Question Hour, stand up and raise the issue of your choice and stall the proceeding of the House and go on by hoisting the flag of your parliamentary tradition. Mr. Speaker, Sir, how this House will function? There is a committee of the Parliament. ...(*Interruptions*) Please let me speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You have allowed him to raise this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You have allowed me to raise this issue. I gave a notice under the rules. The Prime Minister is the Leader of the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will permit you to raise this issue during 'Zero Hour'.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have only quoted from the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. But the hon. Prime Minister is saying that we are not doing our duty properly. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: 'Zero Hour' is the right time to raise this issue. During 'Zero Hour', you can raise this issue again.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Are we setting up a new precedent in the House?

MR. SPEAKER: No precedent is being set, please sit down.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Are we going to discuss every report of the Standing Committee in the House? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has rightly raised this issue after giving me a notice that he desires to raise this issue because this issue is very important and he wanted the Question Hour to be suspended.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: As per rules, he gave the notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down and please listen to me. I have also informed him that though the issue is important in nature, yet, the Question Hour must get the priority and, therefore, after the Question Hour is over, I am going to allow him during 'Zero Hour' to raise this issue again. In the meantime, I am sure, the Government will make up its mind on this issue. Otherwise, he can use any of the other devices by which this issue can be raised in the House, but it should not be done during the Question Hour. That is exactly what the Prime Minister is saying that this can be raised at any other time but not during the Question Hour. I am sure, the hon. Member will understand the point made by the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have a submission on your observation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, we have been always cooperating and I respect your observation. However, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister said that we are not doing our duty properly. I am only quoting from the Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasad ji, the Prime Minister is on his legs to reply. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister wants to reply, please sit down. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please sit down. Let me make it clear that I do not want the Members to shout unnecessarily on this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: One should not behave like this in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I was submitting that it is Question Hour. Today you have called me for replying. I am answerable. I have to reply the Question printed in my name. I have been preparing therefor till late night. But the scene here is that one cannot ask the question. Why? If someone wants to raise more important issue than the should do so after the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is what he wants to say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take you seat. You have raised the issue and the Prime Minister has reacted to it. The Prime Minister has said that you could raise it after the Question Hour. Let the Question Hour be over first. You can raise the issue during the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Prime Minister has said that he is here to reply to the questions. I say that this is the main question before the country today.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough, now please take your seat.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give ruling so that the Question Hour is not disturbed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you.

[Translation]

I agree with you. I will do that.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): We have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Please raise that issue during the Zero Hour.

11.16 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Lack of Cancer Screening Facilities in Hospitals

[English]

*462. SHRI KHAGEN DAS:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are insufficient cancer screening facilities in the Government hospitals as reported in the 'Times of India' New Delhi dated March 18, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide proactive cancer screening facilities and its cure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Health being a State subject, it is for various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. Most of the primary, secondary and tertiary level health care facilities in the country have provision for early detection of common cancers like Breast, Uterine Cervix, Oral Cavity etc.

The Government of India is augmenting the State Government's efforts in provision of early detection, diagnosis and treatment facilities for cancer under various components of National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP). The District Cancer Control Programme (DCCP), a component of National Cancer Control Programme, focuses on early detection and prevention of cancer in selected districts by providing training and necessary equipments. The comprehensive cancer detection and management facilities in respective regions/States are extended by 20 Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs) established under NCCP. 14 Institutions including 12 Regional Cancer Centres have initiated population based cancer control programmes on pilot basis mainly for

screening of cancers of Cervix, Breast and Oral-Cavity. Under National Cancer Control Programme, through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), health education/awareness activities for prevention and early detection of cancer are undertaken. The Indian Council of Medical Research has also initiated a research project on screening for cancers of Cervix, Breast and Oral Cavity in three districts of Himachal Pradesh, which is expected to cover a population of about 15 lakhs.

The National Cancer Control Programme also provides financial assistance for augmenting diagnostic and treatment facilities under 'Cobalt Scheme (including Mammography Unit)' and 'Development of Oncology Wing in all Government Medical Colleges/Hospitals.'

The Central Government hospitals like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute for Post-Graduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry, etc. are well-equipped to provide specialized treatment for cancer.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is well aware that treatment of cancer is very expensive. A large majority of people who live below the poverty line are unable to undertake proper treatment for cancer and ultimately embrace a painful death. Their lives should be saved by providing free treatment to them. It is true that health is a State subject but the situation demands that the Central Government come forward to save the lives of hundreds and thousands of people from this deadly disease.

The first part of my question is, is it a fact that about 70 per cent of the cancers are preventable and largely treatable, if detected early? If so, how many Government hospitals in the country are equipped with modern sophisticated equipment and facilities for early detection of cancer? I want a specific reply to these questions.

I am sorry that I cannot agree with the hon. Minister when he states that most of the primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities in the country are equipped for early detection of common cancers like Breast, Uterine Cervix, Oral Cavity, etc. I come from a region where such facilities are highly inadequate. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to the time by which the Government proposes to equip properly at least all the State Government referral hospitals, particularly in

the backward and hilly States, and provide adequate funds and equipment for the same.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member when he says that 70 per cent of the cancer cases are curable provided the cases are detected at an early stage. If they are detected at a late stage, they cannot either be cured in time or sometimes they cannot be cured at all.

With regard to the question of the hon. Member, I would submit that we are launching a National Cancer Control Programme from the Government of India under which funds and schemes to State Government district level hospitals are being augmented.

At the district level, we are having District Cancer Control Societies under the chairmanship of either the Medical Officer of the district or the Collector of the district. We are also giving funds to the district level for early detection and prevention of the disease.

For curing the disease, we are having Regional Cancer Centres throughout the country where we are having district level units. We are having our own preventable and other systems to do research. We are providing not only the treatment but also the research about the new developments and further inventions for curing of the disease.

Sir, what the hon. Member has said may be true that some of the States may not be in a position to give more funds.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: It is not 'some of the States'. Same is the situation with most of the States.

SHRI A. RAJA: I will put it as most of the States. Most of the States may not be in a position to give more funds for treatment of the cancerous diseases. But if there are any proposals from any State Government to give more funds, as a Central Government, we will definitely consider it.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Sir, the hon. Minister is in the know that the present awareness campaign against this dreaded disease is most inadequate. Hither and thither, in some Government hospitals, some posters are visible other than the statutory warnings on packets of cigarettes and tobacco products. The NGOs' awareness campaign is also most inadequate.

So, in any second Supplementary, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any planning to go for widespread awareness campaign by using TV channels, radio and cinema slides regularly, other than printing of posters and making use of print media.

Sir, I would also like to know whether the Government proposes to request the State Governments to use the services of multipurpose workers and village level health workers in the awareness campaign so that the people up to the grass-root level can be taught.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, so far as the awareness activities through TV channels are concerned, it is with the States. But at present, we are having no such device.

As regards the second part of his question....

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Are you planning for it? That is the most important point.

SHRI A. RAJA: Yes. If necessary, we will call the Health Secretaries and the Health Ministers. We can advise them. But at present, we are having no device at all.

So far as the other activities by NGOs and other voluntary organisations are concerned, we have already selected some mother NGOs and selective NGOs at the district level. We have already given, in and around, Rs. 2.5 crore for the IEC activities. About the disease, as to how it can be cured and prevented, and other activities, already the voluntary organisations are being invited.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know whether we are planning for awareness. I would just like to tell him that November 7 is the National Cancer Awareness Day. This time we are planning a multi-media campaign for launching awareness on the day of November 7.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his written reply, has said that primary, secondary and tertiary level health care facility for cancer treatment is there. But there could have been only, at the best, 50 per cent cases, numbering seven lakh to eight lakh, which could be detected every year.

Sir, the hon. Minister has also said that 70 per cent of the cases are curable. As a medical practitioner, I can

say that such cases are detected early only at the district level where the facilities are available. But most of the cases come from the rural areas and there we do not have any primary facility to detect it and give early treatment. Even at the district level hospitals, unless we take up the proactive measures like the simple methods of detection of cancers—pap smear, mammography and chest x-rays—it is difficult to cure and prevent the disease.

Sir, most of the district level hospitals do not have all these facilities. Though the Health is a State subject, but I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the equipment for detection and treatment of cancer are very costly, and because of the financial constraints, it is not possible for any State Government to purchase such costly equipment.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question now.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: I would like to know whether the Government has got any proposal to provide such type of facilities at each district level because as per the Cancer Control Programme, only a few districts have been given such facilities. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether they are going to provide such facilities at each district level hospital of all the States. Thank you.

SHRI A. RAJA: I agree with the hon. Member that the district level hospitals should be equipped with mammography and pap-smear. The hon. Member is himself a doctor. I should share with the august House that to detect cancer, with all respect I can say, we are not exclusively dependent on mammography and pap-smear. For gullible masses, for common masses when they are coming with pain, when they are coming for a particular malignancy or unnatural growth in any part of the body, they may not be aware of cancer and they cannot be put directly for mammography of their body. They may come. We can have a CT-scan; we can have MRI; we can have x-ray.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: CT-scan is not necessary. A woman can feel the change in her body and she can present herself to there doctor. The past theory is a very simple method by taking a smear from the secretion.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI A. RAJA: I can share with the House that even the World Health Organisation has categorically said that mammography is not a conclusive proof to establish cancer.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: I do not say that.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not have cross talk with the Member. You can reply straightaway.

SHRI A. RAJA: I can share with the House that we do not feel handicapped in the absence of mammography or pap-smear. What I am submitted before the House is that whenever some abnormality occurs, we are having other devices. Suppose, a doctor or a hospital has some doubt in mind whether it is cancer or some other disease, we have certain devices including mammography. So, in this way, we do not feel handicapped. If it is necessary for a particular area, we will consider it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Unfortunately, my constituency Silchar is the highest cancer-prone area in the country. This being so, the hon. Prime Minister every month gets four to five letters from me to help patients and he does help. But the problem is, as you have rightly said, that some of the cancers can be detected at an early stage and they can be cured. So, we, irrespective of political party, have established a cancer hospital with private help. The employees have helped, the tea garden labourers have helped and a lot of amount has been spent. I had raised this issue in the Parliament and Shri C.P. Thakur had sent a delegation there. They visited that place and they recommended a chemotherapy plant there. But after I came, some bureaucrat said that they have decided that since the Silchar Medical College has got a plant which is an 18th century model, it cannot work. Most of the time it is out of order. It is the highest cancer-prone area. If you want, you can send another Committee to verify whether I am telling the truth or not. I see that both the hon. Ministers are quite energetic and quite capable of tackling the House.

SHRI A. RAJA: For Government hospitals, we have provided Rs. 1.5 crore to purchase cobalt-therapy unit. As the Government is well aware, only through the Government set-up, we cannot fulfil the aspirations of the needy. We have already launched schemes for NGOs and Trust hospitals, for which we are giving Rs. 1 crore. If the hon. Member is interested in one of the hospitals, whether it is in the Government or in the private sector, subject to the eligibility, feasibility and viability of the hospital, definitely we will consider it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Please go through the file.

SHRI A. RAJA: I will check it up.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the hon. Minister for making a special point in his reply. His idea of involving the NGO's in National Cancer Control Programme is a good one. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards an important thing. I do not know whether he is aware of it or not but it concerns lakhs of people. I will directly come to the question. There is a Tata Cancer Hospital in Mumbai in which the Government of India holds 50 percent stake. Tata Cancer Hospital has 50 percent members from the Government of India. The Government of India gives crores of rupees as grant to Tata Cancer Hospital. I have documents to support this. As per the agreement the hospital has to provide free cancer treatment to 70 percent of the poor persons who visit the hospital.

[English]

This is the legal side of the question.

[Translation]

But the ground reality is that the agreement between Government of India and Tata Cancer Hospital is being violated.

[English]

Not even one percent of the patients have been treated freely as per the condition of the agreement.

[Translation]

Nobody is being given free treatment.

[English]

My second important question is this. The world fame Dr. Advani—not the national fame—and 14 other renowned doctors have left their jobs because of one person who has been holding *ad hoc* charge as the Administrator. My request is this. It is a health-related activity. All health-related activities are undertaken in the hospital; the grant is being given by the Ministry of Atomic Energy.

[Translation]

This matter should be looked into so that lakhs of people are provided with the help.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: I take cognisance of what the hon. Member told about the misdeeds that are going on in the hospital; definitely I will look into it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Cancer has no answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as yet there is no medicine for cancer. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: But your question has an answer!

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Why are they laughing? Sir, this is too much. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: What is this? Sir, whenever I raise any issue, they are doing this. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am not joking. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may put your question.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If any cancer patient comes, you have to see his mind and face, as to how he faces the problem. Cancer medicines are very expensive. There are two submissions to the Government. Though 'health' is a State subject, the Government of India is having four medical centres for cancer treatment. Firstly, the Government has to set up more and more hospitals at the State level as a joint venture with States, Centre and the private sector.

Secondly, we are grateful to our hon. Prime Minister that he sanctions money from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, for poor people who are undergoing kidney or heart transplantation. There are lakhs of cancer patients and the cancer medicines are very expensive. They are not able to go to hospitals even for treatment. So, it will be good if for cancer treatment also they get help from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The House will be unanimous in this, if the Prime Minister can extend help. We will be grateful to the Prime Minister if he does it. This is my question.

SHRI A. RAJA: Regarding the first part of the question, as the hon. Member put it, apart from the four medical centres, we are having more regional cancer centres, about 20 in number, throughout the country. Apart from that also, we are having 14 institutions for which the WHO funding is there to detect and cure cancer. The Government of India is seriously considering to establish such cancer centres in Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, Goa and other 14 States in the forthcoming years.

Regarding kidney transplantation and other things, already funds are being availed of under the Prime Minister's Illness Fund. We are having no exclusive fund for kidney transplantation and others.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: But there is no such fund for cancer patients.

[*English*]

SHRI A. RAJA: If necessary, we can have a consultation with the hon. Prime Minister who is here now. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, cancer disease should also be included in it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what the Minister has to say.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, Mamataji said. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we seek to simplify the procedure of extending financial help to the patients from Prime Minister Relief Fund so that poor persons can have access to money. As of now it takes 4 to 6 months and even then they do not get money.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the subject of discussion.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Prime Minister to make this procedure simple since it creates problems for poor persons. They have to do a lot of paper work.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, the Minister is replying.

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is essential that the cancer patients get money. Since this provision is there they have to face a lot of problems.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ms. Mayawati's Government should be consulted before raising this question.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mamtaji has asked the question relating to extending financial help to cancer patients. Through you I want to inform the House that be it Prime Minister Relief Fund or National Illness Fund, financial help is extended out of all these funds for life treating diseases including cancer. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: But the patients do not get money on time.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a fund named National Illness Relief Fund under which money is given for life threatening diseases like cancer, heart diseases and for treatments like kidney transplantation and neuro-surgery. Lots of cancer patients have been extended financial help out of this fund. It is not that money is given only for kidney transplant or heart diseases. I want to inform the hon. Members that there is an arrangement for extending financial help to cancer patients through National Illness Relief Fund, the patients may send in their forms to get the financial help.

[*English*]

Shortage of Obstetric Care Drugs in Hospitals and PHCs

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*464. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether there is low availability of essential obstetric care drugs, resuscitation bags and new born care equipment in the hospitals and health care centres in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of such equipment/drugs in all the health care centres and hospitals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A facility survey conducted in Government health facilities in 221 districts in the country during 1998-1999, revealed that 21% Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 29% First Referral Units (FRUs), 15% Community Health Centres (CHCs) and 30% district hospitals had stocks of obstetric care drugs. 35% district hospitals, 36% FRUs and 15% CHCs were found to have newborn care equipments. The survey did not cover sub-centers.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme provision has been made for supply of essential obstetric care drugs and newborn care equipments at various health facilities keeping in view the capacity of the districts to provide obstetric and newborn services. For this purpose, the districts have been categorised into A, B, C categories on the basis of Crude Birth Rate and Female Literacy Rates, indicating that A category districts reflect good RCH status, B category medium and C category, a low RCH status. Drugs are being supplied in the form of different kits, directly to the Chief Medical and Health officers of the districts by Government of India.

The major type of drug kits supplied are as under:

Drug Kit-A & Drug Kit-B

These kits are supplied to all sub-centres in rural areas and some health posts in urban areas @ 2 kits per sub center/health post per year. Drug Kit-A contains 5 items for treatment of anaemia among women and children and treatment of diarrhoea, pneumonia and deficiency of Vitamin A among children. Drug Kit-B contains 10 general purpose drugs for minor ailments. 308635 kits including 27789 for urban areas, each of Kit-A and B have been supplied during 2002-03.

Essential Obstetric Care drug Kits (PHC Drug Kit)

These kits are supplied @ 1 kit each to 50% of PHCs in all 'B' category and 30% in all 'C' category districts. The kit contains 28 drugs facilitating provision of essential obstetric care and institutional deliveries. 6989 such kits have been supplied to the districts in various States in 2002-2003.

Emergency Obstetric Care drug kit (FRU Drug Kit)

These kits are supplied to FRUs and CHCs @ 3 kits in all 'C' category districts @ 2 kits in all 'B' category districts. The kit contains 65 items for facilitating provision of emergency obstetric care. 1157 such kits have been supplied during 2002-2003 to the districts in various States.

RTI/STI Drug Kits

Supplied to FRUs where RTI clinics are established by States (3 kits for all 'A' category districts, 2 for all 'B' category districts and 1 for all 'C' category districts). The kit contains 10 drugs for facilitating treatment of reproductive tract infections/sexually transmitted infections. During 2002-2003, 751 drug kits have been supplied to the districts.

Newborn Care Equipment

Newborn care is an important intervention under the RCH Programme and is being implemented in the districts in a phased manner starting with district with higher infant mortality rates. The objectives of newborn care intervention are (i) to train the medical personnel in Essential newborn care by imparting knowledge related to newborn health, (ii) to transfer the skills involved in the care of newborn baby at birth and thereafter, (iii) to improve neonatal health through effective utilization of available resources, (iv) to ensure effective and appropriate utilization of the equipment supplied for newborn care and (v) to ensure uniform reporting of neonatal health indices.

The supply of equipment is being done along with training of staff in the use of the equipment for resuscitation and treatment of sick newborn with the help

of National Neonatology Forum (NNF). The equipment is being supplied in the form of separate kits to PHCs (5 items), CHCs (7 items) FRUs (7 items) and District Hospitals (9 items) in selected districts. The details of the items supplied are given at Annexure-I.

During 2002, 60 districts were taken up in 16 States, 80 more districts have been added during 2003 (given in Annexure-II) and there is a plan to include 100 more districts in 2004.

Annexure-I

Essential newborn care equipment kits being supplied to different facilities

Item	District Hosp.	FRU/CHC	PHCs
Infant Radiant Warmer with Bassinet	4	2	1 (Table Lamp type)
Infant Resuscitation Bag	3	2	1
Oxygen Hoods	2	1	—
Infant Weighing Scale	3	2	1
Phototherapy Lamps/Units	1	1	—
Laryngoscope	2	—	—
Endotracheal tube	100	—	—
Bassinet	4	2	1
Foot Operated Suction	3	2	1

Annexure-II

Districts covered by NNF in initial phase of Operationalisation of District Newborn Care Under RCH programme

1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Ranga Reddy, Mehboobnagar, Warangal, Medak	
2.	Bihar	14	Patna, Nalanda, Madhubani and Chapra	East Champaran, Samastipur, Katihar, Arava, Bhagalpur, Lakhisarai, Jamein, Khargava, Kamur and Buxer
3.	Gujarat	5	Kutch, Banaskantha, Dangs, Pachmahal and Bharuch	
4.	Karnataka	3	Mandya, Mysore, Tumkur	

5.	Maharashtra	4	Satara, Kolhapur, Thane and Nasik	
6.	Madhya Pradesh	16	Ujjain, Khargaon, Khandawa, Deवास, Dhar, Obaidullaganj	Ratlam, Khargone, Badwani, Shahjapur, Mandsaur, Neemuch, Shivpuri, Bhind, Jhabua and Murena
7.	N.E. Region	6	Hailakandi (Assam), Dhubri (Assam), Aizwal (Mizoram), Dharmanagar (Tripura), Imphal (Manipur), Tura (Meghalaya)	
8.	Orissa	14	Bolangir, Sundergarh, Samphalpur, Bargarh	Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Kendrapada, Puri, Gajapati Nagar, Koraput, Phulbani, Kalahandi, Malkangeri and Sonpur
9.	Punjab	4	Faridkot, Faithgarh, Patiala and Amritsar	
10.	Rajasthan	14	Jodhpur, Jalaur, Pali and Barmer	Dausa, Taunk, Nagore, Sirohi, Bharatpur, Jaisalmer, Sikar, Alwar, Jhunjhunu and Bikaner
11.	Tamil Nadu	5	Dharampuri, Madurai, Dundigal, Tiheni and Salem	
12.	Uttar Pradesh	14	Faizabad, Gonda and Sultanpur	Bahraich, Basti, Azamgarh, Siddharth Nagar, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Lakhimpur, Bhadoi, Mirzapur, Badaun and Fatehpur
13.	West Bengal	3	Darjeeling, Bankura and Purullia	
14.	Jharkhand	2	West Singhbhum, Palamu	Devgan, Gumla, Banka, Kodarma, Goda, Hazaribagh, Girdih, Daltonganj, Dumka and Jamra
15.	Uttaranchal	11	Chamoli, Paurigarhwal	Pithoragrah, Haridwar, Dehradun, Nainital, Uttarkashi, Almora, Ranikhet, Udamsingh Nagar and Ramgarh
16.	Chhattisgarh	10		Jagdalpur, Dantewada, Kankar, Jaspur, Raigarh, Korba, Ambikapur, Rajnandgaon, Janigir and Dhamtari

[*Translation*]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the context of the reply that the Government has given, my question was whether the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is every important. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone to the next Question please sit down. Every question is important. Next Question is also important.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I gave 20 minutes to that question and four other members have asked questions. If you want more information in this regard then you can raise the issue in the House by any other way. This is not the only way.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it concerns lakhs of poor persons.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I gave sufficient time to this question. Next question also concerns the poor persons.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got the reply to my question. It seems that the Government does not have money and it cannot help in any way, the Government should admit this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was whether there is low availability of essential obstetric care drugs, resuscitation bags and new born care equipment in the hospitals and health care centres in the country, the hon. Minister should have replied in affirmative. He should have accepted that yes there is low availability and in some cases the equipments are not available at all. Hon. Minister has said in his statement that as per the survey of 1998-99, 21 percent Primary Health Centres, 29 percent First Referral Units and 30 percent District Hospitals have stocks of obstetric care medicines and infant care equipments. I asked in the next part of the question whether the Government has conducted any survey, the Government has replied that no such survey has been conducted in this regard till date. 80 percent of the population is poor. They do not get any facilities in the

hospitals. Hon. Minister has said in his reply that only 2 drug kits are being supplied in 14 districts of Uttar Pradesh. The Government is not concerned about poor persons. The Government is not extending any help to poor women folk who can not even afford a square meal. The Primary Health Care Centres and Hospitals are in a very bad condition. The Government of India should admit it if it is not doing anything in this regard. The Government has neither conducted any survey nor shown any interest in this matter.

I have asked what steps have been taken to ensure availability of equipments and medicines in all the Health Centres and Hospitals in the country. You have not told what steps are being taken in this regard. I want to know how long you will take to make all these facilities available to poor women folk since they are unable to go to hospital even after falling ill. The women in the rural areas take the services of untrained midwives for delivery. Kits are not being made available in Hospitals. Either the Government does not have money or it is not serious in this regard. The reply to my question is not correct. I request the hon. Minister to pay attention towards this.

[*English*]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I can say with proud that under the Chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister, only this Government had declared National Health Policy, 2000 and the National Population Policy after a long period. We are having our own goal not only in the mind but on the ground also.

Sir, it is needless to submit before the House that India is a very big country where health is a State subject, though we are having 1,40,000 Sub-Centres throughout the country and 25,000 Primary Health Centres in and around the country. There are also 3500 district level hospitals or Community Health Care Centres in and around the country.

So far as the obstetric care is concerned, there are three categories. We have to have much care about the pregnant women, that is, no conception, after the conception and before the delivery. For this, all Sub-Centres are being taken care of economically, rather in administrative sense also, by the Central Government, for which we are spending almost Rs. 1050 crore per year to give all medicines for anaemia, diarrhoea, pneumonia and deficiency of Vitamin A. Nowhere in the country, the Central Government has come across that such kits are not at all available to the common people, to the pregnant woman or child.

Regarding the essential obstetric kit, we have selected PHCs according to the crude birth rate and female literacy rate. We have selected 50 per cent of the PAC for essential obstetric kit and first referral unit for emergency obstetric kit also. All these three tier systems are being covered by the Government of India. Particularly, I want to insist that so far as pregnancy period at the time of delivery is concerned, both the mother and child are being taken care of only by the Government of India. I can say that.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got the reply as yet. I want to know whether the Government is conducting any survey or not. Whether the Government have got the required fund or not. In your reply you have said that the kits and medicines are directly being sent to the district hospitals. But the question is whether supply of the same is communicated to the Members of Parliament of that district or not and whether the kits sent are reaching the people living below the poverty line or not? I want to know whether the survey has been conducted and if not, by when you propose to get it conducted? I know that ours is a vast country with a large population but what are the steps being taken by or proposed to be taken by the Government for the welfare of the poor—for poor mothers, sisters and for those who are living below the poverty line? If the Government say that this being a State subject the Government of India have nothing to speak on the matter, then it should explicitly say that they could not do anything about that. I think that this Government have so far done nothing. You have mentioned that name of my district Jaunpur, I would like to say in this regard that so far no one has received any kits or medicines there. I am damn sure about it as that is my district.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member is saying time and again that we have not got any survey conducted and that we have no money. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I am not saying, you have said in the reply that the survey was conducted in 1999.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I am telling you after going through the reply. The first line of it is.

[English]

"A facility survey conducted in Government health facilities in 221 districts in the country."

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen that.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: This is the opening sentence but inspite of that he is repeating the same thing that we have not conducted a survey in this regard. The very first sentence of the written reply is "A facility survey was conducted". The word 'survey' means 'survekshan' in Hindi. So far as funds are concerned, I want to submit that we have never said that the family welfare programme is a matter of State subject.

Family Welfare Programme, R.C.H. programme is totally centrally funded. The 1,37,311 sub centres which are being run in India are getting their entire supply from the Union Government and they are totally funded by it. In those centres total salary for AN.Ms. is being funded by the Union Government. So it is not proper to say that we have got no funds for that we have not got a survey conducted. The Government have never said so. Once again I would like to submit, through you, that on the basis of the census of 1991 one sub-centre should exist for a population of 5000 people.

Basing on that calculation there was a shortage of 8200 sub centres. Recently a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the hon'ble Prime Minister in which during this year, 8200 sub-centres were decided to be set-up, besides the additional 469 sub centres to be opened in the desert areas of Rajasthan *i.e.* we are providing funds for the 1,37,311 sub centres and this year we would add another 8669 sub centres and the Union Government would bear the whole expenditure. So we are not shying away from our responsibility on the pretext that this is a State subject.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I have asked you to let me know as to whether any survey is being conducted to ascertain that the persons living below the poverty line were getting those kits and medicines or not? Whether there is any transparency or the things are being sent only on papers only and are not actually reaching hospitals? I have asked these things which the hon'ble Minister did not reply to. You replied on the basis of the survey of 1991.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the hon. Minister just mentioned that all the funds for family planning programme go from the Centre. I am very happy to hear this. But is the Minister aware that in Uttar Pradesh, in the family planning camps, for lack of equipment, cycle pumps are being used for women's sterilisation? These are Press reports and some pictures have also appeared. One pair of gloves is being used for up to 50 cases by the doctors for lack of equipment. I am not saying this; these reports have been published in the newspapers.

Sir, as Chairman of the Committee on Empowerment of Women I wrote to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. She never replied. I wrote to your predecessor and also sent those reports, but there was no reply. He was busy with something else. I also wrote to the Human Rights Commission saying that this is a violation of the women's rights. The Human Rights Commission has issued a notice to the Government of Uttar Pradesh asking for an on-the-spot study and a report.

You are in alliance with the Government there. You must be knowing what is happening. These are the reports of the camps in Uttar Pradesh where women are being subjected to this kind of ignominy. I am sorry to say that the hon. Minister is talking about the funding and saying that all the equipment are available. I would like to have your response to this. This is the report of the Committee on Empowerment of Women.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this was personally told to me by Margaret Alvaji. For confirmation of the facts we wrote to the Uttar Pradesh Government that day itself. After getting the report from them I would be able to tell him about it.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Three months have elapsed with regard to this matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Three months have not elapsed. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The report has not so far been received from Mayawatiji.

[English]

She is busy with birthday celebrations. She has no time for women.

[Translation]

What is happening in Uttar Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

Price Control of Life Saving Drugs

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*465. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) the details of the drugs that have been put in the list of Life Saving Drugs;

(b) whether some drugs which were earlier in the list of Life Saving Drugs have been removed from the list resulting in tremendous increase in their prices;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has issued any direction to the Government to lay down the criteria to bring essential and life saving medicines under price control; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) At present, 128 drugs are categorized as life saving drugs for purposes of import vide notification No. 26/2003-customs dated 1.3.2003. These are exempt from customs duty.

(b) and (c) Some drugs which were earlier exempt from Customs duty and had started being manufactured indigenously were deleted from this list in March, 2002. In order to provide reasonable incentives to the domestic manufacturers of these drugs, a basic customs duty of 5% was proposed on their import.

In view of there being indigenous production of these drugs, the question of tremendous price increases should not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The issue is under inter-ministerial consultation for appropriate action.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part (d) of the Question is whether the Supreme Court has issued any direction to the Government to lay down the criteria to bring essential and life saving medicines under price control. Though the reply is given in affirmative, yet the details have not been given. I just want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have fully implemented the interim order of the Supreme Court.

It has appeared in the newspaper that the Ministry is having consultations with the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers and the Ministry of Law to seek a definition of the essential and life saving drugs. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is having any proposal to have a legislation as to how the Government is going to fulfil the commitment made by the Government to implement the interim order of the Supreme Court.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I want to inform the hon'ble Member that the interim order of the Supreme Court is not clear enough in itself. So the Government is approaching the Supreme Court to get their clarification in this regard. That order has been delivered on our S.L.P. against the Karnataka High Court. The Karnataka High Court while hearing the P.I.L. had put a stay on those parts of the policy implementation which were related with price control. But when we approached the Supreme Court with the S.L.P., the Supreme Court vacated that stay order but rest of the decisions were the same as were delivered by the Karnataka High Court. So, as of now it is not clear enough as to what the Supreme Court really want from us. For this we are going to the Supreme Court for their clarification. When the Supreme Court will clarify as to what they expect from us only then we could implement that order. We are moving to the Supreme Court for clarification.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, I would like to know either in view of the order of the Supreme Court,

any legislation is being considered to be brought in this regard or not.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what she has said.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer to this question lies in the clarification itself. Firstly, let the Supreme Court know us as to what it wants. When we come to know what the Supreme Court wants only then we would consider about bringing in a legislation etc.

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Kidney transplantation and medicines and drugs for treatment of other diseases like heart and diabetes have become very expensive and the common man cannot afford to buy them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether keeping in view all these things the Government is considering to make available the drugs for these diseases at cheaper and subsidised rates so that common men could make use of these drugs in the hospitals.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is absolutely wrong to say that drugs have become expensive due to the imposition of five percent import duty. Firstly I should make it very clear that five percent import duty has been imposed on only those drugs which are being manufactured in India also and these drugs produced in India are cheaper. Five percent import duty has been imposed so that the drug manufactures in India should also get the benefit. At the same time, this has also been taken into account that the Indian customer gets these medicines manufactured in India at cheaper rates. So it is not correct to say that the prices of medicines have gone up because five percent import duty has been imposed. The medicines manufactured in India are cheaper and the people are getting cheaper medicines.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my main question was—Price Control of Life saving Drugs—and in the Part A of the reply it has been said that

[English]

details of drugs that have been put in the list of life-saving drugs.

[*Translation*]

Mr reservation in this regard is that in the reply the list of life saving drugs has not been enclosed. I, through you, want to bring it to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that earlier there were 270 medicines in the list of the life saving drugs which has been reduced to 126 now. In this way 144 medicines have been deleted from that list and idea behind this deletion is stated to be Government's efforts to promote the imported medicines, costly medicines and especially the indigenous medicine industry.

Sir, still 35 to 40 per cent people of this country are living below poverty line and they get medicines at unaffordable rates. So I would like to say that 144 medicines have been removed from the list of life saving drugs to give benefit to multinational companies. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister, through you, that only 126 medicines have been kept in the list of life saving drugs for the year of 2003 whereas 144 medicines have been removed from the list of 270 drugs and that's why poor people of this country are not getting these medicines at cheaper rates and informations regarding medicines which have been removed from the list of life saving drugs have also not been given. I, therefore, request you kindly to place the list of removed medicines before the House.

Sir, second thing I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister, through you is that this matter relates to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and which should have been answered by this Ministry itself as they have deleted the said 144 medicines but here the reply of this question is being given by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. Thus this matter is being dealt with by two Ministries. I feel that the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers wants to give benefit to multinational companies that's why these medicines have been removed from that list. But the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare wants that the citizens of this country could get medicines at cheaper rates. So, Sir my request to the Prime Minister, through you, is that he should intervene in this matter. I would like to submit to the Prime Minister, through you, that this subject should be transferred from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare again. At the same time, I would like to say that today these medicines are available in market at much higher rates which are two to four times higher than what they used to be. and it is all because of deletion of 144 drugs. And which is why poor man cannot purchase these medicines today. Therefore, would you like to include these 144 medicines in the list of life saving drugs again?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that this question is based on certain false impressions and is full of misinformation. The terminology like Life Saving Drugs is not used in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Second thing is that neither the Department of Chemicals of the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers nor the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do the job of inclusion of exclusion of medicines. This job is done by the Department of Revenue. A third Ministry, the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue is doing this job. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: It includes Revenue Ministry. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir the hon'ble Minister is misleading the House. This question relates to one hundred crore people of this country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let her reply if you want a reply to your question. You must allow her to speak. You cannot interrupt like this.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Pugliaji, please sit down or else reply of your question would not come.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Let me reply first. I am replying. I have to say that a terminology like "Life Saving Drugs" is used only by the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance for custom duty structure. This terminology i.e. "Life Saving Drugs" is neither used by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare nor the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. As far as the removal of medicines from the list is concerned, the Department of Revenue has done this job for custom duty structure. They are saying that it has been done to give benefit to multinational companies but on the contrary, reality is totally different because this list has been prepared only for duty structure. Earlier there was zero per cent duty on them but now five per cent duty has been imposed due to which the list of 270 drugs has come down to only 126 drugs. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: No control seems to be there. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: First of all you listen to me. This system is not going to give any benefit to

multinational companies. It is your wrong impression. You will know the truth if you read the speech of Finance Minister for the year 2002-03. He has categorically stated in his speech that they were going to remove some drugs from the list and they propose to impose five per cent duty on them as their manufacturing has started in India. Five per cent import duty has been imposed only to provide benefit to Indian manufacturers so that Indian customer can get medicine at cheaper rates. The "life saving drugs" is a none enclave terminology which is used only by the Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India does not use this terminology *i.e.* Life Saving Drugs. We use another terminology *i.e.* "essential drugs". Therefore we have increased it to 337 from 279. It is the list of essential drugs. There is confusion between life saving drugs and essential drugs on your part. That is why I said that your question is based on false notions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Then why did not you enclose the list along with your reply. When I asked for the details you did not give any list why are you hiding it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I will give that list. I am not hiding that. I will give the list of essential drugs. I will present the details of those 126 medicines also which are included in the list of Life Saving Drugs by the Department of Revenue. There is no question to hide anything in this regard. There is total transparency in functioning of the Government and whatever papers or documents you ask for, we will lay on the Table of the House.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the list of essential drugs which are to be exempted from excise duty also. What is the decision of the Ministry in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kirit ji there is shortage of time. So please ask your question in very brief.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I want to know whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will tell all the States and their coordination committees to exempt 12.5 per cent VAT on life saving drugs?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Hon'ble Member of Parliament has rightly said that both Custom and Excise duty are charged on these medicines. As he said we

have received several reports wherein people have desired that VAT should be reduced and five per cent import duty should also be reduced. It should not be allowed to be 25 per cent. We are sending all of the said reports to Ministry of Finance with our recommendations.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 466—Shri Y.V. Rao - absent.

Q. No. 467—Shri Arun Kumar—absent.

Shri Dileep Sanghani—absent.

Illegal Routing of Long Distance Calls

*468. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the private operators have been nabbed for illegally routing national long distance calls in violation of their licence and interconnect agreement with the BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against such private operators?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) M/s World Callnet (Cleartel as brand name) was advertising and selling the pre-paid Subscriber Trunk Dialling (STD)/International Subscriber Dialling (ISD) cards to telephone customers in the garb of Virtual Calling Card (VCC). The STD/ISD calls made from MTNL/BSNL customers were being routed through the telephone lines obtained by Cleartel from M/s Bharti Telenet Limited. Thus the STD/ISD calls originated by MTNL/BSNL customers using these pre-paid cards were being converted into the originating calls of Bharti Telenet Ltd. by such an arrangement and MTNL/BSNL were deprived of their legitimate revenues for the STD/ISD calls. The matter was reported to Police. One person was arrested and illegal operation stopped. No case in respect of any other private operator has come to the notice of the Government.

Further, 54 cases have been detected since 1.1.2002 relating to bypassing of international long distance network. Action has been taken by lodging complaints relating to these offences with the local police. The city-wise break up is as follows:—

New Delhi	23
Kolkata	05
Bangalore	03
Mumbai	09
Chennai	10
Trichy	01
Chandigarh	01
Jaipur	01
Ludhiana	01

The Government takes suitable action raids with the help of C.B.I./Police for stopping illegal routing of national and international traffic.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by hon'ble Minister because firstly no details have been given regarding the revenue loss suffered. Secondly, the details have not been given in respect of breach of agreement. And thirdly the details have not been given regarding the action taken against licensee.

MR. SPEAKER: Subodhji please ask question quickly otherwise you would not feel satisfied again. You will not feel satisfied if you do not ask the question.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: My question is the same that answer to the above mentioned queries is not available in the reply and therefore I am not feeling satisfied.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

New Technology of Road Construction

*463. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to change the Indian standard code adopted by the construction industry in view of the emerging new technologies used in construction of roads and highways; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to introduce new concept of road construction in the Golden Quadrilateral Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The Specifications for Road and Bridge Works being adopted for National Highways have been updated and published in August, 2001. The updated version provides for introduction of new techniques and innovative materials on National Highways.

(b) The revised Specifications are being already adopted in the Golden Quadrilateral project.

Protection of Satellites/Launch Vehicles

*466. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether space junk is found to cause a lot of harm to the satellites and the launch vehicles;

(b) if so, the extent to which Indian satellites have faced this problem; and

(c) the methods adopted to avert the said problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Launch vehicles and satellites are exposed to possible risks of damage by space junk, also known as space debris. The probability of damage is, however, low.

(b) Indian Satellites have not experienced this problem so far.

(c) Close approaches of the catalogued space debris with our active and operational satellites are evaluated and appropriate avoidance measures are taken.

In the case of launch vehicles, the probability of collision is evaluated just prior to launch and the launch window is accordingly adjusted.

Similarly, satellites could be appropriately maneuvered out of collision path, if so required.

Adequate redundancy is built into systems to minimise the loss of functionality.

Measures are also taken to avoid debris creation by our launchers by making the spent stages passive and minimizing the operational debris by design.

ISRO also participates in Inter Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) to develop international consensus on monitoring, mitigation, modeling, and prediction to minimise the risk due to space debris.

[Translation]

Sick SSI Units

*467. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

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

(a) whether incidence of sickness amongst small scale industries is on the increase;

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

(c) the trends of sickness during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the revival of the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES
AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR):
(a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the latest data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), from the Scheduled Commercial banks, the number of sick Small Scale Industries (SSI) units has declined during the last three years. The number of sick SSI units in the country as at the end of March, 2000, 2001 and 2002 has been as under:—

Year (As at the end of March)	Number of sick SSI units
2000	3,04,235
2001	2,49,630
2002	1,77,336

The State-wise details of sick SSI units at the end of March, 2000, 2001 and 2002 are given at statement enclosed.

(d) The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries including institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter Institutional Committees, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, 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 Scheduled Commercial banks for implementation.

Statement

Number of sick small scale industries (State/UT-wise)

State/Union Territory	As at the end of March		
	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4
Assam	11445	8632	5530
Meghalaya	528	376	281

1	2	3	4
Mizoram	41	27	25
Bihar	26909	16423	15181
Jharkhand	—	—	2105
Arunachal Pradesh	120	75	12
West Bengal	143893	113846	53957
Nagaland	168	119	130
Manipur	5577	4150	1060
Orissa	7444	6668	5334
Sikkim	25	23	56
Tripura	7170	5352	1945
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	31	18	13
Uttar Pradesh	21235	23117	17843
Uttaranchal	—	—	2193
Delhi	3309	2143	1892
Punjab	1897	1836	1902
Haryana	2952	1285	889
Chandigarh	156	153	145
Jammu & Kashmir	2002	848	2438
Himachal Pradesh	893	368	394
Rajasthan	7560	6395	3792
Gujarat	5928	5408	6679
Maharashtra	9115	8056	7270
Daman & Diu	10	57	4
Goa	161	98	149
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	46	12	12
Madhya Pradesh	6072	6614	6964
Chhattisgarh	—	—	64
Andhra Pradesh	12461	11841	9324
Karnataka	5416	4400	4254
Lakshadweep	0	1	0
Tamil Nadu	11602	9959	11513
Kerala	9017	11144	13825
Pondicherry	1052	186	161
Total	304235	249630	177336

[English]

Promotion of Hindi

*469. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes organised abroad for promotion of Hindi during the last two years;

(b) whether any publicity programme is also organised abroad for promotion and use of Hindi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of countries, where Hindi is taught in Universities/Schools and the assistance being provided by the Indian Missions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The Ministry has taken several concrete steps during the year 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 for promotion and propagation of Hindi abroad. Twenty-nine Hindi teachers were appointed in Indian Missions abroad under a special scheme called '*Baal Hindi Kakshaa*' to teach Hindi to children in Indian Embassies. During the years 2001-2003, fifteen Indian Missions abroad have been given financial grants to celebrate *Hindi Diwas*. Several Indian Missions/

Posts organised *Hindi Diwas* by way of holding competitions and cultural programmes.

Standard Hindi learning material and literature on various subjects, such as Indian Culture, Art, Literature, Language, History and Philosophy, was sent to Indian Missions for their libraries and also for donating to educational institutions, temples and various voluntary organizations engaged in promotion and propagation of Hindi in the countries to their accreditation. Prominent Hindi magazines were also sent to Missions/Posts abroad. Teaching material, including textbooks, dictionaries, audio-visual cassettes, computer software, CD-ROM etc. were also sent on a regular basis.

In addition to these, four Regional Hindi Conferences have been held at Budapest (Hungary), Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago), Kathmandu (Nepal) and London (UK) with the assistance and cooperation of the Ministry. Hindi officers, as Attache (Hindi)/Second Secretary (Hindi), have also been posted in six countries, namely, Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad & Tobago, UK, Nepal and Suriname. They have been laising with different groups, organisations and scholars in order to propagate Hindi among them.

With the increasing awareness of Hindi in many countries, several foreign Universities/institutions have incorporated Hindi as a subject in their departments. A country-wise list of such Universities/institutions is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Name of the Country	University	Institutions/ Schools	Organisations/ NGOs
1	2	3	4
1. Finland	Helsinki Univ.		
2. Thailand	Thammasat Univ., Silpakorn Univ. Burapha Univ.	New International School of Thailand, Thai Sikh international school, Bangkok	
3. Canada	Univ. of British Columbia, Univ. of Calgary, Concordia Univ., Univ. of Guelph, Univ. of Manitoba, Univ. of Regina, Mc. Master Univ.	Ottawa Carleton Distt. School Board	

1	2	3	4
4. Bulgaria	Sofia Univ.	Indira Gandhi School, Sofia	
5. Austria		Brigittenu Volkschule/ Vienna Intl. School	
6. Vitenam	Ho. Chi Minh City Univ.		
7. Russian Federation	Moscow State Univ. Peoples' Friendship University, Moscow, Humanities University, Moscow, Far Eastern National University, Valdivostok	Hindi School No. 19, Moscow, Moscow State Institute of Intl. Relations Instt. of Asia & Africa, Instt. of Oriental Studies, Moscow, Instt. of Philosophy, Moscow, Humanitarian Christian Instt., St. Petersburg, Instt. of Oriental Studies, St. Petersberg, School No., 7, Valdivostok	
8. Italy	Univ. of Rome, Univ. of Venice, Univ. of Milan		Italian Instt. For Africa & the Orient, Oriental Instt.of Naples.
9. Poland	Warsaw Univ. Tagiellonian Univ. Krakowadam Miciewicz Univ.		
10. U.S.A.	Univ. of Texas, Houston, Atlanta, Berkley, Stanford Univ.		
11. Saudi Arabia		From LKG to XII stanard in Seven Indian schools	
12. UAE		In large number of schools	
13. Germany	Univ. of Mainz, Univ. of Bonn. Univ. of Heidelberg,		Deutsche Indische Cuture Institute Frankfurt, S.K. Lugani Manawa Bharati
14. Ukraine	Tara Shevchenko National Univ. Kiev,	Kiev Gymnasium of Orietal Languages (Secondary school) Oriyana Kinder Garten school	Institute of Linguistics and Law
15. Croatia	Zagreb Univ.		
16. Kingston Jamaica		Schools in Kingston	

1	2	3	4
17. Ethiopia		Indian National School, Addis Ababa	
18. Fiji	Univ. of South Pacific	In 400 schools	
19. Israel	Tel Aviv Univ., Hebrew Univ. Jerusalem		
20. Chile	Santiago Univ.		
21. Yemen		Senior Secondary level	
22. Trinidad & Tobago	Univ. of West Indies	21 govt. schools in Trinidad	
23. Tajikistan	TSNU Dushanbe		
24. Mauritius	University of Mauritius	Primary/Secondary Schools	Mahatma Gandhi Institute
25. Kazakhstan	Kazakh State Univ. of Al Farabi, Almati		Indian Culture Center conducts Hindi classes
26. Singapore		Schools	Singapore Hindi Society and DAV Hindi school
27. Bhutan (Thimpu)		Schools	
28. Japan	Tokyo Institute of Foreign Studies, Univ. of Tokyo, Osaka Univ. of Foreign Studies.		
29. Armenia	Yerewan State Univ. and Acharian Univ. yerewan	Institute of Oriental Studies of the Georgian Academy of Sciences, Tbilisi	
30. Czech Republic	Charles Univ. in the Deptt. of Indology †		
31. UK	Oxford Univ.	Schools in Birmingham	
32. Hungary	ELTE Univ., Deptt. of Indo-European Studies		
33. Australia	Univ. of Sydney		
34. Sri Lanka	Sabragamuva Univ.		
35. S. Korea	Hankuk Univ. Busan Univ. of Foreign Studies		
36. Mexico	Colegio de Mexico in Mexico City		

1	2	3	4
37. S. Africa		Islamia Primary school Local schools in Cape Town, Durban	Hindi Siksha Sangh
38. China	Beijing Univ., Dept. of Foreign Languages		
39. Germany	Ludwig Maximilians Univ., Munich, Eberhard Karls Univ, Tibingen, Univ. of Heidelberg	Local schools	Hindi Siksha Sangh
40. Norway	Deptt. of East European & Oriental Studies, Univ. of Oslo		
41. Spain	Univ. of Madrid (basic course)		
42. Indonesia	Udayan Univ. (Jakarta)	Gandhi International School, DPS, Rama International School	
43. Estonia	Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallin, Univ. of Tartu		
44. Uzbekistan	3 Junior colleges, 2 Universities, 1 research Institute,	Four schools	
45. Botswana		Two Schools in Gaborone and Maun	
46. Kuwait		11 schools in Kuwait	
47. France	Institute Nationale Des Langues Et Civilisations Orientales	Upto 12th standard in International school of Paris	
48. Malaysia		Hindi school Kuala Lumpur	
49. Nigeria		Indian Languages school in Lagos	
50. Guyana			Guyana Hindi Prachar Sabha, Guyana Hindi Dharmik Sabha

Assistance offered by SIDBI

*470. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) the details of the assistance provided by the Small Industries Development Bank of India to Small Scale Sector for setting up new and modernisation/revival of existing units during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of small scale units set up and modernized by the SIDBI during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether the SIDBI proposes to expand its activities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR):
(a) and (b) The details of the number of small scale units assisted and the amount of assistance sanctioned and disbursed by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), State-wise, during the last three years is given in the Statement enclosed. The details include assistance provided for setting up of new projects and modernization/revival of existing small scale units.

(c) and (d) SIDBI has been continuously adopting new strategies to facilitate healthy growth to the small scale sector in all the States and would continue to take new initiatives for the SSI sector.

Statement**State-wise assistance by SIDBI**

(Rs. crores)

Region/State	1999-2000			2000-01			2001-02		
	No.	Sanct	Disrbts	No.	Sanct	Disbt	No.	Sanct	Disbt
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
EASTERN REGION									
Bihar	7626	103.07	96.74	4734	91.86	73.6	1721	33.77	29.19
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	18.81	14.5
Orissa	3664	188.38	137.11	4970	213.85	164.44	2234	132.99	91.76
Sikkim	183	2.45	3.72	86	1.1	1.09	87	1.25	1.24
West Bengal	812	218.55	183.58	344	366.97	171	425	296.98	190.42
A & N Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.06	0.05
Sub-Total	12285	512.45	421.5	10134	673.78	410.13	4473	483.86	327.16
N.E. REGION									
Arunachal Pradesh	191	1.46	1.48	213	1.67	1.67	270	2.13	2.13
Assam	1608	13.31	13.70	704	34.62	20.16	1171	23.35	19.36
Manipur	606	4.79	4.18	50	6.39	7.27	91	1.52	1.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Meghalaya	128	4.43	4.02	89	7.52	5.43	32	2.94	4.72
Mizoram	90	1.06	1	81	1.9	1.51	44	1.04	0.81
Nagaland	1	1.48	1.48	189	3.8	2.82	390	2.53	2.47
Tripura	406	5.01	5.1	335	7.85	6.5	49	1.43	1.27
Sub-Total	3030	31.54	30.33	1661	63.75	45.36	2047	34.94	32.28
NORTHERN REGION									
Haryana	660	247.97	229.28	483	215.19	139.43	83	418.86	229.48
Himachal Pradesh	2290	38.18	32.4	1291	35.68	29.9	248	35.21	26.17
J&K	707	17.9	16.9	454	184.26	92.58	260	219.75	137.62
Punjab	1904	269.9	210.29	1541	597.74	412.6	284	247.72	184.58
Rajasthan	951	245.96	195.23	629	675.18	338.5	527	214.25	165.12
Uttar Pradesh	965	197.92	173.77	9867	394.45	238.65	2393	487.49	286.67
Chandigarh	176	129.59	17.25	43	95.68	14.56	225	95.5	61.35
Delhi	603	261.91	133.77	3371	668.83	351.61	1147	703.36	418.77
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	116	63.19	8.31
Sub-Total	8256	1409.42	1008.89	17679	2867	1617.8	5283	2485.33	1518.05
WESTERN REGION									
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	264	17.9	15.8
Goa	389	75.26	78.36	74	111.24	85.44	83	56.84	45.64
Gujarat	1771	698.21	417.36	741	1193.7	716.1	805	975.58	574.41
Madhya Pradesh	17137	284.59	228.07	9766	473.69	327.96	275	272.89	190.29
Maharashtra	2466	1036.85	820.76	1125	2061.9	1320.8	1134	1704.5	1215.1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15	16.21	13.31	7	6.79	5.2	5	37.69	23.95
Daman & Diu	1	2.19	1.3	0	20.85	11.61	1	15.87	9.33
Sub-Total	21779	2113.31	1559.07	11713	3888.2	2467.1	2567	3081.27	2074.52
SOUTHERN REGION									
Andhra Pradesh	4630	276.02	222.51	4180	473.31	268.24	1053	334.4	215.03
Karnataka	11889	401.07	302.79	2929	862.12	510.7	2434	706.11	550.25
Kerala	2798	356.13	317.38	1161	555.58	389.05	1009	534.66	395.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tamil Nadu	4573	616.04	442.77	2249	1373.9	664.78	2189	1199.74	711.23
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	35	1.87	2.81	8	18.93	8.99	4	5.49	5.02
Sub-Total	23925	1651.13	1288.26	10527	3283.9	1841.8	6689	2779.4	1877.06
Total	69275	5717.85	4307.7	51714	10777	6382.2	21059	8864.82	5829.07
Detail N.A.	538	4546.89	2655.8	490	44.02	59.23	620	160.7	90.26
Grand Total	69813	10264.7	6963.5	52204	10821	6441.4	21679	9025.52	5919.33

[Translation]

Legislation on HIV Test

*471. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jammu & Kashmir High Court has made it mandatory the HIV test to be conducted before marriage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to frame necessary legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which the legislation is likely to be framed?

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

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

(c) No Sir.

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

Complaints Against Postal Delivery

*472. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) the number of complaints received in regard to delayed/non-delivery of ordinary-post, registered-post, speed-post and insured-post during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the above said complaints have not been redressed by the Ministry so far;

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

(d) the action taken by the Government for early redressal of these complaints and the punishment of the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The number of complaints received in regard to delayed/non-delivery of ordinary post, registered post, speed post, and insured post during the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 Circle-wise is given in the enclosed statement. These are a very small fraction of the total quantum handled.

Prompt action is initiated for redressal of the complaints as soon as they are received, and they are continuously monitored till they are settled. On receipt of complaints, simultaneous enquiries are taken up with the office of booking and the office of delivery. Most of the complaints received are settled within the time norms prescribed by the Department. A few cases are delayed due to detailed enquiries taken up to investigate the complaints.

Efforts are being made continuously for early redressal of these grievances and the punishment of those responsible. Some specific steps taken by the Department in this regard are as follows:

- (i) Setting up of computerized Customer Care Centres all over the country for on-line processing of complaints. During the 9th Five Year Plan, 230 such computerized Customer Care Centres have been set up.
- (ii) Providing the facility of on-line registration of complaint to the customer by accessing our website without visiting the post office.
- (iii) Nomination of Public Grievance Officer in the Circle office to monitor web based complaints pending at the website.
- (iv) Reduction in time limit for settlement of complaints based on induction of technology and revised procedure of handling complaints.
- (v) Electronic Track and Trace System has been implemented for Speed Post wherein a customer can find out the status of his consignment on-line through the internet. All Speed Post centres in the national network have been computerized.
- (vi) Installation of Automatic Mail Processing Centres at Mumbai and Chennai for speedier processing of large volume of mail.
- (vii) Computerization of Registration Sorting Work and Transit Mail Offices in a phased manner.
- (viii) Live Mail Survey at regular intervals and surprise checks on delivery of mails by the supervisory staff and officers.
- (ix) Regular monitoring of mail routing and delivery by posting Test Letters/Trial Cards.
- (x) Organising special drives for focused management attention to delivery of registered, insured articles from time to time.
- (xi) Release of Citizen's Charter expressing commitments, obligations and service norms to serve the customers better and sensitising the employees about these norms.
- (xii) Suitable departmental action is initiated against the erring officials whenever any lapse is noticed by them. During 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, 937 officials have been awarded various punishments like censure, withholding of increment, recovery from pay, put off duty, removal/dismissal from service, debarring from appearing in departmental examinations etc. depending on the gravity of the offence.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Ordinary Post			Registered Post Including letter, Parcels & value payable articles			Speed Post			Insured Post		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Assam	39	25	—	1784	1587	1079	137	142	100	20	14	—
2.	A.P.	115	90	100	2186	1620	888	68	74	205	45	31	—
3.	Bihar	640	510	233	2041	2240	2842	257	260	—	169	142	279
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	28	—	240	2716	—	—	101	—	—	—
5.	Delhi	513	420	619	15079	13070	15047	171	152	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	509	510	269	731	540	541	—	—	—	—	—	24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7.	Haryana	49	39	16	1558	1418	1293	105	95	21	07	04	—
8.	H.P.	20	20	14	398	314	1133	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	J&K	—	—	01	287	118	480	75	90	64	—	—	—
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	07	—	138	523	—	—	16	—	—	19
11.	Karnataka	1355	1105	905	2499	2280	2249	780	672	959	45	48	03
12.	Kerala	1513	1410	1369	2595	2333	2332	2100	2402	2050	07	05	11
13.	M.P.	210	209	38	4849	4115	1728	422	430	670	19	22	01
14.	Maharashtra	544	578	526	16027	5940	1506	687	596	294	1302	1140	137
15.	North-East	08	09	05	1140	1302	1026	47	45	28	21	20	46
16.	Orissa	29	38	24	818	764	639	160	175	111	01	—	—
17.	Punjab	80	71	39	3045	1842	1432	404	410	162	11	14	30
18.	Rajasthan	22	21	62	3939	2104	2619	192	184	1189	—	—	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	1532	1432	1260	3006	3140	3944	3293	3402	2833	10	08	15
20.	Uttaranchal	—	—	02	—	—	109	—	—	24	—	—	129
21.	U.P.	766	726	477	15037	13104	13407	1718	1610	1041	142	131	—
22.	West Bengal	803	628	567	4934	4432	5442	660	640	1003	546	496	418
23.	APS	—	—	01	426	410	389	—	—	—	03	—	—
Total		8747	7841	6562	82379	63051	63364	11276	11379	10871	2348	2075	1112

[English]

Humanitarian Assistance in Iraq

*473. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to extend humanitarian assistance to Iraq;

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

(c) whether any Indian casualties have been reported in the ongoing US-Iraq war; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) In response to the UN emergency appeal, Government of India has announced a contribution of US \$ 20 million in cash and kind which would include 50,000 MT of wheat to the World Food Programme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Practice of Ayurvedic Massage

*474. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that foreigners are being fleeced in the name of Panchkarma (Ayurvedic);

(b) if so, whether this practice will bring both Ayurveda as well as the name of the country to disrepute; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to save domestic as well as foreign tourists from such quacks?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Government have not received any complaint about foreigners being fleeced in the name of Panchkarma. However, the Government have provided guidelines to the Ministry of Tourism and State Governments for the establishment and functioning of Panchkarma Centres in Tourist Hotels and Health Resorts.

Irradiation Technology

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

(a) whether the Government have drawn up any plan/ programme for using Irradiation Technology for crop improvement and food preservation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the crops identified under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Atomic Energy has an ongoing R&D programme for using radiation technology for crop improvement and food preservation.

(b) Under the crop improvement programme, radiation-induced mutants are either directly used or hybridised, finally leading to the development of new varieties. Using this technique, 23 crop varieties have been developed. These include black gram, green gram, groundnut, jute, mustard, pigeon pea and rice.

Effect of Iraq War

*476. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the movement of cargo from Western Indian ports has been badly affected due to war in Iraq;

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

(c) whether the losses being incurred on the port operations due to war have been assessed;

(d) if so, the details thereof, port-wise; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) The war in Iraq has had no perceptible impact on the movement of cargo from Western Indian ports.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Private Sector Participation in Inland Waterways

*477. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve private sector in developing inland waterways in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Private Sector participation in developing inland waterways has been envisaged in the following areas:

(a) Ownership and operation of vessels for cargo and passengers

(b) Fairway development and maintenance

(c) Construction and operation of river terminals or river ports

(d) Provision and operation of mechanized cargo-handling systems

(e) Putting up and maintenance of navigational aids

(f) Provision of pilotage services

(g) Setting up and running of IWT training institutions

The private sector can participate in these areas on their own, or through joint ventures with the IWAI or through Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) Projects.

Telephone Connection to Village Panchayat

*478. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for providing telephone connection in every village panchayat by the year 2002- could not be achieved in the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) DOT had a target of providing Telecom Facilities in all the villages by providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by the year 2002. Village Panchayats also get covered under this scheme. This target in the North-Eastern Region (NER) could not be achieved mainly due to following reasons:-

- (i) NE Region is predominantly hilly and inaccessible, covered with forests and affected by insurgency. These features necessitate the use of technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Satellite for providing Village Public Telephones.
- (ii) Permission to commission WLL systems in North East Region could not be given by the Government earlier due to security reasons. Permission was accorded in the last week of August, 2002. In the mean time part of WLL equipment was diverted to other needy circles.
- (iii) About 5440 VPTs to be provided on satellite could not be provided as the tender was cancelled. The tender had to be cancelled as none of the bidders complied with the technical specifications.

Subject to availability of funds, it is targeted to cover all the inhabited villages including Village Panchayats of North-East Region during the year 2003-04.

Food Safety Commission

*479. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a need for an independent Comprehensive Food Safety Commission;

(b) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS) already exists under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services where all the State Governments, various other Central Government Ministries, Directors of Central Food Laboratories and Trade and Consumer Associations are members. Various problems related to food safety and laying down the Standards for various food products are discussed from time to time.

A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted to propose legislative and other changes for preparing an Integrated Food Law.

Encouragement to Sportspersons

*480. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the sports scenario in the country is dismal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to encourage talented sportspersons by providing professional coaching, technical expertise, handsome incentives etc. to enhance their performance at the international level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Performance of Indian Sportspersons in the recently concluded Commonwealth Games and Asian Games has been commendable. In the Commonwealth Games the Indian contingent secured 4th position in the overall medal tally by winning 69 medals. Similarly in the Asian Games Indian contingent won 36 medals.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has already introduced various schemes for encouraging talented sports persons. Brief details of steps taken by the Government in this regard are as follows:—

1. Under the scheme of Talent Search and Training, promising sportspersons are granted financial assistance for training abroad under expert coaches. Besides, under the scheme, assistance is also given to promising sports persons for equipment, scientific support, training and participation in tournaments abroad and in the country.
2. Foreign coaches are also being engaged on short term/long-term basis for identified sports disciplines in which India has good chance of doing well at the international level. These foreign coaches are deployed in India and attached to National Coaching Camps for providing intensive training to Indian sports persons.
3. Sports equipment of international standard are being imported and provided to players in the National Coaching Camps for training them with latest equipment.
4. Proper scientific back up is provided to the National Campers with the help of latest scientific equipment under expert sports scientists.
5. Balanced diet as recommended by National Institute of Nutrition is provided to National Campers, under the guidance of expert Nutritionist.
6. Sports Authority of India has also introduced the following sports promotion schemes for supporting and nurturing of sports talent in sub-junior, junior and senior age groups in the country. The talented/promising sports persons are selected through out the country and adopted by SAI for providing training under the expert coaches for excellence at national/international level.

- (i) National Sports Talent Content Scheme (NSTC)
- (ii) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
- (iii) Special Area Games (SAG)
- (iv) SAI Training Centre (STC)
- (v) Centre of Excellence (COX)

7. Sports persons who with win medals at the international level are given cash awards as incentives under the Scheme of Special Awards to winners in international events.

8. Sports persons are also conferred with Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Dhyan Chand Award for their outstanding performances.

9. Besides, under the scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sports Persons, eligible sportspersons are given pension.

Mushrooming of Homoeopathic Colleges

*481. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the mushrooming of Sub-standard Homoeopathic Colleges in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to maintain required standards in the Homoeopathic colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government are aware that some colleges have been established which do not possess minimum requirements laid down by the Central Council of Homoeopathy. An analysis of the inspection report of 127 colleges has been done which has revealed some deficiencies in the laid down requirements.

(c) The Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, was amended recently making it mandatory to seek prior permission of the Central Government to establish a new Homoeopathic college, increase seats in the existing colleges or to introduce a new course. With this measure, it is expected that the mushrooming of Homoeopathic colleges could be curtailed.

Bridge over Brahmaputra River

4637. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to construct a second bridge over the river Brahmaputra near Guwahati;
- (b) if so, the nature and other features of the contemplated second bridge over the river and the likely cost thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The construction of second bridge across Brahmaputra river near Guwahati is planned under East-West Corridor of National Highway Development Project (NHDP). For this purpose, a consultancy assignment for the feasibility study and Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been awarded in September, 2002 by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), who are the executing agency for NHDP. The said feasibility study and DPR is targeted for completion by April, 2004. Further details of the proposed bridge will depend upon the outcome of the feasibility study.

Capacity Utilisation of Telecom Services

4638. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the capacity utilisation in the telecom services sector has remained at about 40% due to the inverted duty structure encouraging inputs;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the growth in the telecom services sector is likely to shrink considerably as a result of the existing inverted duty structure;
- (d) if so, whether the Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA) has proposed any measures in this regard;
- (e) if so, whether the Government have examined the proposals made by the TEMA in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The capacity utilisation in the telecom services sector is not dependent on the duty structure of the inputs.

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

(d) to (f) Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (TEMA) had submitted a number of representations on various issues related to customs duty and other tax matters as a part of their budget proposals for the year 2003-2004. These representations have been considered by the Government and a number of incentives have been announced in the budget 2003-2004 and also in the Exim Policy 2002-2007, amended on 31.03.2003. Some of the incentives are as under:-

- (i) Cellular phones, mobile phones, pagers, radio trunking terminals and parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones have been exempted from excise duty to boost indigenous manufacturing.
- (ii) Central sales Tax has been reduced from 4% to 2%.
- (iii) Basic customs duty on populated Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) for transmission equipment has been reduced from 15% to 10%.
- (iv) All the products covered under Information Technology Agreement (ITA-I) of World Trade Organisation (WTO) have been extended the benefit of Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme in Export Import Policy 2002-2007 amended on 31.03.2003 to boost indigenous telecom manufacturing industry.

[Translation]

Disinvestment in Oil Sector

4639. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount collected by the Government from the disinvestment of the oil sector during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government are contemplating to make more disinvestments in the oil sector; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The amount collected by the Government from the disinvestment of some Public Sector undertakings in the oil sector during the last three years (2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03) is Rs. 2471 crore.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have decided to disinvest 34.01% equity shares in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) through strategic sale and 35.20% equity shares in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) through public offer in the domestic and international market. In addition, it has been decided to offer 5% equity shares each in both the companies through Employees Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS) to the employees.

Road Projects of U.P.

4640. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sent by Uttar Pradesh Government from March, 2001 to October 2002 for construction of new National Highways, conversion of State Highways into National Highways, construction of by-passes, four-laning of National Highways and also for construction of bridges on National Highways;

(b) the action taken on each of the said proposals alongwith the funds allocated for each of them;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time-limit for getting the said works completed; 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) and (b) During the period from March 2001 to Oct. 2002, the number of proposals received from the Uttar Pradesh Government by the Ministry are as under:

Sl. No.	Item	No. of Proposals	Action taken	Funds Allocated
1.	New National Highways	37	These proposals were returned to the State Govt. for resubmission as per Ministry's new Guidelines	Not Applicable
2.	Conversion of State Highways to National Highways			
3.	Construction of bypasses	1 No. (Varanasi bypass-Phase-II)	Proposal is being examined Provision made in current Annual Plan (2003-2004)	Rs. 10.60 Crores earmarked for Land Acquisition
4.	Four-laning of NHs	Nil	—	—
5.	Construction of bridges	1 No. (Gagan bridge on NH-74)	Provision made in current Annual Plan (2003-2004)	Rs. 2.00 Crores earmarked

(c) No, Sir. At present Ministry's priority is to improve the riding quality of the National Highway network in the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Laying of Cable

4641. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh connected with underground cable line till March 31, 2003, district-wise;

(b) the details of the complaints received regarding irregularities in laying cable line alongwith the action taken thereon; and

(c) the reasons for not providing telephone connections to the Gram Panchayats even after laying of cable alongwith the details of affected Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) In Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh 1568 and 4441 Gram Panchayats respectively have been provided with telecom facilities by Under Ground Cable lines till March 31, 2003. District-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) One complaint was received in Chhattisgarh against irregularities in laying of cable lines. Action against the contractor as well as the concerned officers has been initiated.

(c) No such Gram Panchayat is left without telecom facility.

Statement

District-wise number of Gram Panchayats on Under Ground Cable Lines

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number of Gram Panchayats connected with Under Ground Cables
1	2	3

State—Madhya Pradesh

1.	Balaghat	107
2.	Betul	266
3.	Bhind	170
4.	Bhopal	70
5.	Sehore	119
6.	Chhatarpur	40

7.	Tikamgarh	69
8.	Chhindwara	278
9.	Damoh	40
10.	Dewas	38
11.	Dhar	260
12.	Guna	77
13.	Gwalior	124
14.	Datia	93
15.	Hoshangabad	150
16.	Harda	54
17.	Indore	360
18.	Jabalpur	54
19.	Katni	140
20.	Jhabua	122
21.	Khandwa	147
22.	Khargone	10
23.	Barwani	13
24.	Mandla	44
25.	Dindori	27
26.	Mandsaur	76
27.	Nimuch	50
28.	Morena	73
29.	Sheopurkalan	54
30.	Nrsinghpur	276
31.	Panna	15
32.	Raisin	77
33.	Rajgarh	48
34.	Ratlam	18
35.	Rewa	39
36.	Sagar	58

1	2	3
37.	Satna	51
38.	Seoni	284
39.	Shahdol	30
40.	Umania	12
41.	Shajapur	0
42.	Shivpuri	58
43.	Sidhi	0
44.	Ujjain	268
45.	Vidisha	82
	Total	4441
State-Chhattisgarh		
1.	Bilaspur	150
2.	Korba	81
3.	Janjgir-Chapa	168
4.	Durg	167
5.	Rajnandgaon	57
6.	Kawardha	17
7.	Raipur	133
8.	Dhantari	59
9.	Mahasamund	369
10.	Raigarh	77
11.	Jaspur	48
12.	Bastar	150
13.	Dantewada	44
14.	Kanker	33
15.	Surguja	15
16.	Korea	0
	Total	1568

*[English]***Package for SSI**

4642. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the recommendations of GoM, a comprehensive package for Small Scale Industries was announced in August, 2000, during the national conference of Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, whether the States have been able to derive advantage from this policy package;

(c) if so, the number of States which received maximum help in setting up of Small Scale Industries in their States after this decision;

(d) the total fund invested by the Union Government in the States since August, 2000; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Comprehensive Policy Package is uniformly applicable throughout the country and aims at enhancing the competitiveness of the SSI sector both domestically and globally through inter alia, easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure. The package has facilitated rapid growth of the SSI sector as is evident from its recent track record.

(d) and (e) The outlay fixed for various schemes and programmes for the SSI sector includes releases to State Governments. The various schemes and programmes are uniformly applicable and no specific State-wise allocation of funds is made. Funds are sanctioned and released as per extant guidelines.

*[Translation]***Agreement between MTNL and IDBI**

4643. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL and IDBI have entered into an agreement to facilitate payment of telephone bills through ATM Card and Internet banking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide this facility in other cities of the country also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) An agreement for collection of telephone bills through Internet and ATMs between MTNL, Delhi and IDBI was executed for three month's period on 25.06.2002. Collections were started during the month of August, 2002 and still continue. The scheme has again been approved for a period of one year. No such agreement has been signed for MTNL, Mumbai Unit.

(c) and (d) In order to provide similar facilities in other cities, BSNL has entered into Memorandum of Understanding with a number of prominent Banks namely Punjab National Bank, ICICI, UTI, HDFC, Citi Bank, Standard Chartered and Bank of Punjab to facilitate payment of Telephone bills through ATM Card, Internet Banking and other electronic banking facilities. These facilities have been initially introduced in the cities of Kolkata, Pune, Auraganbad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Ludhiana, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Noida, Dehradun, Bhuaneshwar and Thiruvananthapuram.

[English]

Export/Import of Homoeopathic Medicines

4644. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Homoeopathic medicines exported/imported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to promote Homoeopathic Medicines in the country and abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) As per intimation received from Director General of Foreign Trade details of import and export of Homoeopathic Medicines are as follows:—

Import:

	Value (Lakhs)
1999-2000	948
2000-2001	1007
2001-2002	639

Export

	Value (Lakhs)
1999-2000	386
2000-2001	1116
2001-2002	578

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following steps have been taken:

- (i) Pharmacopoeial standards of 916 medicines have been laid down;
- (ii) Medicinal plants Board has been set up which will facilitate availability of raw material for the production of medicines;
- (iii) Drugs testing facilities have been augmented;
- (iv) Department has been participating in Health melas, exhibitions, seminars etc. to propagate ISM & H;
- (v) Publicity has been undertaken through electronic & print media for sensitization and awareness.

Separate Hospitals for CGHS Beneficiaries

4645. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to heavy rush in the Government hospitals in Delhi, the senior citizens particularly CGHS beneficiaries have to wait for long in queue;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to establish a hospital exclusively for CGHS beneficiaries in Delhi;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Extent govt. orders provide for separate queues in the Govt. hospitals of Delhi for the senior citizens (including senior citizens holding CGHS pensioner cards) and therefore, the senior citizens beneficiaries of CGHS have to wait for less time in the queue as compared other patients.

Moreover, 95 private hospitals/diagnostic centres located at various places in Delhi and its satellite towns have been recognised under CGHS Delhi, to enable CGHS beneficiaries take treatment in them. Credit facilities have also been extended to the CGHS pensioner card holder (including senior citizen CGHS beneficiaries) for taking treatment in the said recognised private hospitals/diagnostic centres.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Popularisation of Siddha System

4646. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures taken by the Union Government to promote and preserve Siddha system of medicine in the country;
 (b) the State-wise details of Siddha dispensaries in the country under the Central Government Health Scheme;
 (c) whether the Government have any proposal to open more Siddha dispensaries in the country to popularize this system; and
 (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Govt. of India has taken various measures including the following to promote & preserve Siddha System of Medicine:

- Steps have been initiated to establish the National Institute of Siddha at Chennai as an institution of excellence in Siddha.

- Grant in aid has been provided to Siddha Under graduate & Post graduate institutions.
- Under the Pilot Scheme of Home Remedy Kit for ISM&H, the District of Theni in Tamil Nadu has been identified for Siddha System of medicine.
- A Task Force has been constituted for Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (Siddha), so as to prevent patenting the Traditional Siddha knowledge available already in the Siddha classics.
- Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha is conducting research in Siddha medicines.
- Siddha manuscripts are being preserved under Literary Research Programme of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha.

(b) Under the Central Govt. Health Scheme two Siddha dispensaries, one each in Chennai, Tamil Nadu & New Delhi, are functioning.

(c) and (d) Central Government Health Scheme, Department of Health has proposed to establish one Siddha dispensary at Chennai. Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy has suggested that 2 Siddha dispensaries should be opened at Delhi.

Utilization of Allocated Funds for Health Programmes

4647. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are aware that the funds allocated for various on-going health programmes/schemes during the last three years have not been properly utilized by most of the States so far;
 (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Funds provided for various National Health Programmes are utilised with due care as per set procedures and for the purpose for which they are provided. A State wise statement showing the details of funds spent on major national health programmes during the last three years of the Ninth Plan period is at statement.

(c) To ensure proper utilisation of funds guidelines have been circulated to all State/District Disease Control Societies. Utilisation of funds is also monitored through

regular reports, review meetings both at the Centre and the States, audit reports and utilisation certificates.

Statement

*State-wise Allocation/Releases and Expenditure Under Centrally Sponsored Disease Control Programmes in the Deptt. of Health during the last three years (1999-2000-2000-01)**

(Rs. in Lakh)

State	NAMP		NTCP		NLEP		NACP		NPCB	
	Allo/Rel.	Exp.	Allo/Rel.	Exp.	Allo/Rel.	Exp.	Allo/Rel.	Exp.	Allo/Rel.	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andaman & Nicobar	551.43	563.81	2120.29	2773.48	24.93	11.22	211.94	185.59	29.11	25.96
Andhra Pradesh	4261.56	4866.54	5.31	2.71	1174.79	1054.95	4169.17	4029.04	2,421.68	2,780.30
Arunachal Pradesh	1134.11	887.68	216.03	189.41	258.45	248.47	484.88	316.41	103.62	67.44
Assam	9764.41	7652.08	619.74	564.62	501.78	494.35	1350.80	1229.09	357.94	186.88
Bihar	1478.49	1444.50	2759.79	1454.01	2857.51	2826.10	1060.50	1247.72	496.73	270.99
Chandigarh	138.31	114.23	23.55	30.94	22.29	22.62	360.76	364.30	45.69	36.90
Chhattisgarh	1098.04	1147.95	36.54	53.97	378.34	185.65	150.50	101.09	428.98	409.37
D & N Haveli	106.64	93.64	0.77	1.61	15.96	15.26	60.00	33.05	116.07	105.94
Daman & Diu	51.36	41.51	2.82	1.30	42.40	28.56	135.00	123.94	87.81	82.11
Delhi	263.94	210.12	420.98	806.27	104.24	106.99	856.00	881.00	140.78	140.98
Goa	25.72	11.69	31.41	25.27	14.53	8.51	269.73	259.22	169.24	122.52
Gujarat	4463.99	4159.73	2870.21	1581.83	522.34	484.30	2666.08	2030.08	957.85	767.97
Haryana	474.68	257.72	506.92	468.58	128.18	96.69	782.50	696.38	459.02	144.68
Himachal Pradesh	138.61	218.29	430.78	572.14	165.22	156.52	889.00	770.50	268.76	287.25
Jammu & Kashmir	162.65	257.30	190.00	250.99	251.16	180.01	421.50	301.06	239.18	153.92
Jharkhand	849.92	874.26	55.13	71.11	356.23	174.88	156.00	0.00	124.59	116.77
Karnataka	1263.58	849.10	1989.23	1347.82	746.78	760.46	1985.47	1871.95	1,034.24	986.25
Kerala	274.99	202.01	2163.66	1003.61	458.91	427.56	1715.63	1348.43	694.70	593.51
Lakshadweep	23.14	17.31	8.98	2.27	10.36	8.95	63.66	42.50	239.91	229.51
Madhya Pradesh	6228.02	6257.60	1827.39	1307.61	1835.03	1695.95	1674.81	1288.04	2,793.62	2,961.91

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Maharashtra	5954.61	5900.48	3785.40	3751.72	1225.63	1058.52	4563.58	3788.34	3,064.22	3,164.36
Manipur	1282.33	730.53	161.49	269.96	291.73	247.41	1475.83	1363.86	101.58	46.65
Meghalaya	1028.36	808.83	47.56	37.54	139.20	117.69	382.57	158.56	270.09	189.61
Mizoram	1128.61	771.16	25.09	28.39	172.73	141.48	593.70	614.86	140.09	140.24
Nagaland	878.12	955.32	115.75	172.96	304.31	283.14	1266.00	1211.16	111.37	44.44
Orissa	3440.08	4080.57	1371.61	1782.11	1749.86	1036.89	1173.50	583.71	2,171.85	2,504.71
Pondicherry	45.78	33.14	29.80	10.25	11.00	15.97	100.50	111.57	41.07	26.14
Punjab	569.11	390.85	602.94	391.46	168.69	177.13	900.39	536.46	372.83	139.08
Rajasthan	2746.30	2567.48	2439.97	2491.42	376.44	291.69	847.50	665.95	2,496.07	2,273.32
Sikkim	22.41	8.16	38.06	87.39	147.94	82.51	211.02	163.61	139.17	127.11
Tamil Nadu	878.39	545.20	2771.61	2121.68	1221.57	733.32	5563.06	3645.01	4,472.86	4,024.48
Tripura	1517.39	1366.01	73.56	80.71	127.65	45.61	338.67	222.18	618.04	272.59
Uttar Pradesh	1795.88	1751.47	3961.90	3151.88	2639.62	3034.69	3085.50	2521.55	3,918.21	3,417.97
Uttaranchal	23.64	39.19	15.56	24.89	1282.50	65.13	1465.65	0.00	317.74	328.41
West Bengal	1240.98	1783.13	4300.11	2497.95	2200.19	2097.48	1166.15	2387.96	591.63	529.21
Total	55305.58	51858.59	36019.97	29409.88	21928.49	18216.46	42597.55	35074.17	30,036.35	27,699.47

*State-wise Expenditure figures for all disease control programmes for the year 2001-02 are provisional.

Strengthening and Widening of NH 60

4648. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether strengthening and widening of NH 60 is under the consideration in 2003-2004;

(b) if so, whether the dilapidated bridge over NH 60 in between Govindadham and Amarkanan under the district of Bankura in West Bengal is likely to be reconstructed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a by-pass on NH 60 in the area of Gangajalhati bazar is likely to be constructed; and

(e) if not, the manner in which the widening work will be done in congested area of the said bazar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (e) NH-60 is a newly declared National Highway with a length of 224 kms. Out of this, four laning of 52 kms is being taken up as part of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Improvement of riding quality of 160 km has already been sanctioned and the balance is being considered in 2003-04. The present priority of the Ministry is improvement of riding quality and strengthening/raising of weak sections of National Highways. A feasibility study has been sanctioned for NH-60 in 2002-2003 for identifying the improvement requirements of this Highway. Other improvements like bypasses, widening/strengthening and reconstruction of bridges including the bridge between Govindadham and Amarkanan in district Bankura would be considered depending on the outcome of this study, traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of resources.

Losses of Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited

4649. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, has been suffering losses for the last several years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make it economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Company has suffered a loss of Rs. 20.00 crores during 1999-2000, Rs. 31.15 crores during 2000-01 and Rs. 20.47 crores during 2001-02. The reasons for losses are excessive manpower, huge interest burden on Government and other loans, low productivity, lack of orders, dilapidated machinery, etc.

(c) As part of policy support measures to help the unit to become economically viable Government has issued guidelines to Port authorities and Shipping Companies, such as, Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Dredging Corporation of India (DCI), Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC), Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL), etc. to consider placing orders on public sector shipyards which include HDPEL, on nomination/non-tender basis while procuring ships, dredgers, tugs, but without compromising commercial considerations. With intervention of this Ministry, the Project of 400 Passenger Vessel, work on which had come to a standstill in July, 2000, has been revived at a cost of Rs. 76.37 crores. In addition, orders for 4 Nos. of Pontoons at a cost of Rs. 4.00 crores has been awarded by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL).

Ghana Telecom Project

4650. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) had taken up a project of Ghana Telecom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project was completed within the stipulated period;

(d) if so, whether the TCIL has received full payment of the project; and

(e) if not, the action taken by the Government to recover the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) had taken up three projects of Ghana Telecom.

(b) Details of these projects are given in the Statement-I.

(c) The first two project were completed ahead of Schedule. As regards third project, TCIL foreclosed this project in April, 2001 at US \$ 45.21 million out of total US \$ 50 million as payments were not forthcoming.

(d) Sir, full payments were received in case of first two projects. For the third project, TCIL has received payment of US \$ 21.965 million only. US \$ 23.245 million are still outstanding.

(e) Action taken to recover the payment is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

The details of the contracts awarded to TCIL by Ghana Telecom on the basis of Global Tenders are as follows:—

(i) In 1993, the US \$ 22 Million project (approximately Rs. 103.4 Crores) was awarded for installing customs access network in different parts of Ghana. This project was funded by Overseas Economic Co-operation Funding (OECF) of Japan.

(ii) In 1997 the US \$ 12 Million (approximately Rs. 56.4 Crores) project was awarded for installation of customer access network in Dansoman, a large new housing colony in Accra, Ghana's capital. This project was funded by Ghana Telecom from its own internal resources.

(iii) In 1998, US \$ 50 Million (approximately Rs. 235 Crores) contract was awarded for part of a larger project valued at US \$ 200 Million for installing customer access networks in different parts of Ghana. TCIL and two other contractors, namely, Samsung and GAMAL (a Joint Venture of Ghana and Malaysia) were awarded contracts for US \$ 50 Million each.

Statement-II

Action taken by TCIL for recovery of the dues include the following steps:—

- (i) Apart from regular follow up the Project Office in Ghana, the CMD, Directors and Executive Directors, TCIL Headquarters have impressed upon Ghana Telecom for release of money and also good officers of Minister and Deputy Minister of Communication in Ghana have also been used for accelerating payments to TCIL.
- (ii) No further indents for execution have been taken up after April 2001.
- (iii) Though the contract provided for a deferred payment option as also a cash payment option, Ghana Telecom had opted for cash payment option under which dues have accumulated. Efforts have been made by TCIL to impress of Ghana Telecom and Government of Ghana to regularise the dues under the deferred payments basis carrying interest with installments of repayment finalised.
- (iv) On TCIL's request, High Commissioner of India in Ghana as also visiting officials of Ministries of External Affairs and Communications and IT, have applied pressure on Government of Ghana for accelerating payments to TCIL.
- (v) Total billed amount till date is about US \$ 45.21 million (Rs. 212.49 crores approx), while the outstanding on date is US \$ 23.245 million (Rs. 109.25 crore approx). The Ministry of Communications of Ghana had intimated that Ghana Telecom has promised to pay US \$ 1 Million or equivalent vide their letter date 13.5.2002.
- (vi) Ghana Telecom have reiterated on 24.2.2003 that they shall pay US \$ 1 Million every month. They have assured that as soon they raise funds, a much higher amount will be allocated to TCIL. Since May, 2002 till date, Ghana Telecom has paid US \$ 5.01 Million (Rs. 23.55 crores approx.)

(vii) On the advice of Ghanaian High Commissioner in India, TCIL has also approached Ghana-India Development Consortium and sought their good offices for getting the amount realized at the earliest.

[Translation]

Providing of CBT

4651. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of local PCOs in Delhi on which CBT 95 has been provided by the Mahangar Telephone Nigam Limited as on March 31, 2003, location-wise, particularly Trans-Yamuna area of Delhi;

(b) whether the MTNL provides CBT 95 to the STD/ISD, PCO owners on installing local PCOs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the CBT 95 is being provided on all types of PCOs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The number of local PCOs in Delhi on which CBT 95 has been provided by MTNL are given in Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. CBT-95 are normally provided on all the local PCOs installed by STD/ISD PCO owners subject to availability of such instruments.

(d) and (e) Sir, CBT-95 are provided only on local PCOs except Handicapped PCOs.

Statement

There are 13,400 local PCOs in MTNL, Delhi on which CBT-95 instruments have been provided as on 31.3.2003. Location wise detail in respect of Trans-Yamuna area is as under:—

Location	No. of CBT 95 PCOs
1	2
Laxmi Nagar	93
Gandhi Nagar	190

1	2
I.P. Extn. Preet Vihar, Shakarpur	202
Karkardooma	89
Mayur Vihar-I	10
Mayur Vihar-II	50
Shahdara-I	289
Shahdara-II	105
Karawal Nagar	85
Yamuna Vihar	172
Total	1285

[English]

India's Position in Software Sector

4652. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to make India a Super Power in the field of software;

(b) if so, the efforts made in this regard including the target fixed therefor; and

(c) the details of the incentives granted/proposed to be granted to each State for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development set up by the Prime Minister's Office in 1998 has aimed to enable India to emerge as an Information Technology Superpower within the next 10 years.

The target set for making India Software Superpower is US\$ 50 billion of software exports by the year 2008.

(c) The incentives granted to Software Sector are at Statement enclosed.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote the Software Sector

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. 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. Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme is implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes.
5. Accelerated depreciation norms applicable to computers and computer peripherals for units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/EHTP/STP). These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years.
6. The Depreciation on Computers is allowed @ 60%.
7. In the Budget 2002-03, 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% and on ink cartridges/ribbon assembly/ribbon gear assembly/ribbon gear carriage for use in printers for computers from 25% 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%. Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) continues @ 15%.
8. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise duty.
9. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years are freely importable.

10. EOU/EPZ/STP units are eligible for Income Tax benefit on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
11. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) is available to the IT sector.
12. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act covers transmission of data.
13. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
14. IT Enabled Services are eligible for Income Tax benefit under Sections 10A, 10B and 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act.
15. Threshold limit for obtaining "Export House" status reduced to Rs. 5 crores from Rs. 15 crores for Small Scale Industry, tiny sector, cottage sector, units located in North East States/Sikkim/J&K; exporters exporting to countries in Latin America/CIS/Sub Sahara Africa and units having ISO 9000 (Series) status. The status holders are eligible for the following/new/ special facilities.
16. 100% retention of foreign exchange in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) account.
17. Enhancement in normal repatriation period from 180 days to 360 days.
18. The donation of computers, imported duty free by EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units to recognised non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.
19. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognised schools run on a non-commercial basis by any organisation are exempted from customs duties.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognised stock exchange in India.
23. 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.
24. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
25. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/ GDRs, Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
26. 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).
27. 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).
28. 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.
29. 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]***Pending Cases of Telephone Connections**

4653. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending for telephone connections on the basis of applications received till 31.12.2000 in various telecom districts, blocks of Bihar and Jharkhand circles of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;

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

(c) whether cases of providing telephone connections by ignoring waiting list have come to the notice in any of the telephone exchanges under these circles;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 382 cases are pending for providing telephone connections on the basis of applications received till 31.12.2000 in Jharkhand Telecom Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

(b) Exchange-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Regarding Bihar Circle, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Exchange wise details of pending telephone connections in Jharkhand Circle on the basis of applications received till 31.12.2000

Name of SSA	Name of District	Name of Block	Sl.No.	Name of Exchange	Pending Waiting List before 31.12.2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
Hazarigabh	Hazarigabh	Champan	1	Champan	10
		Barhee	2	Barhee	20
		Ichak	3	Ichak	5
		Bagoder	4	Bagoder	8
			5	Sariya	9
		Jamua	6	Hirodih	3
		Tumri	7	Isribazar	3
		Rajdhanwar	8	Rajdhanwar	3
			9	Bhaurkhunda	75
		Patratu	10	Sayal	34
			11	Patratu	77
		Mandu	12	Kuju	35

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Ramgarh	13	Rajrappa	28
			14	Argada	53
		Baghmara	15	Katras	2
			16	Muhuda	1
			17	Chirkunda	4
Dhanbad	Dhanbad	Nirsa	18	Mugma	2
			19	Nirsa	3
			20	Panchet	2
	Bokaro	Berma	21	Bermo	5
				Total	382

[English]

Funds Crunch in CGHS Dispensaries

4654. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the CGHS dispensaries have been hit by funds crunch resulting in poor health care for the CGHS beneficiaries in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to allocate sufficient funds for upgradation/modernization of CGHS dispensaries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Health care services for the CGHS beneficiaries have not been adversely affected even though there is a crunch in budgetary allocation. However, adequate Health care delivery is provided to all the CGHS beneficiaries through OPD consultation in all the CGHS dispensaries/Govt. hospitals and round the clock emergency-services in the multi-shift CGHS dispensaries. Any drug prescribed by the Govt. Specialists, not available in the dispensary, is issued to the beneficiary after procuring the same from the Authorised Local Chemist on the basis of the individual prescription of the beneficiary. In the case of emergency, an authority slip is issued to the beneficiary for collecting the medicine directly from the Authorised Local Chemist without making any payment. Private hospitals and

diagnostic centres have been recognised under CGHS in various CGHS covered cities so that the CGHS beneficiaries have the option of getting the required healthcare.

(b) Budget allocation of CGHS has been enhanced by Rs. 15.00 crore during the current financial year 2003-04.

U.S. Intervention in Indo-Pak Issue

4655. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States Secretary of State has promised a greater degree of attention of the Indo-Pak issue after the cessation of the ongoing war in Iraq as reported in the *Times of India* dated April 1, 2003; and

(b) if so the response of the Government to the said promise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In an interview of the *New York Times* on 29 March 2003, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, speaking on the

subject of the broader U.S. foreign policy agenda, had mentioned, among other issues, "India, Pakistan and the whole Sub-Continent problem" and stated that the United States would like to "make sure we don't find ourselves in the same situation we were in a year ago".

(b) The international community, including the United States, is aware of Government's consistent position that all issues between India and Pakistan can only be resolved through direct bilateral dialogue between the two countries. However, the United States could contribute to preventing escalation of tensions in the region by pressing of Pakistan to stop sponsoring and supporting cross-border terrorism against India, in accordance with the commitments that it had received from Pakistan in June 2002 and in the context of the global war against terrorism.

Allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths at Railway Stations/Platforms

4656. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have framed a new policy for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths at Railway Stations/Platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of commission fixed for recovery from these booths to be allotted through tender system; and

(d) the concessions to be provided to the existing STD/ISD/PCO booth holders belonging to handicapped, scheduled castes/scheduled tribe category etc.?

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

[Translation]

Million Tubewell Scheme

4657. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Million Tubewell Scheme is being run in Bihar with the Central assistance;

(b) if so, whether this scheme has been reviewed;

(c) if so, the number of farmers of Bihar benefited by this scheme so far;

(d) whether the implementation of this scheme is very slow;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the steps taken to streamline this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) By the end of 2002-03, the number of farmers benefited by this scheme was 50,966 against the target of 57,111.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Some of the steps taken to further streamline and improve the progress of the scheme include:

- Delegation of adequate powers to Branch Managers for sanction and disbursement of loans.
- Reduction in "Lock-in" period to two years from five years.
- Involvement of the State Government at District/Block levels in the collection and verification of loan applications.
- Formation of a team of officers by RBI Regional Office to visit bank branches to promote lending and also to look into the issues affecting the banks' performance and help the banking system in sorting out the problems.

[English]

**Imparting of Training to Youth in Andaman and
Nicobar Islands**

4658. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether facilities exist for the training of youth (boys and girls) in different fields of Sports and Games in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Directorate of Youth Affairs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to encourage youths to take part in different competitive sports events both at the State and National Level?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Andaman & Nicobar administration has created playing facilities in the disciplines of Rowing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Cycling, Football and Weightlifting. The above infrastructure facilities were provided to the Sports Authority of India for running a Special Area Games Centre. The Special Area Games Centre in the above discipline is now functional. Apart from the playing facilities, A&N Administration has also provided 150-bedded hostel at Port Blair and 50-bedded at Car Nicobar. These facilities are used to accommodate Special Area Game Centre trainees.

Sports Authority of India conducts every year talent search in the remote parts in collaboration with Director of Youth Affairs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and talent so identified is brought to the assessment camp. After final selection of trainees is made, they are admitted in the Special Area Games Centre. The trainees are provided with sports training with scientific back-up, nutritious diet, equipment for training, sports kit, insurance coverage, medical assistance, educational assistance and also competition exposure.

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

[Translation]

**Per Capita Allocation for Agricultural/Rural
Development**

4659. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise and State-wise per capita allocation made for agriculture and rural development during the last three years;

(b) the year-wise amount sought by each State for this purpose during the last three years and the amount sanctioned by the Government; and

(c) the criteria fixed by the Government for the allocation of funds to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Statement-I showing State-wise and year-wise per capita plan allocation for Agriculture and Rural Development during the last three years viz, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is enclosed.

(b) Annual Plan allocations for specific sectors are decided by the States in consultation with the Planning Commission. A Statement-II of year-wise Plan Outlays for Agriculture and Rural Development for all States for the last three years is enclosed.

(c) Central Assistance to the States consists of Normal Central Assistance, Assistance for Externally Aided Projects, Special Central Assistance for specific projects/programmes and Additional Central Assistance. Normal Central Assistance to the States is based on the methodology, Criteria & Weights given by Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, which has been adopted and approved by the National Development Council in December 1991. Assistance for Externally Aided Projects is project based and it depends upon the ability of the States to obtain financing from external funding agencies. Special Central Assistance for specific projects/programmes are allocated to States on the basis of formula arrived at between the Planning Commission and the Central Ministries concerned. Additional Central Assistance is need based and project based and it is allocated to States to supplement the effort of the States in tackling specific problems.

*Statement I**Per Capita Allocations for Agriculture/Rural Development during last three years*

Sl. No.	States	Per Capita Allocations in Annual Plan 2000-01 (In Rs.)		Per Capita Allocations in Annual Plan 2001-02 (In Rs.)		Per Capita Allocations in Annual Plan 2002-03 (In Rs.)	
		Agriculture	Rural dev.	Agriculture	Rural dev.	Agriculture	Rural dev.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27	24	19	72	40	85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	418	222	502	274	527	278
3.	Assam	64	79	63	61	68	61
4.	Bihar	9	112	7	110	8	105
5.	Chhattisgarh*	0	0	60	108	66	89
6.	Goa	81	19	137	41	176	137
7.	Gujarat	101	87	132	59	105	63
8.	Haryana	46	40	53	54	53	35
9.	Himachal Pradesh	301	101	314	115	360	135
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	203	51	261	61	245	60
11.	Jharkhand*	0	0	53	84	57	234
12.	Karnataka	59	55	80	83	78	62
13.	Kerala	82	20	70	27	68	56
14.	Madhya Pradesh	43	81	45	63	49	95
15.	Maharashtra	48	101	34	116	87	115
16.	Manipur	82	215	94	169	76	82
17.	Meghalaya	231	191	193	171	176	167
18.	Mizoram	358	471	379	460	354	435
19.	Nagaland	145	180	186	169	176	163
20.	Orissa	27	50	23	43	37	31
21.	Punjab	71	51	75	51	51	115
22.	Rajasthan	32	68	20	77	40	89
23.	Sikkim	459	210	565	215	517	291

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24.	Tamil Nadu	66	90	77	148	76	112
25.	Tripura	131	109	156	121	138	268
26.	Uttar Pradesh	50	58	54	69	48	69
27.	Uttaranchal*	0	0	239	122	216	106
28.	West Bengal	15	48	31	86	22	114
Total (States)		48	65	56	88	61	91

Note: Census 2001 Population figures have been used to calculate per capita figures for all the years

* State Came into existence in November, 2000

Statement II

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	States	Plan Allocations in Annual Plan 2000-01		Plan Allocations in Annual Plan 2001-02		Plan Allocations in Annual Plan 2002-03	
		Agriculture	Rural dev.	Agriculture	Rural dev.	Agriculture	Rural dev.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20275	18074	14755	54371	30081	64048
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4562	2421	5473	2993	5750	3032
3.	Assam	16933	21095	16687	16160	17983	16320
4.	Bihar	7714	93017	5528	90872	6435	86878
5.	Chhattisgarh*	0	0	12536	22503	13697	18511
6.	Goa	1094	258	1846	549	2359	1838
7.	Gujarat	51232	44120	66985	29879	53343	31631
8.	Haryana	9774	8372	11272	11423	11181	7481
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18287	6128	19069	7013	21857	8219
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	20415	5164	26269	6115	24675	6089
11.	Jharkhand*	0	0	14362	63931	15280	62892
12.	Karnataka	31329	28900	41991	43686	41394	32838
13.	Kerala	25950	6490	22438	8513	21790	17816
14.	Madhya Pradesh	25821	48719	27419	38294	29748	57532

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Maharashtra	46878	97356	32451	112548	84268	111318
16.	Manipur	1965	5140	2243	4046	1818	1970
17.	Meghalaya	5326	4405	4456	3936	4050	3847
18.	Mizoram	3186	4200	3380	4102	3150	3880
19.	Nagaland	2891	3576	3701	3369	3509	3247
20.	Orissa	9743	18378	8299	15794	13571	11535
21.	Punjab	17186	12440	18326	12330	12384	27876
22.	Rajasthan	17981	38225	11266	43274	22411	50195
23.	Sikkim	2316	1060	2855	1085	2609	1470
24.	Tamil Nadu	41040	55926	48039	92023	47175	69865
25.	Tripura	4180	3472	4981	3856	4411	8544
26.	Uttar Pradesh	82434	95976	89018	114722	80452	114323
27.	Uttaranchal*	0	0	20229	10312	18311	8958
28.	West Bengal	11993	38249	24979	69350	17710	91122
Total (States)		480505	661161	560853	887049	611402	923275

Note: * State Came into existence in November, 2000

Monitoring of Assistance

4660. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint an independent body to monitor the utilization of economic assistance received for various developmental projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposed outline of this body; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

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

Government to appoint an independent body to monitor the utilization of economic assistance for various developmental projects.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expenditure Incurred Under Various Heads

4661. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISD telephone bills, electricity bills especially the electricity bills of air-conditioners and coolers and other office expenses in various departments and undertakings under his ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under above heads;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

VRS in MTNL and BSNL

4662. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
 SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
 SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
 DR. BALIRAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government are considering implementing Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the MTNL and the BSNL;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether the Government propose to offer any special package in this regard;
 (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which it is likely to be helpful to MTNL and BSNL to become more competitive and efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. As of now, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) has not been formulated in MTNL or BSNL.

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

PM's Foreign Visits

4663. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries visited by Prime Minister during the last three years;
 (b) the details of the issues discussed and the agreements signed during his visit, country-wise; and
 (c) the amount spent on each visit, country-wise during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Information is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Name of country visited	Details of discussion	Agreements signed during the visit
1	2	3
Japan (7-11 Dec. 2001)	The Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee paid an official visit to Japan from 7-11 December 2001 on the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Junichiro Koizumi.	A joint declaration was issued on 10 December 2001.
	The Prime Minister visited Osaka and Tokyo. In Tokyo, the Prime Minister called on the Emperor of Japan, who also hosted lunch in his honour. The Prime Minister held discussion with Prime Minister Koizumi on bilateral, regional and international issues and on strengthening the Global Partnership for	

1

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3

the 21st Century that was established when Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan visited India in August 2000. In both Osaka and Tokyo, the Prime Minister interacted with the business community and Addressed major business meetings. The Prime Minister also met with Members of India-Japan Parliamentary Friendship League.

India and Japan have agreed on the importance of strengthening the Global Partnership, and on further developing exchanges in the areas of trade and investment, culture, IT, Science & Technology, defence etc.

Mauritius

PM visited Mauritius in March, 2000 as chief guest at the 32nd anniversary celebrations of Mauritian independence.

NIL

Maldives

PM had visited the Maldives from September 22-25, 2002. During this visit PM held useful discussions with President Gayoom and other Maldivian dignitaries. These discussions focussed on cooperation in various areas such as public health-care, human resource development, education, tourism and infrastructure development etc. PM also laid the foundation stone for establishment of the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Studies, a hotel management Training institute to be set up with assistance.

No agreement was signed during the visit.

Nepal

SAARC Summit from 4-6 January, 2002 followed by Bilateral Official visit

The Russian Federation

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee paid State Visit to the Russian Federation from 4-7 November 2001. During this visit, PM had a 75-minute tete-a-tete with President Putin followed by delegation level talks. PM also had separate meetings with Speaker of the State Duma Mr. Gennady Seleznyev, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Defence Minister Ilya Klebanov accompanied PM in the flight from St. Petersburg to Moscow.

A total of 16 bilateral documents were signed during the visit including those between commercial organisations. A joint Statement between India and the Russian Federation and a Joint Statement on strategic issues was issued at Kremlin. Agreements/documents signed in Kremlin on 6 November 2001 included.

1**2****3**

During this visit, PM was conferred an Honorary Doctorate by the Moscow State University. PM also visited St. Petersburg where he met Governor of the St. Petersburg Regional Administration Vladimir Yakovlev. At St. Petersburg, PM also inaugurated an exhibition of Indian paintings at the Russian Museum. During the visit, discussions took place on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest. A close proximity of views were expressed on several issues, including terrorism. These were reflected in the documents signed during the visit.

Moscow Declaration on International Terrorism MOU on the implementation of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Protocol of Cooperation between Astrakhan and Gujarat States. Protocol of Cooperation between the cities of Hyderabad and Kazan Memorandum of Intention between the Russian Emergencies Ministry and the Ministry of Science and Technology of India on development of cooperation in the field of emergency prevention and response.

Agreements/documents signed At Kempenski Hotel on 5 Nov. 2001 included:

MOU between CII and its Counterpart, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (Employers) (RUIE) 10 Million dollar credit line agreement between Exim Bank and its Counterpart, Vnesheconombank of Russia. MOU between the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Moscow.

Agreement between the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)

MOU between Department of Science and Technology and Russian Academy of Sciences for establishment of Indo-Russian Center for Ayurveda Research at Moscow MOU between Department of Sciences and Technology and Russian Academy of Sciences on the establishment of Indo-Russian Center for Biotechnology in India. Protocol of intentions between State Bank of India and Central Bank of Russia on the Opening of A Subsidiary Bank, 'Commercial Bank of India LLC Company' in Moscow.

1	2	3
		<p>Four documents were signed in St Petersburg on 5 November 2001:</p> <p>MOU between School of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University and JNCC</p> <p>MOU between Kazan State University and JNCC MOU between Far Eastern National University, Valdivostok and JNCC</p> <p>MOU between the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and JNCC on Project Related Support to Center of Indian Studies of the Institute of Oriental Studies.</p>
<p>UK: 12 October 2002 Bilateral Visit.</p>	<p>Both sides reviewed bilateral ties and had discussions On regional and Global developments. UK PM Congratulated PM on the successful elections in J&K and Reiterated support for India's permanent membership of UNSC.</p>	<p>No Agreement was signed during the visit.</p>
<p>Denmark: 9-11 October 2002 Third India EU Summit and Bilateral visit.</p>	<p>Discussion at the Third Summit under the Danish Presidency focused on review bilateral relations with EU and regional and global issues of mutual interest. Both sides adopted the Joint Statement with an Agenda for Action. PM in his key note address at the Business Summit urged. The EU to tackle EU's high agricultural subsidies and non-tariff barriers that affect Indo EU trade discussions at the bilateral level focussed on revitalizing bilateral relationship by identifying new areas of cooperation in IT, Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals, Food Processing and Non Conventional Energy.</p>	<p>No Agreement was signed during the visit.</p>
<p>Cyprus: 7-9 October, 2002 For the Bilateral Visit</p>	<p>Issues of bilateral, regional and international importance were discussed.</p>	<p>Five Agreements were signed in the Fields of Posts & Telecommunications, Health, S&T, IT and Culture.</p>
<p>Switzerland: 16-17 September 2002 Transit at Zurich</p>	<p>No Discussions were held.</p>	<p>No Agreement was signed.</p>
<p>UK: 12 November 2001 Bilateral visit</p>	<p>Both sides discussed bilateral relations and regional and global issues of mutual interest, including combating international terrorism and reform of the UN. There was also discussion</p>	

1	2	3
<p>Germany 16-19 September 2000 Transit halt at Frankfurt</p>	<p>on cooperation on WTO issues. No Discussions were held</p>	<p>No Agreement was signed during the visit. No Agreement was signed during the visit.</p>
<p>Portugal: 27-29 June, 2000 First India-EU Summit and Bilateral visit</p>	<p>It was the first summit level interaction between India and the EU. India and the EU discussed ways to expand the multifaceted relations. Lisbon Declaration with an Agenda for action was adopted during the summit. At the bilateral level both sides discussed the steps to expand bilateral, political and economic cooperation.</p>	<p>Agreement between India and EU on Financing of Civil Aviation Sector, Agreement on setting up of JWG on IT between India and Portugal and Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement with Portugal.</p>
<p>Italy: 25-27 June, 2000 For the Bilateral visit</p>	<p>Both sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and on regional and international issues of mutual interest. PM urged the Italian Businesses to take advantage of the new opportunities for investment and trade in India.</p>	<p>An Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism.</p>
<p>Islamic: Republic of Iran (10-13 April, 2001)</p>	<p>During the visit, both sides discussed issues relating to cooperation on bilateral, regional and international matters. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the strengthening and deepening of consultations and to enhancing coordination on bilateral-regional and multi-lateral issues of mutual concern. Prime Minister and President Mohammad Khatami of Iran emphasised the need to enhance trade ties, economic and technical cooperation and cultural contacts. Prime Minister and President Khatami also signed the 'Tehran Declaration' which laid out their vision of cooperation based on shared concerns, common aspiration and shared complementarities for the benefit of the two peoples and of the region and the world at large.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tehran Declaration 2. Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation 3. Agreement on Customs Cooperation 4. MoU on cooperation in Information Technology 5. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Energy 6. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Power (conventional sources) 7. MoU on Technical Cooperation.
<p>USA: 6-17 September, 2000</p>	<p>The PM's visit was in response to the invitation of U.S. President Clinton. Both the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the expansion of ties between the United States and India to the mutual benefit of both countries as envisaged in the Vision statement signed during President Clinton's visit to India in March, 2000. The visit was a significant step towards broad-ening and</p>	<p>NIL</p>

1	2	3
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deepening the friendship and cooperation between the two countries and helped expansion and continuation of cooperation in the areas such as trade and commerce, finance and investment, energy and environment, health, science and technology, counter terrorism and UN Peace-keeping.

USA:
November 7-9, 2001

Prime Minister and President Bush reaffirmed their united efforts to fight terrorism and articulated their commitment to complete the process of transforming India-US relationship. They agreed to explore ways to enhance their cooperation in political and strategic consultations, defence, security, combating international terrorism, civilian nuclear and space applications and economic relations for building long term partnership between the two countries.

NIL

USA: 9-17
September, 2001

The principal purpose of the visit was to attend the United Nations General Assembly on the margins of which Prime Minister met with President Bush on 12th September 2002. During the meeting India and USA reaffirmed their commitment to continue the process of qualitatively transforming India-USA relations and emphasized the deepening of the bilateral dialogue and strengthening of the new strategic framework of relations. They also agreed to enhance political and strategic consultations, deepen cooperation in defence, security and combating international terrorism, further develop economic relations, and explore possibilities of expanding cooperation in space, diverse forms of energy, high technology, commerce and science.

NIL

Cambodia:

PM visited Cambodia from April 9-11, 2002. Both sides agreed to continue and expand bilateral cooperation in several areas including Information Technology, Agriculture, human resource Development, Culture, Trade and Tourism. India and Cambodia also agreed to explore areas for new initiatives for further strengthening the relations under the auspices of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and Mekong Ganga Cooperation.

Agreement for Conservation and Restoration Work at Ta Phrom

The Air Services Agreement

Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports.

1	2	3
Cambodia:	<p>PM visited Cambodia from November 4-6, 2002 and attended the First India-ASEAN Summit on November 5, 2002. During the Summit Meeting, it was announced that India will consider a free trade area with ASEAN in the next ten years and will also support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration. Bilateral discussions were held with the Cambodian Prime Minister Mr. Hun Sen. PM handed over to the Cambodian Prime Minister, a gift of 10,000 tonnes of rice for humanitarian purposes. A publication issued by the Archaeological Survey of India on Angkor Vat's restoration and conservation was presented by the PM to the Cambodian Prime Minister. PM and the Queen of Cambodia inaugurated an Exhibition on Indian Textiles and Information Technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Credit Agreement US\$ 10 million (ii) Trade Agreement (iii) MOU between Archaeological Survey of India and the Apsara Authority (iv) MOU between IIT, Mumbai and the Institute of Technology of Cambodia.
Lao Peoples Democratic Republic	<p>PM paid a three-day official Visit to Lao PDR from 6-8 Nov. 2002. India and Laos agreed to operate various initiatives to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries as well as in the region and sub-region. PM waived the repayment of an earlier US\$ 2 million loan to Lao PDR. A gift of parachutes and computers was also handed over to Laotian authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Agreement on a credit line for US\$ 10 million (ii) Agreement on Exemption of Visa requirement for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders. (iii) Agreement on Prevention of illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (iv) Agreement on Defence Cooperation.
Republic of Singapore	<p>PM visited Singapore from April 7-9, 2002. Detailed discussions with Singapore leaders were held on bilateral regional and international matters focussing mainly on economic, commercial and cultural cooperation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) MOU on cooperation in the field of Telecommunications (ii) MOU on Loaning of Eleven Indian Artifacts for ten years to the Asian Civilisation Museum
Republic of Kazakhstan (from June 2 to 5, 2002)	<p>Hon'ble PM and Kazakh President discussed various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Joint Working Group for combating international terrorism and other types of crimes (2) Memorandum of Understanding on Military-Technical Cooperation (3) Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of tourism.

*[English]***Shortage of Cable in Gujarat**

4664. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

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

(a) whether there is any shortage of telephone cable for underground cable work in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of cable works held up in different districts of Gujarat;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation; and

(e) the time by which laying of cables is likely to be completed in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) There was some shortage of under ground cable in Gujarat Telecom circle with respect to the Switching Capacity added during 2002-03, but the work of releasing New Telephone Connection was not held up.

(b) The shortage of cable for 2002-03 was 8.7 Lakh conductor kilometer (LCKM) with respect to switching capacity for which orders have already been placed.

(c) Cables were received during January to March, 2003. The cable laying works are in progress in various SSAs and now work is not held up for want of cable in Gujarat Telecom circle.

(d) As on 1.4.2003, 8,465 LCKM Cable was available in stock and 8.7 LCKM Cable is in pipe line.

(e) The Delivery Schedule for supply of cable is up to August, 2003 and the cable laying work is likely to be completed by December, 2003.

Software Packages

4665. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Software Packages received from the donor Microsoft Corporation USA under the scheme 'IT for Masses' announced during 2000;

(b) whether those software packages were supplied to schools in different States;

(c) if so, the details of the schools which have been supplied with such software packages on the recommendation on the MPs, State-wise; and

(d) the names of the States where such software packages are yet to be supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The details of the software packages donated by M/s Microsoft Corporation, USA is given below:

- (i) MS Office 2000/XP
- (ii) Visual Basic 6.0
- (iii) MS Encarta
- (iv) MS School Bus Series (3 titles)

(b) The software packages received in the 1st consignment were handed over to the respective Resident Commissioners of different States/UT's for further distribution in schools.

(c) The State-wise list of the number of schools recommended by Hon'ble Members of Parliament for receiving the software packages is enclosed as statement.

(d) Hon'ble Members of Parliament were requested to recommend 5 schools (50 in case of Members of Consultative Committee attached to Ministry of Communications and Information Technology) for receiving the software packages in their respective States/UTs. No recommendations were received by the Department of Information Technology from the Hon'ble Members of the Parliament from Nagaland, Tripura, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

Statement*Details of number of Schools recommended by Hon'ble MPs*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	No. of packages delivered	No. of schools recommended by Hon'ble MPs
1	2	3	4
STATES			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	182	81
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	5
3.	Assam	63	57
4.	Bihar	193	90
5.	Chhattisgarh	55	31
6.	Goa	9	10
7.	Gujarat	111	89
8.	Haryana	45	25
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21	28
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	30	13
11.	Jharkhand	82	25
12.	Karnataka	142	116
13.	Kerala	109	117
14.	Madhya Pradesh	154	61
15.	Maharashtra	356	283
16.	Manipur	9	5
17.	Meghalaya	31	59
18.	Mizoram	6	10
19.	Nagaland	6	0
20.	Orissa	137	55
21.	Punjab	63	24
22.	Rajasthan	105	72
23.	Sikkim	6	5
24.	Tamil Nadu	216	179

1	2	3	4
25.	Tripura	9	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	454	166
27.	Uttaranchal	24	10
28.	West Bengal	197	175
UNION TERRITORIES			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3	5
2.	Chandigarh	3	4
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3	0
4.	Daman & Diu	3	0
5.	Delhi	34	23
6.	Lakshadweep	3	0
7.	Pondicherry	6	0
8.	Nominated		23
Total		2879	1846

Note: As per a decision taken, the Resident Commissioners have been advised to distribute the software packages @ 5 sets per Hon'ble MP (50 in case of Member of Consultative Committee on IT) and the balance available (if any) to other schools of their respective States/UT's in consultation with their Education/IT Department.

Liquidity Crunch of Shipping Corporation of India

4666. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has been facing a liquidity crunch;

(b) if so, whether a huge amount is required for covering its operating expenses;

(c) if so, the plans chalked out by the SCI in this regard;

(d) whether oil companies have to pay a huge amount of dues to the SCI; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to recover the dues - from the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Oil majors are clients of SCI and as per commercial practice, SCI carries crude oil on behalf of these companies. No huge amount is due from oil majors.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Vaccine/Drug for AIDS

4667. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether the Indian Scientists at ICMR have recently developed an anti-AIDS vaccine/drug to check AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Phase-II trials are going to be conducted at the National AIDS Research Institute;

(d) if so, the appropriate cost of the production of this vaccine/drug; and

(e) the time by which this vaccine/drug is likely to be made available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, the Ministry of Health & Family welfare and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December, 2000, with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to promote and accelerate efforts to develop an indigenous AIDS vaccine that will address the strains of the HIV-1 subtype C predominant in India.

The Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) based vaccine is being developed. It involve innumerable complex and complicated steps. The MVA based vaccine has yet not -

reached the stage of clinical trial. This work is being carried out by two ICMR institutions namely, National AIDS Research institute, Pune and National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata.

(c) The candidate vaccine once developed would go through pre-clinical, safety and toxicity studies to be followed by Phase-I, II and III trial in humans. The Phase I and Phase II trials will be carried out at National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune.

(d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and ICMR have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) where the parties have agreed that all new patent and other new intellectual property rights to inventions arising from the programme shall belong jointly to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, ICMR and IAVI. Under this MOU it is assured that this vaccine shall be made available in Indian and neighbouring SAARC countries at an affordable cost.

(e) It is difficult to say anything at this stage. Vaccine can be considered for its introduction in the general public only after the successful Phase I, II and III trials.

[English]

Judgement of Supreme Court for Medical Entrance

4668. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has delivered any judgement regarding common entrance test for professional courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the judgement of the Supreme Court, students seeking admission into Medical Colleges will have to appear for Common Entrance Test;

(d) if so, whether private colleges will not be affected by this judgement and will follow their own procedure for admission; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to protect interests of the common students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its judgement delivered on 31st October, 2002

in the T.M.A. Pai & Ors. State of Karnataka & Ors., has held that its decision in Unni Krishnan's case, in so far as it framed the scheme relating to the grant of admission and the fixing of the fee, was not correct, and to that extent, the said decision and the consequent directions given to the UGC, AICTE and Medical Council of India, Central and State Governments etc. would stand overruled. In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Central Government has initiated the necessary follow up action, inter-alia, with regard to the fee structure and admission of students in private medical and dental colleges, in consultation with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Universities.

Expansion of Activities of DCI

4669. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) has taken any step to increase its operational capability;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether there is a vast scope for DCI to expand its activities in the International markets;

(d) if so, the specific steps taken by the DCI to tap the International market; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the year 1999 and 2001 Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) has procured 3 Nos. 7400 cubic meter hopper capacity dredgers, which has resulted in increasing operational capacity of DCI by 30.6 million cubic meter per annum. Besides, steps have been taken to update the technology on board the dredgers and enhancing the technical skills of its staff.

(c) to (e) There is scope for DCI to expand its activities in international market particularly in the area of maintenance dredging. During the year 2001-2002, DCI had executed dredging assignment at Taichung Harbour, Taiwan. DCI has initiated action for positioning of Marketing Agents abroad particularly in countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, UAE and Bahrain to promote its business. DCI has also approached Indian Embassies in these countries for providing necessary assistance in this regard. Steps have also been taken by

DCI to position Consultant to identify a suitable Joint Venture/Alliance Partner to facilitate it to expand its base outside India and acquire technical skills in capital dredging assignments.

Opening of National Antidote Bank at AIIMS

4670. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open 'National Antidote Bank' at AIIMS, New Delhi and other hospitals of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mechanism has been put in place to ensure speedy delivery of antidotes to the needy; 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) An Antidote Bank is being opened at the National Poisons Information Centre (NPIC), All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. Once established this Bank will provide antidotes as and when required in Emergency all over the country. Presently, NPIC is providing round-the-clock service on management and treatment of poisonings to treating physicians, public and various agencies all over the country.

Pathetic Condition of RML Hospital

4671. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the heart patients are being denied proper treatment in the Cardiology Department of RML Hospital which is functioning without senior Doctors as reported in the 'Danik Jagran' dated February 4, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to post senior cardiologists in the hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A full fledged Cardiology Department is in existence in Dr. RML Hospital to provide necessary treatment to

the patients. At present there are 2 Senior doctors (Specialists) with D.M. qualification in the Cardiology Department assisted by Senior Residents and Junior Residents. Steps are also being taken to fill up the vacant posts.

[Translation]

Funds for Improving Health Services in Rajasthan

4672. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Rajasthan for financial assistance for improving health services of existing hospitals and opening some new hospitals in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The following proposals have been received from the State Government of Rajasthan for providing financial assistance under the Assistance for Capacity Building Scheme:-

- (i) Government hospitals located at Shahpura, Kishnagarh, Bhim and Sojat City for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Care Units; and
- (ii) Medical Colleges, Kota, SMS Medical College & Associated Hospitals, Jaipur and S.P. Medical College & Associated Group of Hospitals, Bikaner for strengthening of diagnostic facilities.

The release of financial assistance for the above proposals is subject to fulfillment of conditions of the scheme and availability of funds.

Besides, a proposal aimed at improving/upgrading secondary level health facilities in the State of Rajasthan at a cost of Rs. 419.04 crores for World Bank Assistance under the State Health System Development Project received from Government of Rajasthan has been submitted to the World Bank. The project is being appraised by the World Bank.

[English]

Widening of National Highway No. 69

4673. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the traffic on National Highway No. 69 (Abdullahganj-Nagpur);

(b) if so, whether this increase in traffic is owing to narrow roads;

(c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme for widening/doubling of this road; and

(d) if so, the time by which work in this regard is likely to be started?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) It has been decided that the riding surface of all the National Highways in the State shall be improved first. Widening of the roads shall be taken up after completing the improvement of riding quality of all the roads in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Recognition of MD Degrees

4674. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the reputed Medical Colleges and Government Hospitals in Delhi are giving MD degrees that are not recognized by the Medical Council of India and the Union Health Ministry as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated March, 19, 2003;

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

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

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

to (c) Yes, Sir. Some of the Postgraduate medical courses being conducted in some of the medical colleges and Non-Teaching Specialist institutions in Delhi are yet to be recognised by the Medical Council of India and the Government. In respect of the few unrecognised courses run by University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi; Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi and Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi the institutions concerned have already applied to the Medical Council of India for their recognition under section 11(2) of IMC Act. The other institutions and the affiliating University have been advised to get their courses recognised by the Central Government.

Strengthening of CBI

4675. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI requires more strength and autonomy to respond to several important investigations;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bring an amendment in Special Police Establishment Act to make a provision to raise an exclusive independent cadre for CBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The CBI has sufficient sanctioned strength to deal with the magnitude of its investigative work. Further, the CBI has the requisite authority and autonomy prescribed under the law for investigation and prosecution.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Assistance for Health Programmes/Diseases

4676. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided assistance to States to combat major communicable and non-communicable diseases and also launched several National Health Programmes under the Centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and funds provided to each State during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) the extent to which success has been achieved in controlling the said diseases;

(d) whether the State Governments have sought more financial assistance to meet the expenses for the control/eradication of certain diseases during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing major national health programmes for control of both communicable and non-communicable diseases like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS and Blindness as Centrally Sponsored Schemes. State-wise allocation/releases made under these programmes during the Ninth Plan Period (1997-2002) is at statement-I enclosed. Details of achievements made for each of the programmes is at Statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) State-wise allocations are made based on various factors like past performance including utilisation of funds, the incidence of a particular disease and the overall availability of plan resources. However, no request has been received from the State Governments for higher financial assistance.

Statement I

State-wise Allocation/Releases under Centrally Sponsored Disease Control Programmes in the Deptt. of Health during the Ninth Plan Period (1997-98, 2001-02)

(Rs. in Lakh)

State	Malaria	TB	Leprosy	AIDS	Blindness	Total (1997-2002)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar	777.06	39.73	38.93	263.03	43.91	1182.66
Andhra Pradesh	5783.50	3542.52	2132.53	5244.17	3616.81	20319.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Arunachal Pradesh	1663.27	247.93	474.13	539.88	119.16	3044.37
Assam	14406.88	1180.63	1135.43	1550.80	556.13	18829.87
Bihar	2693.21	4931.05	4666.19	1220.50	763.67	14274.62
Chandigarh	205.27	118.87	29.79	448.76	63.29	865.98
Chhattisgarh	1098.04	36.54	378.34	150.50	601.98	2265.40
D & N Haveli	207.99	13.01	25.42	76.00	129.77	452.19
Daman & Diu	101.31	12.26	57.40	174.22	103.51	448.70
Delhi	382.66	811.31	158.89	991.00	178.23	2522.09
Goa	57.70	59.69	34.29	354.73	241.14	747.55
Gujarat	6451.02	4239.10	1207.93	3151.08	1238.85	16287.98
Haryana	1239.79	856.11	175.91	1017.50	618.49	3907.80
Himachal Pradesh	313.00	672.11	298.01	1229.00	384.76	2896.88
Jammu & Kashmir	303.98	360.91	469.39	471.50	370.34	1976.12
Jharkhand	849.92	55.13	356.23	156.00	224.59	1641.87
Karnataka	2351.85	3139.21	1514.42	2495.47	1463.03	10963.98
Kerala	483.87	3057.01	899.65	1880.63	842.61	7163.77
Lakshadweep	40.65	14.27	24.89	79.08	264.65	423.54
Madhya Pradesh	8117.47	3289.23	3559.96	2139.81	4926.70	22033.17
Maharashtra	8975.02	5539.56	2205.78	6663.58	4153.50	27537.44
Manipur	2042.60	228.02	461.79	1870.83	137.76	4741.00
Meghalaya	1528.95	96.84	239.51	437.57	315.90	2618.77
Mizoram	1610.25	52.66	309.84	793.70	172.88	2939.33
Nagaland	1264.02	153.71	486.20	1648.00	181.82	3733.75
Orissa	4787.07	2012.63	3018.39	1348.50	3555.51	14722.10
Pondicherry	64.58	163.20	39.95	140.50	50.37	458.60
Punjab	1363.19	1029.59	338.61	1125.39	484.08	4340.86
Rajasthan	6329.56	3478.18	941.95	1172.50	3340.83	15263.02
Sikkim	33.50	60.35	262.34	311.02	173.39	840.60
Tamil Nadu	1581.66	4166.70	1824.56	8363.06	6324.04	22260.02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	2253.74	151.03	225.00	408.67	689.20	3727.64
Uttar Pradesh	3520.29	7025.47	4638.54	3780.50	5940.01	24904.81
Uttaranchal	23.64	15.56	1282.50	1465.65	440.74	3228.09
West Bengal	2166.89	6169.83	3293.70	1616.15	790.08	14036.65
Total	85073.40	57019.96	37206.39	54779.28	43501.73	277580.76

Statement II*Achievements of National Disease Control Programmes during 2001-02*

(i) National Anti Malaria Control Programme

Year	ABER	API
2001(P)	8.71	1.96

ABER: Annual Blood Examination Rate (%)

API: Annual Parasite Incidence per thousand population

(ii) National TB Control Programme

Year	Sputum Examination		Sputum Positive	
	Targets	Achievements	Targets	Achievements
2001-02	5135100	3824454	513510	391548

(iii) National Leprosy Eradication Programme

Year	Detection		Treatment		Discharge
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target
2001-02					
537746	183345	592758	183345	592758	455015

(iv) National Programme for Control of Blindness

Year	Cataract Operations Performed	
	Target	Achievement
2001-02	39.31 lakhs	37.25 lakhs

(v) National AIDS Control Programme (2001-02)

245 Major blood banks and 591 district blood banks have been established. 518 STD clinics have been set up. 334 Voluntary Counselling and Testing centres have been established. 571 Targeted Intervention Projects for vulnerable and marginalized high-risk behaviour group have been initiated.

Utilisation of Road funds

4677. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a substantial amount allocated by the Union Government to the States for construction of roads particularly in Rajasthan is not being utilised;

(b) if so, the details of the amount disbursed and utilised by each State during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the States make full utilisation of the allocated amount; and

(d) the details of amount utilised by Rajasthan from the Central Road Fund for construction of roads and highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to motivate the States for full utilisation of funds:—

- (i) The Ministry has been closely monitoring the expenditure incurred by each State vis a vis the allotment made to the concerned State. D.O. letters have been issued at the level of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) to the Hon'ble Ministers of PWD of the defaulting States.
- (ii) Ministry has adopted the direct payment system, for works taken up from Ninth Plan, in several States to avoid delay in payments to the contractors thereby ensuring timely utilisation of funds.
- (iii) Ministry insists on Schedule of Rates being updated regularly for the preparation of estimates so that their revision may not be required. This ensures timely utilisation of funds.
- (iv) The works sanctioned by the Ministry are de-sanctioned if the work is not started within the stipulated time.

(d) The details of amount utilised by Rajasthan from the Central Road Fund for construction of roads and highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan are given below:—

Year	Amount utilised from CRF (in Rs. crores)
1997-1998	0.00
1998-1999	0.00
1999-2000	0.00
2000-2001	4.17
2001-2002	55.00

**Representation from CGHS Employees
Association, Kolkata**

4678. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received requests during the period from 1.1.2002 to 31.12.2002 from All India CGHS Employees Association, Kolkata, in regard to their various long pending demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The All India CGHS Employees Association (AICGHSEA), Kolkata Branch had forwarded a copy of the 22-Point Charter of Demands of the Association in February, 2002. This Charter pertains to the national level of the AICGHSEA and is not confined to the Kolkata Branch of the AICGHSEA.

(b) The main demands of the Association include promotion to all CGHS employees, waiving of CGHS contribution made by CGHS employees, re-designation of the post of Store Keeper-cum-Clerk (Homoeo), full reimbursement of medical expenses in respect of CGHS staff and credit facilities for taking treatment in private unrecognised hospitals, enhanced rate of washing allowance for some categories of CGHS employees, 60:40 ratio of LDC to UDC working in CGHS, timely and good supply of medicines, modification of recruitment rules in respect of certain categories of posts, implementation of assured career progression (ACP Scheme), upgrading pay scale of Dresser, filling up of vacant posts,

reimbursement of cost of liveries, decentralisation of powers for making appointment on compassionate grounds and also in respect of House Building Advance, giving the scale of Assistant Accounts Officer to the Accountants in CGHS, and regularisation of ad-hoc services of CGHS employees from their date of appointment.

(c) Action has already been initiated to consider the demands of the Association in consultation with the concerned Deptts/agencies. A continuous dialogue has been maintained with the AICGHSEA. Decisions on some of the demands have already been taken and communicated to the Association.

Malnutrition

4679. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

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

(a) whether a number of children are affected severely by malnutrition in the country;

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

(c) the target fixed and achieved in curbing/minimizing the malnutrition among the children during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(d) the target fixed for the purpose for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government to achieve the goal during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per National Family Health Survey (1998-99), 18% of children under the age of 3 years are severely malnourished in the country. State-wise details are at statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Ninth Five Year Plan did not fix State-wise goals for minimizing malnutrition among children. The major nutrition goals during the Tenth Plan is to intensify nutrition and health education to improve infant and child feeding and caring practices so as to (a) bring down the prevalence of under-weight children under three years from the current level of 47% to 40%; and (b) to reduce prevalence of severe under-nutrition in children in the 0-6 years age group by 50%.

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

Statement

Nutritional Status of Children in India

State	Percentage of Children under the age of 3 years, who are severely malnourished
1	2
India	18.0
North	
Delhi	10.1
Haryana	10.1
Himachal Pradesh	12.1
Jammu & Kashmir	8.3
Punjab	8.8
Rajasthan	20.8
Central	
Madhya Pradesh	24.3
Uttar Pradesh	21.9
East	
Bihar	25.5
Orissa	20.7
West Bengal	16.3
North East	
Arunachal Pradesh	7.8
Assam	13.3
Manipur	5.3

1	2
Meghalaya	11.3
Mizoram	5.0
Nagaland	7.4
Sikkim	4.2
West	
Goa	4.7
Gujarat	16.2
Maharashtra	17.6
South	
Andhra Pradesh	10.3
Karnataka	16.5
Kerala	4.7
Tamil Nadu	10.6

Setting up of Medical Colleges

4680. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal for setting up of Medical Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The following two proposals have received from Government of West Bengal for establishment of new medical college during 2002 and both of them have been sent to Medical Council of India for evaluation and recommendations:—

- (1) Establishment of new medical college at Midnapore.
- (2) Starting of MBBS course at Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research, Kolkata.

(c) Clearance of these proposals are subject to fulfilling the qualifying criteria under Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and the Regulations framed thereunder, availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon.

Strengthening of CGHS

4681. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development in its 13th Report recommended measures to improve the functioning of the CGHS in the country;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve functioning of CGHS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development's thirteenth report was on "The Prevention of apartheid in Sports Bill, 1988" and therefore, does not pertain to the functioning of the CGHS.

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

RCH Programme

4682. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to route their funding to NGOs for the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme through the State Governments as reported in the *Press* on March 26, 2003;

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

(c) whether the Government have finalised new norms for the implementation of the above programme through NGOs; 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) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken a decision

to route its funding to NGOs and Voluntary Organisations for the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) programme through the State Governments. Previously under Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme the flow of funds was direct from the Government of India to the NGOs. Now as per new guidelines the flow of funds for NGO schemes will be from the Government of India to the States. The States will be responsible for release of funds to the NGOs. This has been done to promote decentralization and improve monitoring of work of NGOs.

New norms and guidelines in this regard have been finalized.

[*Translation*]

Sanctioning of National Highway No. 79

4683. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central part of Nasirabad-Mau cantonment of the National Highway No. 79 from Mumbai to Delhi via Jaipur-Ajmer-Nasirabad-Neemach-Mandsaur-Mau cantonment has been sanctioned and notified as National Highway;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in its upgradation as National Highway; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) National Highway No. 79 was declared as National Highway on 1.6.99. Maintenance and upkeep of the stretch from Mahu to Naseerabad has been awarded on Maintain, Operate and Transfer (MOT) basis by the State Government prior to 1.6.99. This contract is scheduled to be completed by 2006. Only after completion of this MOT contract, that this highway can be taken up by this Ministry. Meanwhile, State Government has been requested to take necessary action for de-notifying this as a National Highway.

Non Supply of Nutritious Diet to Patients

4684. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that no prescribed nutritious diet is being provided to the indoor

patients in the Government hospitals, particularly in Delhi as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated February 15, 2003;

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

(c) the corrective measures being 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) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi i.e. Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals are concerned, a dietetic department is in existence in each of the above-mentioned hospital manned by qualified dietitian for advising the patients on nutrition. The hospitals follow the diets scale which provides all the nutrition as per the recommendation of Indian Council of Medical Research.

Disinvestment Policy

4685. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment is likely to increase due to the implementation of the Disinvestment Policy and this will also adversely affect the Small Scale and Cottage Industries; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the rising unemployment and adverse impact on Small Scale and Cottage Industries as a result of implementation of the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Disinvestment is not directly related to unemployment. In one PSU employment has increased after disinvestment. In several PSUs employees' separation commenced even prior to disinvestment and was required for making these companies viable. Disinvestment does not mean closing down of the company. Instead, strategic sale along with transfer of management control is expected to unleash the productive potential of public sector assets. In several PSUs operational efficiency has improved after disinvestment and additional capacities are being planned. Enhanced production and productivity in disinvested PSUs is a sustainable way of protecting employment, particularly in those small scale and cottage industries which are commercially viable.

[English]

Market Share of Speed Post

4686. SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the market share of "Speed Post" as compared to couriers at the National and International level;

(b) the reasons, if any, for "Speed Post" losing its market leadership to the courier market at the National and International level; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enlarge the market share of "Speed Post"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Although no published data is available, a study commissioned by Department of Posts in the year 2001 indicated a market share of 8.41% for Speed Post in the 2000-2001. The speed post business is growing appreciably, as may be seen from the revenue figures for the past five years.

Year		Revenue in Crores of Rupees
1998-99	—	91.36
1999-2000	—	126.17
2000-01	—	151.44
2001-02	—	196.53
2002-03	—	217.86 (for 11 months upto February 2003)

(b) In view of year-wise revenue growth mentioned in (a) above, it cannot be said that Speed Post has lost its market share.

(c) The Department has taken following steps to increase the business of Speed Post:

- (i) Computerised operations have been introduced at all National Speed Post Centres.
- (ii) Web-based Track & Trace "Speednet" has been provided for tracking of Speed Post consignments at all National Speed Post Centres w.e.f. 3.1.2002.

(iii) Web-based grievance handling system for processing of Speed Post complaints has been introduced at all National Speed Post Centres.

(iv) Volume-based discounted rates are provided to corporate customers.

(v) Marketing executives have been provided at all National Speed Post Centers to bring in new customers and to service the existing customers.

(vi) Publicity and promotional exercises have been conducted through out the country.

Development of Mumbai and Cochin Ports

4687. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for spending Rs. 75,000 crores for the development of Mumbai and Cochin Ports are being considered by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount to be spent for each port respectively; and

(c) the details of the works proposed to be undertaken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c): There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for spending Rs. 75,000 crores for the development of Mumbai and Cochin Ports. However, while presenting the Union Budget 2003-04 on 28th February, 2003, the Finance Minister, inter alia, announced that Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Cochin Port need dredging and modernisation which are expected to cost over Rs. 7,500 crores and that the Government will provide viability gap funding to bridge any possible shortfall in meeting the debt service obligations of the two Port Trusts to facilitate implementation of their comprehensive modernisation projects designed to bring them upto international standards.

Exploitation of Human Beings by Pharmaceutical Giants

4688. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that human beings have become subjects for certain pharmaceutical giants to test their drugs as reported in the 'Hindu', Delhi, dated March 14, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to stop such inhumane experimentation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Clinical trials on human subjects is an integral part of drug development process worldwide and are also being conducted in this country as per guidelines/norms prescribed internationally. These human subjects are enrolled after proper in-house screening procedure including complete health check-up and biochemical analysis of blood/plasma/urine. The pharmaceuticals companies are required to follow the Good Clinical Practice guidelines and guidelines issued by Indian Council of Medical Research for Ethical aspects of Biomedical Research on human subjects and conduct the clinical studies after approval of respective Institutional Ethics Committees. Thus, it is not a fact that there is exploitation of poor people for human clinical trial.

Pak Refusal on Transit Facilities to Afghanistan

4689. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has refused transit facilities to India for sending humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the steps taken at the International level to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistan has not allowed trade related and some other Indian products, including humanitarian assistance items such as wheat, destined for Afghanistan to enter through the Indian-Pakistan border.

India-Afghanistan trade and economic relations continue to strengthen, and supply of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan continues through commercially available channels and routes.

Development of IT Hardware Sector

4690. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has in place a policy relating to development of IT hardware manufacturing and market in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) if not, whether in the absence thereof, the IT hardware industries has suffered adversely;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of Electronic Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP) Scheme in the country and the number of units attached with each of them;

(f) the value of goods manufactured by them during each of the last three years;

(g) whether the scheme has not become as attractive as stipulated;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the steps proposed, if any, to promote the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (d) An approach Paper for a Comprehensive IT Hardware Policy is under formulation in the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

(e) and (f) There are 79 exporting Electronic Hardware Technology Parks (EHTP) units registered with the Designated Officers of the Department of Information Technology. Centre-wise break up is given in the statement enclosed. The value of goods exported by these units in the last 3 years is as under:

2000-2001	Rs. 702.85 crores
2001-2002	Rs. 1478.38 crores
2002-2003	Rs. 2376.33 crores

(g) to (i) The EHTP scheme has been modified over the last 2 years to make it more attractive. As a result, the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) sales of Information

Technology Agreement (ITA-1) item by EHTP units shall be counted towards fulfillment of export obligation.

Statement

Comparative Statement of EHTP Units under STPI

(Rs. in Crores)				
STPI Centre	EHTP Exporting Units	Export Earnings DY (2000-01)	Export Earnings DY (2001-02)	Export Earnings DY (2002-03)
Noida	18	202.53	63.42	64.27
Chennai	8	27.62	461.07	717.53
Tiruvananthapuram	3	13.54	12.59	14.45
Pune	4	42	50.65	48.95
Bangalore	31	367.14	828.53	1403.85
Mumbai	1	29.57	39.76	64.28
Gandhinagar	7	3.45	10.01	13
Hyderabad	7	17	12.35	50
Total	79	702.85	1478.38	2376.33

Mobile Phone Service in Tamil Nadu

4691. DR. S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile phones have been introduced by the BSNL in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more towns/cities are likely to be covered under it in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Mobile telephone services have been introduced in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) The Cellular Mobile Service was launched in Tamil Nadu on 24.10.2002 and 160089 cellular connections has been provided upto 31.3.2003 covering about 90 cities in the State. The services in Chennai was launched on 30th March 2003.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) plans to cover additional towns of Tamil Nadu during 2003-04 subject to their commercial viability.

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

Alzheimer's Disease

4692. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been done to assess the extent of Alzheimer's Disease in the country;

(b) if so, the nodal agency responsible for the prevention of Alzheimer's disease in the country;

(c) whether the Government have not provided any assistance to hospitals to attend to this health problem; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Based on the World Health report, the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease is estimated to be 5% in males and 6% in females above the age of 60 years. Applying this to India's population, it is estimated that there may be around 3.5 million people suffering from Alzheimer's disease. However, this is based on extrapolation and not on actual survey. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degenerative condition with onset usually after the age of 65 years. The exact cause of the disease is not known. The treatment is aimed at relief of symptoms by medication such as anti-psychotics, tranquillisers and cholinergic stimulators as well as behavioral modification and family counseling or caring of such people. The treatment is provided in tertiary hospitals both in the Government and private sector.

[*Translation*]

Restructure of Autonomous Committees/Societies

4693. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to restructure the autonomous committees and societies under their jurisdiction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the restructuring process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) There were in all 13 societies under the Department of Information Technology (DIT). An exercise for restructuring of the societies was taken up and initially a total No. of 07 societies were merged/hived off to have a total of 06 societies which are as under:

1. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). The erstwhile Electronics Research & Development Centre of India (ER&DCI) and

National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) alongwith Mohali Centre of Centre for Electronics Design and Technology of India (CEDTI) have been merged with C-DAC.

2. Department of Electronics Accredited Course on Computer (DOEACC). Regional Computer Centre (RCC), Kolkata, Regional Computer Centre (RCC), Chandigarh and Centre for Electronics Design and Technology of India (CEDTI), except its Mohali Centre have been merged with DOEACC Society.
3. Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER).
4. Centre for Material for Electronics Technology (C-MET).
5. ERNET India.
6. Software Technology Park of India (STPI).

The Centre for Liquid Crystal Research (CLCR) stands transferred to the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The Society for Electronics Test Engineering (SETE) stands merged with STQC Directorate of DIT.

It is expected that as a result of the reorganisation, there will be more focussed approach of the societies towards their declared goals and objectives. It is also felt that the reorganisation would help the societies in allowing their vision and mission to be aligned in tune with that of the department under the new emphasis on IT. The reorganisation is also expected to help in achieving the broad objectives of employment generation, creation of wealth, IT led economic growth, societal equivalence, harnessing economies of scale etc.

(c) The restructuring process is an ongoing process which will continue as per the requirements of the time.

[*English*]

Blindness and Tuberculosis Programmes

4694. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government launched various programmes under the National Disease Control Programme like blindness and tuberculosis long time back;

(b) if so, whether the Government have not achieved the desired results despite these programmes to contain the said diseases in the country; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. National Programme for Control of Blindness since 1976 and National Tuberculosis Control Programme since 1962 are being implemented in the country.

(b) and (c) The prevalence of blindness has reduced from 1.49% (1986-89) to 1.1% (2001-2002) against target of 0.3% increase in life expectancy, inadequate services in difficult areas and new emerging eye problems like glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy are reasons for limited success under the programme.

Reasons for limited success under previous National Tuberculosis Control Programme include:

- Inadequate budget and insufficient managerial capacity.
- Shortage of drugs.
- Emphasis on x-ray diagnosis resulting in inaccurate diagnosis.
- Poor quality sputum microscopy.
- Multiplicity of treatment regimens.

In order to overcome the above short comings a Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) was launched in 1997.

Against the targetted cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases, treatment success rate has increased from less than 40% in the previous programme to more than 80% in the RNTCP. The present coverage of RNTCP is more than 600 million population and it is envisaged to cover the entire country by 2005.

Setting up of Atomic Power Station in Eastern Region

4695. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified new sites in the eastern region for setting up of Atomic Power Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are planning to set up nuclear power plants in West Bengal;

(d) if so, whether the sites have been selected for setting up Atomic Power Plants in the States;

(e) if so, the fund allocated for this purpose so far, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No suitable sites in Eastern Electricity Region have so far been identified by the Site Selection Committee. Moreover, as the Region is endowed with significant coal reserves, the priority for setting up of atomic power stations is relatively lower, for the time being, as compared to other regions.

(c) As of now, there is no such plan.

(d) A number of sites proposed by the West Bengal State Government have been considered and so far, no suitable site could be identified.

(e) and (f) Not applicable, in view of the above.

[Translation]

Theft of Underground Telephone Cable

4696. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the incidents of theft of underground telephone cable which took place in various telephone exchanges of Delhi and New Delhi zones from January, 2001 to March 31st, 2003;

(b) the details of the F.I.R. lodged against the individuals/companies guilty of stealing these telephone cables alongwith the details of the action taken in regard to each case separately; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken by the Government in respect of such cases and the instructions being issued

with regard to action to be taken against the persons involved in disconnecting underground cables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) In Delhi Unit of MTNL there were 322 cable theft cases from Jan. 01 to 31st March, 03. Case by case details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) FIR has been lodged in all the cases in the

concerned Police Stations as is evident in the enclosed statement.

(c) Following steps are being taken by Delhi Unit of MTNL to curb such thefts.

- (1) Patrolling of major cable routes.
- (2) Locking of manholes.
- (3) Co-ordination of length of underground cables by providing more number of Remote Switching units, Cordect and Digital Loop Carriers etc.

Statement

Details of Cable Theft Cases from 01.01.2001 to 31.03.2003

Sl. No	Area	Divn Route	Date of Theft	Cable Size	CableGTY	Length	Subs. Affected	Location	FIR			Remarks	Month	
									No.	Date	Police Stn.			
1	West 1	JKP	5.1.2K1	12	6.5	PJ	5.0	850	MH No. 601 Narang Cty.	—	15.1.2K1	JKP	6520	Jan. 01
2	West 1	DWR	5.1.2K1	1200	6.5	JF	10.0	500	Pappan Kalan	—	5.1.2K1	DWR	5000	Jan. 01
3.	West 1	DWR	5.1.2K1	400	6.5	JF	2.0	365	Machhu Vihar Nallah	—	5.1.2K1	DWR	2000	Jan. 01
4	West 1	DWR	5.1.2K1	800	6.5	JF	10.0	500	Pappan Kalan	—	5.1.2K1	DWR	5000	Jan. 01
5.	West 1	JKP	8.1.2K1	1200	6.5	PJ	5.0	750	MH No. 602 Near Narang Cty.	—	8.1.2K1	JKP	6520	Jan. 01
6	West 1	JKP	8.1.2K1	2000	4.0	PUJF	5.0	1150	-DO-	—	8.1.2K1	JKP	8015	Jan. 01
7	South 2	TBD	11.1.2K1	100	6.5	PUJF	25.0	70	Pillar No. 436 & Gate No. 3 Harndard	—	13.1.2K1	DR A.NGR	5000	Jan. 01
8.	South 2	N PLACE	12.1.2K1	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	875	MH No. 207 on Outer R. RD GK ENC	—	12.1.2K1	GK1	6980	Jan. 01
9.	South 2	N PLACE	12.1.2K1	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	875	-DO-	—	12.1.2K1	GK1	6980	Jan. 01
10.	South 2	N PLACE	12.1.2K1	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	875	-DO-	—	12.1.2K1	GK1	6980	Jan. 01
11.	South 2	N PLACE	12.1.2K1	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	875	-DO-	—	12.1.2K1	GK1	6980	Jan. 01
12.	TRY	LNR	13.1.2K1	400	6.5	PUJF	90.0	—	Near Mandoli Ganda Nala	—	13.1.2K1	—	0	Jan. 01
13	East	IDG	15.1.2K1	200	6.5	PUJF	18.0	0	Tyre MKT MM RD	—	15.1.2K1	D B G Road/50770		Jan. 01
14.	West 1	DWR	16.1.2K1	400	6.5	JF	12.0	50	Sec. 13 Dawaika	—	16.1.2K1	Uttam Nagar	8000	Jan. 01
15.	South 1	CPR	16.1.2K1	800	6.5	JF	3.0	500	Khullar Farm	—	16.1.2K1	Mehrauli	3213	Jan. 01
16.	West 1	JKP	19.1.2K1	1200	6.5	PJ	4.1	350	MH No. 001 JKP DDA Park	—	19.1.2K1	JKP	6000	Jan. 01
17.	South 1	CPR	22.1.2K1	400	6.5	JF	26.0	250	Kambodak Temple	—	22.1.2K1	Mehrauli	13823	Jan. 01
18.	Central	KBN	23.1.2K1	1200	6.5	PUJF	6.0	720	MH No. 23 DDU MARG	—	23.1.2K1	I P Estate	8712	Jan. 01
19.	West 1	DWR	23.1.2K1	200	6.5	JF	5.0	90	Sec. 10 Dawaika	—	16.1.2K1	DWR	1800	Jan. 01
20.	West 1	DWR	23.1.2K1	200	6.5	JF	6.0	80	Sec. 10 Dawaika	—	23.1.2K1	DWR	1200	Jan. 01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
21.	North 2	BAWANA	24.1.2K1	400	6.5	PUJ	17.0	300	Bridge of Canal Kanjhawla RD	38560/79224.1.2K1	Bawana	8850	Jan. 01
22.	South 1	CPR	24.1.2K1	400	6.5	JF	6.0	250	Andheria More	—	24.1.2K1	Mehrauli	3213 Jan. 01
23.	East	T/HAZARI	28.1.2K1	400	6.5	PUJ	90.0	15	At Bridge to Wajirabad Village	—	28.1.2K1	Timer Pur	36611 Jan. 01
24.	East	PKR	28.1.2K1	1600	4.0	PUJ	4.0	1055	JKP Near Dholi Pyau	—	29.1.2K1	JKP	5789 Jan. 01
25.	East	T/HAZARI	29.1.2K1	200	6.5	PUJ	90.0	15	At Bridge to Wajirabad Village	—	28.1.2K1	Timer Pur	36611 Jan. 01
26.	West 2	NGL	30.1.2K1	1200	6.5	JF	10.0	800	Ghewara RD	—	31.1.2K1	Kanjhawla	2000 Jan. 01
27.	West 2	NGL	30.1.2K1	400	6.5	JF	5.0	400	Ghewara RD	—	31.1.2K1	Kanjhawla	10000 Jan. 01
28.	West 1	D CANTT	31.1.2K1	800	4.0	PUJ	3.0	500	Kriya Vihar	—	31.1.2K1	D Cantt	2667 Jan. 01
29.	West 1	D CANTT	31.1.2K1	400	4.0	PUJ	3.0	250	Maid RD	—	31.1.2K1	D Cantt	1191 Jan. 01
1.	West 1	DWR	1.2.2001	800	4.0	PUJ	3.0	500	Maud RD MF No. 501	—	1.2.2001	D. Cantt	2500 Feb. 01
2.	West 1	DWR	1.2.2001	400	4.0	PUJ	3.0	300	-DO-	—	1.2.2001	D. Cantt	2500 Feb. 01
3.	South 1	BCP	2.2.2001	1200	6.5	JF	4.0	2985	Sec. 6 RKP Munirka	—	3.2.2001	SEC 12 RKP	16707 Feb. 01
4.	South 1	BCP	2.2.2001	2400	4.0	PUJ	4.0	4053	Sec. 8, 9 RKP Munirka	—	3.2.2001	SEC 12 RKP	15324 Feb. 01
5.	West 1	DWR	8.2.2001	800	6.5	JF	7.0	150	Sec. 22 DWR	—	8.2.2001	KAPASERA	5000 Feb. 01
6.	South 1	H KHAS	15.2.2001	1200	6.5	JF	3.0	950	Bar Sarai	—	16.2.2001	H KHAS	4177 Feb. 01
7.	South 1	H KHAS	15.2.2001	800	6.5	JF	3.0	700	Bar Sarai	—	16.2.2001	H KHAS	2916 Feb. 01
8.	South 1	BCP	16.2.2001	1200	6.5	JF	3.0	750	JNU DDA Flats Munirka	—	16.2.2001	H KHAS	4177 Feb. 01
9.	North 2	BADLI	19.2.2001	800	6.5	PUJ	11.0	325	Near Dist. Park Sec. 19 Rtn.	—	20.2.2001	BADLI	7143 Feb. 01
10.	North 2	BADLI	19.2.2001	200	6.5	PUJ	12.0	325	-DO-	—	20.2.2001	BADLI	7143 Feb. 01
11.	South 1	H KHAS	19.2.2001	2400	4.0	PUJ	4.0	5000	MH No. 2 Police Cty.	—	20.2.2001	H KHAS	35800 Feb. 01
12.	West 2	NGL	22.2.2001	1200	6.5	PUJ	19.0	1200	Ghewra Mandi Narela	—	23.2.2001	KANJHAWALA	30000 Feb. 01
13.	South 2	TBD	23.2.2001	2400	4.0	PUJ	6.0	1800	MH No. 14 Opp. Gail No. 24 TBD	—	24.2.2001	AMBEDKAR NGR	36572 Feb. 01
14.	North 2	BADLI	25.2.2001	400	10.0	PUJ	10.0	150	Bawana RD	—	26.2.2001	BAWANA	8310 Feb. 01
15.	T. Yamuna	LNR	18.2.2001	1600	4.0	JF	15.0	1285	Fly Over of Madhu Vihar	—	18.2.2001	MANDAWALI	20685 Feb. 01
16.	JN-Cable	JP-SITA	26.2.2001	400	10.0	—	5.0	0	MH No. 212 L.G. Art Centre	—	26.2.2001	P/STREET	4000 Feb. 01
17.	JN-Cable	CHY-BCP	13.2.2001	400	10.0	—	5.0	—	MH No. Cy. 010 Netaji Ngr.	—	13.2.2001	SARAJINI NGR	4000 Feb. 01
1.	North 2	Badli	1.3.2001	100	6.5	PUJ	18.0	100	Barwala Village	188155	7.3.2001	Bawana	10000 Mar. 01
2.	North 2	Badli	2.3.2001	100	6.5	PUJ	40.0	100	X-ing of Begum Pur Rd	188156	7.3.2001	Bawana	25000 Mar. 01
3.	South 2	SVR	2.3.2001	800	6.5	PUJ	5.0	650	Near Nallah Bridge on Noide MO	—	3.3.2001	SVR	6000 Mar. 01
4.	South 1	VKJ	6.3.2001	200	6.5	JF	13.4	19	Asaf Ali RD VKJ	—	6.3.2001	V Kunj	5360 Mar. 01
5.	North 2	Narela	7.3.2001	1200	6.5	PUJ	16.0	400	Singhu Border	871200	8.3.2001	Narela	25000 Mar. 01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
6.	South 1	VKJ	8.3.2001	1200	6.5	JF	12.0	850	Mehrauli	—	8.3.2001	Mehrauli	18280	Mar. 01
7.	South 1	VKJ	8.3.2001	1200	6.5	JF	10.0	950	Mehrauli	—	8.3.2001	Mehrauli	16000	Mar. 01
8.	North 2	Narela	13.3.2001	50	6.5	PUF	14.0	30	Near Gaushala BWN Narela	—	14.3.2001	Narela	1400	Mar. 01
9.	South 1	VKJ	14.3.2001	800	6.5	JF	6.0	115	Mahipal Pur	—	14.3.2001	VKJ	6198	Mar. 01
10.	South 2	TBD	15.3.2001	800	4.0	PUF	9.0	12	M B RD NEAR TBD	—	16.3.2001	Sangan Vihar	15000	Mar. 01
11.	North 2	Narela	15.3.2001	200	6.5	PUF	18.0	120	Singhola Village	—	16.3.2001	Narela	4700	Mar. 01
12.	North 2	Narela	15.3.2001	200	6.5	PUF	15.0	165	Tilri Village	—	16.3.2001	Alpur	4200	Mar. 01
13.	North 2	Narela	15.3.2001	200	6.5	PUF	15.0	60	Shahpur Village	—	16.3.2001	Narela	4200	Mar. 01
14.	North 2	Bawana	16.3.2001	1200	6.5	PUF	7.0	932	Darya Pur Nangal	—	16.3.2001	Bawana	13345	Mar. 01
15.	North 2	Bawana	16.3.2001	800	6.5	PUF	7.0	483	Darya Pur Nangal	—	16.3.2001	Bawana	11910	Mar. 01
16.	South 1	BCP	17.3.2001	1200	6.5	JF	8.0	1200	At Ring RD Nallah	—	17.3.2001	R.K. Param	12800	Mar. 01
17.	South 2	TBD	18.3.2001	1200	6.5	PUF	4.0	30	MH No. 204 at M B RD Sangan VI	—	20.3.2001	Sangan Vihar	10000	Mar. 01
18.	South 2	TBD	18.3.2001	1200	6.5	JF	4.0	30	-DO-	—	20.3.2001	Sangan Vihar	10000	Mar. 01
19.	North 2	Narela	19.3.2001	200	6.5	PUF	18.0	120	Singhola Village	—	19.3.2001	Narela	4700	Mar. 01
20.	North 2	Narela	19.3.2001	200	6.5	PUF	15.0	165	Tilri Village	—	19.3.2001	Alpur	4200	Mar. 01
21.	East	IDG 1	19.3.2001	100	6.5	PCUT	13.0	700	D B G RD	—	19.3.2001	P. Ganj	13542	Mar. 01
22.	North 2	Alpur	22.3.2001	200	6.5	PUF	5.0	180	Budh Pur	—	22.3.2001	Alpur	1680	Mar. 01
23.	North 2	Alpur	22.3.2001	100	6.5	PUF	6.0	90	Budh Pur	—	22.3.2001	Alpur	800	Mar. 01
24.	West 1	D Cantt	26.3.2001	100	6.5	PJ	2.5	80	Near Military Recruitment Office	—	26.3.2001	D. Cantt	1550	Mar. 01
25.	Central	Rajpath	26.3.2001	100	6.5	PUF	60.0	662	Crossing of JP R Prasad RD	—	26.3.2001	P. Street	42000	Mar. 01
26.	West 2	RG 2	29.3.2001	800	6.5	PCUT	25.0	300	Near NJF Nallah	—	30.3.2001	R GDN	16500	Mar. 01
27.	North 2	Alpur	31.3.2001	200	6.5	PUF	45.0	180	Near Alpur School	—	31.3.2001	Alpur	8100	Mar. 01
1.	TY	LNR	08.04.2001	800	6.5	PUF	16.0	800	Shiv Mandir Preet Vihar	—	08.04.2001	Preet Vihar	16583	April 01
2.	West-II	NGL	10.04.2001	400	6.5	PUF	5.0	300	Rohitak RD	—	11.04.2001	NGL	3300	April 01
3.	West-II	NGL	10.04.2001	400	6.5	PUF	5.0	300	Rohitak RD	—	11.04.2001	NGL	3400	April 01
4.	West-II	NGL	10.04.2001	400	6.5	PUF	5.0	300	Rohitak RD	—	11.04.2001	NGL	3300	April 01
5.	West-II	NGL	13.04.2001	200	6.5	PUF	5.0	100	Rohitak RD	—	14.04.2001	NGL	1000	April 01
6.	West-II	NGL	13.04.2001	200	6.5	PUF	5.0	100	Rohitak RD	—	14.04.2001	NGL	1000	April 01
7.	West-II	NGL	13.04.2001	100	6.5	PUF	5.0	100	Rohitak RD	—	14.04.2001	NGL	1000	April 01
8.	West-II	NGL	13.04.2001	50	6.5	PUF	5.0	50	Rohitak RD	—	14.04.2001	NGL	1000	April 01
9.	West-II	NGL	13.04.2001	50	6.5	PUF	5.0	50	Rohitak RD	—	14.04.2001	NGL	1000	April 01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
10.	S-II	TBD	15.04.2001	1200	4.0	PUJF	24.0	650	Kalkaji DDA LSC	—	16.04.2001	Govind Puri	40000	Apr. 01
11.	S-II	TBD	22.04.2001	100	6.5	PUJF	25.0	70	CRPF Camp	—	24.04.2001	Govind Puri	5000	Apr. 01
12.	N-II	BDL	23.04.2001	800	6.5	PUJF	6.0	650	Sec 19	—	24.04.2001	Badli	6300	Apr. 01
13.	North-II	BDL	23.04.2001	400	6.5	PUJF	6.0	150	Sec 19	—	24.04.2001	Badli	3660	Apr. 01
14.	West-II	RG-II	25.04.2001	1200	6.5	PUJF	1.5	800	NJF Drain	—	26.04.2001	Punjabi Bagh	1800	Apr. 01
15.	West-II	RG-II	25.04.2001	800	6.5	PUJF	1.5	400	NJF Drain	—	26.04.2001	Punjabi Bagh	1500	Apr. 01
16.	S-I	HKS	26.04.2001	1200	6.5	JF	23.0	850	Pusp Vihar	—	26.04.2001	Pusp Vihar	36800	Apr. 01
17.	West-I	NJF	27.04.2001	400	6.5	PUJF	6.0	250	Delhi Cantt	—	28.04.2001	NJF	2700	Apr. 01
18.	West-I	NJF	27.04.2001	100	6.5	PUJF	9.0	50	Nagloi Road	—	28.04.2001	NJF	2250	Apr. 01
19.	West-I	NJF	27.04.2001	20	6.5	PUJF	5.0	4	Nagloi Road	—	28.04.2001	NJF	400	Apr. 01
1.	West-I	NJF	01.05.2001	50	6.5	—	5.0	18	Mitrau Village	—	01.05.2001	NJF	875	May 01
2.	West-I	NJF	01.05.2001	10	6.5	—	50.0	2	Mitrau Village	—	01.05.2001	Najafgarh	2500	May 01
3.	West-I	NJF	02.05.2001	100	6.5	—	4.0	14	Geeta Diary RD	—	03.05.2001	Najafgarh	1000	May 01
4.	West-I	NJF	07.05.2001	400	6.5	—	6.0	200	Chawla Bridge	—	08.05.2001	Kapes Hera	4131	May 01
5.	West-I	NJF	07.05.2001	200	6.5	—	6.0	150	Chawla Bridge	—	08.05.2001	Kapes Hera	2940	May 01
6.	North-II	BDL	07.05.2001	50	6.5	—	65.0	10	Ganda Nala Jail RD	—	08.05.2001	Badli	6110	May 01
7.	North-II	BDL	07.05.2001	50	6.5	—	250.0	30	Guradwara RD Siraspur	303	08.05.2001	Badli	23500	May 01
8.	North-II	BDL	08.05.2001	800	6.5	—	3.0	750	Bawana RD	311	12.05.2001	Prashant Vihar	3150	May 01
9.	North-II	BDL	08.05.2001	800	10	—	—	550	Bawana RD	—	08.05.2001	Prashant Vihar	0	May 01
10.	South-I	BCP	09.05.2001	1200	6.5	—	16.0	851	Sec. 8, 9 & 12	—	09.05.2001	Sec. 12 R.K. Puram 20400	May 01	
11.	South-I	BCP	09.05.2001	1200	6.5	—	5.0	820	Sec. 8, 9 & 12	—	09.05.2001	Sec. 12 R.K. Puram 7000	May 01	
12.	West-II	K.JL	09.05.2001	800	6.5	—	20.0	450	Ghewra Khanjhwala	—	09.05.2001	Khanjhwala	20000	May 01
13.	West-I	NJF	15.05.2001	400	6.5	—	4.0	300	Jharoda RD	—	16.05.2001	Najafgarh	2000	May 01
14.	South-I	BCP	21.05.2001	800	6.5	—	15.0	426	Sec. 12 R.K. Puram	—	21.05.2001	Sec. 2 R.K. Puram 14400	May 01	
15.	North-II	NRL	25.05.2001	200	6.5	—	22.0	70	Shapur Diary	—	25.05.2001	Narela DSIDC	6000	May 01
1.	JP-DC	—	03.06.2001	800	10	—	41.0	—	Between MH No. 208 & 209 JP RD	—	03.06.2001	Parliament ST	20000	June 01
2.	TY	YVR	11.06.2001	1200	6.5	PUJF	20.0	200	IST Pusta To Hmandir Sonia VHR	—	12.06.2001	Sonia Vihar	653	June 01
3.	TY	YVR	15.06.2001	1200	6.5	JF	30.0	200	IST Pusta To Hmandir Sonia VHR	—	16.06.2001	Sonia Vihar	9000	June 01
4.	TY	YVR	16.06.2001	100	6.5	JF	20.0	2	IST Pusta To Hmandir Sonia VHR	—	16.06.2001	Sonia Vihar	4084	June 01
5.	S-II	OKH	24.06.2001	1200	4	JF	40.0	71	On Mathura RD Friends CLY	—	25.06.2001	N. Friends CLY	6457	June 01
1	S-II	OKH	02.07.2001	200	6.5	JF	12.0	0	Near Kikori Bus Stand Ring RD	—	02.07.2001	Sunlight Ciy	4000	July 01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
2.	S-II	OKH	02.07.2001	400	6.5	JF	12.0	0	Near Klokri Bus Stand Ring RD	—	02.07.2001	Sunlight City	8000	July 01
3.	S-II	OKH	02.07.2001	800	6.5	JF	12.0	0	Near Klokri Bus Stand Ring RD	—	02.07.2001	Sunlight City	10362	July 01
4.	West-I	DWR	02.07.2001	200	6.5	JF	25.0	30	DDA Flats Sec. XII	—	02.07.2001	Chokli Malhala	3125	July 01
5.	West-I	DWR	02.07.2001	50	6.5	JF	45.0	20	JJ City Sec-III	—	02.07.2001	Chokli Malhala	4375	July 01
6.	East	ID	04.07.2001	400	4	JF	15.0	140	Corner of Crossing at N ROH RD	—	04.07.2001	DB Gupta RD	7200	July 01
7.	N-II	NRL	05.07.2001	800	6.5	JF	5.0	350	DSIDC Narela	—	05.07.2001	Narela	5250	July 01
8.	West-II	RG-II	16.07.2001	1800	4	JF	6.0	1100	Najalgarh Drain	—	16.07.2001	Punjabi Bagh	9000	July 01
9.	N-II	BDL	17.07.2001	400	10	JF	8.0	300	Near Rao Dharam Kanta	—	18.07.2001	Bewana	8000	July 01
10.	N-II	BDL	17.07.2001	100	6.5	JF	8.0	80	Near Rao Dharam Kanta	—	18.07.2001	Bewana	2000	July 01
11.	West-I	DWR	24.07.2001	0	—	—	—	—	Sec 19, 20 Dewarka	—	24.07.2001	Dewarka	5100	July 01
12.	West-II	RG-I	25.07.2001	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	900	Subash NGR	—	25.07.2001	Tilak NGR	6000	July 01
13.	N-II	NRL	28.07.2001	200	6.5	JF	20.0	150	DSIDC Narela	—	28.07.2001	Narela	10000	July 01
14.	N-II	BDL	29.07.2001	2400	4	JF	5.0	2300	MH 101B Over W Yamuna Canal	—	29.07.2001	Badli	18000	July 01
15.	N-II	BDL	29.07.2001	1800	4	JF	5.0	400	MH 101B Over W Yamuna Canal	—	29.07.2001	Badli	14000	July 01
16.	N-II	BDL	29.07.2001	800	4	JF	5.0	1500	MH 101B Over W Yamuna Canal	—	29.07.2001	Badli	8000	July 01
17.	N-II	BDL	29.07.2001	800	4	JF	5.0	750	MH 101B Over W Yamuna Canal	—	29.07.2001	Badli	8000	July 01
1.	North 2	Narela	01.09.2001	10	6.5	JF	40.0	3	Pulla Near Singhu BDR	—	6.9.2001	Narela	1800	Sep. 01
2.	East	Idgah	4.9.2001	200	6.5	JF	30.0	—	Faiz RD	—	5.9.2001	DBG RD	8348	Sep. 01
3.	South 2	NPS	5.9.2001	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	225	Ching Delhi	—	5.9.2001	Ambedkar NGR	5424	Sep. 01
4.	South 2	NPS	5.9.2001	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	225	Ching Delhi	—	5.9.2001	Ambedkar NGR	5424	Sep. 01
5.	South 2	NPS	5.9.2001	800	6.5	JF	5.0	228	Ching Delhi	—	5.9.2001	Ambedkar NGR	5424	Sep. 01
6.	South 2	NPS	5.9.2001	200	6.5	JF	5.0	228	Ching Delhi	—	5.9.2001	Ambedkar NGR	5424	Sep. 01
7.	West 1	D Cantt	5.9.2001	400	4.0	JF	2.5	250	MH No. 210 Near R.L. Xing G RD	—	5.9.2001	D Cantt	982	Sep. 01
8.	West 1	D Cantt	5.9.2001	800	4.0	JF	2.5	400	MH No. 210 Near R.L. Xing G RD	—	5.9.2001	D Cantt	2224	Sep. 01
9.	East	Idgarh	11.9.2001	400	4.0	JF	10.0	50	Faiz RD	—	12.9.2001	DBG RD	4800	Sep. 01
10.	North 2	Narela	11.9.2001	400	6.5	JF	4.0	383	Pulla DDA Flats	—	11.9.2001	Narela	2000	Sep. 01
11.	East	Idgarh	22.9.2001	100	6.5	JF	18.0	900	Jhandewalan Road	—	24.9.2001	DBG RD	20880	Sep. 01
12.	East	Idgarh	22.9.2001	200	6.5	JF	10.0	120	-DO-	—	24.9.2001	DBG RD	2782	Sep. 01
13.	East	Idgarh	22.9.2001	100	6.5	JF	30.0	150	-DO-	—	24.9.2001	DBG RD	7900	Sep. 01
14.	South 2	BCP	24.9.2001	400	6.5	JF	8.0	250	B 5, 6, S J ENCL	—	24.9.2001	S NGR	7875	Sep. 01
15.	South 2	BCP	24.9.2001	400	6.5	JF	8.0	245	-DO-	—	24.9.2001	S NGR	7875	Sep. 01

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	JN-Cable	OKH-JP	2.10.2001	800	10.0	—	3.0	—	Corner of Lodi RD Near Nijamud	—	8.10.2001	Nijamuddin	1500	Oct. 01
2	JN-Cable	HK-VK	6.10.2001	800	10.0	—	6.0	—	IIT Gate	—	6.10.2001	H Khas	9000	Oct. 01
3	JN-Cable	OKH-JP	8.10.2001	800	10.0	—	3.0	—	Corner of Lodi RD Near Nijamud	—	8.10.2001	Nijamuddin	1500	Oct. 01
4	West 2	R GDN 1	10.10.2001	1000	6.5	PUJF	12.0	775	Tagore Park	—	10.10.2001	R GDN	9600	Oct. 01
5	West 2	H NGR	11.10.2001	200	6.5	PUJF	10.0	50	Partap NGR	—	12.10.2001	H NGR	5000	Oct. 01
6	West 2	H NGR	11.10.2001	200	6.5	PUJF	10.0	75	Partap NGR	—	12.10.2001	H NGR	5000	Oct. 01
7	West 2	H NGR	20.10.2001	200	6.5	PUJF	10.0	50	Partap NGR	—	20.10.2001	H NGR	7000	Oct. 01
8	West 2	H NGR	20.10.2001	200	6.5	PUJF	10.0	75	Partap NGR	—	20.10.2001	H NGR	6500	Oct. 01
9	West 2	H NGR	20.10.2001	200	6.5	PUJF	10.0	60	Partap NGR	—	12.10.2001	H NGR	6500	Oct. 01
10	TRY	MVR	24.10.2001	1200	6.5	PUJF	8.0	910	Near Distt. BWN Chilla	—	25.10.2001	N Ashok NGR	26000	Oct. 01
	West 1	JKP	4.11.2001	400	6.5	JF	3.0	192	M.H. No. 501 Near DJA-8 JKP	—	4.11.2001	Maya Puri	2500	Nov. 01
2	West 1	JKP	4.11.2001	800	6.5	PJ	3.0	289	-DO-	—	4.11.2001	Maya Puri	2500	Nov. 01
3	T/Yamuna	ELR	5.11.2001	1000	6.5	JF	400.0	0	ELR Exch. Compound DDA MKT L. RD	336/01	19.11.2001	Mansr. Park	35122	Nov. 01
4	North 2	Badli	5.11.2001	800	6.5	JF	15.0	500	Newly Const. DDA Flats Sec. 18 RH	—	5.11.2001	Badli	50000	Nov. 01
5	South 2	S Vihar	11.11.2001	1200	6.5	JF	14.0	1000	Near Nallah Jait Pur M. Road	—	12.11.2001	BDR	21000	Nov. 01
6	South 2	OKH	11.11.2001	800	6.5	PJ	12.0	510	National Small Indust. OKH 3	—	12.11.2001	OIA 3	14000	Nov. 01
7	T/Yamuna	V Vihar	15.11.2001	160	4.0	JF	3.0	700	Sonia Vihar Pusta	—	15.11.2001	Khajoori Khas	44500	Nov. 01
8	West 1	D Cantt	16.11.2001	400	4.0	JF	3.0	400	Kariappa Vihar	—	16.11.2001	D Cantt	2000	Nov. 01
9	West 2	R GDN 1	17.11.2001	1200	6.5	JF	4.0	1050	Subash NGR X-ing	—	17.11.2001	Tilak NGR	3600	Nov. 01
10	West 1	DWR	18.11.2001	1200	4.0	JF	50.0	800	Near Sec. 8 DWR	—	18.11.2001	DWR	45000	Nov. 01
11	West 1	D Cantt	19.11.2001	1200	4.0	JF	3.0	1150	MH No. 8 Thimaya Park	—	19.11.2001	D Cantt	7500	Nov. 01
12	T Yamuna	ELR	19.11.2001	50	6.5	JF	18.4	—	ELR Exch. Compound DDA MKT L. RD	336/01	19.11.2001	Mansaro. Park	1744	Nov. 01
13	North 1	SNE	19.11.2001	1200	6.5	JF	8.0	780	GTK RD OPP. Lal Bagh Masjid	—	20.11.2001	Model Town	12044	Nov. 01
14	North 1	SNE	19.11.2001	1200	6.5	JF	8.0	695	-DO-	—	20.11.2001	Model Town	12044	Nov. 01
15	JN-Cable	LN-SHD	20.11.2001	800	10.0	—	30.0	—	Near Jamuna Sport Comp. MH 324	—	20.11.2001	Anand Vihar	15000	Nov. 01
16	North 2	Badli	22.11.2001	800	6.5	JF	13.0	500	Near Deta Ram Society Sec. 18	—	22.11.2001	Badli	48000	Nov. 01
17	JN-Cable	NP-TBD	22.11.2001	200	10.0	—	14.0	—	Near Jamia Hamdard Hosp.	—	22.11.2001	Ambedkar NGR	7000	Nov. 01
18	West 1	DWR	24.11.2001	1200	4.0	JF	5.0	810	Near Sec. 8 DWR	—	24.11.2001	DWR	10000	Nov. 01
19	West 2	R GDN 1	28.11.2001	400	6.5	PJ	10.0	210	Subash NGR X-ring	—	28.11.2001	Tilak NGR	4000	Nov. 01
1	West 2	RG 1	5.12.2001	400	6.5	JF	6.0	201	Subash NGR X-ring	—	5.12.2001	Tilak NGR	2400	Dec. 01
2	T-Yamuna	YVR	6.12.2001	200	6.5	JF	11.0	175	Sonia Vihar	—	7.12.2001	Sonia Vihar	3000	Dec. 01

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
3	South-II	Tekhand	8.12.2001	600	6.5	JF	17.0	330	Near Blind School MB RD	—	8.12.2001	OKH INDU Area	13600	Dec. 01
4	West 1	DWR	8.12.2001	400	6.5	JF	20.0	50	Sec. 13 DWR Near Nallah	—	8.12.2001	Maliya Chowki	9000	Dec. 01
5	Yamuna	VHRYVR	10.12.2001	200	6.5	JF	10.0	175	Sonia Vihar	—	11.12.2001	Sonia Vihar	2720	Dec. 01
6	West 1	KBW	11.12.2001	800	4.0	JF	17.9	0	Cables Store Pandav NGR	—	11.12.2001	W P NGR	11635	Dec. 01
7	West 1	KBW	11.12.2001	100	6.5	JF	80.0	—	-DO-	—	11.12.2001	W P NGR	12186	Dec. 01
8	West 1	KBW	11.12.2001	200	6.5	JF	86.0	—	-DO-	—	11.12.2001	W P NGR	20614	Dec. 01
9	South-II	Sarita VHR	12.12.2001	100	6.5	JF	10.0	95	Nallah Bridge BTPS	—	13.12.2001	Badarpur	1580	Dec. 01
10	JN-Cable	OKH-SVR	15.12.2001	200	10.0	—	5.0	—	Kalka More Near Over in MH 305	—	15.12.2001	N Friends CLY	2500	Dec. 01
11	T-Yamuna	YVR	16.12.2001	1600	4.0	JF	7.0	700	Sonia Vihar	—	19.12.2001	Sonia Vihar	10500	Dec. 01
12	JN-Cable	LC-GHT	19.12.2001	14	—	—	15.0	0	Near Jamali Kamali GRG RD	—	20.12.2001	Mehrauli	3000	Dec. 01
13	West 1	PKR	20.12.2001	400	6.5	JF	9.0	250	Indra Park Near Tilak Pool	—	20.12.2001	E Uttar NGR	4527	Dec. 01
14	South 1	H Khas	20.12.2001	200	6.5	JF	15.0	20	Andhera More	—	21.12.2001	Mehrauli	3000	Dec. 01
15	South-II	Okhla	21.12.2001	400	6.5	JF	46.0	350	Near Police Post Jamia NGR	—	22.12.2001	Sarita VHR	25000	Dec. 01
16	North 1	SNW	21.12.2001	800	6.5	JF	11.0	740	Canal. Ban Pul	85	22.12.2001	S Bagh	19064	Dec. 01
17	West-I	NJF	27.12.2001	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	0	MH 16A Near Sai Baba Mandir	—	27.12.2001	NJF	7500	Dec. 01
18	South-II	Okhla	28.12.2001	1200	6.5	JF	11.0	800	Near Masjid on Maa Anad Mai M	—	28.12.2001	OKH-II	25000	Dec. 01
19	West 1	DWR	29.12.2001	400	6.5	JF	15.0	50	Sec. 13 DWR Near Police Booth	—	29.12.2001	Maliya Chowki	6800	Dec. 01
20	West 1	NJF	31.12.2001	1200	6.5	JF	10.0	670	MH No. 17, 18	—	31.12.2001	NJF	15000	Dec. 01
21	West 1	NJF	31.12.2001	200	6.5	JF	45.0	150	Goyla Dairy RD	—	31.12.2001	NJF	13500	Dec. 01
22	West 1	NJF	31.12.2001	50	6.5	JF	45.0	15	-DO-	—	31.12.2001	NJF	5625	Dec. 01
1.	North 2	Narela	3.6.2002	200	6.5	JF	6.0	185	Behind Mittal Prop. Rajiv Assoc	—	4.6.2002	Narela	1050	Jun. 02
2.	West 2	R GDN 2	13.6.2002	1200	6.5	JF	11.0	100	Ring Road, Opp., R/C	—	13.6.2002	Raghubir NGR	15000	Jun. 02
3.	South 2	S Vihar	19.6.2002	1200	6.5	JF	10.0	1080	Among Agra Canal Bet. Ali Bridge	—	20.6.2002	Badarpur	14000	Jun. 02
4.	West 1	DWR	19.6.2002	1200	6.5	JF	10.0	480	Sec. 19, 20 DWR	—	20.6.2002	DWR	10000	Jun. 02
5.	South 2	S Vihar	20.6.2002	800	6.5	JF	9.0	680	Among Agra Canal Bet. Ali Bridge	—	20.6.2002	Badarpur	10000	Jun. 02
6.	South 1	CHY	22.6.2002	1200	6.5	JF	9.0	—	Near CHY RLY Bridge	—	23.6.2002	Sarojini NGR	15000	Jun. 02
7.	South 1	BCP	28.6.2002	20	6.5	JF	7.0	9	B-5 S J Enclave	—	29.6.2002	Sarojini NGR	2537	Jun. 02
8.	TRY	YVR	28.6.2002	200	6.5	JF	32.0	200	Along Wazirabad RD. Sonia Vihar	—	29.6.2002	MVR	10600	Jun. 02
1.	North 2	Narela	5.7.2002	200	6.5	JF	8.0	75	NR P PUMP ALP-NRL RD	—	6.7.2002	Narela	2021	Jul. 02
2.	JN-Cable	CHY-BCP	5.7.2002	400	10.0	—	3.5	0	AFRICA AVENUE NR. RLY FLY OVER	—	5.7.2002	Sarojini NGR	2500	Jul. 02
3.	North 2	Narela	8.7.2002	200	6.5	JF	9.0	185	NR. Rajiv Prop. ALP-NRL RD	—	8.7.2002	Narela	2227	Jul. 02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
4	South 1	H Khas	10.7.2002	1200	6.5	JF	12.0	240	NR. Mod of Press	—	10.7.2002	Saket	30000	Jul. 02
5	West 1	DWR	11.7.2002	200	6.5	JF	65.0	3	CRP Camp DWR	—	12.7.2002	DWR	17000	Jul. 02
6	West 1	DWR	19.7.2002	1600	6.5	JF	16.0	—	Sagar Pur Nallah	—	19.7.2002	Dabri	15000	Jul. 02
7	South 2	NP 1	18.7.2002	1200	6.5	JF	6.0	235	Chirag Delhi Nallah	—	19.7.2002	H Khas	5000	Jul. 02
8	South 2	NP 1	18.7.2002	1200	6.5	JF	6.0	233	-DO-	—	19.7.2002	H Khas	5000	Jul. 02
9	South 2	NP 1	18.7.2002	1200	6.5	JF	6.0	233	-DO-	—	19.7.2002	H Khas	5000	Jul. 02
10.	South 2	NP 1	18.7.2002	1200	6.5	JF	6.0	233	-DO-	—	19.7.2002	H Khas	5000	Jul. 02
11	South 2	NP 1	18.7.2002	1200	6.5	JF	6.0	233	-DO-	—	19.7.2002	H Khas	5000	Jul. 02
12	South 2	NP 1	18.7.2002	1200	6.5	JF	6.0	233	-DO-	—	19.7.2002	H Khas	5000	Jul. 02
13.	South 2	SVR	22.7.2002	1200	6.5	JF	2.0	880	NR. Madan Pur Khadar	—	22.7.2002	S Vihar	2700	Jul. 02
14	South 2	SVR	22.7.2002	1200	6.5	JF	2.0	880	-DO-	—	22.7.2002	S Vihar	2700	Jul. 02
15	T Yamuna	YVR	23.7.2002	200	6.5	PJ	8.0	71	YVR 2, Sonia Vihar	—	26.7.2002	YVR	4106	Jul. 02
16	T Yamuna	YVR	23.7.2002	100	6.5	PJ	8.0	6	-DO-	—	26.7.2002	YVR	2300	Jul. 02
17	West 1	D Cant	24.7.2002	800	4.0	JF	5.0	284	M S Marg	—	25.7.2002	Sadar BZR	4870	Jul. 02
18	West 1	D Cant	24.7.2002	800	6.5	JF	5.0	304	M S Marg	—	25.7.2002	Sadar BZR	4870	Jul. 02
19.	West 1	D Cant	24.7.2002	400	4.0	JF	7.0	230	M S Marg	—	25.7.2002	Sadar BZR	4020	Jul. 02
1	South 1	HKS	6.8.2002	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	900	Katwana Sarai	—	7.8.2002	H Khas	11500	Aug. 02
2	West 2	KJL	13.8.2002	800	6.5	JF	28.0	250	Kanjhawala	—	13.8.2002	Kanjhawala	20000	Aug. 02
3.	West 2	KJL	13.8.2002	10	6.5	JF	28.0	250	Kanjhawala	—	13.8.2002	Kanjhawala	20000	Aug. 02
4	South 2	SVR	15.8.2002	800	6.5	JF	4.8	680	Along Agra Canal Steel Bridge	—	16.8.2002	S Vihar	5000	Aug. 02
5	South 2	SVR	15.8.2002	800	6.5	JF	5.2	740	-DO-	—	16.8.2002	S Vihar	5000	Aug. 02
6	South 2	SVR	16.8.2002	400	6.5	JF	5.0	340	-DO-	—	16.8.2002	S Vihar	5000	Aug. 02
7	TRY	Y Vihar	22.8.2002	200	6.5	JF	100.0	41	Main RD Wajirabad Along W Pipe	—	22.8.2002	Y Vihar	30916	Aug. 02
8	West 1	D Cantt	26.8.2002	800	10.0	JF	10.0	120	NITC	—	26.8.2002	S BZR	16000	Aug. 02
9	West 1	D Cantt	26.8.2002	200	10.0	JF	3.0	13	NITC	—	26.8.2002	S BZR	2000	Aug. 02
10	South 2	S Vihar	27.8.2002	200	6.5	JF	0.7	170	Along Agra Canal Steel Bridge	—	28.8.2002	S Vihar	195	Aug. 02
11.	North 2	Narela	28.8.2002	200	6.5	JF	10.0	80	NR. Petrol Pump ALP-NRL RD	—	29.8.2002	Narela	2780	Aug. 02
1.	South-I	HK	1.9.2002	800	10	JF	8.0	560	OPP. Pharmacy College M.B. RD	—	1.9.2002	Mahiya NGR	15000	Sep. 02
2	South-I	HK	12.9.2002	800	10	JF	50.0	560	OPP. Pharmacy College M.B. RD	—	13.9.2002	Mahiya NGR	60000	Sep. 02
3	South-II	NP-III	16.9.2002	800	6.5	JF	7.5	300	Kalkaji Extn.	—	17.9.2002	Kalkaji	11000	Sep. 02
4	South-II	NP-III	16.9.2002	1200	6.5	JF	7.5	350	Kalkaji Extn.	—	17.9.2002	Kalkaji	11000	Sep. 02

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
5.	South-II	NP-III	16.9.2002	2400	4	JF	7.5	350	Kalkaji Extn.	—	17.9.2002	Kalkaji	11375	Sep. 02
6.	South-II	SVR	17.9.2002	200	6.5	JF	1.0	150	Near Taxi Stand BTPS Badarpur	—	18.9.2002	Badarpur	250	Sep. 02
7.	South-II	SVR	17.9.2002	200	6.5	JF	1.5	150	Near Taxi Stand BTPS Badarpur	—	18.9.2002	Badarpur	200	Sep. 02
8.	South-II	SVR	17.9.2002	100	6.5	JF	3.5	75	Near Taxi Stand BTPS Badarpur	—	18.9.2002	Badarpur	750	Sep. 02
9.	South-II	SVR	17.9.2002	100	6.5	JF	3.5	60	Near Taxi Stand BTPS Badarpur	—	18.9.2002	Badarpur	600	Sep. 02
10.	North-II	NRL	21.9.2002	200	6.5	JF	2.0	200	Near DDA Lab Narala	—	23.9.2002	Narala	2261	Sep. 02
11.	North-II	NRL	21.9.2002	800	6.5	JF	3.0	800	Near DDA Lab Narala	—	23.9.2002	Narala	5000	Sep. 02
12.	TY	MVR-I	24.9.2002	1800	4	JF	5.0	1400	On Main Delhi Noide RD. MVR-I	—	25.9.2002	Meyur Vihar	21500	Sep. 02
13.	North-II	NRL	29.9.2002	200	6.5	JF	7.0	80	Near Petrol Pump ALP-NRL RD	—	29.9.2002	Narala	3000	Sep. 02
1.	West-I	DC	4.10.2002	400	6.5	—	2.0	250	Kirby Place	—	4.10.2002	Sadar Bazar	3500	Oct. 02
2.			21.10.2002	400	10	—	12.0	—	Store at Eastern Court	—	22.10.2002	C. Place	8784	Oct. 02
3.	SN-LWR & SN-RH-II-III		23.10.2002	400	10	—	46.0	—	Bridge Over Nahar Ashok VHR RD	—	24.10.2002	Ashok Vihar	19918	Oct. 02
1.	West-I	DC	4.10.2002	400	6.5	PUF	2.0	250	Kirby Place	—	4.10.2002	Sadar Bazar	3500	Oct. 02
2.	West-I	DC	21.10.2002	400	10	PUF	12.0	250	Store at Eastern Court	—	22.10.2002	C. Place	8784	Oct. 02
3.	West-I	DC	23.10.2002	400	10	PUF	46.0	250	Bridge over Nahar on AVV RD	—	24.10.2002	Ashok VHR	19918	Oct. 02
1.	West-II	KJL	17.12.2002	200	6.5	PUF	13.0	54	Karala Madanpur Village	—	18.12.2002	Kanjhawala	9000	Dec. 02
1.	West-I	NJF	18.1.2003	1200	6.5	JF	10.0	700	NJF Chhawa RD Near B.D.O. Office	—	18.1.2003	NJF	15000	Jan. 03
2.	West-I	Dwarka	24.1.2003	1200	4	JF	5.0	800	Vashishth Park Sagarpur	—	24.1.2003	Dabri	10000	Jan. 03
3.	East	Idgah	25.1.2003	1200	6.5	JF	5.0	850	In Duct NR by Nursery VD Exch.	—	25.1.2003	Sidhipura	5840	Jan. 03
4.	East	Idgah	25.1.2003	2000	4	JF	5.0	1000	In Duct NR by Nursery VD Exch.	—	25.1.2003	Sidhipura	9245	Jan. 03
5.	West-I	NJF	29.1.2003	400	6.5	JF	45.0	135	Dichau Kalan NJF NGL RD	—	29.1.2003	NJF	12560	Jan. 03
6.	West-I	NJF	29.1.2003	100	6.5	JF	23.0	120	Dichau Kalan NJF NGL RD	—	29.1.2003	NJF	2300	Jan. 03
1.	South-I	Hauz Khas	1.3.2003	88	10	PJ	12.0	300	Behind Bus Stop Za Sarai	—	1.2.2003	Hauz Khas	12000	Feb. 03
2.	West-II	KJL	9.2.2003	800	10	JF	5.0	300	Nala at Ghewra Village	—	10.2.2003	Kanjhawala	25000	Feb. 03
3.	North-I	SNE-I	21.2.2003	400	6.5	JF	17.0	150	Gandhi Vihar	—	21.2.2003	Timarpur	12700	Feb. 03
4.	North-I	SNE-I	28.2.2003	400	6.5	JF	15.0	150	Gandhi Vihar	—	28.2.2003	Timarpur	10850	Feb. 03
1.	Central	LR	1.3.2003	800	6.5	PUF	1.5	430	Khasra Park NR Oberoi F/Over	—	1.3.2003	HZN	15000	Mar. 03
2.	West-I	NJF	14.3.2003	400	6.5	PUF	90.0	145	Khara More to Dhamesa RD	—	14.3.2003	NJF	48150	Mar. 03
3.	West-I	NJF	14.3.2003	200	6.5	PUF	180.0	100	Mitrau Kair & Gopal NGR	—	14.3.2003	NJF	50040	Mar. 03
4.	West-I	NJF	14.3.2003	100	6.5	PUF	90.0	100	Gopal NGR Mandata Village	—	14.3.2003	NJF	14220	Mar. 03
5.	South-I	HKS	21.3.2003	200	6.5	PUF	13.0	35	Mehrauli NR Ashoka Mission	—	21.3.2003	Mehrauli	8000	Mar. 03
6.	West-I	DWR	21.3.2003	1200	6.5	PUF	30.0	700	MH 07 Sec. 8 Opp. Nala M/APTT	—	21.3.2003	DWR	40000	Mar. 03
7.	West-I	DWR	21.3.2003	800	6.5	PUF	30.0	300	MH 07 Sec. 8 Opp. Nala M/APTT	—	21.3.2003	DWR	32000	Mar. 03

*[English]***Improving Quality of National Highways**

4697. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have accorded priority to improve the traffic worthiness of National Highways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent of works undertaken during the last three years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has initiated a programme of improvement of riding quality of non-National Highways Development Project (NHDP) sections of National Highways since 1999-2000. Riding quality of about 21,752 Km. has been improved during the last three years under this programme.

Fight Against SARS

4698. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government hospitals in the capital are prepared to take on the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases as reported in the 'Hindu' dated April 3, 2003;
- (b) if so, the factual position in this regard; and
- (c) the remedial measures 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) Yes, Sir. Facilities for treatment of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in isolation have been arranged in the Central Government Hospitals namely Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital, LHMC & SSK Hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has also identified five hospitals including Infectious Disease Hospital for treatment of such cases.

Amendment of Trade Treaties with Bhutan and Bangladesh

4699. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Reduction of Dependence on Private Sector

4700. SHRI S.D.N.R WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to rationalise the employment structure in each major port;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also propose to reduce the level of dependence on private sector in the working of the ports; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) No specific proposal to rationalise the employment structure in Major Ports has been placed before this Ministry. However, Ministry of Labour, on the request of this Ministry, has set up a National Tribunal to examine the issue of rationalization of manning scales for cargo handling operations in Major Ports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Sanjivani Task Force

4701. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up the "Sanjivani Task Force" to provide urgent emergency medical aid in the event of sudden accident;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to seek financial assistance and necessary equipment from abroad for operation of this task force; 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 scheme by the name of Sanjivani has been approved in which pre-fabricated, self contained, container based mobile Hospital unit attached to Dr. RML Hospital would be set up for providing urgent emergency medical aid for accident victims.

Dismal Telecom Service in Bihar

4702. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding the dismal telecom service in Bihar;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during 2002-03 alongwith the number of complaints resolved so far, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard alongwith the action taken against the corrupt and negligent officials, if any, in the State?

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

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

Non-availability of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries

4703. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CGHS beneficiaries are facing a lot of difficulties due to non-availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CGHS authorized Chemists have stopped their medical supplies to CGHS as their dues have not been cleared;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to tackle this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The CGHS beneficiaries are generally getting medicines from the dispensaries and the drugs not available in the dispensary are indented with the authorised local chemists and supplied to the beneficiaries.

(c) to (e) The local chemists appointed under CGHS Delhi have not stopped the supply of medicines to the dispensaries except in the following dispensaries since they have not responded to the extension given to them by the CGHS for a period of two months after expiry of their contract on 28.2.2003:—

1. R.K. Puram, Sector-II dispensary.
2. Lajpat Nagar.
3. Jangpura.
4. Srinivaspuri.
5. Chankyapuri.
6. Chitragputa Road
7. Ghaziabad.
8. Gurgaon.

The CGHS beneficiaries attached to the above dispensaries have been allowed to purchase medicines from open market on the valid prescriptions duly authorised by the concerned CMO In-charge. The reimbursement claims of such purchases will be settled by the concerned Department in the case of serving

employees and by the CGHS (HQ) in the case of pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS.

[English]

Eradication of Cancer, TB, Jaundice and Hepatitis-B

4704. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths reported due to Cancer, TB, Jaundice and Hepatitis-B in the country, State-wise, in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide better medical facilities to combat these diseases in the country; and

(c) the details of the mechanism through which States/Union Territories are monitored in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) State-wise number of deaths due to Cancer, TB, Jaundice and Hepatitis-B in the country are not maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) To control Tuberculosis and Cancer, diagnostic and treatment facilities are provided under the National TB Control Programme which has been in operation since 1962 and the National Cancer Control Programme which was started in 1975 and was revised in 1984-85. A pilot project of Hepatitis-B vaccination has also been initiated.

Periodic monitoring is ensured through meetings and reviews with programme officers of all the States/UTs.

[Translation]

Providing used Diallers to CGHS Beneficiaries

4705. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the kidney patients having CGHS permission to undergo dialysis in Appollo Hospital, New Delhi, are being provided used dialisers by the Hospital authorities and also asked to bring certain articles such as "sure seal" medicines, injections etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Hospital authorities are violating the norms/guidelines fixed by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the Hospital authorities for violating the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information in this regard are being collected and will be laid on the table as soon as the same is available.

Curtailment in Expenditure

4706. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISD telephone bills, electricity bills especially the electricity bills of airconditioners and coolers and other office expenses in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under the above heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Department of Development of North Eastern Region came into existence in September, 2001. Accordingly, the organisations/undertakings were transferred to it. However, the year-wise information of expenditure incurred by this Department after its creation and the information about expenditure by the organisations/undertakings under this Department during last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) As per the instructions/guidelines issued by Government of India from time to time regarding economic measures, steps are being taken by the Department of Development of North Eastern Region and its organizations/undertakings to curtail the expenditure to the barest minimum.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement

Year-wise expenditure incurred under various heads in Department of Development of North Eastern Region and its Undertakings/Organisations during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Publicity & Advertisement (Advocacy & Capacity Building)	Seminars & Conferences	Hospitality & Catering	Tours		Telephone		Electricity bills (ACs, coolers etc.)	Other office expenses (Petrol, books, stationery, etc.)
				India	Abroad	STD, trunk, local calls	ISD		
Department of Development of North Eastern Region									
*2000-01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*2001-02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2002-03	200.00	0.59	0.40	14.91	—	3.58	—	**	10.13
North Eastern Council (NEC) Secretariat, Shillong									
2000-01	0.83	9.45	2.49	19.00	1.83	16.84	—	1.76	51.96
2001-02	0.73	17.97	6.10	21.98	1.59	11.30	—	4.24	40.25
2002-03	122.25	37.08	8.91	25.00	0.98	9.47	—	6.03	73.38
North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC), Guwahati									
2000-01	0.62	2.44	—	11.16	—	5.12	—	0.53	19.93
2001-02	—	0.70	—	4.95	—	4.24	—	0.69	15.95
2002-03	1.87	1.66	—	5.47	—	1.96	—	0.45	8.43
North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation (NEHDC), Shillong									
2000-01	0.36	—	—	12.74	—	4.81	—	3.42	72.74
2001-02	0.68	—	—	13.27	—	5.44	—	4.45	96.38
2002-03	0.72	—	—	15.00	—	6.50	—	5.25	115.00
North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFI), Guwahati									
2000-01	13.07	8.67	2.85	26.31	—	10.15	—	0.76	77.51
2001-02	7.82	10.99	6.61	21.16	—	12.45	—	1.83	92.39
2002-03	2.53	1.33	6.37	16.30	—	9.20	—	2.73	86.02
Sikkim Mining Corporation (SMC), Rangpo									
2000-01	0.38	—	—	—	—	0.39	—	13.13	9.49
2001-02	0.08	—	—	—	—	0.94	—	15.04	9.79
2002-03	0.46	—	—	—	—	0.53	—	19.24	9.13

*Department of Development of North Eastern Region was created in September, 2001 and all expenses relating to this Department were incurred from the budget of Ministry of Home Affairs during October, 2001 to March, 2002. Separate Budget was given to this Department only from 01.04.2002.

**Borne by CPWD for all offices (including this Department) housed in Vigyan Bhavan Annexe.

Loss Incurring Post Offices

4707. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government have identified the details of the loss being incurred in post offices in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government to make such post offices viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Various factors are responsible for the loss being incurred in certain post offices in the country including those in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat which, inter alia, include availability of alternate modes of communication, money transfer and banking facilities, close proximity of post offices in certain urban areas, fall in mail traffic etc.

(b) Measures to make such post offices viable is a continuous process and the options available with the Department include efforts to boost business, introduction of new products and services to meet emerging needs of customers, downgradation of status of the post office and merging of post office with other offices in proximity to it.

Resentment Regarding Haj Yatra

4708. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Haj pilgrims have expressed their resentment over the management of Haj Yatra;

(b) if so, the reasons cited for the resentment; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) No. There has not been any resentment over the management of Haj. A total of 1,16,078 pilgrims performed Haj 2003, out of which 69,795 pilgrims were through the Haj Committee. Individual complaints regarding any aspect of the arrangements are looked into promptly and responded to. The Government of India regularly reviews

the arrangements and makes all possible improvements taking into account previous experience.

Construction of Bridges

4709. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) the number of bridges constructed on National Highways during the last three years and the number of bridges under construction and the number of bridges lying pending for approval in different States;

(b) whether the funds allocated for the purpose were insufficient during the said period;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to allocate sufficient funds for the development of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) During the last three years 582 number of bridges were constructed, 1286 number of bridges are under construction and 33 number of proposals for bridges are pending for approval.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Construction of Roads on BOT Basis

4710. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received and executed for the construction of roads on BOT basis in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any provision for Central assistance and seeking Central Government's approval in this regard; and

(c) if so, the percentage of amount of profit exceeding total cost to be recovered under this system?

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

(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) For the State of Chhattisgarh, one proposal for four laning of Raipur-Durg Section of NH-6 has been received under Build Operate and Transfer (BOT). The work has been awarded.

Another proposal relating to construction of Durg Bypass on NH-6 has been executed under BOT.

Madhya Pradesh: 7 Nos. of BOT proposals have so far been received from the State PWD, Madhya Pradesh. Out of this, work for construction of Katni Bypass has already been awarded. Remaining 6 works are under various stages of progress.

(b) Subsidy upto 40% is available for BOT projects costing more than Rs. 100 crore. Central Government's approval is required for BOT projects on National Highway before the concession agreement is finalized.

(c) The concessionaire is selected on the basis of competitive bidding. No figure relating to percentage profit can be given.

[English]

IT Com-2000

4711. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IT Com-2000 held in Bangalore attracted nearly 500 foreign delegates;

(b) if so, whether the Indian small and medium software enterprises used this opportunity to generate business in the software Sector;

(c) if so, the number of foreign countries who proposed to set up joint venture in this sector;

(d) whether the Government propose to organize such IT-Com at regular intervals to attract foreign companies; and

(e) if so, the details of the strategy chalked out in this regard?

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

Limited Mobility Wireless Service

4712. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL proposes to launch a limited mobility wireless in local loop (WLL) phones in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas which are likely to be covered; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

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

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

(c) It is likely to start functioning in Nagpur and other places by September, 2003.

Statement

Details of WLL Equipment to be installed in Vidarbha Region

SSA	SDCA	Capacity	Type
1	2	3	4
Nagpur	Nagpur City	5000 Lines	Urban WLL
	Bhiwapur	750 Lines	
	Kuhi	750 Lines	
	Butibori	750 Lines	
	Hingna	750 Lines	
	Mauda	750 Lines	
	Narkhed	750 Lines	
	Umred	750 Lines	
Akola	Akola	750 Lines	Rural WLL
	Akot	750 Lines	
	Mangrulpur	750 Lines	
	Murtizapur	750 Lines	

1	2	3	4
	Risod	750 Lines	
	Washim	750 Lines	
Amravati	Amravati	750 Lines	
	Daryapur	750 Lines	

SSA — Secondary Switching Area.
SDCA — Short Distance Charging Area.
WLL — Wireless in Local Loop.

Tuticorin Heavy Water Plant

4713. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the physical achievement of Tuticorin Heavy Water Plant declined from 111.6% in 2000-2001 to 98.8% in 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the achievements of this plant during 2002-2003; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the performance of the Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The physical achievement of the plant is reported on the basis of annual target fixed for each plant which takes into account the annual turn around period, unexpected shut down of the plant due to both external and internal reasons and the anticipated constraints. Heavy Water Plant, Tuticorin is connected to the Ammonia Plant of the adjacent Fertiliser Plant of M/s. Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation (SPIC) for supply of feed gas and other utility. Hence any disturbance in the operation of the Ammonia Plant namely reduction in operating pressure and load of the Ammonia Plant will adversely affect the operation of HWP, Tuticorin. Annual Turn Around of the plant during the year 2001-02 was prolonged because of extension of M/s. SPIC's Annual Turn Around due to their internal operation and maintenance related problems. Plant was running on

reduced load for considerable duration due to operational problems of M/s. SPIC which resulted in less feed synthesis gas availability from M/s SPIC to HWP Tuticorin.

(c) Physical achievement for the year 2002-03 is 107.6% of the target.

(d) Performance evaluation of the plant is a continuous process. As a result of continuous efforts made for enhancing the performance and energy conservation measures adopted, the plant achieved 107.6% targeted production and considerable reduction in the specific energy consumption than that of the previous year. During the year Ammonia Converter Catalyst which was due for replacement has been replaced. This has increased the ammonia production as well as the recovery efficiency and the feed processing rate of the plant.

Amendment in Acts

4714. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cellular Mobile Telephone Services are still governed by the Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act of 1997;

(b) if so, whether these Acts are adequate to deal with this sector;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to bring in amendments/new legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) A Bill named "the Communication Convergence Bill, 2001", designed to fully harness the benefits of the converged technologies and the emerging technologies of the future to meet the growing social and commercial needs, has been introduced in the Lok Sabha in August, 2001.

Training Institute for Staff Workers of Ports

4715. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any training institute for the staff/workers of the major ports;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any such training institute is proposed to be set up for them particularly for their skill development; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (d) Two Institutes at national level namely National Institute of Port Management, Chennai and Indian Institute of Port Management, Kolkata exist to cater to the training requirements of Officers/Staff of Major Ports. These institutes also endeavour to upgrade the skills and knowledge for the development of Officers/Staff. As regards imparting training to workers, full fledged training centres are available in Major Ports of Chennai, Mumbai, Visakhapatnam and Jawahar Lal Nehru. Other Ports have training cells to cater to workers' training programme.

[*Translation*]

Visit of Singapore PM

4716. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADIBA MANDLIK:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Singapore visited India recently;

(b) if so, the issues which were discussed during his visit;

(c) whether any agreements were signed between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Pak sponsored terrorism against India also figured during the discussions; and

(f) if so, the stand taken by the Prime Minister of Singapore on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and

(b) Mr. Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Singapore paid a State Visit to India from 7-9 April, 2003. Discussions covered bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern.

(c) and (d) A Declaration of Intent for concluding a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and an MOU concerning a Third Country Training Programme for new ASEAN countries were signed.

(e) and (f) The two sides exchanged views on the growing threat of international terrorism including in our neighbourhood.

[*English*]

Bilateral Ties with UAE

4717. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and UAE have signed some agreements recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in pursuance of the extradition treaty between the two countries, the Government of UAE has decided to deport some wanted criminals to India;

(d) if so, the names of these criminals and the nature of complaints filed against them;

(e) whether similar extradition/deportation requests are pending with other foreign countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Agreements signed between India and UAE are Culture, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters.

(c) and (d) The following fugitive criminals wanted by India have been deported by UAE and not extradited:—

Name of the Criminal	Charge	When Deported
Aftab Ansari	Involved in bombing of USIS office in Kolkata	02/2002
Rajinder Kumar	Accomplice in the above case	02/2002
Muthappa Rai	Organised Crime	05/2002
Rahman Imran Khan	Involved in Ghatkopar bomb blast case	01/2003
Mohammed Altaf	Accomplice in the Ghatkopar bomb blast case	01/2003
Ravinder Rastogi	Economic Offences	02/2003
Ijaz Pathan	Involved in 1993 bomb blasts in Mumbai	02/2003
Iqbal Hassan Sheikh	Organised Crime and other Offences	02/2003
Mustafa Mohammed Umar Dosa @ Mustafa Majnu Seth	Wanted in connection with the Mumbai bomb blasts of 1993	03/2003

(e) and (f) The following are details of extradition requests pending with foreign countries:—

Name	Crime	Requested State
Dawood Ibrahim	Terrorism	UAE
Diasingha Rajan Arunmugham	Criminal Conspiracy and Cheating	U.K.
Jai Chandran Thambian	-do-	-do-
Rajet @ Roger Nayyar	Cheating and Forgery	Canada
Chotta Rajan	Criminal Conspiracy, Murder and Extortion	Thailand
M. Varthia Raju @ M. V. Raja	Financial Offence	France
Ottavio Quattrocchi	Bofors Case	Malaysia
Abu-Salem Abdul Qayoom Ansari	Bombay Bomb Blast	Portugal
Monica Bedi	Cheating and Fraud	Portugal
Sinni Singh	Kidnapping	USA
Jang Bahadur Singh Bakshi	Criminal Conspiracy and Cheating	U.K.
Chetan M. Joglekar	Criminal Conspiracy and Cheating	USA
Amrinder Nath Ghosh	Criminal Conspiracy and Cheating	Germany
Narender Kumar Rastogi	Criminal Conspiracy and Cheating	USA

Decline in Per-Capita Expenditure

4718. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the National Sample Survey, there is a declining trend in the share of total expenditure in rural areas and the rural-urban divide in terms of the per-capita consumer expenditure is quite significant;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to bridge this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The estimated monthly per-capita consumption expenditures of people in rural and urban areas at current prices according to the surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation are as given below:

Year	Average Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (Rs.)		Ratio Urban/Rural
	Rural	Urban	
1993-1994	281.40	458.00	1.63
1999-2000	486.16	854.92	1.76
2000-2001	494.90	914.57	1.85

(c) The programmes like Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) launched by the Government for income and employment generation in rural areas would contribute to the reduction of rural-urban divide in average per-capita consumption expenditure.

[*Translation*]

Pak Based Terrorist Organisations

4719. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons have been recently recruited by the Pakistan based terrorist organisations;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; including the number of Indian nationals among them; and

(c) the names of these terrorist organisations operating from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. According to available information, Pakistan-based terrorist organisations continue to recruit in large numbers, inter alia, for the purpose of carrying out terrorist attacks in India, including in J&K. Overwhelming majority of the terrorists infiltrated from across the borders, as well as the LOC, are Pakistani nationals, which clearly shows that Pakistan remains the epicentre of terrorism in the world today. The Pakistani State and its agencies continue to use terrorism as an instrument of policy and continue to sponsor the breeding and indoctrination of armed irregulars for carrying out subversive and terrorist activities elsewhere, including in neighbouring countries.

(c) There are a number of terrorist organisations that are operating from Pakistan and territory under Pakistani control, including the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Harket-ul-Jehad-e-Islami, Hizbul Mujahideen, etc. Many countries and international organisations have banned some of these terrorist organisations. Terrorist groups including Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, Jaish-e-Muhammad and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen have also been proscribed by Government of Pakistan, yet they continue to function including under new names.

[*English*]

Opening of CGHS Dispensaries

4720. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the total number of Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani System of dispensaries functioning under the CGHS in each State as on date;

(b) whether some State Governments have urged the Union Government to open more dispensaries/hospitals in their States;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to open more such dispensaries/hospitals in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

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

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

The information is given at Statement enclosed.

(b) Requests have been received from the Govt. of Uttaranchal and the Govt. of Orissa for opening of CGHS dispensaries in Dehradun and Bhubhaneshwar respectively.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to open new CGHS dispensaries in Allopathic and ISM&H Systems of Medicines during the Tenth Five Year Plan. However, it would be subject to availability of funds, resources and inter-se priorities.

Statement

Number of CGHS Dispensaries in each State

Sl.No.	State	Allopathic	Ayurvedic	Homoeopathic	Unani
1.	Gujarat	5	1	1	—
2.	Uttar Pradesh	28	4	5	1
3.	Maharashtra	45	5	7	—
4.	Madhya Pradesh	4	—	—	—
5.	Karnataka	10	2	1	1
6.	Orissa	1	—	—	—
7.	Chandigarh	1	—	—	—
8.	Tamil Nadu	14	1	1	—
9.	Delhi	87	13	13	4
10.	Assam	3	—	—	—
11.	Andhra Pradesh	14	2	2	2
12.	Rajasthan	5	1	1	—
13.	West Bengal	17	1	2	1
14.	Bihar	5	1	1	—
15.	Jharkhand	1	—	—	—
16.	Kerala	3	—	—	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—
	Total	244	31	34	9

Assistance for Polio Eradication Programme

4721. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether various international donor agencies have provided an additional grant of Rs. 100 crore to India to step up its Pulse Polio Programme so as to hit target of polio eradication by 2005;

(b) if so, the extent to which the eradication of Polio has been successful in the country;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any concrete programme of eradication of polio in endemic States such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Over and above the existing commitments of various multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, European Commission has agreed to provide a grant of Euro 10 million for polio eradication activities for the year 2003-04. KfW, the German agency for financial assistance, has also committed to provide an assistance of US\$ 7.8 million.

Department for International Development (DFID), of Government of United Kingdom, has also been approached for an additional grant of US\$ 15 million during the current year. In addition, the International Development Association, the soft lending arm of the World Bank, is being approached for an assistance of US\$ 83.4 million.

(b) Due to successful execution of the polio eradication activities, the number of confirmed polio cases declined from 1934 in 1998 to 268 in 2001. However, the polio efforts suffered a major setback during 2002 due to a large scale outbreak in Uttar Pradesh and spill over transmission into other neighbouring States, due to which number of polio cases increased to 1599 in 2002.

(c) and (d) In order to achieve the eradication of polio virus, the Government is considering intensification of polio activities by conducting two national rounds and four sub-national rounds in high risk States/areas during

2003-04. Following special measures are being taken in States with intense circulation of polio virus:

- (i) In order to improve the detection and vaccination of missed children, the house-to-house vaccination teams have been strengthened with the addition of third member preferably a woman from local community.
- (ii) The community mobilisers have been engaged for improving the implementation of the programme in resistant areas.
- (iii) House-to-House vaccination of missed children is being done for five days after the booth day as against two days in other parts of the country.
- (iv) Additional Information, Education and Communication activities are being conducted.
- (v) The implementation of the programme is being closely monitored at the apex political and bureaucratic levels both in the Government of India as also in the States.
- (vi) Local influencers/social and religious leaders are being involved for advocacy and ensuring greater participation of the people in the programme.
- (vii) One Surveillance Medical Officer has been posted in each district in order to help the States in ensuring better monitoring and supervision.

Advanced Communication Technology Satellite

4722. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an advanced communication technology satellite is being envisaged;

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

(c) the likely budget for this programme; and

(d) by when it is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Advanced Communication Technology Satellite (ACTS) is envisaged to develop advanced payload and spacecraft technologies such as digital beam forming technology, multiple-beam antenna arrays for steerable spot beams, beam switching, onboard processing payload etc.

(c) The estimated cost of the spacecraft is around Rs. 400 crores.

(d) The satellite is planned for launch in the early part of 11th Plan period.

[Translation]

Expansion of Planning Commission

4723. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions to expand the ambit of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to observe a full calendar year as the poverty eradication year with a view to bringing above the poverty line the population who are living below the poverty line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal with the Planning Commission to expand its ambit.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Mobile Van Service

4724. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce mobile van service for payment of telephone bills in the rural areas;

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

(c) the names of places where mobile van service is available at present in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the mobile van service is likely to be provided in remote rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a), (b) and (d) The Government no longer provides telephone services. Telephone services are now provided by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and a number of private companies. Due to operational constraints and costs, BSNL can not afford collection of telephone bills in the rural areas through mobile vans. MTNL does not have rural areas under its jurisdiction.

(c) State-wise details for places where mobile vans are available at present are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Audiotex Services

4725. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new policy for providing "Audiotex" services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of service providers granted licences to start these services as on January 31, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Sir, Policy for grant of Licences for 'Voice Mail/Audiotex Service' which existed earlier was modified in July, 2001 in terms of New telecom Policy-1999 and Unified Messaging Service was added to it. The salient features of the said policy are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) 8 companies were having 29 licences to provide the said Service in 15 Service Areas as on 31.01.2003.

In addition, Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers, Fixed Service Providers and Cable Service Providers are free to provide Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Service over their network subject to certain conditions.

Statement

Salient Features of the Policy on Voice Mail/Audiotex/Unified Messaging Service

1. Any Indian Company can obtain license on non-exclusive basis. There is no limit on the number of licensees.
2. Area—Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA). From outside the SDCA, the service will be allowed to be accessed on Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD) call basis.
3. Entry Fee — NIL
4. License Fee — NIL
5. Foreign Direct Investment — 100% allowed.
6. Period of License — 15 years and may be extended by 5 years subject to certain conditions.
7. Cellular/Basic Service Operators/Cable Service Providers are free to provide the said service without the need for obtaining any additional license. However, the revenue earned by these operators through this Service, if any, shall be counted towards the revenue for the purpose of paying licence fee under the License granted to them.
8. For providing Unified Messaging Service (UMS) under the license, the Licensee must also have an Internet Service Provider (ISP) Licence in the same area proposed to be covered by the UMS Service.
9. Licensee shall make its own arrangements for all infrastructure involved in providing the service and shall be solely responsible for installation and operation of necessary equipment and systems, treatment of subscriber complaints, issue of bills to its subscribers, collection of revenue, attending to claims and damages arising out of their operations.

Establishment of Hospitals

4726. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to establish 500-bedded Central sector hospitals in the country;

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

(c) whether some of these hospitals are likely to be opened during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The issue is under consideration.

Acquisition of Land for Road Projects

4727. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether uniform principle is being followed in acquiring lands in various States for the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridor projects;

(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) The land is acquired under provisions of either National Highway Act, 1956 (as amended) or Land Acquisition Act, 1894. On certain projects where land requirement is very small, acquisition is also carried out through direct negotiations.

Identification of Backward Pockets in N-E Region

4728. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified most backward pockets in North-Eastern Region requiring intensive steps for accelerated development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the identification of such backward pockets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Planning and Development of an area of allocation of funds for the purpose within a State is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, taking into the account the general economic backwardness prevailing in the entire Region, the North East has been provided with special treatment for socio-economic Development of the Region. All North Eastern States including Sikkim enjoy the status of Special Category States and receive plan assistance in the form of 90% Grant and 10% Loan as against 30% Grant and 70% Loan in the case of Non-Special Category States. Looking into the critical infrastructure gaps in the Region, various supportive measures/initiatives have been announced by the Prime Ministers from time to time during the last six to seven years. The Prime Minister has announced a 28-Point Agenda for Socio-Economic Development of North Eastern Region including Sikkim in January 2000. Details are available on the website: www.pmindia.nic.in.

All Union Ministries/Departments (except those specifically exempted) are required to spend at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support on the North East. Unspent balances out of this are pooled in a (Non-lapsable) Central Pool of Resources. The benefit of the Central Pool is exclusively available to the North Eastern Region. Project specific assistance is provided from the Pool for meeting infrastructure gaps in the Region. In addition, North Eastern Council (NEC) also sanctions and gets implemented the projects based on specific development requirements of the Region. This is besides, the benefits of various poverty alleviation, employment generating programmes and area development schemes such as Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) etc. are also available to the North Eastern

States. Through such programmes the Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments in pursuing their development needs.

[Translation]

Completion of Works on National Highways

4729. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the National Highways in Jharkhand and Bihar where the works relating to widening, expansion and repair have been started during the last two years and till date;

(b) the time by which the works are likely to be completed and started on rest of the National Highways;

(c) the details of the amount spent on these National Highways during the last two years;

(d) whether the Government have a proposal to allocate more funds for completion of the works at an early date;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Works relating to widening, expansion and repair have been sanctioned on National Highways, 2, 23, 31, 32, 33, 75, 78, 80, 99 & 100 in the State of Jharkhand and National Highways 2, 19, 28, 28A, 30A, 30, 31, 57, 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 & 107 in the State of Bihar during last two years viz. 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

(b) The work on remaining stretches of National Highways in Jharkhand & Bihar will be taken up depending upon availability of funds and inter-se priority. It is too early to indicate the likely completion time.

(c) Amount spent on development, maintenance and repair of National Highways in the State of Jharkhand during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are Rs. 56.37 crore & Rs. 94.65 crore respectively. In Bihar Rs. 141.09 crore & Rs. 209.52 crore respectively been spent in the last two years.

(d) to (f) First priority is given to completion of the ongoing works. Allocation of additional resources depends upon the total annual budgetary allocation of the Ministry.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

4730. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

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

(a) whether a number of people have been waiting for the release of new telephone connections for several years in many States;

(b) if so, the telephone connections released during the last two years and the number of persons now on the waiting list for telephone connections, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to provide telephone to all the persons on the waiting list?

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

(b) The number of telephone connections released during the last two years by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, State-wise and the number of persons now on the waiting list for telephone connections as on 31.3.2003 are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) In Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited the wait listed persons in States other than Kerala are likely to be provided telephone connections by March, 2004 subject to availability of resources. However in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited there is no waiting list but some connections are pending due to technically non feasible areas, and these are likely to be provided by 30.6.2003.

Statement

State-wise Details of Telephone Connections Provided during the last two years and the number of Persons now on Waiting list as on 31.3.2003

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Telephone connections Provided during		No. of Persons now on waiting list
		2001-02	2002-03	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	2958	4946	224
2.	Andhra Pradesh	302530	332331	56765
3.	Assam	86423	64750	12478
4.	Bihar	214161	161075	101154
5.	Chhattisgarh	35563	50052	1630
6.	Gujarat	451354	404152	56762
7.	Haryana	193807	180219	86633
8.	Himachal Pradesh	93507	55495	39084
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	49278	41266	43969
10.	Jharkhand	79206	90414	8307
11.	Karnataka	334998	362151	104506

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Kerala	532807	530452	487499
13.	Madhya Pradesh	118398	169791	15350
14.	Maharashtra	735042	580178	154701
15.	Goa	19467	16140	4882
16.	Meghalaya	6101	6391	799
17.	Tripura	12989	7192	5960
18.	Mizoram	7501	4651	541
19.	Nagaland	5545	4634	385
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	8119	5474	1622
21.	Manipur	4442	7023	6318
22.	Orissa	127020	151395	10923
23.	Punjab	384704	283079	101951
24.	Rajasthan	277415	213986	130673
25.	Tamil Nadu	413644	317243	53778
26.	Uttaranchal	54074	52329	5543
27.	Uttar Pradesh East	280251	232839	107119
28.	Uttar Pradesh West	200024	210125	54961
29.	West Bengal	353527	250451	148067
30.	Sikkim	5207	9595	172
31.	Delhi	135163	90051	Nil

Promotion of Small Scale Industries in Orissa

4731. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to revamp the District Industry Centres in the country to promote small scale industries;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to lay emphasis on the establishment of mineral based small scale units in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Small Scale Industries (SSIs) are set up in the Private Sector. The industries selected for setting up by an entrepreneur depend upon the viability of the project and this own judgment about the likelihood of the success of that item. Availability of local raw materials including minerals, etc., are among important factors which govern the location of industries in any area. The role of the Government is to facilitate and support the promotion and development of Small Scale Industries. According to

Orissa State Profile (March, 2002) prepared by the Small Industries Service Institute, Cuttack, there is potential for development of mineral based small scale industries such as granite polishing, stone crushing, graphite crucibles, hydrated lime, mini cement plant, chrome benefaction, quartz calcinations, coal based industries, fire clay bricks, refractory files etc., in the State of Orissa.

[*Translation*]

Assistance from Central Road Fund to Bihar

4732. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the metalled road in Bihar are in decrepit state;

(b) if so, the details of the amount sought as assistance from the Central Road Fund;

(c) the year-wise assistance provided to Bihar under this head during last three years;

(d) the year-wise amount proposed to be provided to Bihar in the form of assistance in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the assistance likely to be given during the year 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Improvement of State roads is taken up from the Central Road Fund. Stretches of State roads to be improved are selected and recommended for approval by the State Government. An assistance of Rs. 448.91 crores has been sought by the Government of Bihar for 78 numbers of schemes during last three years.

(c) The allocation provided to the State of Bihar under Central Road Fund during last three years viz. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is Rs. 25.69 crore, Rs. 26.12 crore and Rs. 33.69 crore respectively.

(d) It is not feasible to indicate the exact year-wise amount to be provided during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(e) The accrual during the year 2003-2004 is Rs. 25.31 crore.

Mobile Telephones in District Headquarters

4733. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Public and Private Sector Companies which are engaged in the expansion of mobile telephone network services;

(b) the names of district headquarters in the country where mobile telephone network services are not available till date; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make mobile telephone network services available in each and every district headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, the names of the companies licenced to provide Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is given in the statement enclosed.

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

(c) As per the terms and conditions of the Licence for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), in the Metro City Service Areas an operator is required to cover 90% of the Service Area within one year and in the Telecom Circle Service Areas 10% of the District Headquarters within one year and 50% of the District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on his business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of 100% of the districts. However, the Government operator, namely, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) who have been granted CMTS Licences for all Service Areas of the country, except for Delhi and Mumbai Metro City Service Areas, envisages to cover all the district headquarters in its licensed service areas.

Statement*List of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Licensees*

S No.	Service Area (Metro City/ Telecom Circle)	No. of Licensees	Name of Licensee
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	4	Bharti Cellular Ltd. Sterling Cellular Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. IDEA Cellular Ltd.
2.	Mumbai	4	BPL Mobile Communication Ltd. Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
3.	Kolkata	4	Bharti Mobitel Ltd. Usha Martin Telekom Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Reliable Internet Services Ltd.
4.	Chennai	4	RPG Cellular Services Ltd. Bharti Mobinet Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Hutchison Essar South Ltd.
5.	Andaman, Nicobar & West Bengal	2	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
6.	Andhra Pradesh	4	IDEA Cellular Ltd. Bharti Mobile Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Hutchison Essar South Ltd.
7.	Assam	2	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
8.	Bihar	2	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
9.	Gujarat	4	Fascel Ltd. IDEA Cellular Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
10.	Haryana	4	Escotel Mobile Communication (P) Ltd. Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
11.	Himachal Pradesh	4	Bharti Telenet Ltd. Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.

1	2	3	4
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
13.	Karnataka	4	Spice Communications Ltd. Bharti Mobile Limited Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Hutchinson Essar South Ltd.
14.	Kerala	4	BPL Mobile Cellular Limited Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
15.	Maharashtra	4	BPL Cellular Limited IDEA Cellular Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
16.	Madhya Pradesh	4	BTA Cellcom Ltd. Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
17.	North East	3	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Hexacom India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
18.	Orissa	2	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.
19.	Punjab	4	Spice Communications Ltd. Bharti Mobile Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.
20.	Rajasthan	4	Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Hexacom India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.
21.	Tamil Nadu	4	BPL Mobile Cellular Limited Aircel Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	3	Escotel Mobile Communications Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Bharti Cellular Ltd.
23.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	3	Aircel Digilink India Ltd. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.
Total		78	

Proper Maintenance of National Highways

4734. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

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

(a) whether a majority of National Highways in the country are in a bad shape for want of proper maintenance;

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

(c) the reasons for lack of proper maintenance of the National Highways;

(d) the total amount spent on their maintenance during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the details of the action plan of the Government for keeping the National Highways in good condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) All the National Highways in the country are maintained in traffic-worthy condition depending upon the overall availability of funds.

(d) An amount of Rs. 2990 crore was spent on the maintenance of National Highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(e) 4/6 laning of about 13500 km. lengths of National Highways has been taken up under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and Port Connectivity Programme. Subject to availability of funds upkeep of

balance length of National Highways has been taken up in the form of improvement of riding quality.

[*Translation*]

Pending Road Projects

4735. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals pending with the Government for improvement of roads under Inter-State Connectivity and Economic Importance Scheme for sanction/release of funds, State-wise;

(b) if so, the number of proposals out of these on which work is likely to start during the current financial year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early approval of all the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) 76 proposals amounting to Rs. 343 crore were approved 'in principle' by the Government for improvement of State roads under Inter-State Connectivity and Economic Importance Schemes. After the in principle approval, State Governments have to submit detailed estimates for technical sanction. Detailed estimates for 55 proposals have been received from various States. Out of these, 48 proposals have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 214.66 crores. Remaining estimates are under process of sanction. State-wise details are given in the statement. After the estimates are sanctioned, the State Governments concerned award the works and start and implement the projects.

Statement

State-wise details of proposals approved/sanctioned under Inter-State connectivity and Economic Importance Schemes

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Proposals approved 'in principle'		Estimates Sanctioned		Estimates under process	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	21	2	14	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	13	1	14	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	6	10	6	10	—	—
4.	Bihar	3	21	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	2	11	2	10	—	—
6.	Goa	1	0	1	0	—	—
7.	Gujarat	9	13	9	13	—	—
8.	Haryana	1	7	1	8	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	18	—	—	3	12
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	16	1	0	1	4
11.	Karnataka	3	16	1	14	—	—
12.	Kerala	1	8	—	—	1	8
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2	17	1	7	—	—
14.	Maharashtra	4	13	4	13	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	4	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	2	17	2	15	—	—
17.	Nagaland	2	15	2	14	—	—
18.	Orissa	2	16	—	—	—	—
19.	Punjab	1	4	1	4	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	5	7	3	4	2	2
21.	Sikkim	3	8	1	3	—	—
22.	Tripura	1	2	1	1	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	3	2	3	2	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2	20	2	16	—	—
25.	Uttaranchal	3	37	3	35	—	—
26.	West Bengal	1	17	1	17	—	—
27.	UT of Daman & Diu	2	9	—	—	—	—
Grand Total		76	342.86	48	214.66	7	26.30

[English]

Publicity Campaign for TB Programme

4736. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have launched massive publicity campaign on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day to draw people to DOTS Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken a number of steps to control TB on the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day to meet the global target of controlling the disease by the year 2005; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the occasion of World TB Day, to create mass awareness about DOTS strategy, messages from President, Prime Minister, Union Health Minister, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Secretary Health and Director General of Health Services along with information about TB & DOs & DONT's were published in Hindi and English in all editions of leading newspapers. Project districts also held special functions on this day to raise awareness.

(c) and (d) 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) widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in the country in a phased manner. More than 600 million population has already been covered under the strategy. It is envisaged to cover 850 million population by 2004 and the entire country by 2005. The Project Districts have reported a cure rate of more than 80% which means more than 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under the revised strategy are successfully treated which is double that in the earlier Programme. In order to further increase accessibility to the TB care facilities diagnostic facilities have been decentralized and strengthened and treatment is being provided near to the

places of residence of the patients. Emphasis is being laid on involvement of NGOs, Private Practitioners and Medical Colleges. All diagnostic and treatment facilities including supply of anti-TB drugs for full course of treatment are provided free of cost to all TB patients under the Programme, IEC activities are undertaken at all levels.

Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats in Karnataka

4737. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facilities have been provided to all the Gram Panchayats in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the number of Gram Panchayats provided telephone facilities during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with telephone facilities during the Tenth Five Year Plan in the State; and

(d) the time by which all the village Panchayats are likely to be provided telephone facilities in the State?

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

(b) 292 Gram Panchayats were provided with telecom facilities during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) All the Gram Panchayats have already been provided with telecom facilities.

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

Vacant Posts of Prosecutors in CBI

4738. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of prosecutors in Central Bureau of Investigation are lying vacant;

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

(c) the action being taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) As on 1.4.2003, out of a sanctioned strength of 230 posts, 75 posts are lying vacant. Of these, 1 vacancy is of Additional Legal Adviser, 6 of Deputy Legal Adviser, 14 of Senior Public Prosecutor, 34 of Public Prosecutor and 20 of Assistant Public Prosecutor. The vacancies exist due to inadequate response from eligible candidates and the need for annual clearance of direct recruitment plans.

Though recruitment is an ongoing process, through an intensive recruitment drive held in 2002, 46 posts of Legal Officers (3 Additional Legal Advisers, 10 Deputy Legal Advisers, 21 Senior Public Prosecutors & 12 Public Prosecutors) were filled. Further, in 2003 orders have been issued so far for promotion of 5 Deputy Legal Advisers, appointment of 4 Public Prosecutors by direct recruitment, and 2 Public Prosecutors on deputation. A meeting of the Screening Committee has also been held on 26.3.2003 in connection with the Annual Recruitment Plan which includes 51 Direct Recruitment posts of Legal Officers. To ensure that conduct of prosecution does not suffer, more than 280 Special Counsels have been appointed.

Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme

4739. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the proposals received and cleared for subsidy alongwith the amount provided by the Government in each case;

(d) the extent to which private sector has availed this scheme;

(e) whether this scheme has not been proved to be successful; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve inland transport through a more attractive scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the scheme are as follows:

- Subsidy payable would be 30% of ex-factory price of inland vessel.
- Vessel should be registered under Inland Vessels Act 1917. Dumb barges are also eligible for subsidy.
- Vessel should be constructed at an Indian Shipyard.
- The scheme is for vessels meant for operation in National Waterways, Sunderbans waterways or Indo-Bangladesh protocol routes.
- The scheme would be operated as a credit linked subsidy scheme under which a part of cost of construction would be met by financial institutions/banks.
- The Inland Waterways Authority of India will decide the priority of the cases.
- The scheme is effective from 1st April, 2002 and will remain in force for 5 year *i.e.* upto 31st March, 2007.

(c) and (d) IWA has received 9 proposals (corresponding to construction of 25 vessels) for disbursement of subsidy and have initiated the process of scrutinising these proposals as per the scheme. No. amount has been disbursed so far.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Funds for Highways in West Bengal

4740. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:

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

(a) whether allocation of funds for Highways in West Bengal is less than any other State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase funds to West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether reconstruction of collapsed stretches of National Highway No. 2 has been completed and reopened to the traffic;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the reasons of the collapse; and

(h) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) No Sir, allocation of funds to various States for development and maintenance of National Highways is made based on the length of National Highways in the States, capacity of the States and overall availability of funds.

(e) No stretch of National Highway No. 2 had collapsed.

(f) to (h) Do not arise.

Side Effects of Alprax and Alprazolam

4741. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Alprax and Alprazolam the two generic anti-anxiety medicines have become the drug-in-demand among urban people in the country as reported in the *Times of India*, dated February 9, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the side-effects of these medicines on human body;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring any legislation to ban their free sale; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Alprazolam (Alprax is a brand name of Alprazolam) is a Benzodiazepine derivative and is popularly used as anxiolytic by medical community.

(b) Commonly reported side effects include, drowsiness, sedation, muscle weakness and loss of coordination. Abrupt withdrawal of Benzodiazepine may

produce "Benzodiazepine withdrawal syndrome" which is characterized by confusion, toxic psychosis, convulsions or a condition resembling delirium tremens.

(c) and (d) Alprazolam falls under Schedule-H of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and sale of this drug is governed by Rule 97 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Rule 97 states that no Schedule-H drug is to be sold without the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) and the label of the drug should also carry the following warning:-

"Schedule-H drug: warning "to be sold on retail on the prescription of RMP."

In view of the above, and its medically accepted use, there is no proposal to ban the sale of this drug.

Targets for Telephone Connections

4742. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets fixed for provision of telephone connections in the year 2002-2003 have slashed at the revised estimates stage;

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

(c) whether this year's targets are also less than the last year's; and

(d) if so, the effect thereof on the telecom sector development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the targets fixed for provision of telephone connections for PSUs (BSNL & MTNL) in the year 2002-03 have been slashed from 69.83 lakh DELs to 57.20 lakh DELs at revised estimate stage due to paucity of funds and reduction in demand for fixed lines.

(c) No, Sir. The target fixed for the year 2003-2004 in 64.11 lakh DELs which is 12% more than the revised targets of 57.20 lakh DELs fixed for the last year i.e. 2002-03.

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

Funds to NGOs

4743. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of requests have been received from the Nehru Yuvak Kendras of coastal Andhra Pradesh for funding of various NGOs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such recommendations were sent without adequate screening;

(d) if so, the number of such applications approved and the funds sanctioned; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) Total number of applications received during 2002-2003 through Nehru Yuva Kendras of coastal Andhra Pradesh for grant-in-aid is 52. A list indicating district-wise number of applications received is enclosed as statement.

(c) to (e) The proposals were received through concerned Nehru Yuva Kendras duly recommended by the District Youth Coordinator.

Statement

District	No. of applications
Nellore	16
Vizianagram	5
Eluru	1
Guntur	12
Vijayawada	4
Srikakulam	1
Ongle	1
Vishakhapatnam	12

Four Laning of National Highway-8A

4744. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether four laning of Bhachau-Gandhidham National Highway-8A is under implementation;

(b) if so, whether the project is running behind schedule;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The four-laning of Bachau-Gandhidham section of National Highway-8A has been completed in July, 2002.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Establishment of SSI Units in Ninth Plan

4745. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries set up by each State during the Ninth Plan;

(b) the total investment made by each State for the establishment of the same; and

(c) the incentives provided by the Union Government in promoting SSI units in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) A Statement enclosed showing State-wise number of registered Small Scale Industrial (SSI) units set up during the Ninth Plan alongwith the cumulative number of registered SSI units at the end of March, 2002 i.e. the end of Ninth Plan is enclosed. SSI units are set up in the Private Sector and the registration of the SSI units is voluntary. However, the State Governments facilitate their promotion and development within the respective States. The total investment in the SSI sector during Ninth Plan is estimated to be Rs. 24896 crore. The State-wise break-up of investment is not maintained centrally.

(c) Government both at Central and States level has been implementing a large number of scheme for the promotion and development of the Small Scale Industries

in the country. At the Central level, the important schemes are Integrated Infrastructure Development, technology upgradation, Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Tool Rooms, Product-cum-Process Development Centre, Entrepreneurship Development, Assistance on acquiring ISO-9000, etc. While the advantage of these schemes can be availed by SSI entrepreneurs from any part of the country, these schemes are not State specific. In addition, on 30th August 2000, the Prime Minister announced a Comprehensive Policy Package for the promotion and development of Small Scale Sector to enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally. The policy package consists of enhanced fiscal and credit supports, better infrastructure and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

Statement

State-wise No. of SSI units registered during Ninth Plan and Cumulative No. of SSI units registered upto March, 2002

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Cumulative No. of SSI Units Registered upto March, 2002	No. of SSI Units Registered During Ninth Plan
1	2	3	4
1	Andaman & Nicobar	1284	213
2	Andhra Pradesh	131685	14553
3	Arunachal Pradesh	653	-273*
4	Assam	26358	5637
5	Bihar	92095	-16053*
6	Chandigarh	3102	150
7	Chhattisgarh	72883	72883
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1317	863
9	Daman & Diu	1874	954
10	Delhi	19804	-5480*
11	Goa	6389	1111
12	Gujarat	194435	52484
13	Haryana	55409	-43046*
14	Himachal Pradesh	17740	3147

1	2	3	4
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	32245	5882
16.	Jharkhand	41089	41089
17.	Karnataka	178330	53826
18.	Kerala	238431	90158
19.	Lakshadweep	82	31
20.	Madhya Pradesh	220100	-23381*
21.	Maharashtra	150996	38867
22.	Manipur	5975	818
23.	Meghalaya	3029	863
24.	Mizoram	4911	1396
25.	Nagaland	1643	886
26.	Orissa	23284	6091
27.	Pondicherry	5152	897
28.	Punjab	155197	7634
29.	Rajasthan	90366	15916
30.	Sikkim	342	48
31.	Tamil Nadu	375262	148326
32.	Tripura	2127	-3774*
33.	Uttar Pradesh	389013	65538
34.	Uttaranchal	34920	34920
35.	West Bengal	153670	8208
All India Total		27,31,172	5,78,378

*The negative figures are due to de-registration of SSI units in Haryana, Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and also due to bifurcation of State in the case of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

Establishment of Medical/Dental Colleges

4746. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Private/Government Hospitals for the establishment of Medical/Dental Colleges in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government on each of the proposals received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The following five proposals were received from State of Tamil Nadu for establishment of new medical college during 2002:—

- (1) Raja Educational & Charitable Trust, Tirunelveli
- (2) Indian Education Trust, Thanjavur
- (3) CSI Kanyakumari Diocese, Kanyakumari
- (4) Meenakshmi Ammal Trust, Chennai
- (5) Sri Lakshmi Ammal Trust, Chennai

Proposals mentioned at serial number 1-3 were returned to the applicant, as the same were not meeting the qualifying criteria prescribed in Indian Medical Council Act and the Regulations framed thereunder, whereas, proposals mentioned at serial number 4-5 have been sent to Medical Council of India for evaluation and recommendation. Clearance of these proposals are subject of fulfilling the qualifying criteria prescribed in the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 and the Regulations framed thereunder, availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon. No proposals has, however, been received from the State of Tamil Nadu for the establishment of Dental Colleges during 2002.

[Translation]

Supersession of Specialists

4747. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that ad-hoc specialists of Central Health Services superseded many regular specialists appointed in CHS through UPSC;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) In Central Health Service ad-hoc specialists have not superseded any regular specialist.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Office Expenses

4748. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount incurred on publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISTD telephone bills, electricity bill especially the electricity bills of air-conditioners and coolers and other office expenses in various departments and undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to curtail the expenses on the said items;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Ministry of Disinvestment has not incurred any expenditure on publicity, opening ceremonies during the last three years. While this Ministry has been participating in seminars, workshops organized by bilateral/multi-lateral organizations, no expenditure has been incurred by the Ministry itself. It has, in addition to mandated official publications, compiled and published booklets on disinvestment procedures for dissemination of the same to the opinion makers and the general public. Expenditure on electricity bills for air conditioners and coolers is borne directly by the Central Public Works Department. The expenditure under the heads Travel Allowance (foreign & domestic) and Office Expenses (includes among other items, expenditure on telephones-STD & ISD- and catering/hospitality) and publicity for the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in Lakh)

Head	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Office Expenses	68.65	52.84	60.00
Publication	2.19	6.33	11.47
Travel Allowance (Foreign)	0.95	6.00	10.11
Travel Allowance (Domestic)	2.38	7.78	13.11

There is no department, subordinate office or undertaking under the Ministry of Disinvestment. The information relating to the Disinvestment Commission is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Disinvestment was formed in December, 1999. The Ministry has been observing economy in all respects to restrict the expenditure to the minimum.

Cases of Harassment of IT Professionals

4749. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many cases of harassment of Indian IT Professionals in several countries have come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of countries where such cases have been detected during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government have lodged any protest against such ill-treatment; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the steps taken by the Government and the remedial steps proposed to prevent such occurrences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) There have been some cases of harassment of Indian IT professionals in a few countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Netherlands and UK.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken up the matter immediately with the authorities in the countries concerned and conveyed the seriousness with which it viewed such incidents to prevent any recurrence of such cases.

[English]

Failure of UN in Preventing Iraq War

4750. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Organisation has lost its relevance as evidenced by the attack on Iraq by America in violation of UN's mandate;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to garner world support to strengthen and save the UN from becoming ineffective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling along Indo-Nepal Border

4751. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any diplomatic arrangements have been made with the Nepal Government to check the spurt in smuggling from the northern border of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) Government of India has made the following arrangements with His Majesty's Government of Nepal for preventing unauthorized trade/smuggling across the Indo-Nepal border:

(i) There is an Agreement between India and Nepal for Cooperation to Control Unauthorised Trade. This Agreement was renewed on March 2, 2002, for a period of five years with effect from March 6, 2002. Regular dialogue between Customs officials of the two countries takes place under this Agreement to coordinate and continue to strengthen our cooperation in this area.

- (ii) The Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade, Transit and Unauthorised trade, headed by the Commerce Secretaries of the two Governments, meets regularly to review the entire gamut of trade and economic cooperation issues between India and Nepal including aspects relating to unauthorised trade.
- (iii) A bilateral institutional mechanism has also been evolved which includes a Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary Level Talks to jointly address issues relating to maintenance of peace and security and prevention of criminal activities in the India-Nepal border areas.

[English]

Setting up of Centres under STPI Scheme

4752. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up 10 new Centres in secondary location in order to promote the small and medium enterprises under the Software Technology Parks of India Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the budgetary outlay has been made in the current fiscal year;

(d) if so, whether the outlay is sufficient; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/to be taken by Government to provide sufficient outlay for setting up these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The setting up of new centre is based on export potential as well as the State Government's willingness to provide land, built up area and financial support. A list of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI). Centres, under various stages of implementation is enclosed at statement-I. As of now 39 Centres have been set up all over the country as detailed in statement-II.

(c) to (e) A budgetary outlay of Rs. 5 crores grant-in-aid to STPI has been made for 2003-04.

Statement I

The following centres are at various stages of implementation

S.No.	STPI Centres	States
1.	Durgapur	West Bengal
2.	Goa	Goa
3.	Gangtok	Sikkim
4.	Gurgaon	Haryana
5.	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir
6.	Kharagpur	West Bengal
7.	Patna	Bihar
8.	Patiala	Punjab
9.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
10.	Shillong	Meghalaya
11.	Jodhpur	Rajasthan

Statement II

STPI has set-up following centers

Sl.No.	STPI Centres	States
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
3.	Bangalore	Karnataka
4.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
5.	Bhilai	Chhattisgarh
6.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
7.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
8.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal
9.	Gandhinagar	Gujarat
10.	Guwahati	Assam
11.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
12.	Hubli	Karnataka

1	2	3
13.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
14.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
15.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
16.	Kolkatta	West Bengal
17.	Kolhapur	Maharashtra
18.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
19.	Mangalore	Karnataka
20.	Manipal	Karnataka
21.	Mohali	Punjab
22.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu
23.	Mysore	Karnataka
24.	Nagpur	Maharashtra
25.	Nasik	Maharashtra
26.	Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra
27.	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
28.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
29.	Pune	Maharashtra
30.	Rourkela	Orissa
31.	Thirunavelli	Tamil Nadu
32.	Thirupati	Andhra Pradesh
33.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
34.	Trichy	Tamil Nadu
35.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
36.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir
37.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
38.	Vizag	Andhra Pradesh
39.	Warangal	Andhra Pradesh

Speed Post Centres in Maharashtra

4753. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of speed post centres functioning in Maharashtra as on date;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more such centres in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of speed post centres opened during the Ninth Five Year Plan period in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Number of Speed Post Centres functioning as on date in Maharashtra Circle are as follows:

National — 6 State — 76

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up State Speed Post Centres at Beed, Nandurbar and Hingoli Districts, since at present there are no centres in these districts. With these three additions, all the districts of Maharashtra will have Speed Post centres.

(e) Two National Speed Post Centres and 41 State Speed Post Centres have been opened during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Utilisation of Funds for Treatment of Diseases

4754. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of patients suffering from T.B., Dengue, Malaria, Blindness and AIDS in the country during the current year alongwith the comparative figures in this regard during the last three years;

(b) whether the funds made available for treatment of these diseases have not been fully utilized;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure full utilization of the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Details of number of patients suffering from TB, Dengue, Malaria and AIDS in the country during the last 3 years is at statement.

So far as Blindness is concerned, as per a recent survey conducted in 2001-02, there were about 1.15 crore blind persons in the country.

(b) to (d) Funds released to States/UTs under National TB Control Programme, Blindness Control Programme and National AIDS Control Programme are utilized as per guidelines. Balances, if any, are carried over to the next year. Further funds are released only after receipt of utilization certificate from the respective societies. Accounts of the societies are audited annually.

Government of India provides anti-Malaria medicines to States/UTs as per their requirements. So far as Dengue is concerned, there is no specific treatment of Dengue fever, which is treated symptomatically. Hence, no specific funds are being provided to States/UTs for this purpose.

Statement

Details of number of patients suffering from TB, Dengue, Malaria and AIDS in the country during the last three years

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
TB	1145618	1116171	1129076
Malaria	20940	22625	13972
Dengue	10	71	75
AIDS	7234	14139	11585

[English]

Fund Allocation for Nuclear Fuel Complex

4755. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Fuel Complex has not been able to utilise plan allocation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the allocation vis-a-vis utilisation of fund during the said period;

(d) the funds allocated for the current financial year, and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken for the full utilization of allocated funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Nuclear Fuel Complex has been able to fully utilize its plan allocation for financial year 2002-03. However, it was unable to do so during 2000-01 and 2001-02.

(b) The main reasons for non-utilization of funds allocated for the financial year 2000-01 are: inability to import machinery/equipment due to export embargo, failure on the part of manufacturer to supply equipment as per the specifications leading to cancellation of purchase order, inability of local manufacturer to offer Vacuum Drum filter as per the designed specifications and rejection of inferior quality raw materials offered by the supplier leading to extension of delivery period.

In respect of the financial year 2001-2002 the reasons are delay in finalisation of specification/procurement of critical equipment and delay in development of equipment indigenously.

(c) The allocation vis-a-vis the utilization of funds are as under:

(Rs. in Lakh)

2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
2000.00	371.75	1200.00	797.12	1200.00	1296.16

(d) An amount of Rs. 2200 lakh has been allocated for the current financial year *i.e.* 2003-04.

(e) Budget assessment are being prepared based on realistic basis keeping in view the progress of the projects. The progress of capital expenditure is closely monitored by the NFC management. In fact, during 2002-03, the expenditure on capital account is more than the original budget allotment.

Mechanised Loading and Unloading of Cargoes

4756. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce mechanised loading and unloading of Cargoes in each major port;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) Modernisation, including mechanisation of facilities for loading and unloading of cargoes in major ports is a continuous process. Mechanised loading and unloading facilities, either in part or in full depending upon the cargo mix in each port, for handling different type of cargo including bulk, break bulk, liquid and containerized cargo, are already in operation in all the major ports.

Eradication of Diseases

4757. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICMR had successfully completed its task in identifying and eradicating diseases like TB, Smallpox, Leprosy, Polio etc.; and

(b) if not, the time by which the task is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) ICMR only undertakes research studies for containing and treating diseases. For the control/eradication of the diseases like TB, Leprosy and Polio, the Government of India is operating National Health Programmes namely National TB Control Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme and the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme.

Polio Eradication Programme is implemented through States/UTs. Well established surveillance system meeting the international standards are functioning in all the States/UTs to identify of polio cases and areas of polio virus transmission. The national goal is to eradicate polio from the country and obtain international polio free certification by 2005.

Under the TB Programme, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), based on WHO recommended DOTS strategy was launched in the country in 1997 in a phased manner. Till date more than 600 million population has been covered under the revised strategy and it is envisaged that the whole country will be covered under RNTCP by 2005. At present, no goal has been set for eradication of TB.

Smallpox has already been eradicated from the country in 1977.

For the elimination of Leprosy, at present the second phase of the National Leprosy Elimination Project is in operation with effect from 2001-02 and is ending in March, 2004. It is expected to achieve leprosy elimination and national level *i.e.* of prevalence rate of less than 1 patient per 10,000 population by 2005.

[Translation]

Grants to NGOs

4758. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the heads and areas for which his ministry provided grants to the Non-Governmental Organisations during the last three years till date;

(b) the details of the proposals received from such Non-Government Organisations operating in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last three years till date;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the number of proposals out of them pending for approval; and

(e) the reasons, if any, for delay in their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIKRAM VERMA): (a) and (b) (i) Under the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities and Training, grants-in-aid was sanctioned to the NGOs located in various States/UTs for conducting Vocational Training Courses, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and Exhibitions for Youth during the last 3 years till date for the benefit of youth in the age-group of 15-35 years. Under this Scheme, 413 and 33 proposals were received from NGOs of Bihar

and Jharkhand respectively during the last 3 years till date.

- (ii) Under the Scheme of Promotion of National Integration, central assistance was provided to various NGOs for promotion of national integration among the youth of the country in the age-group of 15-35 years. Under this Scheme, 239 and 12 proposals were received from NGOs of Bihar and Jharkhand respectively during the last 3 years till date.
- (iii) Under the Scheme of Promotion of Adventure, central assistance was provided to various NGOs for promotion of adventure among the youth of the country in the age-group of 15-35 years. Under this Scheme, 7 proposals were received from NGOs of Bihar and no proposal was received from Jharkhand during the last 3 years till date.
- (iv) Under the Schemes of (i) Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure and (ii) Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces, central assistance was provided to various NGOs located in various States/UTs for creation of various sports facilities. No proposal was received from NGOs of Bihar and Jharkhand during the last 3 years till date.
- (c) to (e) (i) Under the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities and Training, all eligible applications received from NGOs were considered on 'first come-first served' basis and grants-in-aid sanctioned in their favour. Those applications which could not be considered due to late receipt of funds being exhausted were returned to the NGOs except for the cases received during 2002-2003. The number of such cases is 201 (169 of Bihar and 32 of Jharkhand).
- (ii) Under the Scheme of Promotion of National Integration, 120 and 6 proposals from Bihar and Jharkhand respectively were sanctioned during the last three years till date and no proposal is pending.
- (iii) Under the Scheme of Promotion of Adventure, 6 proposals from Bihar were sanctioned during the last 3 years till date. No proposal from Jharkhand was sanctioned as they were not found in order.
- (iv) Under the Schemes (i) Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure and (ii) Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces, no proposal from NGOs of Bihar and Jharkhand was received during the last 3 years till date.

[English]

Shortage of Specialists

4759. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of cardiac and cardio theoretic specialists in the hospitals of Delhi Government;

(b) if so, whether the Delhi Government have made requests to the Union Government to urgently appoint specialists or to allow the hospital authorities to make appointments on *ad hoc* basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(d) whether as per the Medical Council of India rules, a minimum number of specialists are required to run the DM course; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the shortage of cardiac and Cardio Thoracic specialists in the hospitals under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. It is also aware that the Medical Council of India has prescribed a minimum of three faculty members with recognized Post Graduate qualification and experience with at least two of them holding the degree of DM/M.Ch. in the concerned speciality to run a DM course. Recently this Ministry has received a request from Government of Delhi for filling up of the vacancies in these specialities at G.B. Pant Hospital, New Delhi on ad-hoc basis. This Ministry is taking necessary steps to fill up these vacant posts.

General Cargo Berths in Paradip Port

4760. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of General Cargo berths in Paradip Port;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to construct one more General Cargo berth in the said Port; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):

(a) There are seven General Cargo berths at Paradip Port.

(b) and (c) There is a proposal for construction of a berth on Build Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis for handling Clean Cargo for which action has been initiated by the Port.

Central Road Fund for Bridges and Roads

4761. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide assistance from Central Road Fund for construction of bridges and improvement of roads in States;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals pending with the Government for release of funds, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

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

(b) and (c) As on date, 693 number of proposals for improvement of State Roads and Bridges are pending for approval under Central Road Fund. State-wise details are annexed as statement. No fixed time frame can be given for approval as the approval of the proposals depends upon the utilisation of funds by the States.

Statement

State-wise details of proposals pending for approval under Central Road Fund

S.No.	State	No. of proposals pending
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
2.	Assam	109
3.	Bihar	35

1	2	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	28
5.	Delhi	11
6.	Haryana	2
7.	Himachal Pradesh	19
8.	Jharkhand	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19
10.	Karnataka	30
11.	Kerala	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	118
13.	Maharashtra	94
14.	Manipur	3
15.	Meghalaya	14
16.	Mizoram	3
17.	Nagaland	1
18.	Rajasthan	66
19.	Sikkim	1
20.	Tripura	1
21.	Uttar Pradesh	52
22.	Uttaranchal	77
Total		693

[Translation]

Cancer Insurance Scheme

4762. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to introduce Cancer Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Projects under Central Road Fund**

4763. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of projects undertaken during the last three years under the Central Road Fund;

(b) the number of these projects which has since been completed and the present status of other projects;

(c) whether the Government have received requests from Members of Parliament and others for expediting the project of Soit-Kosara Bridge on river Wardha under the Central Road Fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this work has since been approved; and

(f) if not, the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) During the last three years 1796 number of proposals for improvement of State roads were approved under the Central Road Fund in various States. Out of these, 684 number of works have been completed. State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (f) The project of Soit-Kosara Bridge on river Wardha has been approved under the Central Road Fund for an amount of Rs. 375 lakhs in January, 2003.

Statement

State-wise details of projects undertaken and completed under CRF during the last three years

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Schemes approved during last three years		Schemes completed
		No.	Amount	No.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58	252.94	21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	47.13	5
3.	Assam	39	67.81	22
4.	Bihar	43	129.38	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	75.39	6
6.	Goa	4	7.62	—
7.	Gujarat	342	215.96	170
8.	Haryana	41	102.13	14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	27.84	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	25	78.37	5
11.	Jharkhand	5	26.75	2
12.	Karnataka	201	165.43	88
13.	Kerala	5	38.08	—

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	44	189.14	11
15.	Maharashtra	106	295.82	4
16.	Manipur	7	13.98	—
17.	Meghalaya	14	21.98	3
18.	Mizoram	23	20.01	1
19.	Nagaland	4	7.16	—
20.	Orissa	101	98.89	—
21.	Punjab	76	160.67	19
22.	Rajasthan	188	255.16	90
23.	Sikkim	9	5.57	8
24.	Tamil Nadu	332	225.93	198
25.	Tripura	4	7.10	1
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31	197.08	—
27.	Uttaranchal	23	29.99	7
28.	West Bengal	8	96.65	—
	UTs			
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	2.43	—
30.	Chandigarh	4	6.93	1
31.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	8	2.62	5
32.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
33.	Delhi	5	19.36	—
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	2	4.50	—
	Total	1796	2895.80	684

Closure of SSIs

4764. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many small scale industries are closing down despite Government's best efforts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce further excise duty to improve the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b)

There are reports from a number of SSI associations from all over the country that many small scale industries are closing down. The main reasons of closure are inadequacy/shortage of working capital, fall in demand, changes in technology, shortage of raw materials, marketing problems, increase in competition, management inadequacies, etc.

(c) and (d) In the Union Budget 2003-04, Government have made several announcements proposing reduction in excise duty on items of importance to the SSI sector. Some of the major announcements are as under:

1. Duty has been fully exempted on
 - Bicycle & parts
 - Toys
 - Utensils & kitchen articles of metals
 - Adhesive tapes
 - Umbrellas
 - Registers
 - Accounts books
2. Excise duty has been reduced from 16% to 8% with full CENVAT credit on
 - Pressure cookers
 - Biscuits
 - Boiled sweets
 - Sugar confectionary (excluding white chocolates)
 - Rough Ophthalmic blanks
 - Dental chairs
 - Electric vehicles
 - Scented supari
 - Nicotine polacrilex gum
3. Specific duty rates on matches, manufactured in the mechanized and semi-mechanised sector, have been replaced by a uniform excise duty of 8% without CENVAT credit. Payment of duty on matches through excise stamps is being abolished consequent to introduction of ad-valorem levy. Matches made by non-mechanised sector have been fully exempted from excise duty.
4. Excise duty on polyester filament yarns have also been reduced.

Property owned by Department of Posts

4765. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether property owned by the Department of Posts is lying idle at many places;

(b) if so, the estimated value of such property;

(c) the number of places where the property is under encroachment; and

(d) the steps taken, if any, to remove the encroachments and put the property to productive use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Sir, the Department of Posts has approximately 2000 vacant plots of land for construction of departmental buildings all over the country on which construction has not been undertaken due to paucity of funds.

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

(c) 163 plots of land are either fully or partially under encroachment.

(d) All such cases have been taken up at various administrative/legal levels to remove encroachment.

Modernisation of Dredging Corporation of India

4766. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dredging Corporation of India has been modernised with latest equipment and other facilities;

(b) if so, the main area of operations of the DCI;

(c) whether as compared to foreign companies, the quality of work of the DCI has to improve; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of DCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) Modernisation of Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) is a continuous process. DCI has acquired 3 nos. 7400 cubic meter hopper capacity trailer suction dredgers during 1999 and 2001 with the State-of-art technology and fuel efficient equipment. In case of old dredgers, DCI has been updating navigational and dredge instrumentation with latest technology available.

(b) The main area of operation of DCI is the maintenance dredging requirements of major ports and the Indian Navy.

(c) and (d) The quality of work of DCI in respect of maintenance dredging is comparable with foreign dredging companies. However, DCI needs to add cutter suction dredgers in its fleet and improve the skills of staff in execution of capital dredging works. DCI has been granted Mini-Ratna status facilitating it to enter into Joint Ventures/alliances etc. depending on the need. DCI is also taking action to upgrade technology on board the dredgers and the technical skills of staff.

Implementation of National Highway Projects

4767. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several national highway projects are lagging behind due to delay in acquisition of land and rehabilitation of affected people as reported in the *Nav Bharat Times* dated March 26, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the States where these projects are lagging behind;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the concerned State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure speedy implementation of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Some of the highway projects in the following States have been delayed due to the problems faced in matter relating to pre-construction activity like Land Acquisition etc.

- (i) Andhra Pradesh
 - (ii) Bihar
 - (iii) Jharkhand
 - (iv) Orissa
 - (v) Maharashtra
 - (vi) Karnataka
 - (vii) Tamil Nadu
 - (viii) Goa
 - (ix) Uttar Pradesh
 - (x) Nagaland.
- (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter has been taken up with the various State Governments at various levels including the respective Chief Ministers.

(e) The following steps are taken to ensure speedy implementation of projects:

- (i) Prompt decision making and faster payments.
- (ii) Bonus for early completion and penalty for delays.
- (iii) Use of state-of-the-art technology.
- (iv) Lean officer oriented organisation tapping private sector efficiency by outsourcing project preparation, work supervision and maintenance.
- (v) Periodic monitoring at various levels.
- (vi) Constant liaison with State Governments at higher level to expedite pre-construction activities such as land acquisition, utility shifting.

Indo-Vietnam Bilateral Ties

4768. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to establish better Indo-Vietnam bilateral ties;

(b) if so, the details of the areas in which Indo-Vietnam ties have been established; and

(c) the details of the discussions held in this regard during the eleventh meeting of the Indo-Vietnam Joint Commission held in New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) India and Vietnam are taking steps to further strengthen their traditional friendly relations by cooperating in diverse areas such as agriculture & animal husbandry, education, science & technology, information technology, oil & gas, railways, steel, mining, etc.

(c) During the 11th meeting of the Joint Commission, the two sides identified new areas of cooperation such as biotechnology, super computers, space, ships and shipyards, posts & telecommunications, etc.

Monitor of Traditional Medicine

4769. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no System to monitor traditional medicine as reported in the *Times of India* dated March 29, 2003;

(b) if so, whether 70 per cent of the population use traditional medicine for their primary health needs in the country; and

(c) if so, the strategy chalked out by the Government to standardize the traditional medicine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani education is regulated by the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and the Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) regulates the Homoeopathy education.

The manufacture for sale of drugs is regulated by the Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules made thereunder.

(b) According to WHO report, 70% of population use traditional medicines for their primary need.

(c) The education and drugs manufacture are already regulated. Formulary has been published and pharmacopoeial standards has been laid down. GMP has been notified. Quality control facilities have been augmented.

Performance of Indian Infotech Companies

4770. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the on-going global slow down has adversely affected the performance of Indian Infotech companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The on-going global slowdown has been impacting the performance of Indian infotech companies by putting pressure on margins. However, IT software and services outsourcing has come to the mainstream and volume of business for Indian IT companies has increased.

(c) Government is seized of the issue. Steps taken by the Government to promote the IT sector is enclosed as 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. Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) and Software Technology Park (STP) Schemes are implemented under the aegis of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-I) items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) by EHTP/EOU/EPZ units shall be counted towards fulfillment 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/EHTP/STP). These shall 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 rationalised from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%, in the Budget 2001-02, and continues.
11. 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 recognised non-commercial educational institutions, registered charitable hospitals, public libraries, public funded research and development establishments, etc., two years after their use by the said units is permitted.

21. The second-hand computers and computer peripherals donated by an outside donor to Government schools and recognised schools run on a non-commercial basis by any organisation are exempted from customs duties.
22. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.
23. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.
24. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognised stock exchange in India.
25. Under policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit was raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.
26. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
27. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/ GDRs, Local shares can be reconverted into ADRs/ GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.
28. With a view to give a boost to the manufacturing sector, it is proposed in the Budget announcements 2002-03, to allow a deduction of a further 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 finalised 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]

Expenditure incurred on various heads

4771. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred under various heads such as publicity, advertisement, hospitality, catering, opening ceremonies, seminars, conferences, tours (including foreign visits), STD and ISD telephone bills, electricity bill and other office expenses under his Ministry during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to launch any drive to cut down the expenditure being incurred under above heads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): (a) The expenditure incurred in sub-heads viz. "Domestic Travel Expenses", "Foreign Travel Expenses", "Office Expenses" and "Other Administrative Expenses" during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 is as under:—

(In Lakhs of Rupees)

S.No.	Sub-Heads	During 2000-01	During 2001-02	During 2002-03
1.	Domestic Travel Expenses	14.51	17.85	17.82
2.	Foreign Travel Expenses	8.51	54.92	49.46
3.	Office Expenses	102.62	86.80	77.77
4.	Other Administrative Expenses	22.62	15.40	11.31
	Total	148.26	174.97	156.36

(b) and (c) Various economy instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance from time to time are kept in view to cut down the expenditure being incurred.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

NCAER Survey

4772. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research on behalf of Department of Information Technology reveals that Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are the four Indian States that have emerged as leaders in the field of e-readiness;

(b) if so, the main findings of the survey; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve e-readiness in other States?

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

National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) report, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have emerged as the leading States in the country in terms of e-readiness.

(b) The survey conducted covered all the States/ Union Territories (UTs) to assess their e-readiness. The data for the study was collected from the State Governments/UTs in the form of structured questionnaires. In addition, NCAER has also made use of the primary data collected by them for their exercise on Market Information Survey of Households (MISH), pertaining to percentage of households with phone, PC, internet connection and cable TV.

In the NCAER study, States/UTs have been rated on six broad parameters namely Network Access, Network Learning, Network Policy, Network Society, e-Governance and Network Economy. (Salient features of these parameters are at statement-I). Based on these parameters, NCAER have categorised States in six slots: Leaders, Aspiring Leaders, Expectant, Average Achievers, under Achievers and Least Achievers. In the report, suggestions have also been made regarding Action Plan at the State and at the National Level.

(c) Improving and enhancing e-readiness of States and UTs is a continuing effort. Some of the measures taken by the Government, which have helped to improve the e-readiness of States in the country are as follows:

Department of Information Technology (DIT) through National Informatics Centre (NIC) has established a Nationwide ICT Network (NICNET)- with Gateway Nodes in all Central Government Departments), State/UT Secretariats (28+7), and about 600 District Administrations for ICT services including Internet, Electronic Mail and World Wide Web facilities. NIC has also established a nation wide video conferencing network covering all the States.

ERNET India, a society under DIT, has provided internet facility to various educational/research institutions across the country.

Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up 39 Centres all over the country (list is enclosed at Statement-II).

Department of Electronics Accreditation Computer Courses (DOEACC) Centres (erstwhile Centre for Electronic Design & Technology of India (CEDTI) have been set up at seven locations *i.e.* Aurangabad, Calicut, Gorakhpur, Imphal, Srinagar/Jammu, Tezpur/Guwahati and Aizawal offering short-term and long-term training courses in Electronics and IT.

With the specific objective of bridging the digital divide and promoting the use of IT in States that have been lagging behind in this respect, DIT has implemented a Scheme to establish Community Information Centres (CICs) at 487 block headquarters in the seven North-East States and Sikkim.

Statement-I

Broad Parameters for rating States/UTs for e-Readiness

In the NCAER study, States has been rated on six broad parameters:- Network Access, Network Learning, Network Policy, Network Society, e-Governance and Network Economy.

- (i) *Network Access* includes indicators like teledensity, percentage of households with phones and cable TV, cellular phones, PC population, Internet connections, average price per hour of internet use, number of cellular operators in the State, telecom staff per 100 lines and number of villages covered by Village Public Telephones (VPTs).
- (ii) *Network learning* is monitored in terms of percentage of colleges and schools with Internet access, computer labs, universities offering infotech courses, number of websites of schools

and colleges, number of registered training centres, percentage of students passing out with ICT courses, percentage of IT qualified teachers and percentage of Government employees covered under online training programmes.

- (iii) *Network policy* is evaluated on Government's efforts to address issues related to telecom, e-commerce taxation, intellectual property and presence of an IT policy and cyber laws, provision for deferred taxes, dedicated infrastructure and subsidised utilities to ICT firms.
- (iv) The State of *e-Governance* depends on the rural connectivity, IT applications in agriculture, education, health services, trade; initiative and success related to e-governance projects like e-procurement, land registration, utility billing, number of government employee records, land records etc. computerised.
- (v) *Network society* is measured through number of online companies, local language websites and interface, number of Government websites and number of households accessing Internet as percentage of households with computers and phones.
- (vi) *Network Economy* looks at the number of IT parks in the state, floor area and employment in these IT parks, sales turnover of the companies in the IT parks and number of companies using the facilities provided by the IT parks.

Statement-II

STPI has set-up following centers

Sl.No.	STPI Centres	States
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
3.	Bangalore	Karnataka
4.	Bhubaneswar	Orissa
5.	Bhilai	Chhattisgarh
6.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
7.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
8.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal

1	2	3
9.	Gandhinagar	Gujarat
10.	Guwahati	Assam
11.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
12.	Hubli	Karnataka
13.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
14.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
15.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
16.	Kolkatta	West Bengal
17.	Kolhapur	Maharashtra
18.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
19.	Mangalore	Karnataka
20.	Manipal	Karnataka
21.	Mohali	Punjab
22.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu
23.	Mysore	Karnataka
24.	Nagpur	Maharashtra
25.	Nasik	Maharashtra
26.	Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra
27.	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
28.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
29.	Pune	Maharashtra
30.	Rourkela	Orissa
31.	Thirunavelli	Tamil Nadu
32.	Thirupati	Andhra Pradesh
33.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
34.	Trichy	Tamil Nadu
35.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
36.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir
37.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
38.	Vizag	Andhra Pradesh
39.	Warangal	Andhra Pradesh

*[Translation]***Expansion of S.J. Hospital**

4773. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals are under the consideration of the Union Government for the advancement and expansion of Safdarjung Hospital and Vardhman-Mahavir Medical College of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The expansion and upgradation of medical facilities is a continuous ongoing process. Strengthening of all the super-specialist departments, upgradation of diagnostic departments by adding high tech equipments and modernization of the specialized department are proposed to be undertaken during the 10th Five Year Plan in a phased manner according to the need and availability of resources.

Issuance of Free ITC Card

4774. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to provide ITC Card with new telephone connections in Noida;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to provide such facility in other parts of the country;

(d) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) BSNL has introduced a free ITC card scheme on 17.7.2002, with each new telephone connection for those urban area, where switching capacity is available but waiting list does not exist.

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

Foreign Tours by Officers

4775. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries toured by the officers of various departments, undertakings and other institutions under his Ministry during the last three years and the number of days for which they stayed there;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange given to them in the form of cash and travellers cheque by the Government;

(c) the details of the travellers cheques not submitted for encashment;

(d) the reasons, if any, for the misutilization of the Government funds by these officers alongwith the reasons for failure in recovering funds from them; and

(e) the steps taken for recovering the funds misappropriated by the officers and by when the recovery is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

Foreign Visit during the year 2000

Name of the Country Visited	No of Days Stayed	Foreign Exchange released in Cash (in Rs.)	Foreign Exchange Released through Travellers Cheque
1	2	3	4
Netherlands	180	Nil	Nil
Singapore	5	Nil	Nil
USA	5	Nil	Nil
USA	5	22,000/-	Nil
USA	4	60,900/-	Nil
Indonesia	4	Nil	Nil
USA	15	Nil	Nil
Mexico	7	Nil	Nil
USA	12	57,500/-	Nil
USA	12	57,500/-	Nil
France	5	22,250/-	Nil
Singapore	12	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
Armenia	7	Nil	Nil
USA	3	Nil	Nil
Japan	42	Nil	Nil
Nepal	2	Nil	Nil
Nepal	2	Nil	Nil
UK	2	Nil	Nil
Switzerland	5	Nil	Nil
Switzerland	5	Nil	Nil
Switzerland	5	Nil	Nil
USA	8	Nil	Nil
Sweden	20	32,620/-	Nil
USA	23	Nil	Nil
Sri Lanka	2	Nil	Nil
Malta	3	Nil	Nil
Philippines & China	9	Nil	Nil
UK	7	32,200/-	Nil
Brazil	2	Nil	Nil
Thailand	3	Nil	Nil
USA	3	Nil	Nil
China	3	Nil	Nil
Philippines	10	Nil	Nil
USA	15	Nil	Nil
South Africa	5	Nil	Nil
China	6	5,330/-	Nil
South Africa	5	Nil	Nil
Austria, Switzerland & USA	16	Nil	Nil
Japan	1	Nil	Nil

Foreign Visit during the year 2001

Name of the Country Visited	No of Days Stayed	Foreign Exchange released in Cash (in Rs.)	Foreign Exchange Released through Travellers Cheque
1	2	3	4
UK	1	Nil	Nil
Philippines	5	Nil	Nil
Denmark	12	Nil	Nil
Malaysia, Singapore & UK	101	Nil	Nil
Malaysia, Singapore & UK	101	Nil	Nil
USA	8	34,500/-	Nil
Japan	2	Nil	Nil
Thailand	2	Nil	Nil
Nepal	2	Nil	Nil
Spain	4	Nil	Nil
USA	2	Nil	Nil
UK	7	Nil	Nil
UK	2	Nil	Nil
Sri Lanka	3	Nil	Nil
China	2	Nil	Nil
Malaysia	5	Nil	Nil
Turkey	2	Nil	Nil
USA	7	Nil	Nil
Malaysia, Japan, Thailand & Indonesia	7	Nil	Nil
Bangladesh	10	Nil	Nil
Thailand	4	Nil	Nil
USA	9	42,300/-	Nil
Lebanon	3	Nil	Nil
Nepal	5	Nil	Nil
Philippines	3	Nil	Nil
USA	2	Nil	Nil
Philippines	3	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
Philippines	2	Nil	Nil
China	5	10,000/-	Nil
Japan	172	Nil	Nil
France & Russia	11	9,200/-	Nil
Hong Kong	3	18,000/-	Nil
Mauritius	4	10,800/-	Nil
Ghana	3	Nil	Nil
Japan	1	Nil	Nil
Singapore	4	Nil	Nil
Thailand	3	Nil	Nil

Foreign Visit during the year 2002

Name of the Country Visited	No of Days Stayed	Foreign Exchange released in Cash (In Rs.)	Foreign Exchange Released through Travellers Cheque
1	2	3	4
USA	6	29,000/-	Nil
Switzerland	2	Nil	Nil
USA	11	43,200/-	Nil
Philippines	2	Nil	Nil
Taiwan	2	22,275/-	Nil
Pakistan	6	Nil	Nil
Pakistan	6	Nil	Nil
USA	63	Nil	Nil
UK	3	Nil	Nil
UK	3	22,050/-	Nil
Japan	5	18,000/-	Nil
Nepal	3	Nil	Nil
USA	3	11,025/-	Nil
Bhutan	7	15,435/-	Nil
USA	28	Nil	Nil

1	2	3	4
Switzerland	2	14,922/-	Nil
Nepal	5	Nil	Nil
Malaysia	4	Nil	Nil
South Africa	7	Nil	Nil
Kenya	2	8,820/-	Nil
USA	12	Nil	Nil
Canada	8	66,400/-	Nil
Pakistan	2	14,400/-	Nil
Japan	3	Nil	Nil
Pakistan	2	14,400/-	Nil
Thailand	3	Nil	Nil
Russia	3	13,720/-	Nil
China	2	Nil	Nil
France	9	Nil	Nil
Sri Lanka	2	Nil	Nil
UK & France	5	25,725/-	Nil
Saudi Arabia	3	13,780/-	Nil
Nepal	3	Nil	Nil
Thailand	3	Nil	Nil
Vietnam	3	Nil	Nil
Australia	25	71,920/-	Nil
Republic of Korea	3	Nil	Nil
Republic of Korea	7	Nil	Nil
Republic of Korea	7	Nil	Nil
South Africa	8	Nil	Nil
Togo	3	Nil	Nil
Singapore	4	Nil	Nil
Morocco	15	Nil	Nil
Nepal	2	Nil	Nil

[English]

Setting up of Marine State Development Corporation

4776. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a Marine State Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the main objectives behind setting up such a corporation;

(c) the works proposed to be undertaken by the said Corporation; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Wagon Tipping System in Ports

4777. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to operate Wagon Tipping System in all the major ports;

(b) if so, the major ports where the system is currently under operation;

(c) the date by which all the major ports will operate Wagon Tipping System; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):

(a) to (d) Wagon Tipping System is normally used for unloading bulk cargo, particularly iron ore and coal. This facility is already available at Haldia Dock Complex of Kolkata Port, Chennai Port, Visakhapatnam Port and Paradip Port. Proposals for installation and operation of Wagon Tipping System in Mormugao and New Mangalore Ports are in preliminary stages. The Wagon Tipping

System in neither in operation nor is there any plan at this stage to install the same at other major ports.

Long Term Action Plan for Orissa

4778. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has submitted a revised long term action plan for 2003-04 for KBK districts in that State;

(b) if so, the amount of outlay fixed for implementing the revised long term action plan;

(c) whether the plan has been accorded approval by the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the amount of outlay recommended by the Planning Commission for implementing the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The State Government had submitted the Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) for the undivided Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa which consisted primarily of on-going Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In order to focus on critical problem sectors, the State Government were advised to prepare a Special Plan for funding on 100 per cent grant basis. The State Government has submitted the Plan for 2003-04.

(b) The State Government have proposed an outlay of Rs. 250 crore as Special Central Assistance on 100 per cent grant basis. In addition, an outlay of Rs. 140 crore has been proposed as Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP).

(c) and (d) The outlay for the Special Plan will be fixed when the size of the State Plan of Orissa for 2003-04 is decided.

[Translation]

Family Planning Programmes

4779. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of family planning programmes started at the rural level during the last three years in order to create mass awareness among the rural people of the country;

(b) the progress achieved in lowering the birth rate and expenditure incurred thereon during the period; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on advertisements in this regard by the Union Government during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) During the last three years the following programmes on Family Welfare have been started to create awareness and dissemination of information in rural areas:—

- (i) Radio Sponsored Rural Folk based program, namely, Lok Jhankar, Sankalp & Surbahar are being broadcast through All India Radio.
- (ii) Group discussions in rural surroundings on various family welfare issues, video spots and theme based feature films are being telecast on Doordarshan.
- (iii) A magazine program 'Kalyani' has been introduced through Regional Kendras of northern States where social indices are critical.
- (iv) On special occasions family welfare related messages are published and publicised in rural areas through regional and local newspapers.

(b) and (c) The birth rates in rural areas during the last three years, as per the Sample Registration Scheme (SRS) of Registrar General of India, are as follows:-

Year	Birth Rate (Rural)
1998	28.0
1999	27.6
2000	27.6
2001	27.1 (Provisional)

The expenditure on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) which includes advertisements and publicity is not confined to programmes related to family planning alone but also relates to family welfare measures,

such as, Pulse Polio Immunization programme, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) issues, population stabilization, spacing methods, age at marriage, women empowerment, nutrition, diarrhoea & anaemia control, adolescent health, Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act, behavioural change communication activities and specific activities such as observance of World Population Day, etc. During the last three years the expenditure has been as follows:

2000-2001	Rs. 152.51 crore
2001-2002	Rs. 142.71 crore
2002-2003	Rs. 240.84 crore (Prov.)

Mobile Service in Jharkhand

4780. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has launched mobile services in Jharkhand State;

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

(c) whether the Bermo area of Bokaro district has been linked with mobile services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Initial plans of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the provision of Cellular Service envisaged the coverage upto District Headquarters, important pilgrimage centres, important National Highways etc. and as such Bermo area of Bokaro District were not included therein.

Statement*Status of Mobile Services in Jharkhand*

Sl.No.	District Headquarter	Capacity	Date of Commissioning
1.	Bokrao	2000	18.12.2002
2.	Chaibasa	1000	18.12.2002
3.	Chatra	1000	27.02.2003
4.	Daltonganj	2600	17.12.2002
5.	Deoghar	1000	13.12.2002
6.	Dhanbad	4000	18.12.2002
7.	Dumka	1000	18.12.2002
8.	Giridih	1000	10.01.2003
9.	Godda	1000	18.12.2002
10.	Gumla	1000	18.12.2002
11.	Hazaribagh	1000	18.12.2002
12.	Jamtara	500	18.12.2002
13.	Kodarma	1000	18.12.2002
14.	Latehar	500	18.12.2002
15.	Lohardagga	1000	08.01.2003
16.	Pakur	1000	21.01.2003
17.	Ranchi	5000	31.03.2002
18.	Saraikela	1000	18.12.2002
19.	Sahebganj	1000	18.12.2002
20.	Simdega	1000	18.12.2002
21.	Jamshedpur	4000	31.03.2002

*[English]***Post Offices in West Bengal**

4781. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branch and sub post offices in West Bengal, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposals to computerise the post offices in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of new post offices proposed to be set up during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) District-wise number of branch and sub post offices as on 31.03.2003 in West Bengal is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) As on November 2002, 219 post offices have been provided with computers. Keeping in view the resources available, every effort is being made to provide computers to more post offices in a phased manner, including those in West Bengal.

(d) The number of new post offices to be set up during the Tenth Five Year Plan is subject to availability of requisite resources and proposals that fulfill the prescribed norms.

Statement*District-wise number Branch and Sub Post Offices in West Bengal as on 31.03.2003*

Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of branch post offices including EDSOs	Number of Sub-Post Offices
1	2	3	4
1.	24 Paragana (North)	531	195
2.	24 Paragana (South)	697	104
3.	Kolkata	3	225
4.	Purulia	415	36
5.	Paschimi Midnapore	516	64
6.	Howrah	265	94
7.	Hooghly	390	144
8.	Bankura	429	54
9.	Nadia	316	116
10.	Burdwan	441	185

1	2	3	4
11.	Birbhum	395	60
12.	Murshidabad	507	78
13.	Malda	303	38
14.	Dinajpur (North)	180	23
15.	Dinajpur (South)	140	22
16.	Cooch Behar	297	49
17.	Darjeeling	90	71
18.	Jalpaiguri	237	59
19.	Purba Midnapore	890	117
Total		7042	1704

Mineral Separation Plant

4782. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Mineral Separation Plant at Chavara (Kollam), Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on 26.12.2002 for exploring the possibility of initially setting up a value addition plant near Chavara in Kerala for production of synthetic rutile based on Ilmenite produced by Chavara Unit of IREL and subsequently an integrated mining, mineral separation and value addition plant.

Sale of Dietary Supplements/Nutritional Supplements/Health Food

4783. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of dietary supplements/nutritional supplements/health food etc. are being sold in the market without medicinal claims; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that they fulfil the prescribed instructions on the subject, including labelling requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is formulating a legislation *i.e.* "Draft Health Food Supplement Bill" to regulate manufacture, sale/distribution of dietary supplement/health food supplement, nutraceutical and herbaceuticals which do not fall under the definition of the Food as defined under PFA Act, 1954.

VPT in Villages

4784. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a firm stand not to grant yet another deadline to private basic phone companies to fulfil their contractual obligations to install phones in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private basic phone companies have failed to install phones in villages despite several deadlines given in the past;

(d) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to cancel the licences granted to these companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a), (b), (d) and (e) The matter is under examination.

(c) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Jharkhand

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

(a) the district-wise number of telephone connections allotted in Jharkhand during the last two years and as on date;

(b) the number of telephone connections lying out of order in the State at present;

(c) whether rural telephone system has collapsed in various districts of the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The district-wise number of telephone connections allotted in Jharkhand during the last two years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) At present, 2166 numbers of telephone connections are lying out of order in the State.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, sometimes telecom services are adversely affected in the rural areas due to non availability of power.

(e) Following steps are being taken to improve the quality of telecom services in rural areas:

1. Progressively, MARR (Multi Access Rural Radio) VPTs (Villages Public Telephones) are being replaced by the WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) VPTs.
2. Adequate alternative source of power like generators and stand by batteries have been provided.
3. All the rural exchanges are being connected by reliable and high bandwidth Optical Fiber transmission system.
4. New services like WLL phone, Cellular Mobile Phone and Internet are being provided in the rural areas.

Statement

Distrc-t-wise telephone connections allotted (opened) during last two years and Status of telephones as on 31.03.2003 in the Jharkhand Telecom Circle

Name of District	Telephone Connections allotted (opened)		Status as on 31.3.2003
	2001-2002	2002-2003	
1	2	3	4
Dhanbad	8653	8747	57002
Bokaro	8064	6031	42885

1	2	3	4
West Singhbhum	1853	1466	15386
East Singhbhum	8597	5670	79732
Saraikela	2947	1762	11662
Hazaribagh	5598	2355	33217
Giridih	5695	2395	11005
Chatra	203	85	2547
Koderna	1765	743	6780
Dumka	731	1157	7259
Deoghar	4171	999	12139
Godda	1208	942	4898
Sahibganj	992	744	5816
Pakur	403	698	3985
Jamtara	607	497	2564
Latehar	550	347	2658
Garhwa	1134	591	4138
Palamu	3001	1427	13388
Ranchi	11449	9036	89385
Gumla	508	575	3189
Lohardaga	340	400	3817
Simdega	193	86	1770

OFC In Nasik

4786. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide optical fibre cable in Nasik District; and

(b) if so, the total length (in Kms) thereof alongwith the details of action taken by the Government thereon so far?

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

(b) So far 1663 kms. of optical fibre cable has been commissioned in Nasik District. There is a plan to lay 232 kms optical fibre cable during 2003-2004.

[English]

Schedule-Y of Drugs and Cosmetic Act

4787. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Schedule-Y of Drugs & Cosmetic Act is under revision;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the members of the committee set up in this regard; and

(c) the time by which recommendations by them are likely to be submitted in this regard?

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

(b) Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetic rules lays down the requirements and guidelines on clinical trial for import and manufacture of new drugs. It was incorporated in 1988.

In order to update the requirements under Schedule Y to meet present requirements and keeping in view the potential which the country possess in the field of clinical research, the Drug Technical Advisory Board agreed to undertake the review of Schedule Y.

The review of this Schedule has been done in consultation with a number of experts including Dr. Nilima Kshirsagar, Dean KEM Hospital Mumbai; Dr. B.N. Dhawan, Ex-Director, CDRI Lucknow, Dr. J.N. Pandey, HOD Medicine AIIMS, Dr. R.C. Simal, Scientist ITRC, Dr. Y.K. Gupta Deptt. of Pharmacology, AIIMS, Dr. S.D. Seth, Scientist, ICMR, Dr. Shankar Narayana, Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, CDRI, Lucknow, and Dr. N.K. Ganguly, DG, ICMR.

(c) The recommendations in respect of changes to be made in Schedule Y have been received.

[Translation]

Assistance for Malaria and Polio Control Programmes

4788. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocations made and expenditure incurred under Malaria and Polio Control Programmes in Bihar separately during the last three years and as on date; and

(b) the details of the funds sought by Bihar under these programmes during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Malaria: The assistance provided to the State of Bihar under Malaria Control Programme during the last three years are:-

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Allocation	Expenditure
1999-2000	481.35	578.66
2000-2001	383.07	83.20*
2001-2002	357.37	525.84

*Cost of 344 MT DDT adjusted in 2001-02.

In addition, an Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank assistance was in operation in ten districts of Bihar (now in Jharkhand) since 1997. Assistance to the tune of Rs. 81.01 lakhs, Rs. 155.62 lakhs and Rs. 20.07 lakhs respectively was provided to the State during the above period under the project. No specific proposal from the Govt. of Bihar seeking additional funds for malaria has been received.

Polio: The Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) is supplied to the States in kind under Pulse Polio Immunization Programme. The funds released to the Govt. of Bihar towards operational expenses and expenditure reported by the State Govt. during last three years are as under:

(In lakhs)		
Year	Funds released to Bihar	Expenditure reported
1999-2000	1160.05	1013.78
2000-2001	2206.53	1754.78
2001-2002	1585.33	1130.74
2002-2003	2388.11	Not reported so far

Shortage of Doctors

4789. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 360 on November 20, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The requisite information could not be collected yet as a number of organizations are involved. However, all out efforts are being made to collect the information.

[*English*]

Medicines issued by Government Hospitals in Delhi

4790. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Government hospitals in providing essential drugs to patients in Delhi during the last three years; and

(b) the percentage increase in budgetary expenditure of each hospital on essential drugs during the said period, year-wise?

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

[*Translation*]

WLL Service in Bihar and Jharkhand

4791. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether old WLL telephones of BSNL have not proved successful in various telecom districts of Bihar and Jharkhand circles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total cost incurred on installation of WLL telephones in these districts during the last three years; and

(d) the total number of subscribers who have applied for landline connections upto March 31, 2003, in view of failure of the said telecom system, exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) There is no reported failure of WLL telephones of BSNL in Bihar and Jharkhand circles and total cost incurred on installation of WLL telephones in Bihar and Jharkhand is Rs. 313.19 crores.

Anti-Corruption Cell

4792. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an anti corruption cell is functioning in the Prime Minister's office;

(b) if so, since when this cell is functioning and year-wise and the number of complaints received by this cell till date;

(c) the number of officers against whom action has been taken and the number of persons punished so far; and

(d) the number of persons removed from service as a result of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) was set up on 17.8.1997 for directly monitoring anti-corruption complaints. The Anti-Corruption Unit has received 7839 complaints since its inception till 8.4.2003.

3003, 1611, 1043, 806, 808 and 503 complaints were received and dealt with during the years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, respectively, by the ACU.

(c) and (d) Up to 8.4.2003, penalty has been imposed on 287 officials including 2 officials who have been dismissed from service, 1 official, whose services have been terminated and 3 officials who have been compulsorily retired on the basis of complaints received in the ACU.

*[English]***Expulsion of Iraqi Diplomats**

4793. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
 SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
 SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
 SHRI C.N. SINGH:
 SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
 SHRI J.S. BRAR:
 DR. M.V.V.S MURTHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. administration had requested for the expulsion of three Iraqi diplomats from India as reported in the *Economic Times* dated March 15, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons cited by U.S. for such a request; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. The U.S. Government had made a request for expulsion of Iraqi diplomats from India.

(b) The request was made on the ground of perceived threat by the United States to U.S. diplomatic personnel and facilities in India. It is understood that the United States made a similar request to a number of countries that host Iraq diplomatic missions.

(c) Accredited diplomats are expelled if they engage in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status. Since there was no evidence of such conduct on the part of Iraqi diplomats in India, Government took no action on the U.S. request.

Declining Admissions to C-DAC Course

4794. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the declining admissions to post-graduate advance diploma in computer course in C-DAC;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of admissions to this course in the last three years, year-wise; and

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

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

(b) There has been a general slowdown in the IT industry in the last few years which has resulted in lesser recruitment in the IT sector. This has affected all aspects of computer education.

(c) The admissions in the last three years are as under:

(i) 2001-02	3405
(ii) 2000-01	6039
(iii) 1999-00	3055

(d) The following steps are being taken in this regard:

(i) With the merger of National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) and Electronics Research and Development Centre of India (ER&DCI) with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), the academic knowledge base of C-DAC has been further strengthened. This would result in rationalized course design and uniform quality of delivery. These C-DAC courses will also be offered from erstwhile ER&DCI and NCST centres.

(ii) Bringing in modularity in the courses, so as to allow students to take up selected modules based on their requirements or to complete the course curriculum in parts, instead of completing it in one go.

(iii) Strengthen the placement cell.

Telephone Facility in Mother Dairy Booths

4795. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
 SHRI A.C. JOS:

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

(a) whether the Mother Dairy's Fruits and Vegetables booths in the capital have not been provided with telephone facility;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when one rupee coin telephone box facility is likely to be provided at all Mother Dairy's (F&V) booths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) MTNL is providing telephone facility to Mother Dairy's (Fruit and Vegetables) booths on demand.

(c) At present there is no general Policy to provide Coin Collecting Box PCO at each and every Mother Dairy Booth. However, it can be provided on demand.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises

4796. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of strategic partner/buyer in disinvestment;

(b) the names of non-strategic buyers/partners and also strategic buyers/partners during each of the last three years in disinvested public sector enterprises;

(c) the amount received from each of the buyers and percentage of Government share sold in each case;

(d) the market price of the free land of each of the Government units sold or partly disinvested;

(e) the names of public enterprises where Government control has been retained even after partial disinvestments;

(f) the details of performance of such units after disinvestments; and

(g) the health of public units after outright sale to private owners/companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The "strategic partner" or the "strategic buyer" is the company, individual or entity in whose favour the Government disinvests the entire or a major part of equity held by it in any PSU, along with transfer of management control.

(b) and (c) Statement-I giving the required information is enclosed.

(d) The assets of PSU, including land, along with all accumulated liabilities are disinvested by selling the equity held by the Government through a process of competitive bidding. The sale price received from disinvestment is the net aggregate market value of the assets and liabilities taken together and is not accounted separately against each of the assets of the disinvested PSUs.

(e) to (g) In all cases of disinvestment during each of the last three years, the Government has transferred management control to the strategic partner.

Disinvestment of PSUs through strategic sale was initiated only about three years back and most of the transactions have been concluded in the last two years. Anecdotal evidence suggests that it has facilitated the productive use of assets. Data on the sales and profit of selected PSUs, for which information has been provided by the concerned companies, is given in statement-II.

Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. (MFIL) and Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) were loss-making companies prior to disinvestment. Post disinvestment, the companies have seen a substantial growth in sales and loss levels have been significantly reduced. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL) was a profitable company, which was disinvested in June, 2002. During the first nine months of 2002-2003, as reported by the company, there has been a 11% increase in gross turnover and a 104% increase in net profit as compared to the same period in the previous year. In BALCO, various operational and input costs have been reduced, the production of hot metal has increased and the new management is considering a substantial increase in the capacity.

These examples show that efficiency enhancement has been achieved by disinvested PSUs, which is beneficial for the economy and for employment.

Statement-I**Disinvestment during 2000-2001 to 2002-2003**

S.No.	PSU disinvested	Nature of buyer- Strategic/Non-Strategic	Name of buyer	Amount	
				Percentage of Government equity sold	realised (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Disinvestment during 2000-2001					
1.	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO)	Strategic Sale	Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd.	51%	551.50
2.	Bongaigaon Refineries & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL)	Strategic Sale	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	74.46%	148.80
3.	Madras Refineries Ltd. (Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.)	Strategic Sale	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	51.81%	509.33
4.	Kochi Refineries Ltd. (KRL)	Strategic Sale	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	55.04%	659.10
	Total				1868.73
Disinvestment during 2001-2002					
5.	HTL Ltd.	Strategic Sale	Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd.	74%	55.00
6.	CMC Ltd.	Strategic Sale	Tata Sons Ltd.	51%	152.00
7.	India Tourism Development Corporation				
	(i) Ashok Bangalore	30 years Lease-cum-management contract	Bharat Hotels Ltd.	—	39.41 ●
	(ii) Bodhgaya Ashok	Strategic Sale	Lotus Nikko Hotels	99.97%	1.81
	(iii) Hassan Ashok	Strategic Sale	Malnad Hotels and Resorts (P) Ltd.	99.97%	2.27
	(iv) Madurai Ashok	Strategic Sale	Sangu Chakra Hotels Private Ltd.	99.97%	4.97
	(v) TBABR, Mamallapuram	Strategic Sale	G.R. Thanga Maligai (P) Ltd.	99.97%	6.13

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(vi) Agra Ashok	Strategic Sale	Shri Mohan Singh	99.97%	3.61
	(vii) Laxmi Vilas Palace, Udaipur	Strategic Sale	Bharat Hotels Ltd.	99.97%	6.77
	(viii) Qutub Hotel, New Delhi	Strategic Sale	Sushil Gupta and Consortium	99.97%	34.46
	(ix) Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi	Strategic Sale	Silverlink Holdings Ltd. & Consortium	99.97%	71.93
	Sub-Total				171.38
8.	Hotel Corporation of India				
	(i) Centaur Hotel Juhu, Mumbai	Strategic Sale	Tulip Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.	100%	153.00
	(ii) Indo Hokke Hotels Ltd. Rajgir	Strategic Sale	Inpac Travels (India) Pvt. Ltd.	100%	6.51
	Sub-Total				159.51*
9.	IBP Ltd.	Strategic Sale	Indian Oil Corporation	33.58%	1,153.68
10.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Strategic Sale	Panatone Finvest Ltd. (a Tata Group Co.)	25%	3,689.00**
11.	State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	Transfer of cash reserves	—	—	40.00#
12.	Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	Transfer of cash reserves	—	—	60.00#
13.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	Strategic Sale	Zuari Maroc Phosphates Ltd.	74%	151.70
	Total				5,632.25\$
Disinvestment during 2002-2003					
14.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Strategic Sale	Sterlite Opportunities & Ventures Ltd.	26%	445.00
15.	Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	Strategic Sale	Reliance Petro	26%	1,491.00
16.	India Tourism Development Corporation				
	(i) Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort	Strategic Sale	M. Far Hotels Ltd.	99.97%	40.39

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(ii) Manali Ashok	Strategic Sale	Auto Impex Ltd.	99.97%	3.65
	(iii) Khajuraho Ashok	Strategic Sale	Bharat Hotels Ltd.	99.97%	2.19
	(iv) Varanasi Ashok	Strategic Sale	Ramnath Hotels (P) Ltd.	99.97%	8.38
	(v) Aurangabad Ashok	Strategic Sale	Loksangam Hotels & Resorts Pvt. Ltd.	99.97%	16.50
	(vi) Kanishka, New Delhi	Strategic Sale	Nehru Place Hotels Ltd.	99.97%	92.37
	(vii) Indraprastha, New Delhi	Strategic Sale	Moral Trading & Investment Ltd.	99.97%	43.39
	(viii) Chandigarh Project	Strategic Sale	TAJGVK Hotels & Resorts Ltd.	99.97%	17.27
	(ix) Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi	Strategic Sale	Consortium of Union Hotels Ltd. & Formax Commercial Pvt. Ltd.	99.97%	29.28
	(x) Hotel Airport Kolkata	Strategic Sale	Bright Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	99.97%	19.39
	Total				272.81
17.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	Strategic Sale	Suzuki Motors	4.2%^	1,000.00
18.	Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.				
	(i) Centaur Hotel Airport Mumbai	Strategic Sale	Batra Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.	100%	83.00*
19.	Modern Foods (India) Ltd.	Sale of residual shares	Hindustan Level Ltd.	25.995%	44.07
20.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	Disinvestment in favour of employees	Disinvestment in favour of employees	1.46%	6.19
21.	CMC Ltd.	Disinvestment in favour of employees	Disinvestment in favour of employees	6.06%	6.07
	Total				3,348.14

*Proceeds to go to Air India.

**Includes dividend of Rs. 755 crore and special interim dividend and dividend tax of Rs. 1.495 crore.

#Transfer of cash reserves.

@Inclusive of Minimum Guaranteed Annual Payment (MGAP), Security Deposit and Business Transfer Consideration etc.

^Reununciation of rights issue of 12,16,341 shares against Rs. 1000 crore control premium.

\$ 1.97% equity in VSNL sold to the employees in 2001-2002 but not included in this statement.

Statement-II**Sales/Profit figures of disinvested PSUs**

S.No.	Company Name	Period	Sale (Rs. in crore)	Net Profit (Rs. in crore)
1.	MFIL	Jan. to Dec. 2001	232	-12
2.	BALCO	2001-02	714.65	18.76
3.	CMC	2001-02	565.33	25.09
4.	HTL	2001-02	233	-107.61
5.	VSNL	Nine months ending Dec. 02	3780	589
6.	IBP	Nine months ending Dec. 02	6754	49
7.	PPL	Nine months ending Dec. 02	499	-50.42
8.	HZL	Nine months ending Dec. 02	1080	95
9.	IPCL	Nine months ending Dec. 02	3656	114

Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement

4797. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ratification of the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974, as per prescribed procedures is essential before effecting the exchange of the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh territory and Bangladesh enclave in Indian territory;

(b) if so, since when this ratification work is pending with the concerned Agencies of Central and State Governments and the names of these Agencies; and

(c) the progress made in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) As per procedural requirement, the demarcation of the Indo-Bangladesh boundary has to be completed before ratification of the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. In order to address all issues relating to demarcation of pending portions of the Indo-Bangladesh boundary, the Governments of India and Bangladesh have set up a Joint Boundary Working Group. The Joint Boundary Working Group has held two meetings so far.

Atomic Power Generation

4798. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of below-target coal production and un-satisfactory rainfall, the Government propose to install atomic power plants in different parts of the country to meet power shortage; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In order to meet the growing electricity needs of the country, an optimal mix of different energy sources like coal, hydro and nuclear need to be developed. The present nuclear power capacity in the country is 2720 MWe with 14 units in operation. Eight nuclear power reactor projects *i.e.* 2x540 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) project at Tarapur, Maharashtra, 2x200 MWe Units PHWR Project at Kaiga, Karnataka, 2x1000 MWe Light Water Reactor (LWR) project in co-operation with the Russian Federation at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu and 2x220 MWe PHWR Project at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan, are under construction. With the completion of Tarapur Atomic Power Project 3 & 4

and Kaiga 3, the total nuclear power capacity will reach 4020 MWe by the end of X Plan and with the completion of Kaiga 4, Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project 1 & 2 and Rajasthan Atomic Power Project 5 & 6, the nuclear power capacity will be increased to 6680 MWe by December 2008. The work on these projects is progressing as per schedule. Subject to the availability of funds, more projects are planned to be taken up progressively to reach a total nuclear power capacity of about 10,000 MWe by the end of the XI Plan (2011-12) and 20,000 MWe by the year 2020.

Restrictions on IT Jobs by US

4799. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

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

(a) whether any move by some State legislatures in the US, like New Jersey to restrict outsourcing of jobs to other countries, has caused concern among Indian Corporates, particularly those in the information technology sector;

(b) if so, whether Indo-American Chamber of Commerce had suggested that the matter be taken up at the highest level between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard and the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Union Government had taken up this matter with the United States Trade Representative at the WTO mini-ministerial meeting in Tokyo on February 14, 2003 to resolve this issue. The Embassy of India, Washington DC has also raised this issue with the United States Trade Representative's Office.

Telecom Districts

4800. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telecom Districts created in various States so far, State-wise;

(b) the details of States where these Telecom Districts are proposed to be created; and

(c) the action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Information is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) No proposal is under consideration.

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

Statement

Number of Telecom Districts State-wise

Sl.No.	State	No. of Telecom Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Assam	7
5.	Bihar	18
6.	Chhattisgarh	6
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Goa	1
9.	Gujarat	18
10.	Haryana	9
11.	Himachal Pradesh	6
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	5
13.	Jharkhand	6
14.	Karnataka	19
15.	Kerala	12
16.	Madhya Pradesh	34
17.	Maharashtra	30

1	2	3
18.	Manipur	1
19.	Meghalaya	1
20.	Mizoram	1
21.	Nagaland	1
22.	Orissa	12
23.	Pondicherry	1
24.	Punjab	11
25.	Rajasthan	24
26.	Sikkim	1
27.	Tamil Nadu	18
28.	Tripura	1
29.	Uttaranchal	6
30.	Uttar Pradesh	48
31.	West Bengal	14
Total		336

[*Translation*]

Growth Rate in Tenth Plan

4801. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target to increase the growth rate to 6.24 per cent has been fixed in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the schemes and programmes formulated to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. The target growth projected for the Tenth Five Year Plan is 8 percent per annum.

(b) The schemes and programmes formulated to achieve the target are detailed in the Tenth Five Year Plan document.

Pending CBI Cases

4802. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CBI cases of corruption against officers pending in the courts as on date;

(b) the number out of them which is more than five years old;

(c) the reasons for their pending; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for their expeditious disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As on 31.3.2003, 4441 cases of the Anti-Corruption Division of the CBI were pending trial in various Courts.

(b) Out of these, 2379 are more than five years old.

(c) Apart from the reasons behind the pendency of cases in Courts in general, the reasons for pendency of CBI cases are: shortage of Special Courts for trying cases forwarded and investigated by the CBI; shortage of Legal Officers for conducting prosecution; and the extant laws providing summary trial only for a limited category of cases.

(d) 28 Special Judge and 7 Magisterial Courts are already functioning exclusively for trying CBI cases in various States. Based on pendency figures, 12 Special Courts and 6 Magistrate Courts have been identified by the Central Government in 8 States and 1 Union Territory to exclusively handle the CBI cases. More than 280 Special Counsels have been appointed to conduct prosecution in the trial Courts. The 12th Finance Commission has been requested to provide upgradation grants to the State Governments for setting up new Special Courts.

MDS Programme

4803. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the special courses recognized by the Dental Council of India as M.D.S. Programme;

(b) the particulars of the colleges that are providing M.D.S. in different States and the number of successful candidates from different States in this discipline during the last three years, speciality-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the D.C.I. proposes to start more P.G. Colleges in different States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) As per the information furnished by Dental Council of

India, no special courses have been recognized by Dental Council of India as M.D.S. Programme.

(b) A list of Dental Colleges imparting M.D.S. courses with number of seats in different States, Speciality-wise and State-wise is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) In terms of D.C.I. Regulations, the existing Dental Colleges/Institutions recognized by the Government of India for undergraduate courses, and Dental Post Graduate Institute/Medical Post Graduate Institute like A.I.I.M.S., New Delhi, P.G.I. Chandigarh, B.H.U. Varanasi, J.I.P.M.E.R. Pondicherry are eligible to start P.G. Courses including the M.D.S. Courses. Since the D.C.I. does not have a Dental College directly under its control, the question of starting P.G. Course, including M.D.S. Course by it does not arise.

Statement

State-wise list of the Institutions offering MDS Courses in various specialities

ANDHRA PRADESH		Intake Capacity
1. Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Afzalganj, Hyderabad-500012 (A.P.)	1. Orthodontia 2. Oral Medicine & Radiology 3. Prosthetic Dentistry 4. Periodontia 5. Oral Surgery 6. Conservative Dentistry 7. Pedodontics	2 2 2 2 2 2 2
ASSAM		
1. Regional Dental College, Guwahati-781002 (Assam)	1. Periodontics 2. Conservative Dentistry	2 2
BIHAR		
1. Patna Dental College & Hospital, Agamkuan, Patna-800007 (Bihar)	1. Prosthetic Dentistry	2
CHANDIGARH		
1. Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Sector-12, Chandigarh-160017	1. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry 2. Orthodontics	2 2
DELHI		
1. Department of Dental Surgery, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029	1. Orthodontics 2. Prosthodontics	2 2

GOA

1. Goa Dental College & Hospital, P.O. Bambolim, Goa-403202	1. Prosthodontics	3
	2. Orthodontics	2
	3. Oral Medicine	2
	4. Periodontics	2
	5. Conservative Dentistry	2

GUJARAT

1. Govt. Dental College & Hospital, New Civil Hospital Compound, Asarwa, Ahmedabad-380016 (Gujarat)	1. Conservative Dentistry	4
	2. Prosthetic Dentistry	3
	3. Periodonita	5
	4. Oral Pathology & Bacteriology	5
	5. Oral Diagnosis & Dental Radiology	1
	6. Oral Surgery	4
	7. Orthodontia	4

HARYANA

1. Dental College, Medical Campus, Rohtak-124001 (Haryana)	1. Prosthetic	1
	2. Orthodontics	1
	3. Pedodontics & Preventive Dentistry	1
	4. Conservative Dentistry	2
	5. Periodontics	2
	6. Oral Surgery	2
2. DAV Centenary Dental College, Yamuna Nagar	1. Conservative Dentistry	3
	2. Prosthodontics	3
	3. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	3
	4. Periodontics	3
	5. Pedodontics	3
	6. Orthodontics	3

KARNATAKA

1. Govt. Dental College Fort, Bangalore-580002 (Karnataka)	1. Orthodontia	3
	2. Oral Surgery	3
	3. Periodontia	3
	4. Oral Diagnosis & Dental Radiology	3
	5. Public Health Dentistry	3
	6. Conservative Dentistry	3
	7. Prosthodontics	2
	8. Oral Pathology	1
2. College of Dental Surgery Kasturba Medical College, Manipal-576119 (Karnataka)	1. Orthodontia	3
	2. Conservative Dentistry	4
	3. Periodontia	4
	4. Prosthodontics Dentistry	4
	5. Oral Surgery	2
	6. Oral Diagnosis & Radiology	2
	7. Oral Pathology	2
	8. Pedodontia	2
	9. Community Dentistry	2

3. Bapuji Dental College & Hospital, Davangere-577004 (Karnataka)	1. Periodontia	6
	2. Conservative Dentistry	6
	3. Oral Surgery	6
	4. Orthodontics	6
	5. Prosthetic Dentistry	6
	6. Oral Medicine & Radiology	4
	7. Pedodontics	6
	8. Community Dentistry	3
	9. Oral Pathology	2
4. KLE Society's Dental College, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Campus, Nehru Nagar, Belgaum-590010 (Karnataka)	1. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	6
	2. Periodontia	5
	3. Prosthodontics	7
	4. Oral Pathology	4
	5. Conservative Dentistry	5
	6. Orthodontia	7
	7. Community Dentistry	3
	8. Oral Medicine	3
	9. Pedodontics	2
5. A.B. Shetty Memorial Instt. of Dental Sciences, Medical Complex Deralakatta-574160 (Karnataka)	1. Prosthodontics	10
	2. Conservative Dentistry	8
	3. Orthodontia	9
	4. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	8
	5. Periodontia	5
	6. Oral Pathology	2
	7. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry	6
	8. Oral Medicine & Radiology	2
6. SDM College of Dental Sciences, Dhavalgiri, Dharwad-580002 (Karnataka)	1. Prosthodontics	8
	2. Periodontia	4
	3. Conservative Dentistry	6
	4. Oral & Maxillofacial Dentistry	7
	5. Orthodontia	6
	6. Oral Pathology	4
	7. Community Dentistry	2
	8. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry	2
	9. Oral Medicine & Radiology	2
7. College of Dental Surgery, Light House, Hill Road, Mangalore-575001 (Karnataka)	1. Oral Pathology	2
	2. Orthodontia	5
	3. Community Dentistry	2
8. M.R.A. Dental College 1/36, Cline Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore-560005 (Karnataka)	1. Prosthodontics	2
	2. Periodontia	2
	3. Orthodontia	2
	4. Oral Medicine & Radiology	2
	5. Oral & Maxillofacial Dentistry	2
	6. Conservative Dentistry	2
9. P.M. Nadaguda Dental College & Hospital, Bagalkot-587101 (Distt. Bijapur-Karnataka)	1. Prosthodontia	2
	2. Conservative Dentistry	2
	3. Orthodontics	2

		4. Oral Surgery	2
		5. Oral Pathology	3
		6. Oral Medicine & Radiology	2
		7. Periodontics	3
		8. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry	2
10.	College of Dental Sciences, Davangere-577004 (Karnataka)	1. Oral & Maxillofacial Dentistry	6
		2. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry	6
		3. Orthodontics	6
		4. Periodontia	6
		5. Conservative Dentistry	6
		6. Prosthodontics	6
		7. Oral Pathology	4
		8. Oral Medicine	4
		9. Community Dentistry	3
11.	K.V.G. Dental College & Hospital, Kurunjibag, Sullia-574237 (D.K. Karnataka)	1. Prosthodontics	2
		2. Oral Surgery	2
		3. Conservative Dentistry	2
12.	Yenepoya Dental College Zulakha Complex, Bibi Alabi Road, Mangalore-575001 (Karnataka)	1. Oral Pathology	2
		2. Conservative Dentistry	3
		3. Orthodontia	3
		4. Periodontia	2
		5. Prosthodontia	3
		6. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	2
		7. Oral Medicine & Radiology	2
		8. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry	2
13.	Jagdguru Shri Shivarathruaswara Dental College & Hospital, Sri Shivarathruaswara Nagar, Mysore-570015 (Karnataka)	1. Orthodontia	2
		2. Prosthodontia	2
		3. Oral Medicine & Radiology	2
		4. Periodontia	2
		5. Oral Surgery	2
		6. Conservative Dentistry	2
		7. Community Dentistry	2
		8. Pedodontics	2
14.	H.K.E. Society's Dental College, Gulbarga-585105 (Karnataka)	1. Periodontics	2
		2. Prosthodontics	2
15.	Bangalore Institute of Dental Sciences, Bangalore	1. Oral Medicine & Radiology	2
		2. Prosthodontia	2
		3. Conservative Dentistry	2
		4. Orthodontia	2
		5. Periodontia	2
		6. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	2
16.	M.S. Ramaiha, Bangalore	1. Conservative Dentistry	2
		2. Prosthodontics	2
		3. Periodontics	3
		4. Oral Surgery	3
		5. Orthodontics	3
		6. Community Dentistry	2

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| 17. | V.S. Dental College, Bangalore | 1. Oral Pathology | 2 |
| | | 2. Oral Surgery | 2 |
| | | 3. Conservative Dentistry | 2 |
| | | 4. Orthodontics | 1 |
| | | 5. Prosthodontics | 3 |
| | | 6. Periodontics | 3 |
| | | 7. Oral Medicine | 3 |
| 18. | Al-Ameen Dental College, Bijapur | 1. Oral Surgery | 2 |

KERALA

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|----|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Dental College, Medical Campus,
Trivendrum-835001 | 1. Conservative Dentistry | 4 |
| | | 2. Prosthetic Dentistry | 3 |
| | | 3. Orthodontia | 3 |
| | | 4. Periodontia | 3 |
| | | 5. Oral Surgery | 3 |
| | | 6. Oral Pathology | 3 |
| | | 7. Pedodontics | 2 |
| | | 8. Oral Medicine & Radiology | 2 |
| 2. | Dental Colege, Medical College P.O.,
Calicut-637008 | 1. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery | 2 |
| | | 2. Orthodontia | 2 |
| | | 3. Prosthodontia | 2 |
| | | 4. Oral Pathology | 2 |
| | | 5. Conservative Dentistry | 2 |
| | | 6. Periodontia | 2 |

MADHYA PRADESH

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|----|--|-------------------------|---|
| 1. | College of Dentistry
Indore-452001 (M.P.) | 1. Orthodontics | 1 |
| | | 2. Prosthetic Dentistry | 2 |

MAHARASHTRA

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|----|---|--|----|
| 1. | Nair Hospital Dental College,
Dr. A.L. Nair Road, Byculla,
Mumbai-400008 (Maharashtra) | 1. Prosthetic Dentistry | 10 |
| | | 2. Periodontia | 5 |
| | | 3. Operative Dentistry | 10 |
| | | 4. Orthodontia | 10 |
| | | 5. Dental Pathology & Bacteriology | 10 |
| | | 6. Oral Medicine Diagnosis & Radiology | 10 |
| | | 7. Oral Surgery | 10 |
| | | 8. Pedodontics | 5 |
| 2. | Govt. Dental College & Hospital,
1, P.D.'mello Road, Fort,
Mumbai-400001
(Maharashtra) | 1. Prosthetic Dentistry | 10 |
| | | 2. Periodontia | 5 |
| | | 3. Conservative Dentistry | 5 |
| | | 4. Orthodontia | 5 |
| | | 5. Oral Pathology & Bacteriology | 5 |
| | | 6. Oral Medicine Diagnosis & Radiology | 5 |
| | | 7. Oral Surgery | 10 |
| | | 8. Pedodontics | 5 |

3.	Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Nagpur-440003 (Maharashtra)	1. Prosthetic Dentistry 2. Periodontia 3. Conservative Dentistry 4. Orthodontia 5. Oral & Dental Pathology 6. Oral Diagnosis & Radiology 7. Oral Surgery	3 2 2 2 3 2 2
4.	Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Medical College Campus, Aurangabad-431001	1. Prosthodontics 2. Periodontia 3. Conservative Dentistry 4. Oral Pathology 5. Oral Medicine Diagnosis & Radiology	3 3 3 3 3
5.	Armed Forces Medical College, Pune-1	1. Prosthetic Dentistry 2. Periodontia 3. Orthodontia 4. Oral Surgery	2 2 2 2
6.	Rural Dental College of Pravara Medical Trust P.O. Loni, Tal. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar (MS) Pin-413736	1. Periodontia 2. Orthodontia 3. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery 4. Conservative Dentistry 5. Prosthodontia	2 2 2 2 2
7.	Dr. D.Y. Patil Dental College & Hospital, Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyanagar, Sector-7, Narul, Navi Mumbai-400706	1. Conservative Dentistry 2. Periodontics 3. Orthodontics 4. Oral Surgery 5. Prosthodontics	2 2 2 2 3
8.	Bharthia Vidhapeeth Dental College & Hospital, Pune	1. Prosthodontics 2. Periodontics 3. Orthodontics 4. Oral Pathology 5. Conservative Dentistry 6. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	3 3 4 3 2 4
9.	Smt. Radhika Bai Dental College & Hospital, Wardha	1. Prosthodontics 2. Orthodontics 3. Periodontics	6 6 3

PONDICHERRY

1.	Mahatma Gandhi Dengal College & Hospital, Pondicherry	1. Prosthodontia 2. Oral Pathology 3. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	2 2 2
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PUNJAB

1.	Punjab Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Amritsar-143001 (Punjab)	1. Prosthodontics 2. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry 3. Oral Surgery 4. Conservative Dentistry 5. Periodontia	3 6 3 1 2
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2.	Govt. Dental College & Hospital, Patiala-147001 (Punjab)	1. Periodontia 2. Prosthodontics 3. Conservative Dentistry 4. Orthodontics 5. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry	2 2 1 2 2
3.	Christian Dental College, Ludhiana	1. Pedodontics	4
TAMIL NADU			
1.	Tamil Nadu Govt. Dental College Opp. Fort Railway Station, Chennai-600003 (Tamil Nadu)	1. Oral Surgery 2. Periodontia 3. Conservative Dentistry 4. Orthodontia 5. Prosthodontics 6. Oral Pathology 7. Oral Medicine Diagnosis & Radiology	4 3 3 4 2 2 2
2.	Rajah Muthiah Dental College & Hospital, Annamalai Nagar-808002 (Tamil Nadu)	1. Oral Surgery 2. Periodontia 3. Orthodontia 4. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry 5. Prosthodontics	3 2 2 2 2
3.	Ragas Dental College, 116, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Chennai-600041 (Tamil Nadu)	1. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery 2. Conservative Dentistry 3. Oral Pathology 4. Orthodontics 5. Prosthodontia 6. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry 7. Periodontics	6 8 6 8 2 2 3
4.	Saveetha Dental College & Hospital, No. 112 Poonamallee High Road, Velappanchavadi, Chennai-600077 (Tamil Nadu)	1. Prosthodontia 2. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery 3. Conservative Dentistry 4. Orthodontics 5. Oral Medicine 6. Periodontics 7. Oral Pathology	6 7 8 7 3 3 3
5.	Sree Balaji Dental College & Hospital, Valacheri Main Road, Balaji Nagar, Narayanpuram, Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	1. Oral Surgery 2. Oral Pathology 3. Orthodontics 4. Prosthodontics 5. Conservative Dentistry	2 2 2 2 2
6.	Meenakshi Ammal Dental College & Hospital Alapakkam Road, Maduravoyal, Chennai-602102 (Tamil Nadu)	1. Oral Pathology 2. Periodontics 3. Conservative Dentistry 4. Prosthodontics 5. Orthodontics 6. Oral Surgery 7. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry	3 6 4 5 7 6 2

7.	Rajas Dental College, Vadakangulam-627118	1. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery 2. Prosthodontia 3. Conservative Dentistry	2 2 2
8.	V.M.S. Dental College, Salem	1. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery 2. Orthodontia 3. Periodontia 4. Oral Pathology 5. Prosthodontia	2 2 2 2 2
9.	Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute (Deemed University) No. 1, Ramachandra Nagar, Porur, Chennai-600116	1. Oral Surgery 2. Prosthodontics 3. Orthodontics 4. Periodontics 5. Oral Medicine 6. Conservative Dentistry 7. Oral Pathology 8. Pedodontics	4 4 4 4 2 5 3 2

UTTAR PRADESH

1.	Dental College & Hospital, K.G.'s Medical College, Lucknow-226003	1. Prosthetic Dentistry 2. Periodontia 3. Operative Dentistry 4. Oral Surgery 5. Orthodontia 6. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry	4 4 4 4 4 4
2.	Institute of Medical Sciences Banaras Hindu University Varanasi-221005	1. Conservative Dentistry 2. Prosthodontia	1 1

WEST BENGAL

1.	Dr. R. Ahmed Dental College & Hospital, 114, Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Road, Calcutta-700014 (West Bengal)	1. Prosthetic Dentistry 2. Periodontia 3. Conservative Dentistry 4. Orthodontia 5. Pedodontia & Preventive Dentistry 6. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery 7. Oral Pathology & Microbiology	2 2 2 2 2 2 2
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TB Control Programme

4804. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether some of the States have not been
covered under TB Control Programme;

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

(c) whether the Government would take necessary
steps to create awareness among TB patients and masses
regarding the spread of the disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government monitor the utilization of
funds received from the World Bank for this purpose,
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 National TB Control Programme has been in operation in all the States and UTs since 1962. 600 million population has also been covered under the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP). It is proposed to cover the entire country by 2005. All States have been asked to start preparatory schemes in other areas.

(c) and (d) To create awareness about TB the following steps are being taken:

- Facts about TB and DO's and DONT's are published in the leading National Newspapers from time to time. Similarly, State/District TB Societies also publish the same in the regional and local newspapers.
- Funds are provided to State/District TB Societies for undertaking IEC activities for awareness generation at local levels.
- Districts have been advised to ensure wall paintings in Microscopy and DOT Centres and at prominent places specially in areas with large population; inauguration of start of service delivery at every MC and in the district by inviting public representatives and opinion leaders; holding of inter-personal meetings specially in slum areas and utilizing services of cured patients etc.
- Services of a mass media agency have been hired at the Central level to plan and execute IEC activities especially through media.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. Utilization of funds by the State/ District TB Societies are monitored through analysis of quarterly statements of expenditure submitted by them to the Central TB Division and by quarterly review meetings in States. Guidelines for District TB Societies have been framed and widely circulated to the societies to facilitate utilization of funds and proper maintenance of accounts. Accounts of Societies are audited annually.

[English]

Installation of Telephones in West Bengal

4805. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several district telecom authorities have not been able to install telephones in West Bengal;

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

(c) the time by which the telephones are likely to be installed in all the districts of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. All Telecom Districts in West Bengal have provided new telephone connections during the year 2002-03.

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

(c) The wait listed persons as on 31.3.2003 are 1.52 lakhs. These are likely to be provided telephone connections by 31.3.2004, subject to availability of resources.

Construction of Roads in Orissa out of CRF

4806. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads in Orissa funded by the Central Road Fund;

(b) whether any such roads are being constructed in the backward and Tribal areas of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Works on 85 numbers of roads in Orissa have been approved for improvement under the Central Road Fund.

(b) and (c) Proposals under CRF are recommended by the State Government. Nature of the areas in which the said roads are passing are not maintained by this Ministry.

Pak's Terrorist Designs in Kashmir

4807. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. and the U.K. administrations have condemned the massacre in Kashmir is reported in the *Hindu* dated March 29, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the importance of ceasefire between India and Pakistan has been underlined by them; and

(c) the details of the proposals put forward by the two countries for resolving the Indo-Pak issue?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) A Joint United States-United Kingdom statement issued on 27 March, 2003 stated, *inter alia*, that "the LOC should be strictly respected and Pakistan should fulfil its commitments to stop infiltration across it. Pakistan should also do its utmost to discourage any acts of violence by militants in Kashmir. Both sides should consider immediately implementing a ceasefire and taking other active steps to reduce tension including by moves within the SAARC context. The differences between India and Pakistan can only be resolved through peaceful means and engagement".

Establishment of Post Offices in Karnataka

4808. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals pending for opening of new posts offices in the State and the time by which these post offices are likely to be opened;

(c) the number of post offices upgraded in the State during the above period; and

(d) the number of post offices proposed to be upgraded during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) 47 New Post Offices have been opened in Karnataka during the last three years.

(b) 5 proposals are pending for opening New Post Offices in the State. Opening of these Post Offices are subject to availability of requisite resources.

(c) 3 Post Offices have been upgraded in the State during the above period.

(d) Upgradation of the Post Offices during the next three years is subject to the fulfillment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources during the corresponding years.

Special Fund for Rural Industry

4809. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has mooted the establishment of a special fund for rural industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the fund is likely to be disbursed to needy entrepreneurs?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Roads in Border Areas

4810. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) the roads in border areas of the country which are important from the strategic point of view;

(b) the details of such roads which are not in a good condition;

(c) the arrangements made by the Government for their repair/reconstruction; and

(d) the time by which these roads are likely to be repaired/reconstructed?

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

(RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: (a) and (b) The identification of Strategic Roads in Border Areas is done by the Ministry of Defence. These roads are maintained in traffic country condition.

(c) and (d) At present all the Strategic roads are improved by the Border Roads Organisation which is under the Ministry of Defence. The improvement of the roads is a continuous process.

[English]

Outsourcing of IT Work

4811. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank would outsource over \$10 million IT work to India in the next twelve months through its existing Indian partners;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank is also planning to increase IT outsourcing to its existing partners and to expand its Chennai Business Process Outsourcing centre; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the extent to which it will be beneficial and provide employment to the Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per World Bank they would outsource approx. US\$10 million IT work to Indian IT partners per annum.

(b) As per World Bank the projections of approx. \$10 million per year are for the period 2003-2005 and may increase.

Chennai BPO Centre is a World Bank office and business will expand in relation to business strategy over the coming years.

(c) World Bank IT outsourcing and BPO Chennai office has provided employment to Indian professionals and its growth will help in providing further employment.

Safe/Unsafe Asbestos

4812. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute for Occupational Health has suggested for the use of safe asbestos;

(b) if so, the details of the distinctions between safe asbestos and unsafe asbestos currently used in the country; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the NIOH to further increase occupational safety in use of asbestos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) NIOH, Ahmedabad has not suggested any safe use of asbestos. The Council, is of the view that long term exposure to any type of asbestos can lead to development of asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. The magnitude of the problem will depend on concentration of asbestos fibres inhaled and the period for which it is inhaled. However, various standards have been prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to ensure safety in handling and use of asbestos & asbestos products.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—
 - (i) S.O. 1333(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Maduri Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (ii) S.O. 56(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Maduri Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
 - (iii) S.O. 57(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 78(E) dated the 17th January, 2002.

- (iv) S.O. 235(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 464(E) dated the 26th May, 1998.
- (v) S.O. 236(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for development of National Highway No. 4 (Sankeshwar Bypass) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (vi) S.O. 237(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 4 (Nelamangla to Tumkur Section) in Tumkur district in the State of Karnataka.
- (vii) S.O. 242(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in Kanchipuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) S.O. 243(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 45 (Chengalpattu-Tindivanam Section) in State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ix) S.O. 146(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in Vellore district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (x) S.O. 147(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xi) S.O. 148(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in Vellore district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xii) S.O. 149(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in Kanchipuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiii) S.O. 197(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xiv) S.O. 198(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xv) S.O. 154(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for construction of National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam to Narayani Junction) of (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Ganjam district in the State of Orissa.
- (xvi) S.O. 155(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for construction of National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam to Narayani Junction) of (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Ganjam district in the State of Orissa.
- (xvii) S.O. 156(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Ganjam district in the State of Orissa.
- (xviii) S.O. 157(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Ganjam district in the State of Orissa.
- (xix) S.O. 158(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Ganjam district in the State of Orissa.
- (xx) S.O. 159(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam-Sunakhala Section) in Khurda district in the State of Orissa.
- (xxi) S.O. 160(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam-Sunakhala Section) in Khurda district in the State of Orissa.

- (xxii) S.O. 161(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 regarding appointment of Project Director, National Highways Authority of India as Estate Officer for the purposes of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 in South West district in the NCT of Delhi and Gurgaon district in Haryana.
- (xxiii) S.O. 162(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam-Sunakhala Section) in Khurda district in the State of Orissa.
- (xxiv) S.O. 163(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam-Sunakhala Section) in Khurda district in the State of Orissa.
- (xxv) S.O. 289(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 832(E) dated the 7th August, 2002.
- (xxvi) S.O. 290(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 927(E) dated the 2nd September, 2002.
- (xxvii) S.O. 291(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 928(E) dated the 2nd September, 2002.
- (xxviii) S.O. 292(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 929(E) dated the 2nd September, 2002.
- (xxix) S.O. 293(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 930(E) dated the 2nd September, 2002.
- (xxx) S.O. 232(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxi) S.O. 276(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of

land for the purposes of building, maintenance, management and operations of Allahabad Bypass on National Highway No. 2 (Kanpur-Varanasi Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xxxii) S.O. 277(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 305(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for the purpose of construction of Toll Plazas in Krishna district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7398/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7399/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 100(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th February, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 578(E)

dated the 23rd July, 1983 issued under section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7400/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Medical Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Medical Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

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[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7401/2003]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7402-04/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7403/2003]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cochin Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7404/2003]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri Su. Thirunavukkarasar, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of working of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7405/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Pune, for the year 2001-2002.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-7406/2003]

12.02 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Fourteenth Report

[*English*]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): I beg to lay on the Table the Fourteenth Report (Hindi

and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Tenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (Department of Tourism)—'Development of Infrastructure for Growth of Tourism'.

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Twenty-sixth Report

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the 12th sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 4 March, 2003.

12.04 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

One Hundred thirty-fifth Report to One Hundred forty-first Reports

[English]

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA (Porbandar): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:—

- (1) One Hundred thirty-fifth Report of the Committee or Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Health;
- (2) One Hundred thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Family Welfare;
- (3) One Hundred thirty-seventh Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy;
- (4) One Hundred thirty-eighth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy;
- (5) One Hundred thirty-ninth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education;
- (6) One Hundred fortieth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Women and Child Development; and
- (7) One Hundred forty-first Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Sir, we would like to know as to what has happened in the Women's Reservation Bill from the Prime Minister. He was supposed to get back to the House after the break.

[Translation]

What has happened to the negotiations with respect to the Women's Reservation Bill? That is more important than it.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask about it later.

12.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER*

RE: Recent visit to Jammu & Kashmir

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I went to Jammu & Kashmir on a two-day visit on April 18-19, 2003.

*Also placed in Library. See No. LT 7407/20033.

I had five programmes in Srinagar. The first had to do with the Foundation Stone laying ceremony for modernization of Srinagar Airport. This project would double the capacity of the airport. We would like international air services to start from Srinagar.

The second programme related to the National Highway Development Project. Under this, work on a four-lane highway from Srinagar to Kanyakumari was launched. The newly elected Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, had been insisting that work on this project in the Kashmir Valley should start as early as possible.

In my public rally, I congratulated the people of Kashmir on participating in the Assembly elections in large numbers. They exercised their franchise defying the threat of bullets. I assured them, "We have come here to share your pain and suffering. Whatever complaints you have, try to address them collectively. Knock on the doors of Delhi. Delhi will never close its doors for you. The doors of our heart will also remain open for you."

I assured the people of Jammu & Kashmir that we wish to resolve all issues—both domestic and external—through talks. I stressed that the gun can solve no problem; brotherhood can. Issues can be resolved if we move forward guided by the three principles of Insaaniyat (Humanism), Jamhooriyat (Democracy) and Kasmiriyat (Kashmir's age-old legacy of Hindu-Muslim amity).

In my speech, I spoke of extending our hand of friendship to Pakistan. At the same time, I also said that this hand of friendship should be extended by both sides. Both countries should resolve that we need to live together in peace.

My last programme was about the start of work on the construction of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line. It is our resolve to ensure that train services start in Kashmir Valley before August 15, 2007.

Unemployment is the greatest problem facing the youth of Jammu & Kashmir. We have decided to facilitate creation of one lakh opportunities for employment and self-employment over the next two years. For this, a special Task Force would be set up with representatives from the Central Government, State Government, industry, commerce, banking and financial institutions. The Task Force will present its report by June 30 and implementation would commence from August 15 this year.

At a press conference before returning to Delhi, I expressed the hope that a new beginning can take place between India and Pakistan. I said that we have extended our hand to friendship. Let us see how Pakistan responds to this. Stopping cross-border infiltration and destruction of terrorist infrastructure can open the doors for talks. Talks can take place on all issues, including that of Jammu & Kashmir.

12.07 hrs.

(I) RE: CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS MADE IN THE NINETEENTH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE FOR 2003-2004—*Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER: I go to 'Zero Hour' now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for your kind observation. The most important issue that I raise today is not an issue concerning any political party. It is an issue concerning the entire House and before I make my observation, I profusely thank the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence Shri Madan Lal Khurana. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the reports of almost 15 standing committees have been submitted. ...(*Interruptions*) I am raising a point of order.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, under what rule is he raising a point of order?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'. But since he wants to say something let him say that.

[*Translation*]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today reports of seven-eight standing committees have been submitted whereas yesterday the reports of some other Standing Committee were submitted. There are 17 Standing Committees out of which 11 are of the Lok

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

Sabha and 6 are of the Rajya Sabha. Whether discussions will be held daily on all the reports of these 17 committees? There must have been some procedure in this regard. It would be another thing if the Defence Minister or some other comes up to respond but so far no discussions have been held on the report of Standing Committee. So many years have passed, the Standing Committee are functioning from 1995. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have understood what your question is? Discussion is not being held here on this subject. Members are allowed to raise issue during the zero hour be it regarding the report or any other subject. He will mention his subject.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, the Prime Minister is here. I would also request you that some of the recommendations of some of the Standing Committees should be taken up in this House. That is the feeling of the hon. Members of the Standing Committees. They are losing heart. They are losing enthusiasm for the work. They say, all their recommendations are ignored, they are never discussed in the House and that we do not get any effective answer. The Action Taken Note takes one year.

The Prime Minister knows the importance of this. I am sure he will also help so that the House could discuss them and the recommendations are carried out. As you are aware. Sir, almost 100 per cent are unanimous reports, if I am not mistaken.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you that some of the reports can be discussed provided you go to the BAC and fix up the dates.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): I agree with Shri Somnathji that discussion could be held in the House on the reports submitted by the Standing Committee. After the submission of the report whatever action is required, will be taken later on but just after their submission in the House, the Members can held discussion on them. The members should know that which report is being taken up for discussion so that they could take part in the discussion.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is different but he agreed with me.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: If Dasmunsiji takes up a report for discussion all of a sudden then it becomes difficult to be discussed.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I would request him not to put a rider today.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am thankful to all the Members of the Standing Committee on Defence. They are all our colleagues. When we refer any matter of the Standing Committee, we do not refer it on political angle.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the most important issue, that the hon. Prime Minister has just stated in his Statement on his tour to Kashmir, is our determination to resolve to fight the cross border terrorism and ultimately restore the understanding and cordial relationship with the people of Kashmir as well as friendship with Pakistan. In that perspective, right from day one of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, the Government has been asking the entire House to give total support to the cause of security and defence.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister is very right.

[Translation]

If Dasmunsiji picks it up all of a sudden it would be difficult. I did not pick it up all of a sudden.

[English]

Yesterday, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence, after laying the report on the Table of the House went to the Press and gave

[Translation]

detailed information. I would not like to quote what was published in the Tribune or Hindustan. But I want to congratulate Shri Khuranaji for a good thing by giving this information to the country and by making the country and this House cautious.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the questions are very important. This particular report gave such revelations, in my opinion-

if I am wrong I can be corrected—that never in the history of Indian Parliament such strong revelations and such exposure of the functioning of the Ministry of Defence, in the light of our country's present security have been ever tabled.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): This has happened earlier also. The Jeep Scandal case is there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, why is he interrupting me? I am not his enemy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 30 per cent of the capital expenditure for the Defence preparedness remained unutilised. The national security tax collected from the patriotic people, in the name of Kargil, to update the Defence preparedness has been placed into the General Fund. The procurement recommendations to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore remained unanswered and we do not know whether it has been materialised or not.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, of the three special aircraft carriers, which is the requirement of the Navy to meet the Ocean preparedness, one is about to be phased out and the Defence remained silent. We would like to know what is the alternate contingency plan. While Parliament is here to give them the full support and money, they have not utilised that. The total Defence expenditure has come down from 18 per cent to 13 per cent. In the last three years, on capital expenditure for Defence preparedness, 30 per cent remained unutilised. Projects like LCA, AJT MBT Arjun are overrunning for 15 to 20 years. We need at least three aircraft carriers, where one is there to be phased out shortly and no comprehensive assessment of the threat perception, including long-term vision, has been predicted.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my poetry or essays, good songs of my good friends in Parliament or a good acting of an actor or a good poetry of the Prime Minister may only console the people of India but in the matter of defence, these will not serve the purpose. These are the essential things which have been manifested. It is the duty of the Prime Minister to take the House into confidence and tell as to why there is such a delay and why these things are happening.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the important part is there. Paragraph 41 ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): We are surprised at his statement ...(*Interruptions*) If the Prime

Minister writes poems, what is the need to tell that here? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I do not understand why they are interrupting me. We are discussing a serious issue here. It is not a party issue. It is the Report of the Committee ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: See, this is very simple. The Chairman of the Committee is sitting here. Why are you speaking? Be seated.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted him to speak in the 'Zero Hour'. He knows his limit, how much time he can take. I can not give him more time.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this debate is going on between the Chairman and him and not among rest of the Members of the House, then Khuranaji and he should go out and discuss. Why the time of the House is being wasted like this. ...(*Interruptions*) What is the need of wasting the time of the House? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He is referring to the Report.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am only helping the Prime Minister to understand how his Defence Minister is functioning, and nothing more than that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Do you want to solve the problem only by reading? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Defence Secretary informed the Committee that the *Raksha Mantri*

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

has been. ...*(Interruptions)* The Defence Minister's power to sanction has been enhanced from Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 300 crore. In spite of this power given to the Defence Minister, in spite of all the authority of Parliament reposed on the Defence Minister, and in spite of public money ready at his disposal, the country's defence preparedness has gone down to this extent. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to how the nation will feel confident that defence preparedness at this critical juncture is safe in his hands. It is not my allegation. Do not take it as the complaint of the Congress Party.

On the AJT purchase, the Report says that everything has been finalised. But the newspaper says that the battle whether to buy it from Czechoslovakia or Britain is going on. That is why, Air Force is suffering. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you will have to conclude now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I will conclude in a minute.

Observing Kargil Martyr Day, shedding tears and saying 'Zindabad' and 'Jai Hind' will not help the country's defence. This is how Indian Defence is being treated. Therefore, I feel that the Prime Minister may kindly respond to this. The Defence Minister is away. It is a matter of great concern. It is concerning the national security of the country. Sir, I would like the Prime Minister to intervene. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I associate myself with him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Now, the Prime Minister is here. I would request him to respond. ...*(Interruptions)* We would like to know the reaction of the Prime Minister to the exposure of the Standing Committee on Defence. Parliament wants to know his reaction. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramjilal Suman.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, his subject is different. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you wanted to raise the issue. I have permitted you to raise it. It is for the Government to respond or not to respond. Please sit down.

Now, Shri Ramjilal Suman.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, you can present your issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): The Prime Minister should react thereon. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, do you not think that it is a matter in which the Prime Minister should take the House into confidence? I seek your protection.

[*Translation*]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): This matter is related to the security of the country. Reply should be given thereon.

MR. SPEAKER: As Madan Lal Khurana ji is the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence, therefore, I am allowing him to speak.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recommendations which we have made.

[*English*]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Sir, are you allowing a full-fledged discussion on this matter?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, everybody is questioning your ruling. Any decision you take is being questioned.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The seriousness of the Government of Vajpayee in the matter of security can be seen from the fact that earlier budget provision of Rs. 30,000 crores or Rs. 40,000 crores was used to be made for defence, but a budget provision of Rs. 66,000 crores has been earmarked for the last two years. But the purchase procedure is very lengthy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have also to listen.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: But he is defending himself.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Procedure for purchasing is very lengthy. A mention of bofors has been made here. The officers fear to make purchases due to that every reason. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He cannot say beyond this Report. He is going beyond this Report. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can he go beyond this Report? He cannot say anything beyond this Report. I did not say a single word beyond this Report.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It is also mentioned in the recommendations that auditing should also be completed before purchase.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he cannot say beyond this Report. He has signed the Report.

[*Translation*]

Khuranaji has said that during the last three years even 20 percent has not been spent. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi during 'Zero Hour' raised certain points on the Report of the Committee on Defence of 2003. Since he had raised certain issues, I have permitted, as an exceptional case, Shri Madan Lal Khurana to speak on the issues raised by him. Normally, it is not the practice. But, as I said, since some important issue has been raised, let the Chairman of the Committee on Defence say what he wants to say. So, let him say on the issues which are raised by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, and nothing more than that.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete his speech. You can speak after that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (*Latur*): Before he says, if I speak, it will help him also.

MR. SPEAKER: I can permit you after his speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It is the recommendation of this very report. The whole committee thought that money should not lapse. The purpose for which such a huge amount *i.e.* it has been doubled by the Government during the last years and a suggestion has been given in the report that how this amount should be spent. It has been suggested that this money should not be get lapsed and permission for using the same in the next budget be granted. ...(*Interruptions*) Therefore, it has been suggested that the whole budget for Defence should be prepared for five years so that money is not lapsed due to the purchase procedure. This is the issue. The budget for defence should be prepared for five years and not for one year, so that purchases could be done in the five years after meeting the lengthy purchase procedure.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to say that the report which has been submitted is not the report of Khurana Sahib but of the committee. Perhaps, Khurana Sahib is fearing from the Government. If such a report goes against the Government. It is not his report, but it is the report of we people who are sitting here and it is a unanimous report. Hon. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi ji with full responsibility has raised very important questions and except report he has said nothing. We would like to say to the Government that this report is unanimous. It is a report of the Mini-House, and a committee is considered to be a Mini-House. The Government should take it seriously and not only that but also tell us what action Government is going to take thereon.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Khurana Sahib need not to fear. You will not be removed. Patil Sahib has saved you.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, we all understand the embarrassment or the anxiety of our very good friend Shri Madan Lal Khurana. After being declared in charge of the Delhi unit of the BJP, he is facing this problem today. Naturally, all these confabulations have started between the Delhi MPs. I notice that. They want to push him out. That is another matter.

Let us not take it on a party basis. I think, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi correctly mentioned-and I am sure the hon. Prime Minister would also agree-that in defence matters and in security matters the entire House has been with the Government. There has been no occasion

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

when we have made it a party issue. This Report is a unanimous Report of a Committee of Parliament, which is treated as a mini-Parliament as we were rightly reminded. Therefore, let us take it with the importance it deserves. I am sure, the Prime Minister would like to consider what his response would be. I know, it is very difficult to say, 'Yes' or 'No' here because his Minister is already under trouble of being quarantined and he does not want to lose his job as the convenor of the NDA, which is the only job left for him in the NDA because all these* are there with them. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the hon. Member has made a derogatory remark, which should be expunged. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would like to listen the views of Hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the hon. Prime Minister respond to it. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the response of the Government? We want to hear the Prime Minister. I had heard the Prime Minister during the Question Hour every earnestly and I followed his directions through your observations. Now, it is time for the leader to respond. How can the Prime Minister remain silent on this Report? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an issue with the security of the country and hon. Prime Minister is present in the House. We would like to hear his views in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, you have a right to request the Prime Minister to make a statement on your submission and the Prime Minister has a right either to reply or not to reply. During 'Zero Hour', it is not a rule that every query has to be responded to.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Panskura): Sir, the word used by Shri Somnath Chatterjee is objectionable and it should be removed from the record. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will remove it from the record. I know you are not like that.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is our good luck that at the time of debate hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. We would not ask the Prime Minister to reply in detail but atleast he can assure us that the points raised by all of you are important and in view of that we will do whatever we can do. Atleast this much he can assure. Can't we expect this much from the Hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point of Defence Minister can be understood but the silence of Hon. Prime is beyond one's comprehension.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am bound by the rules.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If the hon. Prime Minister remains quiet, what message will go outside on this issue? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the question of one standing committee but it is associated with all other committees also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House take seriously the reports of those committees which are appointed by it. There can be discussions also on those reports. But there is a procedure for that and under that procedure a motion for debate in the House should come and an opportunity to speak can be given to all the Members. There is no reason to think like this and the opposition should not think that this type of reports are not taken seriously. These reports have an importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No one said like that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You have rightly said that it is not related with Khurana ji. Report is presented. It needs to be taken seriously but time is not available for considering it seriously. The House cannot consider each and every issue. It can neither take evidences nor it can go through the files. The report

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

prepared after going through all such things is considered as an unanimous report. It should be taken seriously and time should be fixed for discussion thereon. There is no objection in it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It means the same which you want.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House would be pleased if the MPLAD Report is presented to this House is also taken seriously. ...(*Interruptions*)

12.32 hrs.

RE: (II) ALLEGED MISUSE OF POTA IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the discussion on POTA was going on in the House, we had cautioned that POTA would also be misused like TADA. When POTA could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha, the Government in order to get it passed, convened a joint Session of Parliament on March 26, 2002. At present POTA is being frequently misused in various States ruled by the BJP or the Governments supported by it. 210 persons have been arrested under POTA in Jharkhand itself. The Government had to withdraw POTA against 83 persons there. The details in respect of those arrested have been published in magazine—'The Week'. Most of the arrested are women, children and the tribals—Mahant Kumari, Vinod Singh 12, Jata Bhuria, Ropul Kumari-17, Devsharan Mahto and Janaki Bhuria-14, Majority of them are children and Mahant Kumari is just a student of Seventh standard. They all are reported to be the activists of the MCC. Similarly, R.R. Gopal, the editor of the weekly magazine the 'Nakkeeran' has also been arrested. I do not want to say anything from the angle of party politics. It is also being stated that the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri Karunanidhi and Shri Rajnikant will also be arrested. It is a very serious matter. The Human Rights Committee has stated after having paid a visit to Jharkhand that the Government is mentally prepared to arrest other 3200 persons under POTA. At the time of the passage of POTA Shri Vaiko Sahib was enthusiastically supporting it while he was present in the House. We had stated after his arrest that the arrest of Vaiko Sahib was not justified.

The response of the Government of India was that there were evidences against Mr. Vaiko and his arrest was justified. The Government are now saying in the Court that their earlier stand was not right. Actually Vaiko Sahib is being saved. The Government of India have informed in this regard that a Review Committee has been constituted. Here in the letter dated March 28 from the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Harin Pathak. It reads— The Government has decided to constitute a Review Committee headed by the retired Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court—Justice Shri Arun B. Sahai. This Committee will extensively investigate the use of POTA, 2002 in various States and will give its findings and suggest the ways to remove the shortcomings in the implementation of this act. Further, it will ensure and particularly emphasize that the provisions of this Act are brought into force to curb terrorism. This should not be used against ordinary culprits and persons who are not terrorists or whose activities cannot be deemed as terrorist activities. The enactment of POTA was aimed at dealing with the terrorists. But now a days it is being used out of political malice. It is being widely misused. The Supreme Court of India has also observed while hearing the case of 'Attack on Indian Parliament' that POTA is being misused in various States and the Government of India continues to remain a mute spectator. This question was raised yesterday also. ...(*Interruptions*)
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take one more minute.

MR. SPEAKER: All of you can speak for two minutes each as others have also given notices on this subject.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. POTA is being extremely misused. What the Review Committee are doing in this regard? What action has been taken by the Government in case of Raja Bhaiya and Udai Pratap? We want your protection in this regard. The Government should come out with a statement in this respect and POTA should be repealed. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, yesterday you have promised that you would give me a chance today.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, I have also given a notice on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I now give the floor to Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Each hon. Member should take only two minutes and not more than two minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, serious apprehensions were expressed by the entire Opposition, when POTA was enacted in the Joint Session of both Houses of Parliament, and also when this was discussed in this very House that this Act would be misused.

In Jharkhand, hundreds of people belonging to *Adivasi*, 90 per cent of the core agricultural labourers and even minor children have been arrested under POTA. Sir, POTA is being indiscriminately used in Jharkhand, and ordinary citizens, mostly illiterate tribals. Scheduled Castes, OBCs and minors under 18 years of age, were booked under POTA. During these two years, that is, in 2002 and 2003, more than 200 persons were booked under POTA. Even an advocate of Daltenganj (Jharkhand) was arrested because he appeared before the court in respect of some cases.

12.38 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

There are a number of such cases in Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and also in Tamil Nadu. Our colleague is still under arrest and he has not been released. The Deputy Prime Minister, who is also the Home Minister, made a statement on the floor of this House that POTA cases would be reviewed and some safeguards would be provided so that POTA would not be misused. We do not know whether any review has taken place or not. Even a journalist in Tamil Nadu has been booked under POTA. Journalists, advocates, agricultural labourers and even minor children below the age of 18 are being arrested, and POTA is blatantly being misused by a number of State Governments.

We were told that such a law was required to tackle the problem of terrorism. However, this Act has not helped in reducing terrorism. This law has failed in achieving its intended purpose. Time has come now to review, not only review but also to withdraw, such a draconian Act which is being blatantly misused for political ends by certain State Governments.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, POTA has been proved to be a draconian law. In spite of the strong opposition put up by the Opposition parties in both the Houses of Parliament to the passage of this legislation, this legislation was passed by calling a Joint Session of Parliament. An assurance was given in this House during the discussion that this legislation would not be misused. It was an assurance given by the Home Minister and even by the Prime Minister himself. What is happening nowadays? It is used

against hon. Member Vaiko. It is not only being misused but it is being used against political opponents of the Ruling Party in certain States. The time has come to repeal this draconian law. I urge that this Act be repealed forthwith.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Members have raised the question that in Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have notices from 4-5 Members regarding POTA. I shall give them a chance.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when POTA was brought before the House, we repeatedly opposed it but the Government had assured that it would not be misused. But at present this law is being blatantly misused. Innocent people are being arrested under this law and it is being used with a feeling of Vendetta. For instance, Mr. Vaiko was arrested in Tamil Nadu. Earlier the Central Government termed it justified act but later on it gave an undertaking and stated therein that a legislation will be brought against POTA. Why is the Central Government adopting double standards? This act is being used for political vengeance. The State Governments are misusing this law. The Supreme Court have issued a notice to the Attorney General also and asked it to explain the facts of POTA and the provisions of bail therein. All these things have been revealed in the Court. I demand a statement from the Government on this and request it to withdraw POTA.

[*English*]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, when this draconian law POTA was brought before the House by the Government, during the discussion the entire Opposition raised strong objections to its adoption. We apprehended that this law would be misused and used against the political opponents, journalists and innocent people. ...(*Interruptions*)

We have the reasonable doubts. Our apprehension was correct. Though the hon. Home Minister assured us on the floor of the House that this law would not be misused, but in some States including Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, this law is being misused. In Jharkhand alone, more than 100 people including several minor boys were arrested under POTA.

Day before yesterday, the situation of Uttar Pradesh was being discussed in the House. We all know how at the behest of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, the Government of Uttar Pradesh initiated the cases against our hon. senior colleague Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

They are preparing the grounds. The Government of Uttar Pradesh wants to book our hon. colleague Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav under POTA.

Similarly, the Government of Tamil Nadu also arrested our hon. senior colleague Shri Vaiko for a long period. Though his party and he supported POTA, yet in spite of the differences with Shri Vaiko, we cannot support the arrest of Shri Vaiko under the draconian law POTA.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, please do not make a speech. Kindly conclude.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: I am just concluding.

Sir, we are observing that this law is being misused. So, this law should be repealed. I urge upon the Government of India that in the interest of the people of this country, this law should be repealed. The Government should withdraw this draconian law immediately and forthwith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the Congress Party and the rest of the Opposition, from day one this Bill was opposed.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the debate has been confined to a single subject. I want to raise a very important matter regarding my State.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, these people have given notices.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, it is on Adjournment Motion. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker has already discussed with them.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Sir, ours is also a very important matter relating to our State. We should also be permitted to raise our issue. ...(Interruptions) This is not fair. Only one subject is being discussed.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everybody will get a chance, provided you all cooperate.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Congress Party from day one has been objecting POTA. Our Chief Ministers did not use this Act as the Government desired.

Sir, misuse of POTA in Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh has opened the eyes of many people in the country including the top persons in the Judiciary. Now, the Home Ministry has considered to have a Review Commission. Why is there a Review Commission? It is because now they feel that the monster may hit them back. That is why they are afraid.

Sir, I wrote a letter to the hon. Deputy Prime Minister quoting the specific provisions of POTA, citing the speeches of Shri Ashok Singhal, Shri Praveen Togadia and Shri Giriraj Kishore. And, the Home Minister did not feel it important even to acknowledge my letter because he has no way to answer it as he is caught in his own nightmare.

Now, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Government felt that the monster may hit them back, they tried to control their allies saying that they are making a review of it. Yesterday, on the observation of the Supreme Court, on the very condition of the bail and other provisions, the Government is now in the dark.

I, therefore, feel that to get rid of the total embarrassment, they should look at our Chief Minister in Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as to how he is trying to handle the atmosphere in a manner, which a leader of the House should do.

Therefore, a time has come for the Government to outrightly scrap it, and bring a Repeal Bill. Unanimous recommendations of the House will be there.

Sir, I am afraid that in Uttar Pradesh and in many other States, this particular Act will be used. As the elections for Assembly and Parliament approach, the Ruling party will not spare even its own allies! Please do not be under any misunderstanding.

Shri Raghunath Jha is nodding his head. I am thankful to you, Shri Jha.

[Translation]

This can be used against you also. Therefore, please raise your voice to repeal it. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Dasmunsi, how so ever you may try to mislead, these people are not going to break away. This Government has been continuing and it will complete its five year term.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not shout like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We could have done this for you but we did not do that at the time of POTA. For Togadia Indian Penal Code is sufficient. You go to Bihar where Lalooji is going to hold a 'Lathi Rally' on 30th.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the 'Zero Hour', you just please associate.

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter relates to my district. In Pratap Garh Raja Udai Pratap Singh who has turned 70 is being tortured after having been arrested under POTA—He had been the Vice President of the Uttar Pradesh unit of the VHP. He does not belong to my party, rather he belongs to those who are in power. He has served as Minister in the U.P. Government for five years. Raghu Raj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhaiya hails from my district. He has been kept in isolation in Kanpur. Gopal ji is an MLC who is also being tortured. This act is being misused. I have given an other notice also for the 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)* In my district Pratapgarh attempts are being made to impose POTA against Siya Ram Yadav, District President of Samajwadi Party, Vivek Tripathy the President, Yuvjan Sabha and Rehana Siddiqui-President of the 'Mahila Sabha'.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The subject is different. This is a different subject. You are deviating from the Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: I have given a notice in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First let discussion on one subject be completed, then we still take up another subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH: All those persons have been hauled from their houses and have been locked up. In this way the Act is being misused.

The Government should urgently think over this matter and I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Prime Minister towards this indiscreet step. The country will suffer

due to it and the despotic people in the country will misuse that law. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Many hon'ble Members are there to make submissions. How will they get their chances?

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Therefore a discussion should immediately be held on POTA and it should be scrapped after due deliberations. I had made a request earlier also and once again I would say that our Party is opposed to this Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the problem of you people that you start making speeches.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Our apprehension at that time when it was being pushed through was—we expressed our apprehension—that that would be misused. Now, we find that not only in Tamil Nadu where it is being applied to Mr. Vaiko, but also in U.P., and in Jharkhand, it is being used against minors, against women, against aged, and against others, sometimes for personal scores and some other times for political scores. If there is an offence committed, there is no dearth of criminal law. But we do find that POTA is being used in such situations. The least that should be done immediately and forthwith is that it should be repealed so that it is not used against any other political opponent in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, may I draw your attention? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ram Vilasji, you will also get the opportunity. Now POTA is being discussed upon.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I will finish in one minute.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ram Vilasji, your notice is on the killings in Jammu and Kashmir.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): It is on POTA also. That is written in Hindi. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): The Members of that side only run the House all the time. Where should we go? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not cast aspersions like this.

[*Translation*]

All these hon'ble Members have given notices on the same subject and all of them are speaking on that subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Jadhavji, whether discussion started on POTA will not be completed?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So far as the question of misuse of POTA is concerned, the Government itself has given recognition to this serious issue because they have appointed a Committee on this. For what purpose? If there was no case at all, why should they appoint a Committee? ...(*Interruptions*) What is happening? I would like to know from the Government whether the composition of the Committee has been completed. We are only given the name of the Chairman. We do not know, till today, the other members of the Committee. May I know whether it is a one-member Committee? May I also know whether that has started its work?

Why should we argue that there is a misuse? The Government has admitted that there is a misuse. There are two telltale instances—one is the different stand of the Government with regard to Mr. Vaiko, where they just oppose and support the case of misuse. They have supported the charge of misuse. That is why, they have

formally altered the affidavit before the highest court of this land. Secondly when the matter is being considered, on one side the Attorney General of India has filed an affidavit saying that it is a misuse and at the same time he is solemnly arguing—the same lawyer is arguing—that there is no scope for misuse under POTA. We would like to know the stand of the Government of India. Can the Government treat the human civil liberty, in this country, as a matter of just its sweet will?

The poison has now spread because it is being enforced by some Chief Ministers. These Chief Ministers are liberally misusing it. In Shri Vaiko's case, there is an admission by the Government of India that the Tamil Nadu Government has misused it and there are other cases also. ...(*Interruptions*) Today, we are given lectures by the same Chief Minister about parliamentary democracy. It is a joke of the century. ...(*Interruptions*) Detention of Shri Vaiko was unjustified, is the case of the Government of India. It is the case of the Government of India that Shri Vaiko's detention is not proper. In spite of that ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): He has challenged it before the Supreme Court and even today the Supreme Court is hearing the case. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We are not prepared to listen lectures about the parliamentary democracy from Chief Ministers like them. We know how they are using parliamentary democracy. Therefore, I demand. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, they have been talking about POTA but nobody talked about TADA detention ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please confine to POTA only.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I demand that the Government of India should make its stand clear on it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, about 400 police officials have been detained in jail for the last eight years in Punjab. Did the Members raise those issues? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, this is 'Zero Hour'. The hon. Member has raised a point.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, about 400 police officials are languishing in jail in Punjab. Nobody talked about them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri Raghunath Jha.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 21st April, 2003 a discussion was held in this House about the filing of more than 135 cases by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh against hon'ble Mulayam Singhji for the alleged misuse of the discretionary fund during his Chief Ministership. During the discussion hon'ble Leaders and Members of all the political parties expressed their resentment against her revengeful action and requested the Chair that in consultation with the hon'ble Prime Minister a code of conduct should be made for the Chief Minister so that such revengeful actions could not be taken against any former Chief Minister.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this regard hon'ble Mayawatiji, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh always, remains worried with the Manuvadi's philosophy and as far as the discussions which took place in the Parliament is concerned she said that Lok Sabha is a congregation of Manuvadis.

Sir, the second thing I want to say is that Mayawati has said that the Manuvadi face of the Parliament has manifested. I have got the cuttings of her statements which appeared in the Newspapers. She has said that even the Parliament is obsessed with the Manuvadi mentality.

Sir, this is a contempt of the whole House. I want to submit that this should be referred suo-moto to the Privilege Committee of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is a case of privilege. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firazabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a question of contempt of the whole

House. This is a very serious issue. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has lowered the dignity of the Parliament by such statements. No Chief Minister of a State could be given the right to contempt Lok Sabha in such a way. It is my submission that this case should be referred to the Privilege Committee. This is a very serious question. So I request you that this issue should be referred to the Privilege Committee of the House.

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Sir, I am on a point of order ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. It should be referred to the Privilege Committee.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I tell you one thing? This is 'Zero Hour'. Shri Jha has referred to some remarks made by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh which are derogatory to Lok Sabha. Now, if Shri Jha or anyone else feels that a Privilege Motion has to be moved on this, he is at liberty to do so.

...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Sir, you are the custodian of the House. I am on point of order. Let me make my point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a senior Member and you may be knowing that during 'Zero Hour', there is no point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it should be referred to the Privilege Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to move my privilege motion, you are at liberty. Now, I call Shri Suresh Jadhav.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question which Raghunathji has raised is a very serious one. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can give me any notice if you want.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a question of contempt of the House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, you can give me any notice if you want.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Sir, the notice of Raghunathji is of contempt. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri Suresh Jadhav.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The question Raghunathji has raised. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can give me notice.

...(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Sir, you can give direction without any notice. There is a rule in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order is not entertained during 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year the farmers of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh were asked to grow Bt. Cotton despite a lot of opposition and they were told that this crop will not only yield more cotton but is also immune to Ball worm pest that infests cotton. This year also the ball worm pest caused losses to the crops of all the farmers of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Consequently the cotton yield of the farmers was even less than half. The plant of Bt. Cotton remained small and weak and the length of the cotton fibre also remained too small causing huge losses to the farmers. The farmers could not get even 60 per cent production for the cost they incurred.

Thus, in view of the gravity of the situation, I appeal the Government through this House to urgently pay attention in this regard and alongwith compensating the farmers immediately Bt. Cotton should be banned by conducting tests again. The Mahavaiko Monsan Company marketing B.T. Cotton seeds in the country should be asked to pay compensation to all the farmers.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I support the points raised by Shri Raghunath Jhaji. Secondly, I come on the issue of development. Everyone knows in the country that especially in my Hajipur constituency lacs of acres of land has got the problem of water logging.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You gave a notice for adjournment motion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Adjournment motion which was on Jammu-Kashmir is over. Now we are in the Zero Hour. If you permit, the issue of Jammu-Kashmir could be taken up again. I had given two notices. One of them was for 'Zero Hour'.

Mine is on an extremely non controversial matter regarding development. In the whole country especially in Hajipur, in Vaishali district of Bihar lacs of acres of land remain water logged throughout the year. Government plans to provide relief to farmers by claiming lakhs of acres of land through de-watering but in my whole constituency, be it Hajipur, Mahua, Gandah, Midpur-everywhere the problem of water logging is persisting.

This problem is more in the area of Raghuvansh Babu. His home is also there. This problem extends from Bahatiachaur to Lavapur. Both of us belong to the same place. His Home constituency is there. This is a very serious problem. As you are aware about the position of Bihar with regard to corruption and other matters we request you and demand from the Central Government that Government of India should arrange for de-watering at the earliest.

Raghuvansh Babu will also speak on it.
...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The water logging area is very large. Hon'ble Paswanji raised a point pertaining to water logging in 10 lakh hectares of land in North Bihar. The Government of India has already got a scheme. But the Government of India does nothing and when we raise this issue there is none to listen to us. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the Government of Karnataka has started construction of the Poragodu Anakat barrage across the Chitravati river. According to estimates, fifty thousand acres of land in the Anantapur district were destroyed due to construction of this barrage. This is in violation of an agreement between the two States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Government of India should intervene and stop the construction of this Poragodu Anakat barrage across the Chitravati river otherwise this would severely affect the people in the entire Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh. There is scarcity of drinking water in this area for the last four years. We are having a drought-like situation. That is why I would like to request the Government of India to look into this matter. The Ministry of Water Resources twice convened a meeting of the two States. There was an agreement signed on this in the year 1892. The State of Karnataka has violated this agreement and the Chief Minister of Karnataka has laid the foundation stone for the construction of this barrage on 15.4.2003. That is why I am requesting the Central Government to stop construction of this barrage across the Chitravati river and protect the interest of the people of Andhra Pradesh particularly that of the people of Anantapur district.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P. Mohan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Sir, the Poragodu Anakat barrage is being constructed purely for drinking water purposes. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Our State has been facing problems of drinking water. We requested the State of Karnataka to release 30 TMC of water but that has not been done. ...(Interruptions) We are their neighbouring State. ...(Interruptions) Our Chief Minister requested for release of water. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: The Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India can convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers to solve this problem of the Alamatty dam. ...(Interruptions) We have no objection on that point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Muniyappa you have refuted his claim. You please take your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

Nothing, except what Shri P. Mohan is saying, would go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

**SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, in this year's Union Budget the Centre has levied excess excise duty on both power loom sector and garments. This has created a great hardship to the weavers of the power loom sector and the manufacturers especially the small scale manufacturers of garments. This seriously affects their livelihood. When this was raised in this august House recently, the hon. Minister for Textiles Shri Kanshiram Rana stated that he would take the issue to the attention of the Finance Minister and would take appropriate action. Next only to agriculture, it is weaving industry that provides job opportunity to youth from rural areas especially young women in large number. Additional burden of excise duty has been resisted and the weavers have gone on strike. In Tamil Nadu for the pass 20 days almost all the units in the power loom sector and garments industry remain closed posing great problem to the weavers and their families. This sector could not get easily the loan assistance from banks. Most of these weavers run their looms and units borrowing money from the open market paying heavy interest through their nose. Madurai is among the worst hit place in Tamil Nadu where the power loom weavers and garment manufacturers suffer a lot due to this additional CENVAT

*Not recorded.

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

and excise duty. Not only in Tamil Nadu but also in Sholapur and Pune for about 20 days now these units remain closed depriving the livelihood of young people. This is a very big social problem. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to roll back the CENVAT and excise duty on power loom and readymade garments the same way as they rolled back the tax on fertilizers like urea. Withdraw these taxes immediately without waiting for the passing of the Finance Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Muniyappa, please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today is 23rd April and almost he 'Vijay Divas' of Babu Kunwar Singh. 'Vijay Divas' of first freedom fighter Babu Kunwar Singh is being celebrated all over the country and the hon. Vice President of India is going to inaugurate the 'Vijay Divas' ceremony. I demand that his statue should be installed in the Parliament House Complex. Babu Kunwar Singh defeated the Britishers in three battles. ...*(Interruptions)* The Britishers ran away from the battlefield on hearing the names of this 'senapatis' ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Babu Kunwar Singh was a great freedom fighter. I had given a notice

in this regard. Babu Kunwar Singh defeated the Britishers in three battles and took initiative to throw them out from the country. Therefore, Babu Kunwar Singh is remembered by people in every house in the entire country, particularly in Bihar. It is 23 April and 'Vijay Divas' is being celebrated. Therefore, life size statue of Babu Kunwar Singh should be installed in various parts of the country and the Parliament House complex as well. My demand to the Government is that his memorial should be established. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.05 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Forty-ninth Report

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I present the forty-ninth report of the Business Advisory Committee.

14.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

- (i) **Need to ensure better water drainage system at Holdgaon in Navsari while four-laning of National Highway between Surat and Mumbai.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANSINH PATEL (Mandvi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the National Highway between Surat and Mumbai is being four laned, the level of the four lane-road which is being made would be higher than the earlier road. This Highway passes through Holdgaon in Navsari district and the level of the near by villages is low in comparison to that of the road. Usually, during rainy season the rain water enters the houses of Holdgaon and its nearby villages such as Malwad, Chimla, Talab Chora and Chikhli. The rain water also enters in the fields of the nearby villages and it also damages the crops. Flood is taking place in the nearby areas of Surat

[Shri Mansinh Patel]

district for the last many years and it is resulting in loss of lives and property there. If arrangement for drainage of rain water is made in planned way then the rain water can be prevented from entering into the houses and the crops can be protected.

I, through the House, urge upon the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways that arrangement for drainage of rain water should be made properly while four-laning of this National Highway.

- (ii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Jharkhand for providing relief to the farmers whose crops have been affected by hailstorms.**

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards district Ranchi and Jharkhand State as a whole. The farmers have suffered a loss of crores of rupees as their crops have been affected by hail-storms in district Ranchi and also in various districts and blocks in Jharkhand. At some places crops have been destroyed. Alongwith this the houses have also collapsed. Vegetable crops have also been destroyed. Even the rabi crop has also been destroyed. The farmers are facing problem of shelter and food. The farmers have thus, lost their entire capital.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to conduct an inquiry without any delay in this regard and assessment of the damage should be made and the affected farmers also be compensated. Relief should be provided to the farmers whose crops have been affected by hailstorms.

- (iii) **Need to bring more beneficiaries under Annapurna Scheme in Orissa.**

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): The Annapurana Scheme was introduced in April 2000 by the Government of India and was designed for providing food security to the most vulnerable, old and destitute persons. These persons are being supplied with 10 Kgs of rice per month free of cost. At present 64,800 beneficiaries are covered under the scheme and 648 MT is being purchased under the scheme every month from Food Corporation of India to meet the demand. The scheme was under Central Plan for 2000-01 and 2001-02. It has been transferred to State plan from the current year 2002-03.

The unprecedented drought has impaired the support system with the rural communities of the State and increased the vulnerability of senior citizens. So, I request the Central Government to cover an additional number of another 1 lakh beneficiaries under the Scheme and another 50,000 for KBK districts with a financial involvement of 50 lakh rupees per month as per the drought memorandum submitted to the Central Relief Commission.

- (iv) **Need to declare Singhbhum in Jharkhand as drought prone area and sanction a financial package to meet the drought situation there.**

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (Singhbhum): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the drought situation taking place every year in my constituency Singhbhum. For irrigation, the farmers of my constituency are fully dependent on rains and due to lack of rains the farmers fields remain unirrigated as there is want for electricity and paucity of economic resources. The poor farmers have to suffer a lot when their crops fail to grow. The ponds dry up and as a result thereof the animals do not get water. The same situation is feared to be faced this year also. The Government should sanction a financial package to meet the drought situation in my parliamentary constituency, Singhbhum.

I, through the House, urge upon the Central Government to declare Singhbhum in Jharkhand as drought prone area and start relief work for the poor and tribals.

- (v) **Need to take steps to make H.M.T. Unit at Ajmer viable.**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The HMT is only one unit of public sector undertaking in Ajmer. A grinding machinery worth crores of rupees has been installed there. Thousands of workers and trained tradesmen were working there earlier. With the Public Sector Undertakings especially the HMT running in loss for the last some years, the existence of all its units is at stake and the production is decreasing gradually. The Government have introduced VRS. Therefore, the number of its employees is also decreasing. Some persons have been transferred elsewhere. As a result of it there is adverse effect on expected and targeted production. It seems that the existence of HMT unit Ajmer is at stake. The machinery and resources of Ajmer unit have not been utilized even after getting purchase orders from

within the country and abroad. The process of VRS has been initiated again as a result of it thousands of workers/technical employees are concerned about their future. It has also adversely affected the economic condition of Ajmer. HMT complex spread over miles area is lagging behind now.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India, the Ministry of Heavy Industries to make HMT Unit at Ajmer viable and for proper utilization of its resources some orders from the Ministry of Defence should be given so that it is baled out of its losses and turns out to be profit making unit.

- (vi) Need to issue guidelines and notification for relay of free channels and basic service charges for cable customers.**

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumabi North East): Sir, I request the Government to issue guidelines and notification for relay of free channels and basic service charges of cable customers. There is need for immediate announcement in this regard to protect the interest of cable customers.

- (vii) Need to allocate more funds in the plan allocation for the year 2003-2004 for the development of North Bengal.**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, in spite of my several interactions in Lok Sabha and correspondences with Planning Commission and Government of West Bengal, no tangible results are shown for substantial increase of plan allocation for North Bengal region of West Bengal in the Tenth Plan period so far as the Annual Plan of 2003-2004 is concerned.

The ethnic aspiration of Scheduled Castes, Ranbanshi community, should be honoured within the framework of our Constitution against extremism and secessionist tendencies. "The Uttar Banga Unnan Parishad" cannot marginally serve the developmental needs of North Bengal unless Union and State Governments together consider to bring North Bengal region under article 371 of the Constitution of India. I request once again to the hon. Prime Minister, who is the Chairman of Planning Commission, to respond to this issue immediately in order to solve the regional economic imbalances of this region which is a gateway of North Eastern States of India and international border of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. These burning issues, if are not taken seriously, will lead to people's unrest especially of the unemployed youth.

- (viii) Need to review the decision to disinvest Public Undertakings.**

[Translation]

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Union Government's decision of privatising the public undertakings is not in favour of the poor class of the country. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that the private entrepreneurs would exploit those natural resources which will fetch them huge profits and they will not go for those which will not prove to be beneficial economically. They would use coal, lead, zinc, copper, aluminium and oil for their benefit which will not be in the interest in the country. These companies are carrying out retrenchment which is increasing unemployment. It might lead to anarchy in the country. I want to suggest that reservation should be implemented in the private companies. As a representative of the worker class, I am saying it on their behalf that the workers are doing full justice to their jobs. It is not only due to workers that a company suffers losses, there are flaws in the management too due to which the industry suffers setback. Government intervention and monitoring is essential in these companies. Therefore, I request the Union Government to take the said facts seriously.

- (ix) Need to extend P.F., E.S.I. and medical assistance facilities to taxi drivers in the country by enacting a suitable law.**

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, In India the taxi drivers are facing serious problem in their daily life. There are lakhs of taxi drivers working in this country. Due to unemployment, 90 per cent taxi drivers are struggling in their day-to-day life. They do not get minimum wages for the day. The taxi services are decreasing. Without service, the drivers are not getting salary. The taxi drivers are unorganised labourers. They do not have PF, ESI, Minimum wages, Welfare Fund and medical assistance facilities. Therefore, I demand the Government of India through the hon. Speaker to make an enactment of law for taxi drivers for getting PF facilities, ESI benefits and medical assistance. The grievances of these poor taxi drivers should be considered to ensure their socio-economic security.

- (x) Need to ensure that the companies with outstanding dues are not given extension of time by Prasar Bharti.**

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to allocation of time slots and extension of time by Prasar

[Shri Sunil Khan]

Bharti. It is reported that M/s. Rainbow Productions Ltd. is being given extension, though more than ten crore rupees are due to them and even the tender period is over. On the other hand, extension has been denied to a serial "Antarale", though their ratings were high and their dues are cleared. I understand that several Members of Parliament have already brought this to the notice of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. But no action has yet been taken.

I request the Government to look into the matter with a view to saving the Government revenue.

(xi) Need to start rail service between Manmad and Tirupati via Parli-Vikrabad.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Sir, introduction of a direct train to Tirupati is the long pending demand of the Marathwada area. On the other hand, the public of Rayelseema area in Andhra Pradesh is demanding for a direct train to Shirdi for a long time. This demand was put up in a meeting between the Members of Parliament and the General Manager of South Central Railway and agreeing to this proposal the General Manager formulated a proposal for a new train between Manmad and Tirupati via Parli Vajinath-Vikrabad in December, 2002 and presented it to the Railway Board. Since then it is lying pending with the Railway Board. Though it was declared in the Railway Budget 2003-04 that 60 new trains would be started but no attention was paid towards this reasonable demand of the public.

Therefore, through you I request the Government that keeping in view the demand of the public, decision should be taken immediately in this regard and a new train between Manmad and Tirupati via Parli-Vajinath-Vikrabad should be started without delay.

(xii) Need to ensure that farmers of Orissa get remunerative prices for their produce.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): The problem of distress sale of paddy in many parts of Orissa, particularly in Hirkud Command Area of my constituency is still continuing in spite of the fact that many districts in the State are reeling under drought situation. Several times I have tried to bring this problem to the notice of the Central Government but without any result. The situation has gone so worse that last year a farmer committed suicide by consuming poison in front of the office of the District Collector at Bargarh. On the one hand, the farmers are not able to sell their products at the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Central

Government and on the other hand, they are not getting their payment on time. This is a very peculiar situation which is prevailing since last three years and the backbone of the farmers has been broken. Very surprisingly, recently the State Government of Orissa has taken a decision to procure rice from the miller agents purchased by them at a much cheaper rate one year before, which would be adjusted against the current year's procurement target fixed by the State Government. I would request the Food Ministry to instruct the Food Corporation of India not to indulge itself in such type of activities at the cost of the poor farmers. I would also like to urge upon the Union Government to intervene in the matter and ensure that the farmers of Orissa are given proper price for their agricultural products.

(xiii) Need to protect the interest of powerloom industry in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 17 lakh power looms functioning in the country at present and the livelihood of 4 crore people depends on them. CENVAT excise duty was declared on power looms in the Economic Resolution of the year 2003-2004. Every individual power loom owner is brought within the purview of excise duty and he has to pay tax 72 percent of the textile of the country is manufactured on individually owned power looms. The poor owners of power looms have stooped their machines since 31 March, 2003 due the CENVAT. 80 percent of the people from this trade belong to kosti, momin, julaha, saali and magaswargiya community. Through you I request the Union Government to withdraw CENVAT soon.

(xiv) Need to take steps to check spread of jaundice in Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh.

DR. RAMAN SINGH (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards my Lok Sabha constituency Rajnandgaon where a serious situation has arisen due to spread of jaundice. During last three days a big part of Rajnandgaon including the area where a major chunk of population belongs to the working class. More than 150 people have been detected with jaundice in Santoshinagar, Baigawara, Sanjaynagar, Gurumakhdanpura, Chakkipara of Lakholi ward. I visited the place yesterday. 150 patients of jaundice have been admitted in the district hospital. 4 persons have died so far and 10 people have been admitted in Machara hospital in Rampur in a serious condition. Jaundice is spreading in adjoining areas also. Hundreds of persons are pouring in the Medicare camps of local colonies. Drinking water has been contaminated. The water from the sewer has totally polluted the pond of the colony. Water is supplied only once in a day in Rajnandgaon. Water level has

depleted. There is a severe water crisis in the city. The scheme for drinking water has been lying pending there for years. The State Government has been unsuccessful in providing pure drinking water. I request the Health Minister to direct the Health department of the State Government in this regard. A team of doctors should be sent to Rajnandgaon so that further spread of jaundice at Rajnandgaon is checked. Besides, Rajnandgaon should be declared jaundice hit area.

14.24 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
2003-04—contd.**

Ministry of External Affairs

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand No. 30 relating to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demand for Grant have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Only those cut motions will be treated as moved.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts of 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, 2004, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand No. 30 relating to the Ministry of External Affairs."

Demands for Grants-Budget (General) for 2003-2004 submitted to the vote of the House

No. & Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 11, 2003		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of External Affairs				
30 Ministry of External Affairs	585,70,00,000	82,51,00,000	2453,26,00,000	288,50,00,000

[Translation]

Now, the debate will start. Shri R.L. Bhatia to initiate the discussion.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Minister of State is sitting in the front row but where are the other Ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister concerned is present.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Ministers of other Departments are sitting alongwith the Minister of External Affairs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister of External Affairs is present.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: That is alright but the rest of the Ministers who are sitting here are not related to this Ministry and the grants of their departments would go to guillotine.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But Ministers are present from Bihar.

[English]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA (Amritsar): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the basic objectives of the foreign policy of a country

[Shri R.L. Bhatia]

are to safeguard the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country. The second objective is to create an external atmosphere beneficial to the country, which is helpful to us in maintaining our development as well as the national institutions. This policy was formulated a long time ago by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and administration after administration has been following that policy because that policy was a policy of peace and good relationship with all the countries, especially with our neighbours. In the pursuit of that policy, India has been pursuing an independent policy of good relationship with all its neighbours—Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Of course, the relationship with Pakistan is on a different footing.

In this regard, it is very important that we develop our relations with our northern neighbour, which is a big country, and that is China. I would like to say that China is not a country but it is a civilisation and India is also a civilisation. Both the countries have a very good past record of relationship. A long time ago, in the time of war, India sent a medical mission under Dr. Kotnis and later when China became free, India tried to see that China also became a member of the United Nations. All these efforts brought the two countries quite close. After attaining Independence, Chou-en-Lai and Pandit Nehru had good meetings and our relationships were established. In 1954, the agreement of *Panchsheel* was adopted and the relations went on very well. Some time in 1962, on account of differences on border, a conflict did arise and thereafter, up to 1988, there was not much interaction between the two countries.

The credit goes to Shri Rajiv Gandhi who initiated the talks and a breakthrough was achieved in the relationship between India and China and ever since our relationship has been growing. Three agreements were made during the visit of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Thereafter, Li Peng, the Prime Minister of China, came to India in 1991. In 1993, Shri P.V. Narashimha Rao went to China and a very important agreement was signed for maintaining peace and tranquillity at the border and setting up of a working group. I had the opportunity of accompanying Shri Narasimha Rao and signing his agreement on behalf of India. Thereafter, in 1996, President Jiang came to India and the relationship was developed further. But in 1998, Shri George Fernandes made a statement that China is enemy number one. Well, that upset our relations. We were surprised, as there was nothing tangible that happened at the border or in the relations between the two countries that Shri George Fernandes had to make that kind of a statement in the Press as

well as in the political circles of India. It was a big surprise to us.

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi in a meeting in Panchmari in 1999, where we discussed the problems of the Congress Party, future programme and all that, raised this point about the damage done by the statement of Shri George Fernandes and how it can be offset. So, it was decided to send a Congress Party delegation to China so that at party to party level, we may explain to them the friendship between the two countries. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi sent a three-Member delegation. Shri Natwar Singh was the Leader, Shri Eduardo Faleiro was a member and I was also a member of that delegation. When we met the leadership of China, they were very happy that the Congress Party had sent three former Foreign Ministers to explain this position. Later, the hon. President Shri K.R. Narayanan, went there—he had quite a clout there; he was there for a long time. It was a very good meeting. Later, Shri Jaswant Singh, our former hon. Minister of External Affairs also went there and relations have become almost normal.

Now Shri George Fernandes has also gone there. It is very good. Earlier, he made a statement that China is enemy number one. Now, he has gone there as a friend. I hope he will contribute to the friendship between the two countries and Chinese will certainly be happy to have a statement from him.

Now our hon. Prime Minister is also likely to go to China soon. I would like that we must have some kind of a package with China with regard to border. It is because we set up a JWG. A number of meetings—12 or 13 meetings—have already taken place. It is such a slow progress and I do not know how many years it will take to settle this point. This is the only point between the two countries where we have a difference and it should be resolved. In order to keep a bigger pace, I would like that either we suggest or let Chinese suggest to us and you take into consideration some kind of a package by which this dispute is over so that there is a greater cooperation between the two countries. I would like to mention here that all these years, from 1988 onwards, there has been no incident on the border between the two countries. There has been good cooperation and China also changed their stance on Kashmir. Formerly they were helping Pakistan, but now they clearly say that it is for India and Pakistan to settle their differences.

Sir, one more point I would like to say that in 1993 when our agreement with France for the supply of heavy water to Tarapore was over, France refused to honour

the agreement and extend the agreement. They clearly mentioned that it was because of pressure from America that they could not do it because they told us not to give heavy water to India. Then, we requested China and China gave us heavy water. So, this is the kind of the cooperation that we had in all these years and the relations have been increasing. I think it is a great opportunity that the hon. Prime Minister of India is going there after ten years. So, it should be a historical meeting. It must be a fruitful meeting and something should come out of it. We should be ready with our proposal. The Chinese may agree or may not agree; that is their business. Some time back, the hon. Speaker led a Delegation to China, and I was a member of that Delegation. We had very good discussions with President Jiang, Mr. Jin Tao, Mr. Li Peng and other leaders. What we found was that they have been quite engaged in the economic build-up of their country, and they want to peaceful border, especially with India. It appeared to us, I might be wrong, that they have been very keen to have a permanent settlement with us. That is all the more reason that when the world is changing, when a new international order is taking place in the world and in view of the kind of tendency that is developing, that is, the unipolar world, there is a need that India and China should further cooperate. For that, I would like that more and more 'Confidence Building Measures' should be taken.

One thing confronted us in many meetings; I went there three or four times. Whenever I went there, one pertinent question put by the journalists or the intellectuals there was that when we have accepted Tibet as a part of China, as an autonomous region of China, then why were the Tibetans conducting their activities here in this country? They feel that if India is a friend, a friendly country, then anti-China activities should not be there. The Lama is here in this country as a revered leader and because he is a religious leader, we respect him. But we cannot allow him to have political activities in this country. This part of it may kindly be looked into because this issue was raised by some people over there.

Similarly, other measures should be taken by which our friendship can grow. Luckily, with all your efforts, the trade has increased from US \$ 1 billion to US \$ 5 billion and, very soon, I think, we will be able to reach US \$ 10 billion. Their Prime Minister, when he came here, wanted that the trade between India and China should grow. Our Prime Minister has set up a 'Group of Eminent Persons of India' and, similarly, a 'Group of Eminent Persons of China' has been made there. It was done at

the time of Shri Narayanan. When the President went there, he suggested that the Government Ministers or the officers could not meet so often and, therefore, there should be non-Governmental interaction between the two countries. I thank the Prime Minister that he has made me the Chairman of the Group of Eminent Persons of India. We had three meetings with the Chinese. We are discussing common issues, like trade, culture and other things, and especially the issue of environment. All the rivers flow from China to India. If there can be any collaboration between India and China to tame those rivers, it will be beneficial to us. In this regard also, when our Prime Minister goes there he should raise this subject because in this way, there will be a permanent relationship between the two countries. Since common interests are involved, our friendship will grow.

The other point, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make is about Pakistan. During Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru's time, India had a great strategy of non-alignment in foreign affairs, and we had democracy and secularism in the domestic affairs, and planning and self-reliance in the economic affairs. This policy worked very well in India, but today, unfortunately the NDA Government does not have such an integral approach to the problems of India.

Regarding Pakistan, we must say that the conflict between India and Pakistan is based on the ideology and identity of Pakistan. The central point among the relations between India and Pakistan is the two-nation theory. While British were leaving this country they divided this country on this basis. Ever since, we are fighting with each other. There have been three wars and we have not been able to solve the problem. Many efforts have been made by Government of India, especially by our Prime Ministers, but no fruitful results have come so far. Pakistan always does things which are against India as such.

What we find is that whenever there is a civil Government in Pakistan, there has always been effort on both sides to come together. However, the Army always intervened and as a result of that, the relationship does not grow. Every time we started talks there was always a happening. Earlier we had talks with Benazir Bhutto and there was a change of Government over there. Later on we had talks with Shahnawaz and again there was a change of Government. It is the vested interest of Army in Pakistan that relations between India and Pakistan do not get better. The moment there is peace, the Army would lose its relevance in Pakistan. Therefore, it is a

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very big factor. That India and Pakistan are not coming together is because of the Army in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Vajpayee made an effort and took initiative to go to Lahore in a bus and tried to have talks with the Pakistani leadership. There were lots of hopes on both sides of the border that since Shri Vajpayee had gone to Lahore, there would be some positive outcome. What we found was that the Kargil war was started. It was started because the Army did not like it. I am told that the present President of Pakistan, who was at that time the Commander-in-Chief of Pakistan Army, refused to salute to Shri Vajpayee saying that he came from the enemy country. That was what was reported in Pakistani Press. Now we cannot expect friendship from the same person.

Again, maybe under international pressure or pressure from inside the country, it was decided once again to invite Gen. Musharraf to Agra for talks. All of us know what happened at Agra. he brought a big contingent with him, addressed the international Press here and forcefully spoke his point of view. We did not want that he should meet the Hurriyat people and yet he met them. He was able to do whatever he wanted to do. I do not know if we were not fully prepared or what happened. One can say that he went back victorious, as reported all over at that time. India lost face because we invited him for talks and yet we could not get anything. We could not reach any agreement at Agra. He was able to forcefully put across his point of view. Some people say that India had always won wars with Pakistan but always lost in talks. When we talked, it is they who took the advantage and we were not able to take the advantage.

The Prime Minister has once again offered for talks with Pakistan while he was in Srinagar. All along, it has been our policy that we will not have dialogue with Pakistan until cross-border terrorism is stopped. The Prime Minister made this statement a number of times. The Foreign Minister made it and the Defence Minister made it. The Deputy Prime Minister made the statement categorically that there will be no further talks till they stop cross border terrorism. But, all said and done, the Prime Minister's offer has baffled the people of India.

Sir, two attempts were already made with a fair mind by the hon. Prime Minister. But there was no response, and it was a failure. Now, again the hon. Prime Minister has said it, more so at a time when the Foreign Minister had made a statement.

I congratulate the Foreign Minister for his bold statement when he said that India cannot remain silent simply out of fear of incurring the displeasure of others. I know what he means and I think, all of us know the pointed to whom. Then, Shri George Fernandes also made a very categorical statement in this regard.

Sir, normally, I am not happy with his statement. But this is the first time that I am appreciating his statement because what he had said was that 'more than enough, Pakistan is a fit case to launch a strike'. I think, that is the realistic situation. That is what the position in India is. That is what India feels. There cannot be two yardsticks, one for Iraq and another for Pakistan. Americans are fighting in Iraq. They have done the aggression there. But so far as India is concerned, they always advise us: "No, no. Do not fight; always have a dialogue and resolve your problem."

So, I am glad that the hon. Minister has made a very good statement. I appreciate it.

Sir, after the attack on our Parliament, the hon. Prime Minister made a very bold statement on the floor of this House. He had said: "Enough is enough." He said: "Ab Aar-Paar ki Ladai Hogi".

We were happy with his statement. Pakistan is always creating problems for us. We thought that this Government was determined to do some thing. But I am sorry to say that nothing happened. We sent the Army there and after nine months we withdrew them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what was the circumstances that they sent the Army. What were their compulsions, and what were their compulsions when they withdrew them? I would like to know all this from them.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister says:

[*Translation*]

"Now there will be a decisive battle. We are still quite far away from any conclusion.

[*English*]

We are nowhere. We have lost faith. People are laughing at us. India has only made good statements, long statements, and tall statements, but in action, we do not do anything. So, I would like to say to our hon. Minister that when we are dealing with such a sensitive issue like Pakistan, we should be very cautious in our statements. So, in this connection, I would like to ask

the hon. Minister as to what our policy is towards Pakistan. What is our national policy? All these years, we are having a haphazard way of talking to them and meeting them and involving others. But we must have a definite policy towards Pakistan which I would like the hon. Minister to announce.

Secondly, what is the strategy of the Government to achieve their goal? What are their tools? How will they do it? What is the strategy and the magnitude by which they would relieve us from the permanent problem of animosity with Pakistan? I hope the young energetic Minister will certainly guide us in this connection.

Sir, for nine months our Army was there in Pakistan and we Punjabis suffered the most because whenever there is war, we are the people in Punjab who suffer the most. Shri Vinod Khanna is sitting here and he knows what devastations took place to our areas. The farmers could not cut their crop; they could not sow even. So, during the Army movement and all that, all the trade is stopped, factories are closed. For nine months, before the Indian troops were withdrawn, Punjab suffered the most. They had already suffered in three wars. Now again, they suffered. General Malik had made a very nice comment. He had said that Pakistan won the war without fighting. He had said it very appropriately. The Government had sent the Army, called it back and got nothing out of it. So, what was the compulsion to send the Army on the border and what was the compulsion to call them back?

We Indians feel that all this indicates one problem. We feel that you are not directing your policies. Then is somebody else, far away, who is influencing your policies. You should go and have a talk but you are saying that you will not talk unless Pakistan stops cross-border terrorism. Yet, you asked them to come to Agra. The general impression is, it is the United States of America which is interfering in our foreign policy. I would request the External Affairs Minister to act as a sovereign State, as an independent State and do not look to them for the answers. They will not give you the answer. They have one stand for Iraq and another stand for Pakistan-India is of no value for them except for apartheid, but they have every value for Pakistan because it is an ally.

I am sorry to say that when President Clinton came to India, he had said that America is a natural ally of India. May I ask you Mr. Minister, has your natural ally so far accepted your position in Kashmir? Does he accept that Kashmir is an integral part of India? Your natural ally says that Kashmir is a disputed territory.

After the attack on Parliament, when the Government had sent the forces on the border, it was presumed that they had advised you not to do it and that they would do something when they would be free from Iraq. So, do not expect anything from them. They have their own national interests. We should watch our national interests.

India has joined the international coalition. It is a support to them. But have they supported us? Has any country come forward to support us on Kashmir? Therefore, I would request you to depend on your own. You should have your independent Foreign Policy. You should have your policy to deal with Pakistan. Do not depend on the United States of America. They will never come to help you because they have their own interests with Pakistan.

I would now like to mention about the new International order. We know, after the Cold War was over, 40 years' bipolar world was no longer there. The only other superpower, that is the USSR had disintegrated. The Non-aligned Movement had weakened. No other country in the world but one possesses the qualifications of being the only superpower which is all powerful, which is a new power, a military power, economic power and science and technological power. It has set up its own agenda.

If you see the reports of the Pentagon, if you see the reports of various committees where discussions took place, it appears that America has its own national agenda and that agenda is admonished. You have seen how they are playing their role in the world. You may see their position on Iraq. The other Security Council members did not approve it, the world opinion was against it yet they carried out their agenda over there. They may say a number of things, like 'he was a tyrant, people were unhappy and they have gone to liberate them as also to establish democracy', but this is wrong. Everybody knows that they had gone there for oil. About 15 to 20 per cent of the oil is located in Iraq and the American companies could not lay their hands on it.

That was the main reason. The other thing possible is that they always supported Israel and Iraq was the only country which was a threat to Israel. So, they wanted to remove that threat. The third thing is that they wanted to teach a lesson to the other countries. America will do whatever it wants and nobody can stop them. When this situation has arisen, they are calling other countries rogue States, but in spite of our giving so much information about Pakistan that it is a terrorist country and that they

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are involved in cross-border terrorism, they are not prepared to call it a terrorist State even though the bases are there. Therefore, the situation in the world is fast changing. It has become a unipolar world. It is very dangerous. It will create imbalances and further problems in the world. Now, India is a big country. We had a great past. India has played a very important role in the past as a leader of the Non-Aligned countries. More than 100 countries got freedom with our help and, of course, with the help of other member countries. India has a big name. We have a moral aspect of our foreign policy also. Wherever there has been some problem in the world, India has raised its voice. When the Britishers invaded Suez Canal, India was the first to raise its voice. In the case of Vietnam also India played a very important role in raising the voice for those people. So, where is that India now? I look to you as to what you have done to this country.

Last year I went to Gulf countries and I met Mr. Hosni Mubarak, the President of Egypt. He asked me where is Bharat of Nehru and Gandhi? What has happened to you? Why do you not lead the world? The world needs you. Mr. Minister, what answer should I have given to him? Should I have said that the present Government is not interested in Non-Aligned Movement?

Now, there are different statements by different people in your Party. Your Advisor, Shri Brajesh Mishra said in an international conference that Non-Aligned Movement is a shibboleth, while the Prime Minister goes in a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement and he praises it. Similarly, there are different statements from different Ministers. As I have just told you, you said something about Pakistan, Shri George Fernandes said something about it, and the Prime Minister said something else about it. So, we are confused about your policy. There is a total confusion. You have no vision and policy. That is how India's position has been downgraded. During Nehru's time, we carved out a space in the world policy. We were honoured and respected. Today, that place has shrunk. It is all because of the fact that your Party and you Government has no vision and no strategy in the foreign affairs. This is how India's position has weakened today. We have become vulnerable. Now it is others who are playing a role in this region.

America wanted to have oil of CIS States. They bled Afghanistan for a long time. They created Hiqmatyar but he failed. Then they created Taliban. It was all for oil in CIS States. It is because region of Tajikistan, Kazakstan, and Azerbaijan is a land-locked area. They want a pipeline

through Aghanistan to Pakistan. That is why, for almost 10 years. Afghanistan had to face the music....
...(Interruptions) Please let me complete. You will have your chance. I am not yielding. So, around 15 to 20 per cent oil is in CIS States and the same percentage of oil is in Iraq. They want American monopoly there. That is how they created an imbalance in this world. Therefore, Mr. Minister, you could see how the things are changing in the world, how a new international order based on might is right is being created. What is your reaction? We would like to know what is India's reaction to this new development. I would like that you must answer all these questions which are in our mind and for which India is being downgraded.

CUT MOTIONS

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): I beg to move:

That the demand under the Head Ministry of External Affairs (Page 30) be reduced to re. 1

Failure to honour and preserve the time tested foreign policy of the country. (4)

Failure to preserve and safeguard the autonomy of our decision making process in foreign policy matters. (5)

Failure to play India's traditional role as a nation promoting peace, stability and security in international relations. (6)

Failure to ensure that Pakistan respects the LoC and the international border and gives up cross-border terrorism. (7)

Failure to safeguard country's core national interests in international relations and global forums. (8)

Failure to play our traditional role in promoting non-alignment in international affairs. (9)

Failure to play an effective role in the U.N. (10)

Failure to secure the release of Indians languishing in Pakistan jails. (11)

Failure to prevent harassment of Indian diplomats in Pakistan. (12)

Failure to secure for India a permanent membership in the UN Security Council. (13)

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of Ministry of External Affairs. The grants have been increased very nominally and in my opinion the whole House would give their assent to get it passed. It is an opportunity to evaluate the work of the Ministry of External Affairs but there is an urgent need to understand a thing regarding foreign policy that it does not change every year. Foreign policy does not change with the change of the Government. Shri Raghunandan Lalji is also an expert of Ministry of External Affairs and when he said, it came in my mind that the Government should follow the foreign policy of the twentieth century in twenty first century. Again and again the issue to go back is being raised. This foreign policy is a continuous process of the Government. It does not change suddenly but simultaneously it is linked with international progress and as such every old aged person talks about his time that it used to be happen at that time and it is a good thing. We are see dreams. I am also getting old but we have to march ahead. It is twenty first century and a lot of things have changed. If our foreign policy does not assimilate that changes then we would be lagging behind. A lot of changes have been there and something that I have tell is today India is nuclear power.

We are being considered a stooge of America. We were having strength, power and information of atomic explosion since 1974. Whosoever Government came in power since 1974 did not dare to do atomic explosion and did not have enough courage to proclaim that India is a nuclear power. We had accomplished atomic explosion in 1974 and by making propaganda in whole world we tried to state that we did not accomplish atomic explosion. We have done it for peaceful purposes. First time it has been declared that India is an atomic power. It was not so much tough task to make itself but it is daring to declare that the whole world and big nations of the world may know this fact. ..(Interruptions)

15.04 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN in the Chair]

Now you please listen carefully. We heard Raghunandan Lalji very peacefully because dreams will not yield result, we will have to face reality. Second thing is that today the world has become Unipolar now there is only one super power. You admit it or not but this

reality will have also to be realized that there is one super power and we have to chalk out our foreign policy accordingly. The Government should exercise restraint where it is necessary, wherever it requires, we must protest the policy of super power but wherever we find that theirs stand is genuine we need not oppose it. These three things are very essential. Thirdly we have to keep in mind that the policies and trades have been internationalized during the last one decade. Now it is not easy that a country can capture another country by invading it. But a country would exert their economic pressure on another country. As such we are becoming matured gradually on our foreign policy and this maturity has come in the regime of our Government. You signed WTO but our Government has done this job as how it should be death with and how to salvage ourselves from the losses. It should be kept in mind that if any country is super power then they have their own agenda and they will try to impose that agenda. Tomorrow our country may become super power, we will also do that. It is reality. If you do not accept to reality then we cannot get the answer. Today America is a super power and being a super power that country have an agenda and they will talk to impose that agenda on others. There is no use of saying this time and again we can find its solution by assimilating that agenda in our policy.

[English]

Foreign policy and international relations are a vast subject and I am rather surprised to see that

[Translation]

Raghunandanji has talked as a chairman of Indo China Forum. But it is a very vast subject. I do not think that everybody knows about this subject. But I would like to congratulate the Ministry of External Affairs that they are doing this job in a very balanced, matured and stable manner whether it is our neighbouring countries, South Asian countries, East Asian countries, Central Asian countries, Gulf countries, African countries, Caribbean countries, America or North American countries, whether Canada, Britain or European countries or international organisations. The Ministry is not only doing its job in a very balanced manner and doing this by giving their reaction but is doing according to its agenda. I will cite an example.

I would like to say one more thing before citing an example that as to what is foreign policy and in my opinion assessment for foreign policy should be made on a single parameter. That parameter is

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

[English]

that it must be pragmatic and it must do good to our country. Principles, policies and

[Translation]

the foreign policy should not be based on what happened earlier or later but it should be based on principles and not on a big leader and personal opinion. Because we faced defeat in 1962 on account of personal opinion. The slogan of Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai was being chanted before 15 minutes of starting the war. When we faced defeat. At that time I was in the Army and I had seen that. So the foreign policy should be implemented with a very cool mind and it should be pragmatic and we should follow only those things which are good for our country. Local events have affect every country.

[English]

They always have an impact on our country. Mexico is very important for America. Cuba is very important for America. Similarly, Pakistan and China are very important for us. But I certainly do not expect a country like India, with the status of India, to become only Pakistan centric or China centric. We have to be on a different footing with Pakistan which is totally India centric.

[Translation]

We have a different footing otherwise we would be singing the same tune if we keep up reiterating their points, our approach will be narrowed we have to keep in it our mind. I would like to thank Ministry of External Affairs and particularly hon'ble Prime Minister because they take care of all these things. If we become Pakistan centric then we will only react and no reactionary approach has been shown on any matter. In case of Pokhran, we took a decision to do it willingly and did not hear any one. This is the country where not only nuclear explosion but missile testing had been stopped after mounting pressure from America. There is a case when we stopped to install weapons on our borders because America came to know that. Now the same country has made the nuclear explosion with our own capacity but we never do things as a reaction. Atalji want Labour by bus not he did not go there because of any foreign pressure. He went there willingly whether elections were held in Kashmir or his visit to Kashmir. The people were surprised in the beginning because people do not think as our Prime Minister thinks. Every body was angry.

Nobody in this Parliament or in the whole country may say regarding the speeches given there and statements made here that this has been done under pressure or it is not a well thought step. To do this job, we need some great persons. Everybody would not be able to understand it.

Just now Raghunandan Lalji said that what you people are doing? Musharraf Saheb came to Agra,

[English]

and I think he went victoriously.

[Translation]

I just laughed because I respect my old friend too much who is a scholar and have vast experience of working in Ministry of External Affairs. It is repeatedly said that he went back as a victorious President. But our view point is that we came with his gun firing with both bores but was sent back with empty hands. He was, simply having no reply to our questions. It is for the first time that a Pakistani President has been returned with empty hands. I would like to cite an example of your regime during the year 1972 when we had captured 92 thousand Pakistani soldiers and created Bangladesh by spitting a part of Pakistan. Then the bull war in our court and we were in commanding position. Then the Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto came here and was asked to sit on negotiating Table but if you could please let us know as to what we got out of that negotiation? Then, why are you making so much hue and cry over the issue of Kashmir? Was not it possible on your part to get the Kashmir issue resolved forever by keeping those 92 thousand Pakistani soldiers as captive? Couldn't you have forced them to sign the necessary documents in exchange of the release of 92 thousand soldiers? Simla Agreement was reached upon. We signed the bilateral agreement. But what is the meaning of bilateral agreement? Bilateral means an agreement between two persons. But the other person disassociates himself and does not honour the agreement. We are forced to abide by it because you people have signed it. We are matured people because we are accepting that wrong thing too and are carrying that burden on our shoulders. But it is not as if you were not able to get the right deal struck even after keeping 92 thousand soldiers as captive. What Musharraf has taken away from here as you people say again and again that Musharraf went back victoriously. The first and foremost thing is that we told him very categorically as to what we would be accepting and what we would not. We told him to go back and he went back cowardly.

The issue of Iraq was raised and a statement made by our Prime Minister on 19th February in this regard is before me. It was a very balanced statement. Every thing was included therein. In spite of that a different kind of atmosphere was created whereby the proceeding of the House was disrupted. Thereafter, a resolution was passed unanimously in the House. All of us gave our consent thereto. Deliberately an atmosphere was created so that we are forced to bring in that resolution. I would like to ask you people as to what was the purpose of that resolution. I would like opposition to take this responsibility and I am ready to accept that we all were involved therein. Whatever our Prime Minister said on 19th February was the middle path. At that time middle path was the best option before us. Emotionally charged kept on repeating your respective views but did that reduce the sorties of bombing. Whether war was not fought with Iraq. Did your action give any benefit to Iraqis? Did you not see how Iraqis people welcomed American soldier with clapping. That was middle path. A number of people are saying that we scored a goal in our own goal post. But application of wisdom and pragmatism is very essential. Sentiment is a very good thing but we could not do any thing. The history of passing resolution is very old. In 1962, a resolution was passed here under the leadership of late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehruji whereby it was resolved that unless we get back every inch of our land occupied by Chinese we will sit conformably. I must say that while passing a resolution, we should go by what we are capable of doing and what benefit we would be getting out of that resolution. We should not go by what people say. We were in very awkward situation when the leftists were terribly shouting that America has attacked and a blunder has been committed. These were the Leftists in 1962 who had supported the Chinese when they attacked India. The Left parties had supported that attack on India. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (*Basirhat*): No, it is not correct. ...(*Interruptions*) It is not a fact. You are distorting the fact. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I will show you record. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ajay Chakraborty, without getting my permission, you are getting up. Then, what for the chair is?

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: It is very surprising and it is very ridiculous that when a country attacks another country, we become sentimental. We kept on hearing Shri Somnath Chatterjee for thirty minutes and he kept on saying that this happened and. In 1991 also, Iraq was attacked, what kind of resolution was passed at that time? It was not for the first time that Iraq had attacked Kuwait. What was the driving force that we were asked to leave the middle path. Nothing was like that. I have already said that we all are part of it and we accept it. I am not criticizing anyone but I would like to submit that we must have some driving policy to take our decisions on the basis of pragmatism and wisdom which is ultimately in the national interest. Much is being talked about Indo-USA relations. It is being said that we are not able to say anything against America. When terrorist act happens against America, they view it and take action from their own point of view but when it takes place against India they view differently. They are having double standard. It is true but then it is also true that every country makes its policies to get their interests served first. It is reality and it should be accepted. There is nothing to worry about it. Every country is doing the same thing and nobody should have any objection thereto. We should also follow the same path as far as our interests are concerned. So far as America is concerned, it is also true that they have same strategic interests in Pakistan and in external affairs.

[*English*]

We must understand one thing that we should not go by what people say. We should go by what people are capable of doing, what countries are capable of doing. It is a fact that America has strategic interest in Pakistan and it is looking after its interest.

But even all this, I have to compliment our Ministry of External Affairs. We just had the case of the Ambassador of America putting in his resignation and going home. There was a lot of controversy that he was not towing the State Department's line, that he was more pro-India. There was this controversy. It must go to the credit of our Ministry of External Affairs that anybody who comes to India, they are able to convince him, whether it is President Clinton or anybody, of our stand in the matter with a very forceful presentation of our point of view. Even for a person, who has resigned with the post of Ambassadorship and has differences from his own Government, at least that is what it is said and that

[Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi]

is what I come to know, has this to say and this was reported in *The Indian Express* of 22nd of April on page 9:

"Consistently troubled bilateral past is behind us and it is time to map the glittering future of Indo-US relations. As I have said, during my stay in India, the fight against international terrorism will not be won until terrorism against India ends permanently. There can be no other legitimate stance by the US, no American compromise whatever on the elemental, geopolitical and moral truth. The US and India and all civilised nations must have zero tolerance for terrorism."

If this is not the language of USA, where would you get an authentic language of USA and where would you get a more forceful enunciation of the language of our own Ministry of External Affairs? It is the ditto of what they have said. Therefore, I do feel that there has been a very substantial influence of our policy, of our stand with the American public, with the American administration and if they are not totally tilting towards us, it is because of their own compulsions, because of their own strategic requirements.

We take this factor into account and go forward from there. Every country is not going to agree with us. There is no such thing that they will agree with us; they will look after their own interests. But if we go forward from this basis, then I think we are on the right lines, and I think, by and large today our Ministry has been able to achieve a great deal.

With regard to China, a mention has been made. I must congratulate Shri Raghunandan Lal Bhatia for becoming the Chairman of this Committee, and I am sure a lot of goodwill will come out of our understanding on this. But, it is a fact that whenever the President of China or any other dignitary of China visited India, our leaders of the past had one single *mantra* and that was to say: "Tibet is yours, Tibet is yours, Tibet is yours.". Whether they want to hear it or not, for these things start getting repeated as soon as the visit of the Chinese dignitary took place to India—I think most of us remember this point—without any reciprocal statement from the Chinese about Kashmir. We were never able to get that. Shri Raghunandan Lal Bhatia did express his fears. It is because our hon. Defence Minister Shri George Fernandes had once said that China is our biggest enemy. He was hoping that that statement does not work against India. It will not. It is not as if we are going to get the

friendship of China by praising them morning and evening. It is a friendship from strength. Yes, he said it. This was his view. Yet, today, in China—he has gone there—he has been given excellent reception, and a lot of free and frank talks are going on. It is not only if I got invited to China by praising their President, their Prime Minister, and the Chinese people all the time which is a habit for last 40 years let me tell you, and we have suffered a great deal on the account. Then, they are nowhere. But, if a man who has set his mind, and his view, and then he has gone there, he is being treated, and he is being talked of, then his friendship will strengthen. That is the friendship with strength, not 20 days before any visit of the Chinese, this *mantra* is: "Tibet is yours, Tibet is yours, Tibet is yours". Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru said this, not today. Everybody has said it and it is on record. This point, I think, ought to be taken note of. I entirely agree with you, Sir, that we must have a proper package. We must go forward from there and there is no rancour on this account; what is gone is gone. Personally, as an ex-Army man, I hope that China has nothing to lose, we have lost a lot. If we are prepared to go on, then we may be able to get something back from them.

With regard to Kashmir, the level of terrorism has increased and is going to increase further. Where we used to hear two persons killed, we are hearing twenty persons killed. The level is going to increase. This is a fact of life. It is not only that the level has increased, that our defenceless civilians are getting killed, but the terrorists are also getting killed more and more. Therefore, what is our policy? Is it to go to war with the Pakistan? Is that the answer?

I would humbly submit that in the last two years, we have been able to win the hearts and minds of the Kashmiris as never before. This is the challenge. They had an election in which hordes of people voted defying the terrorists. The percentage was more than some of the so-called peaceful States. Hordes of people have voted. It is an election which is universally recognised as free, fair and transparent. It is an election which the Kashmiris recognised that for the first time their voice has been heard and recorded in the voting machine. It is for the first time that during the Prime Minister's visit they flocked in thousands and thousands and with one voice they have praised the efforts of the Prime Minister to bring peace into the Valley and now with today's Statement, development into the Valley.

We have seen a lot of terrorism and insurgency and everybody started talking that we must win the mind and heart of the people. I think, we have succeeded. If we

have succeeded in that, that is the main battle that we have won. It is visible. Today it can be seen. If we have not won the heart and mind of the people of Kashmir, we are well on our way to win it if this kind of a thing goes. Everybody would get the answer when we have won the heart and mind of the people of Kashmir.

Before I finish, I just want to mention one point that we have a very large population of Non-Resident Indians. And again, the Ministry is to be complimented. They were neglected a lot. They were a tremendous source of income. That was whether it was stopped. It is for the first time we have had a conclave where we have called them, we have made them feel, and those who were there must agree with me that in some ways their feeling for India was so strong that it was overwhelming. This is something that our brotherhood will only increase in this manner, and I think, we have to compliment the Ministry for this initiative which they have taken.

There are many other points that could be gone into. As pointed out, it is a vast subject, it is multi-dimensional, it looks after the world 24 hours a day, from morning to night, and it has varied problems. But one point must be made and must be accepted that the Ministry of External Affairs is taking into account the changing world scenario and responding in a pragmatic manner keeping the good of the country in mind.

There have been shifts. We are in the 21st century. I do feel that these shifts are in keeping with our role in the world affairs in the 21st century. And 21st century India is not like 20th century India. There is nothing but a bright future for India.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing demands for grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for 2003-2004. Mr. Bhatiaji has made a good head-start. I do not have to go into detail. Foreign policy is like a mirror that also paves our path of progress. The relationship we maintain with the world helps in our economic development. Thus, we are discussing a very important issue. But I would definitely like to convey Shri Yashwant Singhajee that the glory and dominance enjoyed by Indian politics earlier has diminished and we must spare a thought to this. At the same time, this also merits consideration that we have not been able to maintain good relationship even with those nations which have traditionally remained our friends. Under Non-Aligned Movement we used to be the leader of almost 150

countries but how that's also close to the extinction. To my mind, this also deserves a careful attention. The practical aspect of our foreign policy should be aimed at causing a sense of fear in the mind of our enemy countries. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman Sir, Hon'ble Minister-of-State in the Ministry of External Affairs is laughing. Please ask him not to laugh. I am helping him and he is laughing. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Please carry on, we are happy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Yashwant ji, why are you going to share his sin? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): His old friend is speaking so nicely that he is feeling happy. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sumanji, there's no ban on laughing nor it's unparliamentary.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The practical aspect of our foreign policy should be such as to create terror in the mind of our enemy but we must have affinity with our friendly-nations and ought to extend security to the weak nations. Mr. Chairman, Sir, after independence, the non-alignment policy started during the regime of Jawahar Lal Nehru has continued till today. There was a time when we had friendship with Khurushev, Eisenhavar and Nasir. It deserves to be considered as where do we stand now. We were one of the founding members of the United Nations but till today we have not been able to get permanent membership of the Security Council. We were elected as temporary member of Security Council for seven times but in 1996 we lost the election to Japan. What kind of lobbying we have mobilised in the world against Pakistan. How many countries have been made friends. How many countries are sympathizing over our troubled—state-of-affairs. How many countries have come forward in our favour against Pakistan. All these things can simply be appreciated by the fact that we lost election to Pakistan in 1996. We lost it and Pakistan became the temporary member of the Security Council for next two years.

Sir, this clearly means that we have not been able to add as many countries to our list of friendship as we

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

should have. I would also like to submit that we are not having good relationship even with our small neighbouring countries. It is a matter of big concern. Not only Pakistan but even the terrorists are being supported by our small neighbouring countries. Not only Pakistan but also small countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar are providing shelter to terrorists. The terrorists take refuge in these countries. India should establish good relationship with them but we have not been able to establish good relationship with our those neighbouring countries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the whole, the psychological impact that prevails is that somewhere we are under American influence. Be it the issue of Kashmir or be it terrorism, or be it the issue of Afghanistan. It appears that our foreign policy is governed by America. Be it the issue of Kargil. War or cross-border terrorism we work under the influence. Needless to mention that America interfered during the Kargil war also and that too at a time when India is in commanding position and we could have thought Pakistan a lesson but due to American interference our army, instead of chasing the enemy, move back.

Sir, America is our friend but at the current juncture, what is needed is to explore the possibility of forming good relationship with other various countries of the world also. This is the reason why despite Kargil war, and despite the wordings used by our Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs against Pakistan. Their Govt., seems to be under no psychological pressure to put an end to cross border terrorism and continues to do the damaging act against India.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to humbly submit that Hon'ble Prime Minister on his return from Jammu and Kashmir visit, made an announcement in which he told that this part of the country will have rail services, air services, but the main news appearing in the newspapers was that India wants to extend a hand of friendship with Pakistan. At this Pakistan expressed its reactions immediately saying that if India wants to hold my dialogues with Pakistan, it just cannot be conditional. Everyday, you make a speech that unless Pakistan stop cross-border terrorism, we shall not hold any dialogue.

Mr. Chairman Sir, being a political worker I also hold the view that all the problems can be resolved through dialogues. We are also in favour of dialogues but what kind of atmosphere is required for that and whether we have created that kind of atmosphere which is congenial and conducive for talks? I must say that it is useless to

expect that Pakistan will stop its anti-India activities. Therefore, whatever action is to be taken to resolve this issue, it's to be taken on our own. Only then we can solve this problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention that other countries of the world particularly European countries are making utmost use of their power. Ours is a vast country having one billion population and the market-line is the centre of global attraction today. If we wish, we can use this market through our foreign policy to further our interest and I think meaning effort should be made in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I have just now submitted, Mr. Clinton interfered during Kargil war. Our aircraft was hijacked to Kandhar in 1999, at that time, America interfered and imposed sanctions on us to lift ban from the import and we lifted the ban but ban on import in America will continue till 2005.

I through you, request the hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs that what-so-ever action you intend to take on the issue of terrorism, take it on your own. Do not expect anything from others. If you've to fight Pakistan. Fight them on your own. There's an urgent need to build up good relationship with our neighbouring countries. We can have good friendship not only with America but also with other countries. Meaningful initiatives should be taken on this count. This was all I had to submit.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, the foreign policy of any country is always based on national interests. The nation comes first and India is no exception to that. But since our Independence to this day, India has always had a moral command over the international community for different historical reasons. We were also very lucky that in our foreign policy matters we were able to have a consensus. We have different opposition combines at different times, but all the opposition had been very cooperative. We always put forward a unified view from our side. This was very important. Therefore, India has always been a leader and never a follower in the matter of international policies. We have always set our own agenda. We have been fiercely independent in our foreign policy, which cannot be said about many other countries including some of our neighbouring countries that have always towed the lines of some or other big power at different times.

When we lived in a bipolar world, as we all know, we were leaders of the Non-aligned Movement. Then, the world order changed. We found ourselves in a unipolar world. I think, India was taking the right stand when India initiated a dialogue with the only super power of the world. I remember our interlocutor for several past years had been the then Foreign Minister of India who steadily but slowly tried to build up a relationship between the two democracies of the world.

Now it is true that we must change our policies whenever the geopolitical situation changes. But, at the same time, we must keep in mind that we must not let down our traditional allies. We have to keep in mind that our traditional allies had been Russia and the Arab World. We must not forget them. We have to keep that in mind.

When the Iraq crisis was thrust upon us, again, I think, we took the right path. Some of my previous speakers have just mentioned the middle path that our hon. Prime Minister had first stated.

Well, what did we do? We did say all the right things at the U.N. and at all other international forums we said that we believe in a multi-lateral approach to all international crises and we do not believe in a unilateral military action. That we could not stop the unilateral military action is a different matter altogether. But we did say what we believed in. In this, we had on our side, the two European powers known as Old Europe, but as a matter of fact the two countries are coming up again as big powers—Germany and France. Germany and France were with us, not to speak of Russia and we must see to it, as we are also a growing big power. Germany and France are emerging as big powers and we must keep up this alliance with them.

Apart from Germany, France and Russia we had world opinion with us which was a great plus point for India. You saw how people marched in all world capitals in favour of the people of Iraq and we were with them. What should we do now in the post-Iraq crisis? I think, in the post-Iraq crisis we must see to it that the U.N. is restored to its previous prestigious position. It is true that the position of U.N. had been undermined like anything in this. But you know that days when you could occupy a nation and have in occupation force in another country are gone and the days when you could become a colonial power and you could have your colonies are gone. The days of imperialism are gone.

Therefore, we must see to it that there is an international forum which will be the power behind which

we can stand, as at present U.N. is the only one. We must see to it that in the reconstruction of Iraq as also the forming of the new governance in that country, U.N. has a role to play. That should be what India should pay attention to now.

We are always accused, our foreign policy is accused of being Pakistan-centric. I do not want to sound like that. But it is true that while we have neighbours all around, we have always a festering problem with one neighbour. But there also, I think, on the whole India's role has been vindicated. Most of the world powers have condemned the cross-border terrorism that we had been talking about including, of course, the U.S.A. They had been telling Pakistan that they must stop this cross-border terrorism. What should be our policy vis-a-vis Pakistan? Only this morning our hon. Prime Minister had stated that and we need not go into that again. That has been our policy.

We have always put forward a friendly gesture to them. I must say, you all remember and I need not repeat, the bus journey. But we had Kargil. But even then we called them again to Agra. That also failed. We are having all the time this cross-border terrorism. But even so, only a day before, our hon. Prime Minister had again reiterated that we are ready for dialogue at any time because again this is a world when some of us are nuclear powers and we cannot, in an irresponsible manner, talk about war. Dialogue is the only thing that can solve our problems. The door to dialogue must be kept open. But, at the same time, as the hon. Prime Minister said this morning, well we cannot have one hand stretched only; the other hand also has to come forward to us. So, vis-a-vis Pakistan also, we are following the same policy.

Sir, this is more or less an over-view. I am not going into issues relating to China because speakers preceding me, from both sides, have gone into them in detail. Anyway, this is more or less regarding our policy matter.

We are discussing here the Budget, the Demands for Grants. I happen to be the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs. We have laid on the Table a Report on the Demands for Grants. This morning, our Prime Minister said that these Reports can be discussed, and you can have a discussion on that. I would like to ask my colleagues to go through it and to see what we have recommended. We have made recommendations. We have made certain criticisms as well. I am really proud to say that we have a very good team of officers

[Shrimati Krishna Bose]

in the Ministry of External Affairs. I am sure that they will take note of the criticisms that we have put into our Report and will try to correct those things.

For example, there is the question of unspent balances. We have seen that the amount that had been released in the Budget, much of which could not have been spent, it had been surrendered or it had been saved and the officers of the Ministry of External Affairs were very frank. They said that this had become an endemic thing and they had to do it more often. The other thing we have criticised is about our missions abroad where we rent big places and pay a huge amount on these. Our policy, we have said, should be to acquire or to construct our own accommodation and not to go in for such huge rents. They have also given us a list of 14 places, I think, where we are paying huge rents, but only at three places, we have been able to go in for some construction. These are some of the criticisms we have made in the Report. I do not want to waste your time on that. You can read it and come to your own conclusion. Also, we have made recommendations. I know that these recommendations will be taken seriously.

You all know this. Since this morning, we had so much of talk on the Standing Committees, I am saying this that our Standing Committee are not that powerful. For example, Foreign Affairs Committee in US Senate is very powerful, but we are not as powerful as that. We are, what we call, of a persuasive nature. We can only try to persuade the Government. It is an all-party Committee. Whatever we have said, we have said together. I am sure and I know that whatever we say is always taken very seriously. If they cannot do something, they come back to us and tell why they cannot do it and if they can do it, they will do it.

Sir, I stand here in favour of the Demand for Grants that the Minister of External Affairs has placed. I do hope that India will remain a leader in the field of international relations.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today morning, the hon. Prime Minister has made a statement. This is reiteration of what has been stated at Srinagar a few days back. It was an unconditional offer for dialogue with Pakistan. We welcome it. Some people may call it a roll back from what has been stated by the hon. Minister for External Affairs. I am not going into the issue of 'rightly or wrongly'. Even after Friday's unconditional offer, a few hours afterwards, it was different voice. The problem is here. The problem is of multi-

toned, multi-tuned multi-voices of Government of India, this NDA Government. One Minister is saying something one day and another day, the same Minister is saying a different thing. The Minister is saying one thing and the Prime Minister, on another day or even on the same day, is giving a different signal.

16.00 hrs.

I am just starting from what has left by my esteemed colleague Shrimati Krishna Bose. We have adopted a unanimous Resolution on Iraq. Some people may criticise it. There should be, and there are always some people who would criticise it, and there are millions of others also who appreciate it because the sovereign Parliament will not take its decision looking at who will say what. We have a great tradition and this is a great achievement of the sovereign Parliament, and the Indian Parliament had adopted a unanimous Resolution firstly condemning the unilateral action and secondly stating that the Iraq's future will be decided by the Iraqi people only. If any one has any role to play in the matter of reconstruction, rehabilitation, etc. then it is to be done through the United Nations.

Also according to our glorious tradition, we have immediately extended our hand of cooperation responding to the call of the United Nations with humanitarian help both in terms of \$ 20 million in cash and 50,000 metric tonnes of food products under the World Food Programme. But, my question to this Government is this. Has there been any active follow-up of the Resolution? What is that follow-up? I find that one representative of Government of India has a gone for a three-nation visit after the Resolution of the Arab countries—8 countries meeting together—and made a concrete demand. What was that demand? The demand was that Iraqi people only will determine the Iraq's future, and the occupation forces should leave as early as possible without any further delay. Reconstruction, and all these things will be done under the supervision under the guidance of the United Nations only.

I was just looking at the 1999-election manifesto of BJP, and I am coming to the NDA part later on. What do they say in that? They have stated a very interesting thing in the election manifesto. What do they say? They have stated that in the recent past they had noticed 'bending of the Government'; and 'bending of this country' before pressures. This is obviously a reference to the 1991-1996 Government because the Interim Government that had come up between 1996 and 1997 and hardly

anything to spill but. Maybe, a Government during the 1991 Gulf war had done such things. 'In the recent past' is a reference to the 1991-1996 Government. Is it not a fact that if there was bending under pressure, here it is crawling even before any pressure?

Look at the Afghan situation. On the issue of international terrorism, the United States had taken certain steps and on our own we said that we are ready to give this and we are ready to give that, etc. They do not care for us. It is making such a large country of 110 crore people with such glorious tradition of anti-imperialist struggle, and making us irrelevant; and making us crawl even before we are told to crawl. They are criticising-in the election manifesto—the previous Government about 'bending before the pressures' that are mounting. What does the 'National Agenda for Governance' of the NDA, which was their election manifesto in 1999, say? It says that 'they are committed to demonstrate India's capability to secure for India a place, role and position in the global arena commensurate with its size and importance'. What is the reality? Are we relevant? Is anyone caring for us? Even after we made the offer that we are ready to fight against terrorism or whatever you call it, no one cares for us.

Day after day, when killings took place in large numbers, very sweet words were said about the export of terrorism from Pakistan or the terrorist activities that are taking place in Jammu and Kashmir. They said, "Yes, we are taking note of it. We have made a list of the terrorists' organisations". Then, they patted them. The sanctions have been lifted, and then loan waiver is taking place. Why are we failing to understand that Pakistan is their natural ally in their geo-political scheme of future programmes? This is the reality, but still we are hesitating.

What has happened to Mr. Robert Blackwill? I am not supposed to comment on what may be his perception or why he has resigned and going back to take up an academic assignment and all these things. I am not going into all that. He has made an elaborate list of his own achievements.

16.07 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

He says that during his tenure as the American Envoy here, more than 100 visits of American dignitaries and representatives of the American administration have taken place; and joint military exercises have taken place. They

are the same people who are saying, "Why are you equating the Iraqi situation with the Pakistani situation?" They are rather threatening us. The Minister, in his generosity, may say 'ignore all these things'. It was a threat. I do not want to endorse his compulsion because by implication, it was an acceptance of the position taken by America. This can never be done. Rather, what the Prime Minister said later on and the position taken by him is more welcome. I am not saying that this has been done under the American pressure. We know that Mr. Armitage is coming; G-8 meeting is going to take place where Pakistan would have taken the advantage and, ultimately, we could have been in an embarrassing position.

Even during the Iraq War, Mr. Colin Powell had already stated. "Our next agenda is India. We have not forgotten it. We will look into this issue immediately after this." This was taken up. This is a new era of 'Bush-ism' or whatever you call it. You can equate 'Bush-ism with 'fascism'.

It is not that only Iraq is being bombarded and innocent people are being killed, but even the vocabulary and principles of yesteryears are also being bombarded. International agencies like the United Nations are being made irrelevant. They charged the United Nations by saying that it has failed in its duty why because the United Nations did not agree to the pressures being mounted by the United States to tie its line. This is the positive part of the situation that even in these days of dangerous unimaterialism, they could not mobilise even nine countries in their support to have a resolution, which could authorise them to go to the war. In this new situation, there are new dangers.

In this new situation, there are new challenges. At the same time, there are new opportunities too. We have to meet the new challenges appropriately and properly by making use of the new opportunities, which we are not doing now. These are the days when a new language is being used. 'Pre-emptive Action.' What does it mean? It means—"Might is right; I have a right to occupy; I have a right to invade." What is the charge? The charge is, "You possess the weapons of mass destruction". Did anybody prove that? No. It is all bogus. Even Hans Blix, the Chief Weapons Inspector of UN said that this invasion was planned long before the Inspectors started their work. They said that nothing could be found. "Axis of Evil". Earlier three countries were named in this axis of evil. Now, suddenly, Syria is included as the fourth country. Indications are that India would be added as the fourth country in this axis.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

In such a situation, we have to re-orient our foreign policy in such a manner that we can make our stand purposeful, meaningful, and relevant in the world arena. My charge against this Government is that such an important country like India has made itself irrelevant by subjugating to the pressures of American imperialism. This is my charge.

New vocabulary is being coined. "Regime Change". Who has authorised the regime change? Yes, the Prime Minister had repeatedly said that no country has a right to change a Government except the people of that country, whatever may be the view of the country, whatever may be the view of the Government, whatever may be its programme. A new diplomatic language is emerging. "Material Breach". What does it mean? It does not mean anything but, "Whenever I think there is breach, I will call it material breach. It is all my interpretation. I will say that they have not complied with the UN resolutions."

They said, "He is a dictator." How many dictators do you want to be shown to you Mr. Bush? We all know how many dictators of Africa and Latin America are sitting in the lap of the President of America, being encouraged by America, being patronised by America. Is there democracy in Pakistan? Is there democracy in—I would not like to take names here—many other countries? There are a host of such countries. What has America done in the Middle-East? What has it done in respect of Palestinian interest? America encouraged Iraq in its war with Iran. It is said that America supplied chemical and biological weapons to Iraq. In fact there is a joke on this which goes like this. When asked as to how America is so sure of Iraq possessing chemical and biological weapons, America says, "We have got the receipts for those weapons because it is we who have supplied them."

Very dangerous things are taking place. Twelve long years of sanctions have subjected the people of Iraq to untold misery. Lakhs of people including children have lost their lives. Immense damage was caused to the property. Not only that, great archeological assets have been looted in a planned manner. Such a thing never happened in the world. There is Hague Convention to which America is a party. America is not a party to Kyoto Protocol. They are not agreeable to many international criminal laws. For them, their might is right. In such a situation we have to very coolly think over our foreign policy.

We had a great heritage of foreign policy based on national consensus. As our Resolution on Iraq was

unanimous, on all the major issues of foreign policy initiatives we had a national consensus. If any distortion had taken place, it was all started by the BJP-led Government.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Rupchand Pal, please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Yes, Madam, within two to three minutes, I am concluding.

As a result of that, we have become irrelevant. The Government needs to ponder over it. Not only that, we should extend our hands of friendship. It does not mean sacrificing the national interests. Flexibility and calmness, the two taken together, will build up a purposeful, meaningful and relevant Foreign Policy. Our Foreign Policy is an extension of the domestic policy.

If your secular democracy suffers inside, there will be some misunderstanding in the Muslim countries. If the Christian pressing continues, there will be a rethinking in the Christian countries.

Madam, in the NAM we are failing to give the leadership. We had stated in the NAM that the Indian Government would give the leadership; it is committed to making the voice of India as the voice of the Developing world. But India did not do it. Do we do it in our economic diplomacy? In the WTO, in the Agriculture Agenda, in the TRIPs and on many other issues, we can make common cause. Even with Pakistan we could make a common cause on certain occasions.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. There is one more speaker from your party. Now, there is no time left for him.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Today, the debate will continue. The hon. Minister will be leaving for Tanzania tomorrow. He will be here today.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, please do not waste time. Kindly conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am just concluding.

Madam, Chairperson, in the economic diplomacy also, we have a lot of things to do. Before the talk takes place with Pakistan, we should be well prepared. We should not be prepared as we were during the Agra Summit.

The hon. Prime Minister is going to China. China has been our traditional friend. It is a healthy development that our hon. Defence Minister has been there, and now the hon. Prime Minister is also going there. So, in such a situation, I fully appreciate the sentiments expressed by my esteemed colleague that Dalai Lama is a religious leader. Even yesterday some people met me; and I think, they are meeting the other MPs also, saying that Indian oil should not be allowed for activities which are detrimental to our mutual interest and the relationship with China.

As regards our relationship with the neighbour countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, we should continue to strengthen it. With Bangladesh, the Government is committed to have an Immigration Policy. We have a long relationship with Bangladesh because of historical reasons. But some time ago, developments had taken place which should not have taken place.

The Government, in the Annual Report says: "The guiding principles of Foreign Policy today are founded on pragmatism and the pursuit of national interest without compromising basic and well-established tenets and principles."

Madam, what is this? Is it a surrender to American pressures? Is it taking opportunistic position? Even yesterday, I was looking at certain discussion where it was said that some contracts may be given to some Indian companies. Some Indian labours may be employed in Iraq. We should have to take a very firm position because Iraq has been our friend. Iraq had stood by us even in our difficult times, on the issue of Kashmir and many other issues. We import oil from Iraq. What will happen to our oil import?

So, these are the issues where, I think, the Government of India owes some responsibility of this House. Our Foreign Policy and our economic diplomacy should be clear and fair. In a new world of unilateralism, we should prepare ourselves to meet these challenges, and use this as an opportunity to make ourselves more relevant to regain the position of leadership in the Non-Aligned Movement as also in the developed countries, in the economic arena and in the political situation.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Thank you, Madam. I rise to support the Demand for Grant of the Ministry of External Affairs. At the end of the speech made by hon. Shri Raghunandan Lal Bhatia, I put a

question. I have great respect for him and I listened with rapt attention to what he said. I also listened with great attention to the speech made by my predecessor Shri Rupchand Pal, though I knew what he would say. It is a tape recorded version repeated over and over again.

Sir, the point was raised by Shri Raghunandan Lal Bhatiaji that during the time of Congress rule—during the time of Nehruji, Indiraji and Rajivji—India was a non-aligned country. Now, India has lost its dignity. Nobody cares for us. Even Shri Rupchand Pal asked: "Does anybody care for us? Are we relevant?" He asked questions like this.

Madam, I am a student of Political Science, forget about the fact that I am a BJP Member of Parliament. When I was a student of Political Science—I was studying in BA. and MA—I myself was thoroughly confused about this point taken by my own country. We said that we are non-aligned. But, when USSR attacked Czechoslovakia, attacked Poland, and entered into Afghanistan, there was not a single word of protest. Do we really call ourselves that we are non-aligned? At the time, the world was bipolar. One pole was led by America and the other was led by USSR. We were fully with the United States of America. But, still it was a fashion in those days that if anybody was left-oriented, if anybody and with USSR, he was non-aligned. But, if anybody is with America, he is a capitalist, he is a bourgeois, and he is a hegemonistic. So, he is not non-aligned. Is it true, Madam? Still I am confused when these things are repeated over and over again.

Madam, if you are so non-aligned, in 1971 Bangladesh war, when the issue was taken up in the United Nation's General Assembly, why is it that only six countries supported us? Why is it that more than 100 countries opposed us? There were so many other non-aligned countries in those days. Why did they not support us in the United Nations General Assembly? Was this the dignity we had in those days, as told by the other hon. Members from the Opposition? Madam, after this 11th September incident in the United States of America, and when we deployed our Army on the border, is it not true that within a span of only three months, 60 foreign dignitaries including Mr. Colin Powell, Mr. Rumsfeld, Mr. Tony Blair, Mr. Putin and Mr. Jack Straw came to India? Everybody came to India within a span of only three months. Does it mean that the world does not care for us? If they did not care for us why did they come to India at all? Since they came, it means that they care for us. That is why, I am making this point.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

I thank the hon. Prime Minister and I also thank the hon. Foreign Minister for keeping India in a path-breaking engagement with America. That is a total shift in the Indian foreign policy. That is the real pragmatic approach; and that is the real national interest that we are having now. We can say many things. But India is passing through rein of terror. What is the major problem of India today? It is terrorism. Terrorism is the number one problem of India today. Who is fighting against the terrorists nowadays in the world? We agree that there are many dictators in the world which America has sponsored. I agree with that. I also agree that America is not declaring Pakistan as a terrorist country. I fully agree with that.

But is it untrue that America is the only country which is fighting against terrorists nowadays? Is it not true. Let me tell that it is the Osama bin Ladens, it is the Saddam Hussains, it is the Pervez Musharrafs who are the fountain heads of inspiration to the Islamic terrorists all over the world. An attack on these people is an attack on the source of funding it is an attack on the State which provides safe sanctuaries to terrorists all over the world. You finish them off and the terrorists will have no source of funding. They will have no safe Heavens all over the world. So, it is a fact. It is in our own interest that we should be with the right side of history; and the right side of history now is to be with America.

It is all right that we had a long discussion in this House; we passed a unanimous Resolution—or may be so. On that day, the leaders had a dialogue among themselves and they decided that nobody else other than the leaders will be allowed to speak—only the leaders of parties will be allowed to speak for five minutes. So, a Resolution was passed. The Members of the Opposition Parties pressurised the Treasury Benches to pass such a Resolution. But you go the street and ask the common man as to what is his impression about the Resolution—whether he is happy about it or not. We say that it was an expression of national sentiment, but he says that it was a Resolution of national irrelevance. At the time when the American Army entered Baghdad, we passed that Resolution.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, it was a Resolution of Parliament, moved by the Chair and not by the Minister. So, to cast aspersion on the Resolution passed by the Lok Sabha would tantamount to insulting the House. It was moved by the Chair and it had the resolve of the House. How can he question the Resolution? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am not questioning it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): He is talking about the impression of the people in the street. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I feel, that nobody should talk about the Resolution. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: If it was reported in the Papers, what would you have done about that? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, how can he question that? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He has the right to express his views; let him express his views. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Badnore, he is quite capable of defending himself, without both of you. He is quite capable of defending himself. He does not need your help.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: I am not defending him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He will answer them. You need not say anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Let him also not speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No. I have not permitted you to intervene when he is speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: Then, kindly do not allow him also to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have told them also.

I have given the right to speak only to the main speaker.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: But this right does not permit him to question a unanimous Resolution passed by the House.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is talking about the men on the streets. He is not talking about you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam, I am not questioning the Resolution passed by the House. I am talking about what the people in the streets say. I am talking about the people of my constituency. People say like that. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This cross-talk will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The Arab League did not pass any Resolution against the United States of America. It is a conglomeration of Islamic States. The German Chancellor at the end of the war said that the war should end quickly with the victory for allies.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We are discussing the Demand of the Ministry of External Affairs and not the conduct of America. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You should have told the same thing when Shri Rupchand Pal was speaking. He dealt with Iraq only. About 75 per cent of his speech was on Iraq.

As I was saying, Mr. Putin the President of Russia and that he did not want America to be defeated. Whose victory did he want if he did not want the defeat of the United States of America. Even Jacques Chirac, the hon. President of France, also said that he was happy that it had ended quickly with the victory for allies. France, Germany and Russia, who opposed it from the very beginning, changed their stance. We passed the Resolution on the same day that the American Army should quit. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You had also supported the Resolution.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam, it is just like the statement made by Madan Srimavo Bandaranaike in 1971 when the Indian Army was just going to occupy Dhaka. At that time, she issued a statement that the Indian Army should quit Bangladesh. That is why the people on the streets are thoroughly confused about the Resolution passed by the House.

My point to the hon. Minister is that he should not go by this type of resolutions of just taking sides. We are criticising America but it is America which has asked Pakistan to respect the Line of Control. It is the United States of America which sought assurance from Pakistan to permanently end the cross-border terrorism. It praised India for the free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir. It welcomes the initiation of political process with the appointment of Shri N.N. Vohra as the Government interlocutor in Jammu and Kashmir. America supported the healing touch policy of Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Government in Jammu and Kashmir.

America has its own compulsion in not declaring Pakistan as a terrorist nation. When any country takes a decision, it takes the decision on the basis of its self-interest and not on the interests of some other country. So, America has got its own compulsion. But it is true that Pakistan is going to be the next target of USA. I saw a TV interview just about seven days back. The BBC was interviewing two of the Senators of Pakistan in Islamabad. The entire half-an-hour discussion was only on whether Pakistan would be the next target of USA. They discussed it for about half-an-hour with the two Senators of Pakistan on the BBC. What was the reply of the Senators? They were saying, 'all right, there are so many terrorists in this country but America cannot chew more than what it can digest'. That means already it has attacked two countries and now it cannot attack Pakistan because it cannot engage Army in three countries. They did not say that they do not have terrorists in their country. They are also thoroughly terrorised that now it might be their turn.

Madam, I agree with the remarks made by Shri Tripathi and I would appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister for External Affairs that India's relationship with the United States of America should not be Pakistan centric. If India has some differences with America, it should address them through dialogue and not through knee-jerk anti-American rhetoric. If we have the differences with regard to Pakistan, then India should undertake an intensive dialogue with the United State of America with regard to Pakistan alone.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please wind up now. You are running out of time. You have already taken 16 minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam, I am concluding. As regards China, it has been said that Indian soil should not be allowed to be utilised for political purposes by the Tibetans. His Holiness, Mr. Dalai Lama has been an hon. guest of India. India is a country which has given sanctuary to all those people who were oppressed all over the world. In the earlier days, the Christians, the Parsis, the Jews, and even at times the Muslims were also accommodated. I do not go by the people who go by the British historians that Aryans came from the Caspian Sea to occupy India. So my point is that India has accommodated everybody and India has accommodated the oppressed people of Tibet. Now, Chinese have entered in large numbers into Tibet. They are shifting large population to those areas and 60 per cent of Tibet's population is now Chinese. What is the condition of the Tibetans in China? They are all class IV employees. They are the *jhadudars* and the *chaprasis*. All the good things of life have gone to the Chinese. I had been to Xinziang Province where the Uighurs are fighting a sort of cessation war with China. Now, the Hans are inundating that area. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Madam, there should be some meaningful discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He has a right to express his views. Please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Madam, Shri Rupchand Pal thinks that only he can speak on international affairs because he is here for the last 20 years. He thinks that a Member like me who is here for the last four or five years only, cannot speak on international affairs.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please address the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: So, they are totally eliminating and obliterating the Tibetan culture in Tibet. The European Union has given three years' time to China to provide autonomy to the Tibetans. There is a possibility that after three years, if the autonomy is not given to Tibet by China, the Tibetan Government in exile, which is in India, would be given recognition by the European Union.

What the Union Government is going to do? My appeal to the hon. Minister of External Affairs and also

to the hon. Prime Minister, when he visits China, is that they should try to impress upon the Chinese authorities that if not independence, at least some autonomy should be provided to Tibet. There is nothing wrong in doing that.

Madam, I would just like to cite two instances on Kashmir. I would not like to dwell much on the Kashmir issue because Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi has already mentioned about it. One is about what a *paan* shop owner said after the elections were held in the State. He had said that he did not go to cast his vote in the elections because he did not know as to whether the elections in the State would be free and fair. Had he known that the elections would be free and fair, he would have gone taking along with him his fellow villagers to cast his vote against the National Conference Government. In another case, a common man had said that he always lived a life that was sandwiched between the Indian Army and the terrorists. He had always a feeling that he did not have any power. But all of a sudden, during the elections, he realised that he had the power to cast his vote. He went and exercised his power. The Bhartiya Janata Party lost the elections in the State of Jammu and Kashmir but India won, my Motherland had won. That is the achievement of my party and that is the achievement of this NDA Government led by hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vjapayee. Though the party lost the elections but the prestige of the country was enhanced in the comity of nations.

How did all violence start in the State of Jammu and Kashmir? It started in the year 1987 when the late Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India. It was so because during his time the election process was rigged and that is why terrorism had started in the State. In is this Government that has helped in eliminating the menace of rigging in elections. We did not resort to rigging and it is we who have resotred democracy in the State.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This is the impression that he wants to give to the outside world. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister for External Affairs that we should develop better relations with the ASEAN countries. We should also establish better relations with the world through the process of globalisation. We should have capacity building and we should also have good co-operation with G-24, Group of 77, G-22, G-50 and SAARC nations. Finally, through a Track II diplomacy, we should

see that we develop good relations with the ASEAN countries in the days to come.

Madam, finally I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for External Affairs and the hon. Prime Minister for leading the country in the right direction.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Madam Chairman, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on Demands for Grants for the Ministry of External Affairs. Cutting across party lines the House is deliberating on the Demands for Grants for this Ministry.

Madam, India has been following the principle of Non-alignment right from the days of Pandit Nehru. We all know what is *Panchasheel* and I need not repeat it. We have been following the principle of non-aggression. But Pakistan is engaging itself in the act of aggression. At one point of time China also committed an act of aggression. We believe in the principle of peaceful co-existence. But some of our neighbours have not accepted this principle. As regards mutual benefit, we have been benefiting. In the 14th meeting of the Indo-China Joint Working Group on the border dispute between India and China, our External Affairs Minister or the Foreign Secretary would have participated. It has to be resolved through the process of negotiations.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, it is our traditional enemy right from the time of partition. The situation got aggravated after the division of Bangladesh from Pakistan. I would like to tell the External Affairs Minister the attitude of Pakistanis towards India. About twenty years back, when I had visited the UN, I came down to the ground floor to take tea in a tea-shop. That tea-shop happened to be owned by a Pakistani young man. He asked whether I was an Indian. At that time I was the Deputy-Speaker in our State Assembly. When I replied that I was an Indian, he quipped to say that he would see to it that India would be torn into pieces one day. He had that kind of grudge and aggressive feeling in his mind towards India after the division of Bangladesh. Therefore, it is very difficult to erase this kind of feeling. This kind of feeling has been sown into the minds of every Pakistani youth. Now it has been nurtured by President Pervez Musharraf.

Our Prime Minister has time and again said in all-Party meetings that whenever he raised the question of cross-border terrorism with President Pervez Musharraf, he used to raise the question of Kashmir. That was the counter problem that used to be projected by President

- Pervez Musharraf. I have been consistently making the point in this House that President Pervez Musharraf's action is not *bona fide* insofar as India is concerned.

When the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party visited our Parliament House, we had been invited to that meeting. We posed a question to the Chairman as to what was his opinion about Pakistan. He said that Pakistan was their traditional friend. China has expressed that view. Therefore, now we have not neighbours in China and Pakistan. There are other neighbours also. There is an act of depredation in drug trafficking and in ISI activities. But what have we done to curb these activities?

Madam, when we discussed the question of fencing of our borders in the Home Affairs Committee, we were told that almost all our borders were open. It is a porous fencing. Chinese also can enter India. The barbed fencing is not complete. On all sides of our borders we have only this porous fencing. We have no compound. Even kings had big compounds around their kingdom; but India has no compound of its own. Even the barbed fencing is yet to be completed. Since there is no fencing, there is a lot of scope for infiltration by Pakistanis and Chinese either through Nepal or from any other border. And there is an act of terrorism being committed by these foreign nationals. When we deliberated about cross-border terrorism in this House, we had all expressed our unanimous opinion that Pakistan should be declared a terrorist State. This was the view of everybody and even the Finance Minister expressed it. I am sorry, he is the then Finance Minister. You are always looking to me as the Finance Minister. I do not see you as the External Affairs Minister since you dealt with Finance. ...*(Interruptions)*

There are two routes—the Cyprus route and the Mauritius route. Since you happened to be the Finance Minister, you know it and I am treating you like that. It is to facilitate the foreign investors to get a benefit in India. Whether these two routes, the Mauritius route and the Turkish route, have been closed or not after the amendment? I think it was in the JPC that we had a deliberation on this point. After the submission of the Report to this House, what action has the then Finance Minister and the present External Affairs Minister taken to close the route to save the Indian economy? I think the tax system will benefit those investors.

France is leading the West. Everyone was looking forward to India as to whether it will lead the East. Where

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

are we? Some Members said that nobody is caring for us. I would say that we need not expect anybody to care for us. We are proud that we are a big country with a population of many millions. We have natural resources and even after the Britishers looted us, we are still surviving. Even after Robert Clive was impeached, we have a surviving economy. So, our country has a rich tradition with mineral and other wealth. Our country is surrounded by seas and we have sea wealth.

When our Committee visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands, we were able to see from there that one can go easily by boat to Thailand. There is a mechanism adopted by Thailand. They can come to our territorial waters and drive our fish to their territory and can help their fishermen. That way, our international sea route should be looked into. It should be safeguarded. Of course, the Coast Guard is there. They are taking steps. But the External Affairs Minister is the monitor and protector of our external region and our internal affairs are being monitored by our Home Minister. You are the compound wall. You should not crack.

I should say that India is a big country. But we should have a closed hand. We should not open it. If we open it, they will come to know about it. We have strong States and Centre. Though it is a multiparty rule, it has prolonged for more than three years. So, it is a stable Government and the neighbouring countries will not have any inclination to damage our country.

Our Prime Minister went to Kuala Lumpur. The Non-Aligned Summit was held under the Chairmanship of Malaysia. The subject was revitalisation of Non-Aligned Movement. The Movement has to be revitalised. I think Government of India would have revitalised the Non-Aligned Movement.

India should be non-aligned. We cannot join a bloc. Small countries join one bloc or the other, like NATO, CEATO and CENTO. They are small countries. They will not be able to protect themselves. They will have to get shelter under somebody, under some country. But India is a big country. So, we should be independent. We should not join any bloc. That was the principle propounded by Jawaharlal Nehru, Nasser and Tito.

In that way, the Non-Aligned Movement should be revitalised to create a healthy atmosphere among our neighbours. All our neighbours are small and they are dependent on us. Bhutan is a small neighbour, Nepal is

a small neighbour and even Bangladesh is a small neighbour. We have helped Bangladesh by giving them grants and by giving them loans. We have given our locomotives to Bangladesh. It was on the basis of loan. They have not even repaid that till date. So, India, though a big country, has small source of revenue. With that we have been able to help our neighbours. Poverty alleviation programmes are being launched here. At the same time we are catering to the needs of the poor people who live in and around our neighbourhood.

At this stage, I should ask as to what steps the Government of India has taken to prevent the infiltration of ISI till now. They have been circulating Rs. 500 notes in our country. They are trying to spoil our economy. What steps has the Government of India taken regarding that? I would like to know that.

I will finish within a minute. I happen to be a Member in the Consultative Committee of the External Affairs. So, I know a little.

Hon. Minister of External Affairs visited the United Kingdom to meet the Foreign Secretary. He would have met him. What is the end result of that meeting. What did you discuss in that meeting?

There is a Millbrook Action Programme of 1995 to deal with violations of Harare principles of democracy and human rights. I would like to know what decision was taken at the Conference. I would like to know about SADC, the Southern African Development Community. In that you had a regional organisation consisting of fourteen countries of South Africa, like Angola, Congo and other African countries. India has signed an MoU on the economic front. Whose has happened subsequent to the signing of the MoU?

I would like to know about Indo-Libyan Joint Commission. I think you would have met them subsequently after 19th October, 2002. What happened in the last one year after this meeting?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Pandian, you have to wind up now.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Then, there is Indo-Yemen Joint Committee. You have given us the gist of the programme. Let the House know as to what decision was taken at the Indo-Yemen Joint Committee meeting which was held in New Delhi from October 30th to 31st, 2002. One year has elapsed.

17.00 hrs.

So, probably, he would have circulated to the Department but the House is not aware of that so far. Therefore, let us know where India stands in the international arena and let us know where India is dominating. Our people think that India is in a dominating position in international affairs. Many countries dominate in international affairs due to their GDP growth. We need not compete with America. That dimension is totally different. We are self-reliant. We are highly democratic and ours is the largest democracy in the world and it has proved to be successful in the whole world.

Sir, I would like to say that the Ministry of External Affairs has been doing well. Maybe there will be some shortcomings, but they may not come to light. If there is some issues relating to the internal security of the country, there will be heated exchanges here and it will come to light, but here the position is different. All the political parties are cooperating with the Government on all international issues. The foreign policy of the country is evolved by the Central Government and all the political parties are cooperating with the Government on all international issues.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs presented by the Minister of External Affairs who was the former Finance Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Madam Chairman, it is almost three to three and a half years' after we have got an opportunity for the first time in Thirteenth Lok Sabha to hold discussion over the foreign policy. Generally, we see there is a tendency here perhaps due to political compulsions that if anyone speaks from this side, he will consistently criticise and if anyone happens to speak from the other side he will go on praising being unaware of everything else. At least this can't be a political issue because there has been a tradition in our country that up till now, we have been driven by consensus on the issue of foreign policy. Now this is going to be a bit uncomfortable that during the Governance of the earlier Government his consensus got a bit eroded however, I hold the conviction that everything is neither fair nor unfair.

The global political scenario is changing very fast. During the last decade, the world politics, international politics and international relations among the countries is undergoing a transition phase. Today, polarisation is

occurring on various grounds that is an attempt to establish new system by breaking the traditional system. Whether this system will be good or bad will be exposed in the time to come. Only the future will tell. However, one thing is factual which just can't be changed that the foreign policy of a country aimed at accomplishing the economic, political and international goals and to achieve them without the application of Military power, is a diplomatic art. In this perspective, two things emerge on the forefront. First, the foreign policy of any country can't be divorced from its internal conditions. The foreign policy of the country will encompass three policies. Such as domestic policy, Economic policy and policy on security, defence policy as an integrated whole. If it's not so, in my view it's an erroneous foreign policy. Therefore, let's first see that the discussion we are holding today focussed on the foreign policy should be reviewed on the basis of these points and in this light it should be seen as where do we stand.

Madam Chairman, as has been viewed till date there has been three constituting factors postulating our foreign policy. We supported Non-alignment by being alienated from international fora. We are one of the founding members. India has been one of its leading members. The second thing which has been the most appreciated one and recognised internationally, was Nuclear disarmament at the International level. We have been raising our voice in the international fora as the most prominent advocate of the total disarmament and have been continuing it effectively right from the days of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and even during the regime of Rajiv Gandhi. Our basis principle of peaceful co-existence was founded on the tenet that we wish to establish our relationship with all the countries on equal grounds. We recognise them at equal level and do hold the sovereignty of every nation in high esteem. Let's see where do we stand today. During a few years in the past the domestic policy and the internal situation of India has radically changed. Till recently, notwithstanding the whole lot of diversities, India was being looked upto in the international arena for the reasons of being integrated despite linguistic, cultural religious diversities. The whole of the nation was looked upon as united one. But in the recent past, there has been attempts to divide the country on religious and political grounds that has spoiled the image of the country in the International Community. We can't deny it. Our reliance has been stigmatized. It's not in the Muslim countries that doubts have been raised against it as but also in such Western countries that are not in support of the Muslim Countries, we are being looked upon with suspicion. In the first place, what needs

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

to be done is that for the successful implementation of foreign policy, for its effective implementation. Let's first improve the situation at home. The more segregation takes place within the country, the more it will get fuelled and our voice in the international front will be weaker and non-effective. If we have to maintain our position in the international forum, it's mandatory for us to pay attention to the domestic situation in the first place. The country which would lead the whole lot of countries and 108 non-aligned nations, is currently left in the lurch at the international level. Let's take a few examples.

Madam Chairman, a few days back, you would have been confronted with the news published in the newspapers that many incidents have occurred concomitantly in many countries. It became an issue of concern. The issue found its mention in the additional column of the HINDUSTAN, that there have been attacks on Indian IT experts, businessmen, they were arrested unnecessarily and they were humiliated. Is it the same country that once used to lead 108 countries? Today, we are facing this situation.

Much has been said about American dominance and it has been denied by some of our friends. I am of the view that no country can afford its sustenance by ignoring its ground-political realities. Changes have taken place. No matter howsoever encomium is drawn from the merits of stability but there is no such word as stability in the International polity. What replaces it there is Dynamism. I am in favour of this change but to what extent. Should it be to such an extent as in the wake of Kargil war. President Clinton visits here, makes his address in the Central Hall. He moves away by slapping us saying that Pakistani Army hasn't been off Kargil through our endeavours but it was due to American intervention. Our entire political leadership continue to sit there silently and we could not utter a single word. We have chased them back with our own might, not due to your benevolence. It was our duty on to maintain our honour and it's really a matter of national shame that our entire leadership remained mute-listener.

Kashmir issue and our relations with China, even if we may not agree, the fact is that our relationship with the all other countries has been shadowed with it. Our relations with all other nations turned out to be Pakistan-centric in one hand and China phobia on the other, such sentences were uttered. I personally don't lend credence to them however, I would definitely say one thing that Kashmir is our problem. Hon'ble Prime Minister told this on many occasions. No stranger will venture to resolve

this issue. We will have to seek a solution to this issue with our competence, efficiency and strength. A host of countries may sympathise with us. There may be many nations to support us psychologically but we will have to solve our problems and what is the real state-of-affairs. What is the policy of the Government on Kashmir issue? I am very much concerned to think of policy on Kashmir. In the first place, this Government releases Jail-inmates belonging to Hurriyat-Conference without taking the then Jammu & Kashmir Government into confidence. Now a few of the issues have been discussed on track-2 and track-4. It was probable that efforts will be made to embark on a solution to Kashmir issue but sadly the dialogue with the Hurriyat failed before its start. Even before the dialogue with the Hurriyat resulting in fiasco dialogues began with one group of Hizbul-Muzahiddin. People associated with Hurriyat became furious and so did the National Conference. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude in 2 minutes.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Please have taken 25 minutes. I have just begun.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I know. I am going by the Party time. I can give 15 minutes each. You have finished 12 minutes. There are two more speakers.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Madam, I withdraw. You please give my time also to him.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: No sooner talks with Hurriyat delegation was not completed, the Government started talks with Hizbul Mujahideen. A declaration was made that until terrorism stops, we will not hold any talk with Pakistan. But the very next day, how the policy of the Government changes. The Government announced unilateral ceasefire in the month of 'Ramzan'. What was the impact of that ceasefire on the morale of our security forces. It is a vast issue which needs a lengthy debate. But due to paucity of time I would not like to go into the detail. But how come in that on one hand, we say that we will have no talks with Pakistan till terrorism and infiltration ends, but on the other we invite Mussaraf to Agra. Whatever happened in Agra is a part of history now. The whole world know that how amateur politicians we are. A General comes and goes back with a political and diplomatic win. He steals

the show and we remain mere mute-spectators because we were there without any proper home work. You can not deny the international set back we have suffered at his hands. Even if you don't accept it then truth will never change. K.C. Pant was appointed interlocutor of the Government but nobody came to talk to him. Let us leave this issue of K.C. Pant. Thereafter, Kashmir Committee was constituted. Former Union Law Minister, Shri Jethmalani ji was appointed as Chairman of Kashmir Committee. He went there and met with the people. I do not know whom he met there. But when some people of Kashmir came to Delhi the Government categorically denied have any meeting with them. Later on, assembly elections were held and Mufti Mohammad Sahib formed the Government. Since then the Government headed by Mufti Mohammad Sahib is on the target of the Bharatiya Janta Party's Government. The Union Government have been demoralising the Government of Jammu and Kashmir continuously for the last three months.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): But the State Government is giving us certificate that the Central Government is providing every assistance to them. Have you not gone through the statement made by Mufti Sahib?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I will come to that point also. After criticising the Government of Jammu and Kashmir continuously for a period of three months, the hon. Prime Minister visited Jammu and Kashmir recently and made a positive statement about the State Government. In response to the assurances given by the hon. Prime Minister there, Mufti Mohammed Sahib made a statement. Since elections till date apart from Mufti Sahib's Government, who were others in Kashmir? There were the same six people who were released earlier also by the National Conference Government, which were part of the NDA Government. Then why is this hue and cry when they have been released by Mufti Saheb's Government. Parliament was attacked. The military was deployed at border which was the biggest mobilisation of India. Military remained there for ten months. I asked the Minister of Home Affairs that military was deployed there for ten months so there must have been some political and military targets, have they been achieved. We were talking of a decisive battle but nothing happened and after keeping the army at border for ten months our soldiers were sent back to their barracks. Some people say that this was done under the pressure of America. I do not admit that this would have happened. I would not like to admit that this would have happened. If such a thing has happened then what would be more shameful

that this for a country of 100 crore people and 30 lakh army men. Today the condition of the country is quite ridiculous inside and outside the country. Before formulating a balanced foreign policy we need to formulate a clear cut internal policy. First of all we should manage our own house. We expect from America that they declare Pakistan a terrorist state. But our own Government have accorded them the status of the most favoured nation. The how do you expect from other countries that they would declare Pakistan a terrorist state. You need to be clear enough on this count.

Lastly, I will conclude after giving two-three suggestions. We need a balanced foreign policy today. We can formulate it by having national consensus. If we allow our own political considerations to come in between formulation of balanced policy then the general consensus would disappear which would not be in the national interest. Therefore, a full-fledged foreign policy should be formulated after having wide deliberation with all political parties. We need to formulate a detailed foreign policy. We must define our immediate and urgent policy and objectives to be followed by the mid-term and long term policies and objectives. We need to be clear enough as far as our strategy to achieve these objectives is concerned. There should be comprehensive discussion as to what would be our strategy to achieve these objectives. This needs our collective wisdom.

The Government is working with the same old system in the External Affairs Ministry which needs to be changed. There has been a tremendous change in the world. Some changes have taken place in between. There is need to consider it seriously. The Ministry of External Affairs, Embassies and other institutes in foreign countries need a fresh look. They require to be restructured. There is need to reorganise them entirely. We need to adopt new and modern system. The entire system has changed in other countries. Information is collected from three different sources. They have a centralised system where all such informations are analyzed. They are reviewed in historical background reviewing the information also and only after they have been critically analysed and reviewed, a final conclusion is drawn. That final conclusion too is put on trial. We need to adopt the same system whereby only three basic elements should be allowed to be a part of our foreign policy which have been properly analyzed, reviewed and put on trial on different stages. I know that even today we are working with the old and out fashioned system. In India, there is need to have a new policy and new system so that we can face the challenges of modern age and also achieve the targets of modern days. There

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

is need to consider it seriously. The relation between two countries of Indian Ocean needs to be considered very seriously. The British Government did not make security measures for India inside India rather they opened frontiers in Iran, Tibet and Burma. Hindustan used to be guarded from these countries. The time has changed now. We will have to develop and give our relations a fresh look. We need to have a new policy for gulf countries, and South Africa. You speak of east look policy, we will have to go through it also. No doubt we have discussed the East look policy but the impetus and focus it deserves have not been given to it. Even a country like Taiwan, I know there is hesitation on your part, is also having a strong economic position. Taiwan is a member of WTO. We too are a member of this organisation. When China can have trade relations with them and can invest billions of dollar there, why can not we improve our trade relations with them.

There were many things to be talked about but very little time is there. Lastly I would like to say only this much that we have to stop have a partisan view as far as our foreign policy is concerned. We will have to view it in its totality. We will have to view it from our national interest and we need to be very serious in this regard. I conclude with the hope that may be my pleasant and unpleasant talks bring some improvement and some changes.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, you must finish your speech within 10 minutes' time.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): I will try to do so.

There are basically three or four points which I would like to mention. We should accept that today we are living in a uni-polar world. For the last 56 years, the only institution, which actually fluttered the flag of multilateralism or provided a proof of multipolarism, was the United Nations. I would also like to mention here about the Non-Aligned Movement about which, I think, a number of times, a mention was made no longer remains a movement. When we discuss the situation about Iraq or the pounding of Iraq by the coalition forces, we should not confine ourselves to say that is only the American forces which were doing this but we should say that it is the coalition forces which were doing this.

The United Nations, created after II World War, is actually a creature of cold war as has been reported in

different spheres, was just a mute spectator. At the same time I would like to mention here very categorically that the Non-Aligned Movement is no longer a movement. It has now turned into a club where around 103 or 107 Heads of State or Heads of Government congregate for about a week's time, exchange their views and give out their point of view on different situations and issues.

A mention has been made about Bangladesh and also about the Kashmir situation. I have a different point of view; I do not know how others would react to it. I was also a student during the seventies just as Shri Kharabela Swain mentioned that he was a student of political science. We come from the same college though he was few years senior to me. It was in December 1971 that the *Muktivahini* forces along with the Indian Forces marched into East Pakistan or Bangladesh, as it is called now. Today, after 32 years, a question arise in my mind. The question is that in 1971, even in 1977 and even during Madam Gandhi's tenure from 1980 to 1984, even later on I have spoken here, that it was a historic moment. I cherish that photograph of General Niazi's surrender, television was not prevalent then. We rejoiced that we achieved a glorious moment and our Indian Army has achieved which we always strove to attain in 1965, which we failed to achieve in 1962. That gave us prestige. Every Indian was proud wherever he went throughout the world. But a question still lingers in my mind. Did we do the right thing? Did we do the right thing, in the context, when we see that Kashmir is bleeding every day? It has become a killing field today. It may have started since 1987 or even since 1948. Every year, or every month, to say the least, Indians are bleeding in Kashmir. The question is whether we did the right thing in 1971-72. When East Pakistan was there, every day, Pakistan was bleeding; and by the vivisection of Pakistan in 1971, Pakistan has got rid of a decomposed organ for a different reason of course. Pakistan is concentrating more on Kashmir today. But for us Bangladesh has become another sore, on another front. We thought Pakistan would be totally confined to the western front and our eastern borders would be safe. But today that is not so. That is why the question still lingers in my mind. It may occur to many others also.

I had told earlier that when we discuss about the foreign policy of any country, the only interest a country can have—whether it is diplomacy or anything else—is not emotional but of national interest. Many things have been said, policies have been laid out and a lot of money has also been spent on emotional causes. It may be just before the Vietnam War; it may be for many other

reasons. But what was our national interest? Today, what should be our interest? The national interest can be not him, but to make the country strong. I remember, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was in service in 1989. This occurred then. He was present there. I had the privilege of being in Belgrade to attend the Ninth NAM Conference where in the last night, after around 10.30 or so suddenly we were brought back to the Conference Hall to witness a new chapter to history was being added. We heard Dr. Julius Nyerere's speech and along with him were the then hon. Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. There the 'Group of 15' was formed. In 1989 it dawned on all the leaders and on all the members of the NAM that it is not the right way to proceed, as the NAM is growing. Trade and commerce should be the corner-stone and we should have a Group of 15 where we can tide over the situation which has developed during the last so many years after the fall of colonialism, after the death blow was given to colonial powers by Hitler. But there has been a little change of power centres after the Second World War. Colonialism in a different garte in still prevalent in this world.

Even today when Indian traders are doing trade and commerce with other countries especially with Latin American in African countries, our trade and our commerce has to be practiced *via* Paris, *via* Frankfurt and *via* London. We cannot have trade with Latin American countries directly or through any developing countries. We cannot reach African countries through Cairo or through South Africa or any other country. We have to go *via* Germany, *via* France or *via* London and trade and commerce is being determined from those places. Still the same old colonial practice is prevalent. If you want to be rich, if you want to be economically and militarily strong, then attempt has to be made to make India strong. But the question today is what attempt is being made to make this country economically stronger?

I agree, there are many aspects when we discuss about foreign relations. One aspect is how we look at our neighbours. How friendly we are with them. How much our neighbours believe in us and to what extent they can come along with us. To inculcate a feeling of fraternity, a big country like ours has to help our neighbours financially, morally and emotionally in a diplomatic way. I know.

17.33 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I know a lot of money has been spent with a number of projects in Bhutan. Though small attempt has been

made with Myanmar, we are yet to open our coffers for investment in Bangladesh and in Nepal in a big way. With Pakistan, of course, the old Indus Treaty is there. However, there are many other aspects where we can work out. But still my anxiety is that for the last 56-57 years we are concentrating mainly on Kashmir. We have to tide over that situation and do not get bogged down in our domestic problem by highlighting it in international arena. ...*(Interruptions)*

I was talking about trade and commerce. There was a time when India was rich in trade and commerce. At that time, we controlled the Indian ocean the maritime activities. But later on in the Middle Ages, it was the Arabs who controlled it. However, the Europeans overthrew Arabs and that is how they controlled the landmass for a longer period.

Now I would come to another aspect of history. The aspect is the Army exerted the first power, which controlled the land and through Army that power centre controlled the world. They were the super power. At one point of time for a brief period it was the Greeks, but for a longer period it was the Romans. But later in the middle ages, even towards the end of the 19th Century the forces that controlled the sea controlled the power in the world. They were the Europeans. In the 20th Century, after the First World War, even till this date, the power, which controls the sky, controls the power of the world. We have to accept these facts.

Today, after the demise of the Soviet Union, for the last so many years, more than a decade, it is the United States, and we have to accept this fact, which controls the sky. How can we overcome this situation of today as a free independent nation is the big question? It can only happen by strengthening our economic power and by becoming an economic giant.

I remember here another interesting aspect and I want to share it with you; it is not a secret though. At that time I was not a member of any Government delegation; but I was present as member of the Press in the Oval Office. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister. An interesting thing happened in the Oval Office. We were four or five Press persons present there and an interesting question was asked by President Clinton. Perhaps, it was in 1994. The question was: "Mr. Prime Minister, why is it that you are spending so much of money on defence? You are a developing nation. This money can be diverted to the social sector so that the nation can prosper".

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

As a member from the Press we were all eager to hear how our Prime Minister was going to react. It was a very tricky question though. It was a very delicate situation that before three or four members of the Press the President of the United States of America, in his Oval Office, asked that question to our Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* That is way in which they are recognised.

But Rao Saheb was clever to the true sense of the term. He was an intelligent man. He was speaking not only as a Congress Prime Minister but he was representing this great nation of ours. I remember his reply because that impressed me very much. His reply was: "India is a functional democracy. It is an ancient civilisation which has attained freedom after long struggle of 90 years." He explained this because the President, Mr. Clinton said: "As Japan has progressed, as Germany has become economically strong, why India can not do this? We will protect your skies." These are the words which he mentioned. He said: "We will protect your skies". It was because at that time all those missiles like Agni and the like were coming on. That was, perhaps, one of the topics which both of them discussed during their one-to-one discussion. Perhaps, they might have discussed about it earlier. But before us, our Prime Minister said: "We have attained freedom after long struggle of 90 years. You, Mr. President, support us to maintain the democratic temper of our country". And it ended there.

I am sure our foreign policy is in safe hands today. I had other aspects also to speak on; but I would conclude within another two-three minutes. Taking the changed situation of the world into consideration, we should climb out from the time capsule of Nehru era. I hear in this House and also I read in many other forums where many of our think tanks always fall back on what happened in the Fifties, what happened in the Sixties and what happened in the Seventies. But what is happening today? We cannot be confined to a time capsule. We have to accept the situation of today and proceed accordingly. That is how we can prosper, we can compete and we can excel.

Today when we accept that the world has become a unipolar world and our national interest lies if the world becomes a multi-polar world, what should we do?

In what manner we can strive to attain our desired position? I think, in that prospect, we have to strive to make the United Nation more functional. For the last many years, despite whoever is the Foreign Minister and despite whoever is the Prime Minister, many a time a

discussion has been going on why does India not become a permanent member of the Security Council. I would expect our hon. Minister for External Affairs to throw light on this issue.

I would also like to state here that more stress should be given on trade and commerce while we expand our relationship in the world. The last thing I would like to say is that when we want to increase our military strength, at the same time, we should also expand our economic strength. Then only, people will listen to us. This may be my presumption that it is for this reason that—I do not know whether other Members will agree with me or not—a successful Finance Minister for five years has taken the reins of the Ministry of External Affairs and for this very reason and a successful Minister of External Affairs has taken the reins of the Ministry of Finance.

Sir, I thank you again for allowing me to express a few words and conclude by saying that I support the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, we are having a debate here on a very important issue. The foreign policy of a country is shaped keeping in view the interests of the country. Today, we are discussing this important issue for the first time in Parliament. More than 55 years have passed since the country got its independence. Half a Century has passed. A half century is not an ordinary time. In this half century the map of the world and the map of India too have undergone a change. The map which existed in 1947 on paper is not the same. A country like Russia has also disintegrated. The foreign policy certainly can no longer be the same today as it was 54 years ago. But at the point of time when we are having the discussion here, our foreign policy in India carries far greater importance than ever before. The United Nations has disintegrated. Its power has undermined. I do not want to repeat all those things which my colleagues have already spoken before me. The objective for which the United Nations was formed has lost its significance. We have not been able to forge so much friendly relations with the surrounding neighbouring countries as we were supposed to have during the last 55 years rather our animosity with most of these countries has accentuated. The countries of the world which inclined to be friends have ceased to be our friends and we have not been able to win new ones.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing wrong if some countries leave us and some other countries become friendly. Our Government is trying to have new friendly countries and we are not opposed to it. If Government wants friendship with America in the interest of India then it must do but to what extent we have succeeded in this. Whether we have been successful in fastening that friendship further? Whether the USA has not humiliated us before the entire world? Recently our Prime Minister has made a very important statement in Kashmir with which the all the people of India are attached since because of it the importance of our foreign policy in the entire world increases or decreases. Now the most important point before us is why the Prime Minister made such a statement in J&K instead of Delhi that we want better relations with Pakistan. Who will disagree that we should not have better relations with Pakistan. We have been repeatedly saying that Pakistan should put an end to cross-border-terrorism. At the time when the Prime Minister was speaking in Kashmir the Minister of External Affairs was saying in New Delhi that we will not hold talks with Pakistan unless it stops cross border-terrorism. But in Kashmir the Prime Minister was saying that we are prepared to hold every kind of talks with Pakistan. Making this sort of statement in Kashmir enhances its importance. On the one hand we say that we shall not have any talk and we shall not compromise with anybody in the matter of Kashmir. In my view this statement will further strengthen terrorism. We are accepting the fact that the issue of Kashmir is a disputed one. If the issue of Kashmir is to be solved then Pakistan is also a party to it. It will change our entire foreign policy. I would like to the Government to clarify in this House the policy we have in this matter. Whether we are prepared to have talks with Pakistan under such circumstances; whether we want to resolve the Kashmir issue through dialogue with Pakistan. On the one hand we have been saying time and again that Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayed, the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir has been releasing terrorists and is aggravating the problem of Kashmir. I have already stated in this very House during the last 54 years several Governments came and went but the problem of Kashmir could not be solved. The Government of Mufti Mohammad Sayed is a popularly elected Government, it should be given time and opportunity. He should be allowed to solve this problem the way he likes. We may review the position after two or four years. If he fails, then we will also point out his short-comings and tell him that if these shortcomings had not been there, he might have succeeded. But, making such a statement in Kashmir was not, in my view, a proper thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Iraq has been widely debated in this House. All the issues whether it is an issue of Iraq or Pakistan ultimately gets linked with America and in our foreign policy a lot has been said about America in this report but I could find only five to six lines in this report about Iraq which has been ravaged and destroyed by America and which tells the tale of woe and suppression. I could hardly find 5-6 lines in this report about the Iraq which always stood by India, Iraq remained neutral during 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan. Iraq stood in favour of India and the Iraq which favoured India against Pakistan in the United Nations. This latest report is for the year 2002-2003. The Government has said the following in this Report about America.

[English]

The terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September, and on the Indian Parliament on 13 December have led to a deepening of Indo-US relations in the field.

[Translation]

I am seeing it for the first time that we have been attacked and they also have come under attack and due to this reason our relations have strengthened considerably. How ridiculous it is! See the yard stick of strengthening relations. Look at the foreign policy of India! It says they have been attacked severely and we have also been attacked severely so we both became friends and also see how America is living upto the friendship with us. We tried to allure America when it attacked Afghanistan by offering it our land, skies, petrol, diesel and even bases. America said, 'no' we shall not come to you, we shall use Pakistan. America has let us down. When Iraq was attacked, it triggered a debate in this House wherein it was stated by the Government that they want to find out a middle path and even today it is being said that adopting the middle path was appropriate. Whatever has happened in Iraq has borne out that it only should have been our policy. I am ashamed of it. Can we allow our friend to be killed just because it is going to be beneficial for in future! I had also stated earlier in this House and I reiterate it today also that Iraq is not the ultimate destination of America. After Afghanistan it was Iraq. Iraq will be followed by Syria. After Syria it will be the turn of Iran and India is also on its target. The time to come will prove this. Presently our friends in the world have decreased instead of increasing. The country, can never be strong if the political parties will frame the foreign policy keeping in view their respective interests. If the

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

political party which comes into power think that they will frame the foreign policy in accordance with their interests then it will increase terrorism and the persons and agents of countries of the world will start living in that country. Foreign policy is never framed keeping in view the interests of the political parties but it is framed in the national interests. 'The Telegraph' has written about Iraq.

[English]

"The Bharatiya Janata Party is truly a Party of petty businessmen. It cannot see beyond minor advantages to be had out of the Iraq crisis. The Indian position on Iraq is a result of certain hopefulness about strategic gains. As the situation unfolds, New Delhi realises that the war in Iraq will create a firmament in the Muslim world. Iraq is just the beginning of the Americans engagement in a Muslim country. Subsequently, it would have to deal with Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and others. There are powerful forces in New Delhi which are looking at the conflict in Iraq through communal glasses and believe that India stands to gain from this conflict of civilisations".

[Translation]

If the foreign policy is framed solely because it will benefit our political party; just now some of our colleagues said that the word 'Islamic terrorism' was used. The discussion on foreign policy and Islamic terrorism is being talked about.

The resolution which was passed unanimously in the House and the way it was discussed was praiseworthy. Domestic political consideration are not taken into account while framing our foreign policy. Country's interest is supreme and foreign policy is based on this interest. Now I will conclude in two-three minutes. I would feel disturbed if you ring-up the bell. I will conclude my points in two-three minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir Bush Saheb said in a statement:—

[English]

"Pakistan is a friend and a strategic ally."

[Translation]

These are the wordings used by the President of America for Pakistan. Hamid Karzai has also said:-

[English]

"Pakistan is a very close friend of ours."

[Translation]

We thought that the Afghanistan's new Government would support India but that Government has turned out to be a very close friend of Pakistan. America is also very close to Pakistan and our position is that we are making every endeavour to make America our close ally for which, no matters, how many countries become angry with us. On the issue of Iraq, not many countries were in favour of America and at that point of time also we had said that the Government should come forward and lead those countries against the American action against Iraq. The Minister of External Affairs said that we have to take into account many considerations—making foreign policy for example we have to see whether Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are also supporting Iraq. I would like to submit humbly—whether India's foreign policy is to be governed by Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia foreign policy. These are not the nations but are colonies of America as they live or die on their mercy. These are weak nations. If you want to add India's name in their list then I have to say nothing.

Today, we need to improve upon the number of our friends in the world and make India strong. Unless we decide that we have to match the America's strength. We can not move ahead. Today, balance of power in the world has become unpopular.

After disintegration of Russia, America has become the only centre of power. Today if we want to do something then we need to make ourselves so strong that we are able to face America. If we fail in this direction then China will come forward. China is following this policy. I am sorry to say but we do not have that much spirit of nationalism in ourselves our mislead by the people of China. Today China is working with the spirit of nationalism. We are divided people. Unless we eliminate communalism and casteism from our country and work unitedly to strengthen our country, we will not be able to steer the country of the path of progress.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, lastly I would like to say that there are our emphasis in the gulf countries where the number of officers is inadequate. A large number of Indians work there. Therefore I request the Minister of External Affairs that number of officers in the said embassies be increased.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, I am concluding. Simultaneously I would like to submit that be it Pakistan, or any other of our neighbouring countries, we have to take all decisions by taking into account the stature, reputation and strength of India.

[English]

In the end, I support these Demands for Grants.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji, perhaps you did not listen to me. I am giving you only five minutes.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will try to conclude within five minutes only.

Sir, the world is passing through difficult time. It is very good that you have allowed discussion on the issue related to department of external affairs. It is a very serious matter. Experts say that foreign policy works effectively only when your economic policy and economic condition is in good shape. Probably from this point of view portfolios of Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Finance have been interchanged. Yashwant Sinha has been shifted in Jaswant Singh's Ministry and Jaswant Singhji has shifted to Yashwant Sinha's Ministry. I think Sinhaji was successful as the Minister of Finance that is why he has been moved to the Ministry of External Affairs to correct our foreign policy also. Thus, to ensure that our economic policy and foreign policy, both work effectively, this formula has been adopted. So Sinhaji has gone there to strengthen our foreign policy after strengthening our economic policy.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sinhaji has gone to the Ministry of External Affairs to strengthen our foreign policy after strengthening our economic policy.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: With the approval of the House, I extend the sitting of the House till the debate on this issue and the Minister's reply are over, and the Demands for Grants are voted.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, Kautilya's theory was that we must have very cordial relations with our neighbouring countries. Foreign policy should be made after taking into account various factors relating to our neighbouring countries. Some days ago we heard about Gujaral doctrine. These things are told only by the experts. We remain only listener and onlookers. We keep on learning from them. Gujaral doctrine says—make your neighbouring countries your friends even if you are required to suffer some harms and you have to give them some relief and relaxation.

Sir, China is our neighbouring country. Our Defence Minister, who once said that China is our enemy number one, has now gone to China to make relations with them friendly. We are not sure how far he would be successful in his mission. May be he returns with virus or some disease. So, I was saying that he has gone to a country which, he said, was his enemy number one and now he is trying to have friendly relations with China.

It is not clear whether the words pronounced were appropriate in terms of diplomatic principles or not. The second one is the case of our neighbouring country Pakistan. On the issue of Pakistan our Minister of External Affairs said that it is more dangerous than Iraq meaning in his view Iraq is also threat to the world and thus he supports the American action on Iraq and hold it as a right move. He simply means that Iraq is not blameless. He holds American attack on Iraq as justified.

18.00 hrs.

Further, our army also remained on the India-Pakistan border. We kept on hearing that this time around it would be a decisive and do or die war. We also heard that we could not have any dialogue with Pakistan. Then, the Prime Minister took a U-turn and said they would hold dialogue and would stop cross-border terrorism, but now that tone and tenor has disappeared and forceful voices of "dialogue-dialogue" is only audible. We fail to understand as to what policy are they pursuing. Now China too has encroached our land. Long ago, Parliament had passed a resolution and said that we would get every inch of our land back from China's possession and only then, we shall have a sigh of relief. People have forgotten it. Nobody remembers it.

Sir, Tibetan leader Dalai Lama lives in our country. Lord Budha got enlightenment here. He was born here and the message of world-peace spread from here. Tibet

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

was a country of the Buddhists, it was invaded and annexed by China. It is heard that China is going to destroy Tibetan culture and is contaminating the environment. Weapons are being piled up there. Therefore, our foreign policy is successful only when we are diplomatically successful to get Tibet declared as Peace Zone. The whole of Tibet is passing through great turmoil and it is said that nuclear weapons and arms and ammunitions are being piled up there. Deliberate attempts are being made to destroy their culture and Environment. It's learnt that a delegation headed by Dalai Lama made a visit to China. The dialogue began there. Dialogue between China and Dalailama is fruitful only when the issue of autonomy is resolved by both countries. Whatever is possible, should be done. We are having aged old cultural ties with Tibet. Though we were on good terms with China too, Faheiyen came here during the 2nd-3rd century. During those days we had good relationship with China. It was a Buddhist country. Lord Buddha had his presence widely felt in 15-20 countries, that way, we were in close relationship with each other. It was by virtue of our efforts that China got its membership of UNO and now it has turned out to be our enemy. Now the Defence Minister says that they have occupied our land. It's said that America can not be relied upon. A few people are making speeches in favour of America, we don't know whether they favour America just because it deserves the praise or there is some other reason. It's said that Osama-bin-Laden was born there. Some people say that Iraq is not blameless. Initially, America favoured Iraq too and the root of the whole problem *i.e.* Chemical weapons was introduced by America itself. All such weapons came from America. They claimed that the Iraq is available with them. We have heard that an inspector has visited Pakistan too to inspect the presence of chemical weapons. We read this news in today's newspaper. How many countries are likely to be visited for chemical weapons inspection? When will it take place in our country. Therefore, in our view, the success of our foreign policy lies in creating a favourable and congenial atmosphere to bring our neighbouring country close to us. UNO should be strengthened.

Sir, India is a 1/6th of the whole world, it has the population of 102 crore people. It's territorial area constitutes 24 percent and total is 16 percent of the whole world's population but still we are not able to become a permanent member of Security Council of the UNO. What kind of impression we are bearing and how much support we have been able to muster amongst the countries of the world. The security council is meaningless without inclusion of India but still we are not a member

thereof. We are unable to mobilise the required number of votes. Therefore, we need to strengthen the UN. And what about our old principles and Non-align Movement. When there were two alignment then we were the third one and were leading that alignment. When one alignment ended. Two of them should have been left. But not it is said that the world has become unipolar. How the whole of the world is being run, where has gone that second group of non-aligned nations. When the Russia lead alignment collapsed, they should have been included in the second group. When out of the three groups, one group collapsed then the two other groups should have existed. But when one of the three groups collapsed, you started saying that non-alignment group also ceases to exist. If non-alignment movement failed then your foreign policy also got failed. Alvi Saheb was saying that we will count all of our neighbouring countries separately. Bangladesh came into existence because of us but they are also not happy with us. What policy you are following? Nepal is our neighbouring country. They are not happy with us. This country is faced with problems arising out of Maoists movement but again we are unable to safe them. Wherever a man of Indian origin is in the world, we fail to protect him. The President of Fiji was a man of Indian origin. He was kidnapped and made hostage but we just could not do anything to save him. We fail to extend any help to our men in any part of the world and this is not a failure on our part, then let me know what is this?

Lord Buddha had very famous "Bhiksha Patra" which lord Buddha had given at Kesaruya to the people of Vaishali. When Lord Buddha said in Vaishali in his preaching that he would be attaining his Maha-Nir-Van after three months, people belonging to Vaishali were not ready to part with him and went with him upto Kisariya which was 20-30 kilometres away. Finally Lord Buddha gave away his Bhiksha Patra to them. In the second century, Kanishka-II took away that patra to Peshawar and from there it was shifted to Kandhar in Afghanistan where it is still preserved. At the time, Smt. Laxmi Menon was the Deputy Minister, Haksor Sahib was Ambassador to Afghanistan and Shridhar Vasudev Soni was ex-chief Secretary. He wrote in an article that Lord Buddha's 'Bhiksha Patra' was still there. If we go into the historical background, we will find that Genaningham got many places excavated in the entire country and he also wrote that Lord Buddha's "Bhiksha Patra" is kept in Kandhar. We have communicated this to both Hon'ble External Ministers and the Minister of State for External Affairs— with all these references. Articles written by both Shridhar Basudev Soni and Genaningham have also been found

and made available. We request that the same should be communicated to our embassy through diplomatic channels and the patra should be brought back to our country. We have got its photograph also and we are having all historical evidences in our favour to support our claim that Biksha Patra of Lord Budha, is kept at Kandhar and it should be returned to India and then sent back to Vaishali where 2600 years ago, Lord Buddha had given it to the people of Vaishali. Let us see how his diplomacy works.

MR. SPEAKER: You were given ten minutes time, please conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Lastly, WTO was put in place in order to see that free transportation of goods from one country to another is ensured. I would like to request that, as in the case of goods, people should also be allowed to move freely from one country to another. For this, Passport system should be discontinued. Only then we will be achieving the success of our foreign policy. Once passport system ends, people of India would also be allowed to move freely from one country to another like WTO has allowed free transportation of goods from one country to another and thus they will be spreading in the entire world which ultimately, would eliminate poverty and inequality from our country. Today the world need to have a Vishwa-Panchayat and Vishwa Sansad and we would like the Ministry of External Affairs to make serious efforts in this direction.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the demands for grants relating to Ministry of External Affairs presented by the Government. Through you, I would like to submit that the basis of the foreign policy of any nation is always the interest of that country.

The followers of Congress are praising their old policies. Through you I want to ask as to who offered Tibet to China on a platter in 1949. Nehruji was responsible for this in 1949-50. Nehruji's ideology made him keep the problem of Kashmir to himself. Had he let Sardar Patel handle the matter then probably the problem of Kashmir which has assumed menacing proportions now, would have been resolved. You keep on mentioning Kargil and Bhatiyaji and other hon. Members were talking about decisive battle. Through you I want to say that the armed forces of India chased Pakistani Kabiayelies out of Kashmir in 1948. Our forces were on their way to victory.

At that time the UNO intervened and pressed for a cease-fire. At that time it was Pandit Nehru who talked

about referendum. Non alliance is being mentioned here. Everybody is aware that there were three leaders of NAM—Marshall Tito of Yugoslavia, Nasser of Egypt and Nehruji from India. When China attacked us in 1962, Nehruji said that he used to be in the world of dreams. ...*(Interruptions)* The Chinese Forces crossed the Himalayas. He said that he used to live in a world of dreams. ...*(Interruptions)* The slogan of hindi-chini, bhai-bhai lost its meaning, who is responsible for this? ...*(Interruptions)* 2/5 part of Kashmir was occupied by Pakistan in 1948. ...*(Interruptions)* 14400 square miles of Laddakhi portion is still under China's control. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was the architect of India's foreign policy from 1947-48 till 1964. Even after that it is said that Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)* The World was divided into two blocks at that time. ...*(Interruptions)* The world was divided between two groups. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): We object to these kinds of statements being made here. If these kinds of statements were made, we would be entitled to rebut these statements....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You were not there at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I am talking about history. ...*(Interruptions)* The world was divided into two groups. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can express your views by using the words hon. Prime Minister. Please do not mention names.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What was the role of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1942. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What happened in 1942. What did Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee do. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Our country is still facing problems due to wrong policies. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who is the Prime Minister today sought forgiveness for giving evidence against someone in 1942. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: He did not give away land. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: At that time the world was divided into two groups. On the one hand there were communist nations and on the other hand was America. ...*(Interruptions)* One group belonged to America. ...*(Interruptions)* Truth must be accepted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee sought forgiveness. ...*(Interruptions)* You can go and ask ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak on some policy and do not mention anybody's name. You can give your views about the policies of the former Prime Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the historians of the future would write the history of the country, they would mention the names of the persons whose idealism have harmed the nation. Idealism does not fit in today's world. Today we should formulate our foreign policy on the basis of the today's reality and the status of the country. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee led NDA Government is following the foreign policy that suits the status of India and that fits in with the ground realities. It will not do to sing eulogies to the past and not face the situation at present, it is the result of ostrich-like policy. The ostrich hides its face in the storm and feels itself safe whenever there is a storm in the desert. They are behaving just like ostrich. I would like to quote Chanakya.

Kautilya said—"to be aware of one's limitations, to respect the traditions of other nations, not to make a wrong statement due to overconfidence, to use the words with as much alertness as a soldier protects the burden and a total commitment towards one's policies are the things that help a good diplomat in other States."

These words of Kautilya are really to the point. During past few days motion on Iraq was being discussed, condemnation and declaration are to words that were used quite often. Kautilya made a statement about the use of words thousands of years ago that words should be used with as much alertness as a soldier watches the

border. The foreign policy which is being followed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee led Government is in the interest of the nation. Earlier the world was divided into two groups—one group was led by Russia and another was in the leadership of America. We used to lean towards Russia to protest against America. But today Russia has disintegrated into 11 republics and it itself has to look upto America for economic benefits. America is the sole power in the world. I accept—

Bahadur Kab Kisi Ka Aasra Aihsan Lete Hain,
Usi ko kar Gujarte Hain Jo Dil Mein than Lete Hain,
Dilbar Mard ka Loha Sab Man Lete Hain,
Jo Kamjor Hota Hai,
Kan Uske sab Pakad Lete Hain.

Therefore, we will have to create national power from within as well as economic prosperity. If our home will be strong then our foreign policy will also be strong. If there will be economic prosperity then our foreign policy will be also strong and effective. Our country with a population of one billion people can today become a big power of the world. It has got the potential.

Some times back two types of survey were conducted in America. Their conclusion was that the percentage of American people has increased who like India and have got a sense of friendship and cooperation towards India. Now time is not much for submitting before you the conclusions of all the surveys. They reached at the political conclusions and made political prophesies on the basis of that. So the need of the hour is that we should realise the reality of the world and act in view of our interests. Every nation of the world whether it is America or Russia or any other country know that the U.S. alliance forces have won in Iraq and thereafter Russia, Germany and France who were opposing earlier are now with one voice are talking about the reconstruction of Iraq. It would not be sheer selfishness if we also talk about our participation in the reconstruction of Iraq keeping in view our national interests. Iraq has remained our friend but who does not know that when crisis hovered over Iraq its neighbouring countries Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arab also did not come forward for its help. No country in the world came to its help. Only in the name of idealism they ask India to do this or that. We cannot close our eyes to the reality of the world. We will have to accept the truth.

Through you I would like to submit one more quotation in this context which says—Now India is not in

a position to bear the burden of the idealism of Nehru era. The era of cold war is over. For explicit reasons the international community could bear it to some extent at that time. At that time the vote of India in the United Nations was required by that block but now in view of economic interests the views of the whole world is changing. Those who are economically strong can enhance their power by exploring market world wide through the WTO. Thus, actions should be taken keeping in view our capabilities and the realities of the world.

Recently, the Ambassador of America resigned. It is right that we should believe in our strength. We do not want to depend on America or any other power of the world. Only a valiant rules this world *Veer Bhogya Vasundhara*. There is a saying in our Punjabi- 'Duniya Mandi Joran Nun, Lakh Lanat Hai Kamjoran Nun' i.e. this world recognises a brave and condemns the weak. Today we have got so much potentiality. This country produces all types of crops. This country has got all types of potential and climates. A country possessing great armies and having great and glorious history can never become a slave or follower of any other country of the world. Bharatiya Janata Party or the NDA Government believes only in this policy that our country should become an economically prosperous and powerful country. Unity should be our power so that the people world over recognise our power.

I would like to submit one more thing. We fail to understand why our neighbouring countries feel afraid of India considering it their big brother. I think that we should chalk out a long term policy to establish a harmonious relations with our neighbouring countries and should extend a hand of friendship towards them irrespective of their being big or small country. The hon'ble Prime Minister went to Kashmir and talked about extending friendship. He said that the doors of Delhi and that of heart are open. It is quite proper in view of the national interest. However he has said that Pakistan will have to stop the cross border terrorism. The statement of the people of Pakistan have also come. We have fought with Pakistan thrice and if war takes place then Pakistan will get defeated and the supremacy of India will once again prevail.

In the end I want to say that we can establish our supremacy in the world if we are strong and self-reliant. I express my gratitude for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, after 200 years of freedom struggle, we got Independence from the British imperialism. After Independence, the then Government under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru decided the foreign policy of our country. It was a policy of non-alignment. That policy was approved and supported by the entire nation. That policy was decided with consensus and it was approved by the countrymen also.

Sir, our Communist Party of India had huge differences with the Congress Party and we did fight against the misrule of the Congress Party not only at the Centre but in the States also. We have suffered irreparable loss. So many comrades of ours were put in jail. They sacrificed their lives while fighting against the misrule of the Congress Party. In spite of that, we whole heartedly supported the foreign policy of the then Government. We whole heartedly cooperated with the then Government as far as foreign policy was concerned.

Sir, our traditional, glorious and age-old foreign policy was maintained up to the time of the United Front Government. But since the BJP Government has come into power, there is a shift in that glorious and age-old foreign policy.

I fully agree with Shri Bhatia that our foreign policy is being decided as per the dictates of Washington. The former President of the USA, Mr. Bill Clinton, while addressing the Joint Session, said that India is their natural ally. I quite sharply differ from his version. If India is a natural ally of the USA, why do the USA not refrain Pakistan from indulging in cross-border terrorism? Pakistan wants to destabilise our country right from Jammu and Kashmir to North-Eastern States. With this mischievous design, they are continuing with the anti-Indian activities at the behest of the USA. They are doing all this mischief against our nation and our motherland with direct or indirect support of the USA. The American President, their leaders come to India and have discussions with our Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs. After that they go to Pakistan and sitting with Mr. Nawaj Sharief and Mr. Parvez Musharraf, they are sponsoring many things there. They are rendering full assistance, cooperation and financial assistance to Pakistan so that they can use their Armed Forces against India. Mr. Colin Powell told—everybody knows that—that after the Iraq issue they will settle the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Who is Mr. Colin Powell to settle this issue? We do not

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

want any third party intervention. We can settle such issues through bilateral talks with Pakistan and other neighbouring countries.

The United States unilaterally, along with the support of its greatest sycophant Tony Blair, ignoring all public opinion, bypassing and neglecting the Security Council, attacked Iraq and unleashed a fatal assault on humanity, killing thousands and thousands of innocent children and women. I am sorry to say that at that point of time our hon. Prime Minister had said in this House that we would follow a middle path. What is a middle path? Either one is in favour of war, or one is against war. I would like to take this opportunity to remind the hon. Members of this august House that whenever the world had been in the throes of a deep crisis, in the olden days, our former Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and the late Indira Gandhi gave the leadership. I would like to recall that when France and England took the plea of Suez Canal to attack Egypt, the then Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru took a bold step against this attack. Whenever the world has been in the throes of a deep crisis, our former Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and the late Indira Gandhi took a bold stand and the entire nation was behind them. But in the present days, I am sorry to say that our present Government has failed to take a bold stand against the United States of America. The 'Might is right' principle is being pursued by them. They are the big brothers of the world. They already have attacked Iraq and are now targeting Iran and Syria. They would do anything as per their wish.

Sir, ours is a great country. It is a country of more than 100 crore people. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister for External Affairs that this Government should take a bold stand so that an appropriate message goes to the world. Our great country has always supported the cause of the smaller countries who have been fighting for their independence, who have been fighting against imperialism and colonialism. This has been the glorious tradition of our country. But now this Government seems to be shifting from such a tradition.

Sir, through you, I would like to humbly submit and urge the Government of India to fight for its self-respect. That is the desire of more than 100 crore people of this country. The Government must take a bold step and should fight against imperialism. The whole country would stand behind the Government in this cause, otherwise we would fight the policies of this Government not only in this House but also outside this House for the prestige and honour of this great country.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, how much time do I have?

MR. SPEAKER: It would be good if you could complete within 15 minutes.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to divide my speech in three parts. The first part would relate to the practical aspects. The second part may relate to the policy aspects and the third part may relate to the principles that we have been following with respect to India's foreign policy.

Sir, in my opinion, the Ministry of External Affairs needs more funds. The funds that are available to this Ministry are not sufficient. Fortunately, the present External Affairs Minister was the Finance Minister and probably he might have refused to give more funds to this Ministry when he was the Finance Minister because they say that the Ministers may change but the Ministries do not change. But he has an idea as to how the necessary funds could be made available and probably he would use that experience to see that the activities of the Ministry of External Affairs are funded with the amounts that are really required.

We had the opportunity of visiting some of the Indian Embassies in other countries. We found that they were better equipped than the offices of the Government of India are equipped in India. But, if they were compared with the offices of other countries, there was a lot of difference between the standard being maintained in the Embassies of those countries and that of the Indian Embassies over there. In order to see that our Ambassadors and other officers in foreign countries are on par with the Ambassadors and officers of other countries, it is necessary that our offices should be modernised. They should have all the equipments which are available to other Embassies today in the modern world. Otherwise, it becomes very difficult for them to cope with situations that become prevalent in other countries and their efficiency would not remain as good as the efficiency of the officers of other countries. I do not have to say anything more than this on this point.

The foreign policy of the Government of India is the foreign policy of India itself. It is not the foreign policy of a Party. It becomes the foreign policy of the nation only when there is a consensus at least in the House and at least on some points. The Governments, the Prime Ministers and the Ministers in the past did try to create a sort of common understanding on the foreign policy of

India. But, sometimes intemperate statements are made by certain persons. Fortunately, that has not been the case with the Governments and the Members of the Council of Ministers. But intemperate statements are made by the people without understanding the nuances involved in the foreign policy at different levels and some sort of unnecessary bitterness is generated. It would be in the interest of the country to avoid such situations.

I have been listening to the speeches made by the hon. Members in this House. One point which has been made by more than one Member in this House is that unless India is economically strong, India's foreign policy cannot be effective. That is what probably those Members had tried to say. I had the opportunity of hearing this kind of statement having been made at one time by the Members sitting on the other side and the Members sitting on this side getting up and saying that when India became independent, the economic situation of India was not better than what it is today and yet what was said at that time by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and later by other Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers was heard with rapt attention by the world, in spite of the fact that India was not as strong economically as it is today. Why did that happen? That did happen because those who were making the foreign policy had understood the world history the world politics, the world economics and what was happening throughout the world. They had applied their mind to different difficult issues which were prevailing at that time in the world. That is why they were very clear in their minds as to what should be done, what should not be done; what should be said and what should not be said; and how it should be said. On all these points they were crystal clear in their minds and that is how that really gave us this standing.

Fortunately for us, the Governments and the people who have been in the Governments have been doing that. But, at times we do find that some mistakes are committed. The problems are not clearly understood and sometimes we are vague in our minds. That is why when we make the statement on behalf of the Government or on behalf of the Parliament or on behalf of other persons or on behalf of a Party, difficulties are created. What is important for our foreign policy to be successful is the clarity of ideas clarity about the issues involved, clarity about the principles involved and clarity about pragmatism also. People have been saying that we shall have to protect the interests of our country. Who says that we do not have to protect the interests of our country? Who can object to this idea? They have been saying that we have principles. Yes. Unless our policy is based on certain principles it is not going to last for a time which is required for it to be successful.

Principles are important but, at the same time, in our life and our foreign policy also, principles of pragmatism are also used and we shall have to be pragmatic. There is no doubt about it. We are not saying that the Government should not be pragmatic or the people sitting in the Opposition should not be pragmatic. They have to be pragmatic in life as well as in the governance of the country. In foreign policy also they have to be pragmatic. But pragmatism should not be treated as opportunism. Pragmatism should not be a confusion or pragmatism should not be something which cannot be in tune with the principles that we have accepted. And if it comes down to the level of opportunism or ignorance or not understanding clearly the situations that pragmatic policy cannot also be helpful. In some cases, this has happened and I will refer to that later on.

Having spoken on the general principles, I would like to refer to our relations with some of the countries. Pakistan is our neighbour. We have been saying that we would like to have good relations with Pakistan. But, unfortunately, relations between the two countries have not been comfortable. On the contrary, relations have been very troublesome and difficult for both the countries.

What do we do about it? One of the ideas which is put forth is let us talk with them. We have no quarrel with this idea. If the Government wants to talk, if the country wants to talk with the Government of Pakistan and with the people of Pakistan, we have no difficulty. We support this kind of an approach. On the contrary, we have been saying that one method of at least trying to solve this issue is to talk to them. We have no quarrel about it. But there should be a finesse in talking to them.

I have full respect for our Prime Minister. What did he do? When we went to Pakistan last time sitting in the bus, probably, he had in his mind that he should cover an extra mile to show that he was very keen to talk to them. His intention was that nobody should have any doubt about it. But practically speaking, that was not clearly understood by Pakistan and immediately after he came back, we had the Kargil war. So, going and talking with them without preparation—preparations at all levels, preparations at the officers level, preparations at the Secretaries level, preparations at the level of Foreign Ministers—will not yield results. And Prime Minister talking to the Prime Ministers of other countries would have been better if the talks had taken place after necessary preparations for it was done. So, we are saying please talk to them but talk to them with preparation, talk to

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

them with clarity in mind and if you do not do that the talks will not produce any results.

What is the other extreme? I do not know under what circumstances the Foreign Minister made the statement. I have not heard his statement. I have not read his statement. He is a very mature politician and a Minister. He would not make a statement off the cuff unless somebody was asking him to make a statement. Is the situation in Pakistan not like the situation in Iraq where pre-emptive action could be taken? Something of this kind may have been asked by somebody and probably, he said, "Yes, the situation is, probably such that pre-emptive action could be taken." And he is in a position to explain to us about it. I am not finding fault with him. I have privately said these things. Now, I am saying this on the floor of the House. But there are people who are trying to extract something from the Minister and something from the Members and present it in a wrong fashion. Unnecessarily the discussion goes on in the country and outside also and on such alleged statements sometimes difficulties arise. Then, some people had to say that the situation is not like that and this should not be done by this country and that should not be done. What I am trying to say is that certainly the Foreign Minister is not a person who would make a statement like that. But no one else or the Foreign Minister should make a statement like this.

Pre-emptive action is not in the jurisdiction of the Foreign Minister, it is in the jurisdiction of the Defence Minister. If at all anybody has to speak about it, it should be either the Defence Minister or the Prime Minister. The Foreign Minister would be talking about peace, good relations and friendship, which he has been doing and we support him on that. If by mistake or because somebody has asked it and he has said it, the only request that we would like to make is that let us try to avoid it and let us try to be more careful.

Vigilance is the crux of the matter. If we have to deal with our neighbour, Pakistan, we need vigilance. We need vigilance to see that there is no terrorism. If we want to have good relations with them, we need preparation and vigilance. If we want to be effective in other ways also, vigilance is the crux. That should be our policy. Let us talk to them. Let us talk to the Government and talk to the people. Let us avail of the opportunities which are available and understand the realities. At the same time, have alternate plans in your mind to deal with that country in a manner which will establish peace and prosperity for both the countries and avoid war and terrorism.

Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives are our other neighbours. Fortunately, for us we have good relations with Sri Lanka. I think the relations are free from any difficulties. Even if there are some small difficulties, the Government is in a position to solve them. But as far as our relations with Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar are concerned, we have a feeling that there is scope for doing better. If statements with respect to Bhutan are made, which may not be liked by the people or the Government over there, that would not be in the interest of India and Bhutan. We read some statements in the newspapers with respect to the terrorist activities, camps, etc. Even in the statements have to be made, they can be made in a language which will not create any bad blood between a country like Bhutan and ours.

Nepal is facing some difficulties. We should help them to the extent we can. Probably the Government has been doing it. Maldives is a good country. People from this country go there and people from there come to our country. But with regard to Bangladesh, I have a feeling that relations in the last two or three years have not been as good as they were before that period. Maybe it is because of the change of the Government in that country or maybe because of certain other things also. But that is a country with which we should have better relations.

The most important thing with respect to our immediate neighbours is the institution of SAARC. The institution of SAARC was created to provide a forum to the Heads of the States and to the Heads of the Governments to come together occasionally and discuss political, economic, social, cultural, scientific, trading and industrial relations. I think, SAARC was created with great expectations. SAARC did work for some time properly. But later on it was found that SAARC has not been that effective and the strength of SAARC is appearing to be getting reduced. Can we do something to see that SAARC is strengthened?

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is present here. When we were going to Nepal once to create a SAARC Union of Parliaments, he did ask at that time. 'Why not create a SAARC Parliament?' I said that this is a good idea. European Parliament is there. If we can create SAARC Parliament, it would be good. But I do not think that immediately it is going to happen. The idea is good. Let it be discussed. If it is possible and acceptable to all the countries, we can move in that direction. Apart from creating the SAARC Parliament, SAARC itself has to be strengthened. The trade relations between SAARC

countries, SAFTA and other things have to be strengthened and a lot has to be done for this purpose.

Having said this about our immediate neighbours, I would like to say something about the Non-Aligned Movement now. Non-Aligned Movement is something which brought the countries of the world together and provides them an opportunity to discuss political, economic, social and cultural matters and it went from strength to strength. It became one of the biggest organisations in the world and those who did not like the Non-Aligned Movement had started criticising it and slowly we have come to a stage when some people in our country and in the Parliament also have had the audacity to stand up and say that the Non-Aligned Movement is irrelevant. They say that when there are no blocs, why should there be a Non-Aligned Movement? I do not think that Non-Aligned Movement came into existence simply to fight two blocs. Politically it may not be that relevant, militarily it may not be that relevant, but there are economic, cultural and scientific issues and no forum would have been better than the forum of Non-Aligned Movement for strengthening relations between the countries in these fields. So it should be strengthened.

With regard to Arab countries, I think a situation has developed in the world in such a manner now that we shall have to be a little more careful and sympathetic and the good relationship that we have with them has to be maintained and improved upon.

As far as the European countries are concerned, UK is a country with which we can have better relations. But France and Germany are the two countries which are taking an independent stand in international affairs. We do not have to take sides in international affairs, but strengthening of our relationship with France, Germany and the United Kingdom will always be very useful.

The European Union is becoming stronger and stronger and I think the European Union has a future also. Apart from having good relations with the European countries like France, Germany and the United Kingdom, we should have good relations with the European Union also.

Russia is a country which stood by India in times of need. Russia has always stood with India in many difficult situations. The friendship with Russia, fortunately, is continuing. If possible, we should put in more efforts to see that our friendship with Russia is further strengthened. With regard to our friendship with them, in Russia,

generally they say: "do not take the friendship for granted". So, we shall have to put in more efforts to maintain our friendship with Russia, and when efforts are not made, the friendship can become weak. This point has to be kept in mind by us.

China is one of the countries about which we shall have to think a lot. I am very sorry to say that from our country statements have been made that China is our enemy number one. Anybody who understands the issues relating to defence would not say this. We do not want to create many fronts, a front on the North, a front on the West etc. Wars have been lost when the countries had to fight on many fronts. Apart from this, China is an ancient country which has the Eastern culture. It has similarities with the culture in India. The Laos philosophy and the Buddhist philosophy have been identical. Culturally also, there are many similarities between China and India and Panditji specially put in extra efforts to see that there is friendship with China. Unfortunately, something happened in between. We shall have to overcome that and we shall have to see that a country like China remains a friend of ours.

As far as USA is concerned, it is a big country. It is a great power and today it is the mightiest country in the world. That is why we would like to be friendly with USA. Nothing has to be said and nothing has to be done which will create difficulties in the matter of relationship between India and USA. It would also understand the importance of this friendship. If we are strong enough, if we are clear enough, if we are sympathetic enough with that country also and with its policy, they will also respect our friendship. This relationship with the United States of America is going to be a difficult relationship requiring lot of skill and vision. We shall have to deal with it in a proper manner with a view to have the friendship strengthened. We may not agree with all that they have been doing.

Take the issue of Iraq. I was very happy to hear one of the Members speaking about Iraq. Iraq has happened. On that point, there have been differences of opinion of America in the UK, in India, in the Parliament, may be in the Government also, and yet that has happened. After that, we shall have to see that the people in Iraq are supported. But I hate to think of the idea of earning something for India out of the difficulties suffered by Iraq. Somehow or the other, it does not fit in the principles which India has been following. We would rather like to help them. We would like to give them the money to help them and not to earn something out of their

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

difficulties. That kind of idea is abhorrent to us. I would not like to subscribe to that kind of idea. I am sure that the Government also is of that view.

Lastly, I would like to make one point and sit down. Let us formulate a policy, which is really in the interest of the country. Let us formulate a policy which is pragmatic also and not opportunistic. But at the same time, let us follow the principles. They really can help our policy and I have no doubt in my mind that this Parliament, this country and the leaders in the country have done that and they will continue to do that.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola):

Thank you Sir. Before I begin, I would like to say a few things about what has happened in the House. I was discussing this with my hon. colleague Shri Shivraj Patil also. Many Members, while speaking on the subject of External Affairs, have referred to the issue of Jammu & Kashmir also and they have questioned whether the Government of India has a policy as far as Jammu & Kashmir is concerned.

The Government of India does not have any policy for any other State and I take it for granted that all hon. Members of the House will refer to Jammu & Kashmir as an integral part of India and not as a separate State because we have a foreign policy and we consider it only if it is a separate country. Otherwise, it is a part of a State and that part of the State has become an issue of Defence. It does not become an issue of External Affairs. This Parliament has been part of the process of internationalising the Kashmir issue. With these words, I will just say a few words on which the hon. Minister is going to reply.

We want to develop relations with the USA. We have begun late and we have been relying very heavily on the American people and the Government to support for the cause of terrorism. But I have been reading quite a lot and I have been visiting European countries, especially, Geneva, whenever there is a meeting of the United Nations on Social Issues, where I happen to meet many of the European representatives right from the Governments to the NGOs. One of the major issues which has been of concern not only to the American people, but even to the Europeans is that they are having an insecurity among themselves that in the coming years they will be ruled by others. This is one of the concerns and one part of that concern is the drug industry which is one of the nexus which starts from Afghanistan to Pakistan through India and it goes to the Western world.

Terrorism cannot be a ground where we build up friendship. I would like to know this from the Minister himself. It is because he is going to reply. I know, this basically concerns the Home Ministry. But, is he going to take up with the Government of India and with the Home Ministry the question of drugs, the routes that are there in this country? If you want the Governments of European countries, if you want the Government of the American people to support us in our cause, one of the anxieties which they are having is that the younger generations are being finished off by this drug industry, and that is one of the major concerns. Is the Government of India going to make that as an issue of friendship? If it is going to make it so, I will welcome it.

The other issue which I would like to raise is the aftermath of Iraq. As many Members have spoken on that, I am not going to speak on that. It is not the first time that the United Nations has been by-passed; it has been by-passed in the past also but when it was by-passed, it was a bi-polar world. Even though the United Nations was by-passed, it was balanced by the two super-powers; but now when it has been by-passed, there is a uni-polar system. There are two institutions which are more important. I would like the Minister to be very categorical and to take the House into confidence. It is because we are not able to analyse as to what is going to happen in respect of the future of the United Nations and the future of the NATO. If anybody had heard the discussions which are going on the European channels, the crack has developed. It is because of communism that Europe got united and formed the NATO. But, communism is no longer a threat to the world. Therefore, due to in-built cracks in the civilization, the NATO started cracking up. The nexus or the new friendship that is being developed by France and by Germany is now interacting at different levels. We would like to know from the Minister what is going to be the situation of NATO on this issue.

Thirdly, we would like to know what is going to be the future of the United Nations. What is going to be its role? Is its role going to be only of a recommendatory body? Or, is it going to be of an opinion of the world? That is what we would like to know.

There are two issues which are more important to me. I would like the Minister to clarify them. Somewhere in the month of November-December—I would mention some names and I would like the Members not to react on it because it is a fact which as happened—the FBI has raided some of the donors who are staying in the

USA, and those who have been donors of RSS. I would like the Minister to clarify whether this is a fact. One of the reasons why they have done it is that even RSS is a religious terrorist organisation and they will not tolerate any religious terrorist organisation in this. If that is the case, what is going to be your relation? It is because you represent a section of that institution in the Government itself.

Lastly, we are relying very heavily on USA to control Pakistan. This House should know one of the most important things—I am studying it for quite a long time, I would not like to mention it myself but I would like to ask the Government—that between the period 1950 and 1960, the Americans were, no doubt, interested in this area. I am saying not of financial investment but of Defence investment. What kind of defence investment has been made in Pakistan by the United States during 1950 and 1960? That is one of the most important things. It is because when we had offered all things to the American people, the American Government turned us down; they went towards Pakistan. Even in the case of Agra Summit, let me say—and if anybody goes through my speech, after that what has happened, I have very clearly pointed out—that Pakistan was on the verge of being declared internationally bankrupt State.

19.00 hrs.

Sir, G-7 and G-5 countries have disagreed for their loans being refinanced or being extended. Had not the 11th September incident taken place, in the month of October, Pakistan would have been declared as a debt State and all kinds of sanctions would have been imposed on them.

Sir, the situation has changed. The geo-political situation has changed. There is terrorism which has taken place. Some countries are interested in those areas which we represent. I am just asking you for this reference from 1950 to 1960. They should be placed on the Table of the House.

If this country is to survive, we will have to take a hard decision. We are coming to a stage where we have a bankruptcy of leadership at the national stage. If the country is to be saved, we will have to take a very hard decision in the coming days on the question of Pakistan. I would like the External Affairs Minister to be very specific on this issue.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this

opportunity to speak. I represent a Party of the minority, the Shiromani Akali Dal. I will be grateful if this House listens with patience as to what we, the minority, feel about the India's Foreign Policy.

Now, we have been heard in the forums of India's Foreign Policy, which is something very positive. But previously this Foreign Policy was shaped by some bureaucrats and politicians of the Indo-Gangetic basin. And with the changing fortunes of the present Government, I wonder whether in the future, this Foreign Policy will be decided by a few in the Tibet basin. I say this because we, the Sikhs, live closer to the belts where the Foreign Policy of India is formulated. We live next to Pakistan, next to Afghanistan, and next to China. All these three States have a major role in formulating the India's Foreign Policy. Therefore, we do need to be heard and I am glad that this present Government is showing some keenness to listen to us. Therefore, we welcome what the Prime Minister has said, a thaw between relations with Pakistan and India.

Our Party is deeply interested in a thaw with Pakistan because we are the major people who are going to be affected if there is a nuclear holocaust in the sub continent. The Sikhs have a mighty interest in what happens in Pakistan because you would be surprised to learn that half of our *Gurdwaras* are in Pakistan, half of our culture is there, half of our tradition is there, and half of our history is over there. So, we have a vested interest in having good relations with Pakistan and we want a free flow of trade with Pakistan, commerce with Pakistan, exchange of goods, and tourism so that we have friendly relations. That is why, we do welcome this policy of the Prime Minister in Kashmir and here in New Delhi.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, we feel that since we have so much investment over there, *Samjhauta* Express should be revived and bus services should be started.

Our railway wagons should start rolling into Pakistan carrying our agricultural goods, especially our seed potatoes to Afghanistan. Wagha border must be opened for trade, commerce and tourism of the cultural, religious and personal kind. That is what we want.

Our Party has also learnt some lessons from the Iraq war. That first lesson is that the minorities should not be taken so lightly. They must be integrated into the system with wider democracy, with a wider role and with more hearing given to them, like we want representation

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

in the Union Cabinet's Security Committee and in the Nuclear Command and Control System that India has built. We do not want to be treated like the Shiite Arabs and the Khurds. We want real democracy. We want India to follow the international guidelines on human rights practices. We want the international U.N. conventions of humanitarian laws to be recognised by the Indian State, such as, crime against genocide, crime against the heritage of the people. We want the Rome Protocol, whereby the International Criminal Court at The Hague has been established, to be recognised. These are some of the policies that we want India should implement.

Our lament is that we are living in a Rip Van Winkle syndrome of the Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi eras. We want to break out of this system. If the lessons from Iraq are to be learnt, we must realise and understand that, now with the superior air power, naval bases and land armies of the West, India can never become a first-class power, but we would become a first-class second-rate power. We should do the best as we can by building our economy and remaining in the middle path of foreign policy and the world power structure. The foreign office must study the Munroe doctrine and the policy of splendid isolation. So, the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) will strongly support any new changes in India's foreign policy. We want to say good-bye to the bad old days and enter into a new era.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject. Our foreign policy depends upon our economic policy. I think that from Nehruji to Vajpayeeji Sahib none had wished any harm to India, all wished for the welfare of the country.

Sir, I belong to a very ancient tribe. Mr. ancestors were very brave. People there worship Lord Ram and Hanumanji. What happened in Agra reminds us of the treatment meted out to Shivaji Maharaj by Aurangzeb but Shivaji could escape with the help of Jiva Mahala. Umaji Naik, Bhagoji Naik and Khaja Naik of Maharashtra were our ancestors. My friends were telling about the Rani of Jhansi that how valiantly a Rani belonging to an ancient tribe had stood against the Britishers, but not more has been written about her bravery. It is rather unfortunate. That is why I regret the internal policy. Baba Sahib had written about an incident and spoken about it that a status quo in respect of 'Mandir' and 'Masjid' should be maintained as it existed in 1947 but on 6th December,

1992, the Babri Masjid was demolished. It was not right. It will not be appropriate to say as to what the Babri Masjid is. But, the advice of Baba-Saheb was turned down, it is not good.

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over, please sit down.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: I would like to say that venom was spewed throughout the country over this issue. Some one asked to declare it with pride that we are Hindus and someone asked to assert with pride that we are Muslims. So, in this way terrorism has been encouraged. My request is that we should think about our foreign policy and the issues as to how are the relations between Iraq and America, our relations with Pakistan, we all Indians must speak in one voice from every region in the interest of the nation that our motherland is greater than the Heaven.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am constrained to oppose this Demand for the following reasons.

The first is that it was recommended by the Standing Committee:

"The Committee therefore strongly recommends the Ministry to take concrete steps at least now to make realistic budgetary projections in future taking into account all the inputs available with the Ministry and anticipated happening in the financial year so as to avoid the huge unspent balance at the close of the year."

So, it is crystal clear that there is an unspent balance. If time were available, I would deal with other matters. Now, in the instant case, I may submit that we have several passport offices in the country. They are all functioning in rented buildings with no space even to sit there. People crowd there in hundreds and this would give rise to corruption in the office. Also, there is not sufficient staff in these offices. So, the poor man finds it very difficult to get a passport at the appropriate time. We cannot afford them any job but they may go elsewhere, to a foreign country, and get a job. There are about seventeen lakh Malayalis working in Gulf countries, by obtaining passports. They are earning foreign exchange also but there is inordinate delay even now in getting a passport even if they could easily obtain a visa. This is the situation available in the country. So, I would request the hon. Minister of External Affairs to take immediate

steps to remedy the situation by providing more staff. In the Middle-East countries, there are Malayalis working in lakhs and lakhs but they do not know any other language except Malayalam. So, the staff in those Consulates must know any other language except Malayalam. So, the staff in those Consulates must know Malayalam. At least one person with knowledge of Malayalam must be posted there to cater to the needs of the Malayali workers who are employed in the Middle-East.

Coming to another aspect, we have not spent \$ 5 billion for purchase of a building in Washington. We have not spent five billion crore dollars for the purchase of a building. But, at the same time, we do not find any fund to construct our passport offices. They are still in the rented building. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, your point is well taken. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Please give me one more minute. *...(Interruptions)*

Now in the Iraq issue, we were following a middle path. When we were following a middle path, knowingly or unknowingly, our hon. Minister of External Affairs made a declaration to that effect. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh is the last speaker. Please go ahead with your speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have not concluded. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I have called your name, but you were not present in the House. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have not concluded. Let me conclude. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can make your last sentence.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now in the case of pre-emption strike, our hon. Minister has explained the

position. Then, came the report from Pentagon and not from Islamabad that there is no comparison between India and Pakistan. Pakistan is not a terrorist country even though they are committing the offence of cross-border terrorism. So, even in those days when we were following the middle path, the US Administration, the Pentagon, is taking a stand, which is antagonistic to our interests. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, please do not rely too much on the US Administration in the matter of dealing with terrorism.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. Keeping in view the changing scenario of the world, the funds for the Ministry of External Affairs are definitely required to be raised. The efficiency of our Embassies abroad is required to be enhanced. The Ministry of External Affairs should make efforts to eliminate corruption rampant in our passport offices. Corruption in the passport offices cannot be eliminated if strict action against the middlemen roaming in the offices is not taken. Therefore, I would like to tell you that if the Ministry make surprise checks there, they will certainly be aware of the state of affairs.

Today, the discussion is being held on the foreign policy through Demands for Grants. The diplomatic failure of the foreign policy has been clearly highlighted ever since the NDA Government came into power. Only recently after the 13th Lok Sabha was constituted, the way Indian plane was hijacked from Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, the subsequent release of hardcore terrorists and hijackers and the way our country capitulated before those terrorists, have undoubtedly outlined the failure of our foreign policy.

Whenever an invisible power inspires our Prime Minister in the night his language changes in the morning. I have been observing him for the last three and a half years that his language changes frequently under the influence of that invisible power. He would keep saying throughout the year that they will not talk to Pakistan at any cost and will now bow to Pakistan but when that

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

invisible power exerts its influence, the language of the Prime Minister undergoes change overnight. If we take out and read the statement made by the Prime Minister in this very House when the Parliament of India was attacked, it will prove that there is serious contradiction between the statement he made at that time and what he is stating now. The Samajwadi Party is in favour of cordial relations between India and Pakistan. But, if we are seeking cordial relations with Pakistan at the cost of self respect of India, then I would say that we no longer need such friendship. What message was sent across the world by deploying our forces along the Indo-Pak border for more than six months and under whose pressure you called the forces back.

If we take out and go through the statements made by the Prime Minister in this House in the context of Iraq war in the previous session, he said that they were finding a middle path. He had expressed hope in this very House that there would be no war but his hopes proved baseless and US and Britain subjected Iraq to a barbaric aggression. Humanity kept groaning, wailing and crying and we remained mute spectators. Thanks to you, the country had not to face humiliating situation and through your interventions this House passed a resolution which enabled us to save our image before the world to some extent, otherwise the Government had put the country into an embarrassing situation. The sort of speeches the hon'ble Members have given on the Iraq issue have obviously betrayed the thinking of the people belonging to the BJP in the context of Iraq. I fully agree with Satyavrat Chaturvedi ji, that unless the ruling party rises above its partisan interests and implements the foreign policy in the national interest, we cannot implement the correct and clear foreign policy. Somewhere the prejudices that they bear against the minorities, have obviously been observed on the Iraq issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

Just now, Shri Kharabela Swain ji has praised his Government on the question of Kashmir. I would like to point out with utmost humility that the people living in Kashmir who had hitherto been termed as anti national and traitors and these very people and not the Government deserve the credit for peaceful holding of elections of J&K. The peaceful elections there demonstrate that the people of Kashmir have faith in the country and they believe in democracy. Absence of good relations with even Nepal in our neighbourhood, the only Hindu State in the world, brings out the failure of foreign policy of the Government. The situation prevalent in Bangla Desh is before you. Even we have not been able to make

cordial relations with our neighbouring countries Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. I am not saying this. His party has been continuously alleging that intelligence agency of Pakistan, ISI is spreading its activities in Nepal. If Nepal is a friend of India and intelligence agency of Pakistan is spreading its activities there, it is a shameful situation for us. What our intelligence agencies are doing, what our Government is doing. Why our Government is not exerting pressure on Nepal so that it can face such a situation and compel the Government of Nepal to take action in this regard.

Failure of SAARC Conference has been proved today. Therefore, I through the House, would like that our country should take initiative to constitute SAARC Parliament. Now the time has come to take initiative in this direction because today Europe have constituted European Union and attained an important place in the world ...*(Interruptions)*. We should follow them.

Recently, Rasa Singh Rawat ji was saying that the number of Indian supporters is increasing in America. Recently during America's war on Iraq lakhs of people were demonstrating in America against war on Iraq. Even after that, the alliance army of America and Britain attacked on Iraq barbarically. Therefore, I would like to tell that they should not misunderstand that the number of Indian supporters is increasing in America now and under the pressure of such supporters America will become well-wisher of India. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the history that America has never been a well-wisher of India since independence to till date. Therefore, I would like to tell that we should remain cautious with America and we should discharge the same role as the country has played during the Non-Aligned Movement.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, internal policy of the Government of Atal ji is not good then how the foreign policy would be good. The Prime Minister Office is not functioning smoothly then how the Ministry of External Affairs headed by Shri Yashwant Sinha would function properly.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister need not take it very seriously.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: No. You take it seriously.

[Translation]

I am proud of my country. I mean to say that we should proud of our country and the world should proud of foreign policy of our country. Therefore, I would like to say that recently hon. Prime Minister has extended hand of friendship with Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)* Even after extending hand of friendship with Pakistan many times General Musharraf does not think about friendship with India. We would like to make friendship with Pakistan in real sense but what action the Government of Pakistan is going to take to end terrorism in India. We would like to make friendship with Pakistan whole-heartedly. Our country has a great tradition. Therefore, I would like to say that if we like to make friendship with Pakistan then Pakistan should also be ready to make friendship with us. But they have made arrangements for spreading terrorism. Even after so many threats the army remained on the border for a long time. The hon. Prime Minister was telling that you step forward, we are with you and there is nothing to fear. 100 crore people of the country are with you. Once you should wage a war against Pakistan, we should not only take back the area of Kargil and Jammu-Kashmir occupied by Pakistan but there is need to occupy Pakistan in the same manner as America occupied Iraq. We do not support America and Russia. But America attacked on Iraq and occupied it. However, there was no need to occupy it. Yashwant Sinha ji, you are not incharge of defence. Currently George Fernandes is incharge of this portfolio. Therefore, it is not your responsibility to take a decision that war should be waged. In this regard I would like say this much that you have extended hand of friendship with Pakistan then Musharraf ji should support you. "Atal ji General Musharraf Ke Samane Kyo Phaila Rahe Ho Dosti Ka Hath, vaha* Ek Din Kar Dega Ghat'.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am removing that word from the record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Alright, expunge it. Please expunge the word but my feeling remains the same. Because we people are patriots and therefor I would like to say this much that there is no need to hold talks with Pakistan.

'Pakistan ke Sath Mat Karo Baat,
Dikha do Unko Apni Shakti Ka Hath'.

To teach a lesson to Pakistan, our foreign policy.
...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): It may be the feeling of Ramdas ji but not of the House.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The feeling of the House is the same that war against Pakistan should take place. If you wish to go for majority votes, you can do so, I am to say that war against Pakistan should take place.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the House under your leadership has taken up for discussion the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. I believe that it is being done after eleven long years. The last time that the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs was discussed in the House was in 1992. Therefore, all of us have reasons to be happy with the fact that Business Advisory Committee and you, Mr. Speaker, decided that we should discuss Foreign Policy and the functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs through the discussion on Demand for Grant.

I am also very happy at the level of discussion; the quality of discussion which has taken place starting with my distinguished colleague Shri R.L. Bhatia and ending with Shri Ramdas Athawale. I think all distinguished hon. Members have made their points of view. There have been many suggestions for action. We have taken note of them. I may not be able to reply to all the points that have been raised, but I certainly wish to tough upon the important issues that have been raised here.

Let me begin, Mr. Speaker Sir, by saying that foreign policy as an integral part of the overall policy of this country with a view to promoting, globally, the best interest of this nation has been an issue which has never been debated in this country on the basis of petty political considerations. This country, as one unit, has always stood behind the Government of the day whenever the Government of the day has had or has been called upon to take important decisions in the history of this country.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

Shri Bhatia started with defining the objectives of foreign policy. One cannot have any quarrel with those objectives. The broad objectives of the foreign policy of this country have always been very clear; the direction has been very clear; and the thrust has been very clear. It is another matter that with respect to developing situations, from time to time, those broad principles have to be nuanced; they have to be further refined in order to suit a particular situation; in order to sub-serve the broader national interest.

Sometimes, there have been occasions where the understanding of national interest has also been differently interpreted. Some people have understood national interest in one way, and others have understood it in another way. But, I cannot think of a single occasion where all the parties together have not come behind the Government or have not stood behind the Government of the day in the pursuit of foreign policy. This is something, which is evident even today.

The Resolution on Iraq, Mr. Speaker Sir, which this House adopted was once again a demonstration of that broad national consensus with regard to foreign policy. We had problems—as I mentioned that day—with regard to the language of that Resolution, but ultimately we all agreed on a certain formulation and under your leadership, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was possible for us to adopt a Resolution and show to the world the unity and the strength of the national consensus which backs our foreign policy.

We have the advantage today, we have had this advantage also in the past of having one of the most distinguished and successful Foreign Ministers of this country as the Prime Minister of the country today. It is under his leadership that the foreign policy of this country has been conducted over the last five years, and will be conducted in future.

I have also had the distinction of succeeding a very successful External Affairs Minister who have a certain status and a certain stature to India's standing in the international comity of nations. Therefore, my task has been made both easy and difficult in the given situation because I have had such an illustrious predecessor. We have had some exchanges in this House in the course of the debate because some sentiments were expressed about the past glory of India in the world arena. It is quite natural that we should recall those days. Then, some issues were raised with regard to the past mistakes also. If we give in to the temptation of recalling the past

achievements, then the temptation to recall the past mistakes will become difficult to resist. I do not want to go into that kind of a debate in my reply.

Let me begin. Mr. Speaker, Sir, by referring to some general issues, the Non-Aligned Movement. Speaker after speaker referred to the Non-Aligned Movement and bemoaned the fact that India lost its pre-eminent position in the Non-Aligned Movement; in fact, the Non-Aligned Movement itself seems to be losing its relevance. In the Kuala Lumpur Summit, which was held in February, the revitalisation of the Non-Aligned Movement was the subject of discussion. South Africa, which was, the Chairman of NAM for over four years before Malaysia took over in the Kuala Lumpur, had called two meetings; the first one at a place called Zambeli and, therefore, it became known as the Zambeli Group or the Zambeli process. These meetings were held with a view to providing the vitality to NAM in their Twenty-first Century because NAM itself realised that somewhere it was being swapped of that vitality and, therefore, there was need to think about it.

The second Zambeli Group meeting, which was held, I think, in December in Cape Town, was personally attended by me. I went as the External Affairs Minister of India to Cape Town to attend this meeting. Let me, through you, Sir, take the House into confidence and inform the House that three full Foreign Ministers were present in that meeting: one was South Africa because South Africa was the host, the second was Malaysia because Malaysia was going to take over the Chairmanship from the South Africans, and the third was India. All other countries in the Group, which consisted of former Chairman of NAM and members of the Group, and also the Arab League Representative, Mr. Aamar Moosa, were represented by State Minister, Deputy Minister or at the official level. Why did I decide to go to South Africa to attend the Second Zambeli Group meeting? It is because I wanted to prove and once again demonstrate the commitment of India to the continued relevance of this Movement.

Let me also take the House into confidence, through you, Sir, and say that the South African Foreign Minister, who was chairing the Session, asked me 'India' to suggest the agenda for the continued relevance of NAM which could then be adopted at the Kuala Lumpur Summit, and the Indian Delegation worked hard. I think, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will agree here, having belonged to the Foreign Service at one time, that we have some of the finest brains in the Indian Foreign Service. We get very good quality assistance from them. We put out heads

together and, the next day, we presented a set of recommendations on what the agenda of NAM should be for the Twenty-first Century. I have some satisfaction in informing the House, through you, Sir, that, that agenda was adopted without any change, without any modification and that was the agenda which was adopted even at the Summit at Kuala Lumpur. That is the contribution which India has made to the continued relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement. But at the same time, I would also like to point out that both in Cape Town as well as in Kuala Lumpur, the issue of Iraq, for instance, came up.

What is it that Non-Aligned Movement should say on Iraq? There was sharp division on that because many members of the NAM had one point of view and many others had another point of view. We played our role in order to ensure that we adopted a Resolution, both in Cape Town as well as in Kuala Lumpur, which was consistent with the consensus of NAM, as well as with the relevance of NAM, as well as with the dignity of NAM. These Resolutions were adopted. But, should India become the leader of NAM, unchallenged leader of the world? I must confess that I have no such pretensions.

Leadership is not assumed. Leadership is a role which evolves. There was a period of time in our history when there was a leadership role for us along with others. We were not the unquestioned leader of NAM. There were others who were equally important. Today, in a different world, in a different context, if we were to go and say that we were the leaders of NAM, then, even the position that we have today will be lost. That is because, however small a country may be, however we might think unimportant a country might be, they are not prepared today to accept the leadership of another country automatically, without question. So, we are working with other members of NAM without claiming, without loudly claiming, that we are the leaders of NAM and everybody must listen to us. They will listen to us, they do listen to us, if we have a valid point to make. We will continue to make those valid points. We will continue to make contribution to the Non-Aligned Movement. We will continue to see that the Non-Aligned Movement plays its role.

Let me also remind this House, when we talk of the leadership of India in the Non-Aligned Movement in the past, that many of us do remember what happened when Bangladesh operations took place. During the operation in Bangladesh there was a Security Council Resolution. It could not be passed because our friend, the then Soviet Union, vetoed that Resolution in the Security Council.

There is a procedure in the UN called the *Uniting for Peace Procedure* under which seven members of the Security Council, or 50 per cent of the membership of the General Assembly, can call a meeting of the General Assembly to discuss that issue. A procedure which was not, or could not be, adopted in the case of Iraq in the current crisis, was adopted in the case of Bangladesh. When this issue came up, the Resolution against India was passed by 104 members voting for the Resolution against India, 11 with India voting against the Resolution, and some others abstaining. The only non-aligned countries which voted with India were Cuba and Bhutan. The others were, apart from India, the then Soviet Union and countries of Eastern Europe.

I am just reminding the House that even in the heyday of the Non-Aligned Movement there have been instances where we have not been able to convince the Non-Aligned Movement of our point of view. Therefore, while the commitment to the Non-Aligned Movement will remain, while we will continue to work for the success of this Movement, I think both in terms of the leadership of India as well as in terms of the current state of affairs, let us not expect too much.

In fact, when I was going to Cape Town, I had asked my Ministry to organise a meeting in Sapru House of some intellectuals who could give some inputs on the Non-Aligned Movement. One of the intellectuals, I was told, had said that the Non-Aligned Movement is dead but we cannot bury the dead body. I did not agree with this. I went to South Africa. We were going to Kuala Lumpur, I called a meeting at my level in which I had discussions with intellectuals, former foreign service officers, some members from the political class of this country.

I know that even within major political parties, there are differing perceptions and relevance of NAM. But I leave it at that.

Sir, Shri R.L. Bhatia initiated the debate. His first question was with respect to China, and I am happy that he heads the 'Eminent Persons Group' from our side. He heads it because we have completed confidence in Shri R.L. Bhatia and his ability of representing the point of view of India in the 'Eminent Persons Group'. I also had the good fortune of meeting the Eminent Persons from both sides when the last meeting was being held in New Delhi.

Sir, we seek friendly, cooperative and good neighbourly, mutually beneficial relationship with China on

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the basis of the principles of *Panchsheel*, on the basis of mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and equality. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences and to build a constructive and cooperative relationship with China.

Sir, there was a Conference on Asian Security organised by the IDSA in January, and they had invited me to inaugurate it. I would like to take a little bit of the time of this House in reading from the speech which I had delivered there. I quote:

"It is true that there are important differences between India and China. Some of the wounds inflicted by the conflict of 1962 have been slow to heal and their scars have not fully disappeared. Reliable and widespread reports of Chinese nuclear and missile proliferation to Pakistan cause deep concern. The Chinese position on issues such as Sikkim and India's candidature to a permanent seat in the UN Security Council sows doubts. There is also a sense of disappointment over the pace of improvement in the relationship.

Let me, however, assure everyone gathered here that India's approach to relations with China is and will remain forward-looking and infused with a sense of optimism. India's policies will not be based on fear of Chinese power nor envy of China's economic achievements. They will be based on the conviction that a prosperous India is inevitable. So is a strong and prosperous China. It is, therefore, logical, reasonable and in the enlightened self-interest of the two countries to learn, not just to live with each other but also address differences and build on what is common. Further, both India and China are too large and too strong—I repeat—are too large and too strong to be contained or cowed down by any country including each other."

Sir, this was the speech which I had delivered, and this was the speech which, I am sure, Shri R.L. Bhatia is aware, was widely appreciated in China and in the Chinese media.

Sir, what is our considered position on Tibet? Our considered position is that we recognise Tibet to be an autonomous region of China, and this is the position which remains. Our relations with Tibet are historical, spiritual and religious in nature. The Dalai Lama is respected in India as a spiritual and religious leader. He is not supposed to indulge in political activity on Indian soil. But we have favoured a direct dialogue between His

Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese Government to resolve their all outstanding differences, and I am happy to say that some dialogue has started. The Chinese Prime Minister Mr. Zhu Rongji was in India in January last year. Our Defence Minister is already in China. Our Defence Minister gave a speech also in the same Conference in IDSA. He explained this remark which is attributed to him about China being India's enemy number one. I know this for a fact that China was extremely keen to have the *Raksha Mantri* visit China. The visit had to be postponed in view of the developments in Iraq. Fresh dates were fixed. The Defence Minister is in China. I understand that he is getting a welcome which is almost at the same level as that of the visiting Head of the Government. That is a kind of welcome that the Chinese are giving to the Defence Minister. He has had very useful talk. We will have a complete report of his visit, when he returns.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to visit China. As Shri Bhatia has said the dates are being fixed. We are hopeful that he will be visiting China soon. You, Sir, led a Parliamentary delegation to China. You had very good meetings. Our trade with China has crossed five billion dollars. It has become one of our largest trading partners. I am referring to this because in my previous capacity in this House, I have heard a great deal of concern about the new Chinese invasion in the economic field, and how India will not be able to hold its own. We have held our own. Our exports to China are growing exponentially. There is nothing, absolutely in any area that should cause any apprehension or concern in our minds, specially in the economic field. We are determined to increase our involvement, our engagement with China in the economic and other fields.

As far as the LAC and the boundary question is concerned, there is a set procedure and an agreed procedure; a three-stage formula. We are making progress. I am sure, we will continue to make progress. There will be difficulties. There will be impediments on the way. We will not allow those difficulties or impediments to create any fissures in the overall understanding. For all these years—almost two decades—peace on India-China border has held. We are determined to ensure that it holds in future also. That will be our attitude as far as China is concerned.

Sir, with Russia, our relationship has achieved new heights. It is not merely—as Shri Shivraj Patil was saying—that we had succeeded in maintaining the relationship of the past. In fact, Russia went through a tumultuous period, when the old Soviet Union broke up. We have not only been able to maintain that but improve

our relationship with Russia in various areas. There is a very close interaction now. The who Heads of Governments visit each other under our strategic partnership every year. It was under that arrangement that President Putin was in India in December. I had been to Russia in February. I will be going again to Russia some time in May. The Prime Minister will be visiting Russia around the end of May, because he had been invited along with a view limited number Heads of Governments for the 300th anniversary celebration of the city of St. Petersburg. So, he will be going to Russia. As I said, in all areas of cooperation, we have very intense relationship. We describe our relationship with Russia not merely as friendly, but as civilization, because it is something which has stood the test of time. This is one relationship that India cherishes; this is one relationship to which we shall continue to invest in order to make sure that we will continue to make progress.

Let me now come to Europe. We now have a summit with the European Union; and the EU is expanding. They are going up from 15 to 25. Come 2003, ten more nations are going to join the EU. It is becoming a pan-European Union in its coverage. What is more is that the European Union is now acquiring a political and strategic personality. That is what is happening. It started as a trade body. It has now gradually grown into a real union with a common currency.

The only countries with which the European Union has a summit are China, Japan, the US, Canada and Russia, making it five; and the sixth country with which EU has a summit is India. We have had more than three summits so far. Italy is going to assume the leadership, the chairmanship or the presidency of EU from 1st of July. The next summit is due in Delhi in November. We are working hard to make that summit also a success. Each summit is accompanied by a business summit of the EU. This also is extremely successful.

Let us now take ASEAN. Ten countries in East Asia have come together and formed ASEAN, as you know. The 'Look East' policy is Shri Narasimha Rao's policy. We are following that policy. I was a little surprised that the references to Congress' contribution to foreign policy ended with the late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, and no reference was made to Shri Narasimha Rao. It was left to Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab to refer to Shri Narasimha Rao. It was in his time that the 'Look East' policy was formulated. We have followed up on that policy. The elevation of India to the summit level dialogue of ASEAN has been a major achievement. The first time

the summit was held in Phnom-Penh, in November last year. The Prime Minister and I had travelled for the summit. It was an extremely successful summit from our point of view because the Prime Minister of India suggested to the ASEAN that we should have a free trade agreement; he said that ASEAN and India should have a free trade agreement. We suggested a ten-year time frame with an early harvest concept built into it.

We are negotiating a free trade agreement separately with Thailand. We are negotiating a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement with Singapore. The Singapore Prime Minister was here recently to sign that agreement. But with ASEAN now, like China and like Japan, India is in the process of negotiating a free trade agreement.

With ASEAN, the only countries which have a summit level relationship are China, Japan and South Korea. India is the fourth country which has summit level relationship with ASEAN.

Similarly, our involvement with post-Taliban's Afghanistan has been very intense and has been extremely intense. We are doing a lot of very useful work in Afghanistan through that 100 mill on dollar assistance or grant which had been promised by the Prime Minister. We are building schools; we have contributed to the upgradation of the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul; we have contributed buses to them; and we have given them three aircraft to fly. We are drilling tube-wells; we are helping in agriculture. It is a long and broad spectrum of developmental approach and humanitarian assistance.

We are training their people; we are engaged with Afghanistan like never before. This is something which is appreciated by the people of Afghanistan. One of the earliest steps that I made when I came to this Ministry was to visit Afghanistan; and unlike most visitors, I did not remain confined to Kabul. I travelled to Herat; I travelled to Mazaar-e-Sharif; I went to Kandhar. I went to all these places; met the local Governors and discussed with them what are their requirements in terms of rehabilitation and development.

20.00 hrs.

So, we are doing a lot of work in Afghanistan.

Our engagement with Central Asia has reached unprecedented levels. I myself went to Tazakistan,

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Kazakistan and Kirghistan recently. I was the first Foreign Minister to have gone there. I do not claim this as a great distinction but it just happened by chance that I was the first Foreign Minister of India who went to Tazakistan, Kazakistan and Kirghistan in all these 10-12 years. This is a new dimension to our relationship, the involvement of India or the engagement of India with Central Asia.

I did not hear a word about Africa and the Latin America in the course of the debate but with these countries, with these continents, we have very serious engagements. With Africa and COMESA we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. We are trying to raise the level of our engagement with all the regional groupings in Africa; SFDAC, COMESA, Community of Countries in East Africa. In fact, the trip that I am making in the next few days, the House may be surprised to know, is a trip to Tanzania and Botswana. I am not running to New York or Washington but I am going to Tanzania and Botswana because it is important that these countries feel that India gives them importance.

Sir, our engagement with Mauritius is well known. In regard to South Africa, let me again take the House into confidence. The Foreign Ministers of South Africa, Brazil and India are meeting in the month of June in Brazilia. We have decided to get together to discuss what has been described here as the new International order and the role that the developing countries like India, South Africa and Brazil should have in the developing world.

Similarly, with Latin America, I plan a trip to Latin America, particularly to Brazil and Peru. There is a Reo Group with which we have had interactions over a period of time but this interaction had been minimal because we met during the UN General Assembly. We are in discussion with Mercosur, it is a combination of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, for a summit, for a PTA leading to FTA with them. We are in touch with Andean Group and CARICOM. My colleague, Shri Digvijay Singh had made a trip of Latin America where he discussed all these things and his visit has contributed a great deal to their understanding of India. We have had the Mexican Foreign Minister's visit here. We had the Colombian Foreign Minister's visit here. I am glad to inform the House through you that the Chilean Foreign Minister is coming here and I am going to talk to her tomorrow. This is the first time ever that the Foreign Minister of Chile is travelling to India. When the Paraguay Foreign Minister came to India, he reminded me that this

was the first time that a Paraguay Foreign Minister was coming to India. That was a return visit for Shri Digvijay Singh's visit. So, our engagement with Latin America is improving. We are taking care of the persons of the Indian origin in that part of the world.

Much has been said about our immediate neighbours. Let me dispel any impression in this House or anywhere else that our relationship with Nepal is not the very best. I heard somebody saying that we have problems with Nepal. We have no problem with Nepal. There are some problems within Nepal but we are in touch with Nepal. We are giving all the assistance that Nepal needs in order to be able to fight or deal with the problem there. We have the best of the relationship with Nepal. We have the best of the relationship with Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. There were some problems with Bangladesh.

As a Minister of External Affairs, again one of the earliest visits I made was to the immediate neighbourhood. I started with Maldives. I went to Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. Then I travelled to Bangladesh and we had a very good discussion. Then, there was some problem and I invited the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh to visit Delhi and we had a very candid discussion. Things have improved. We have had discussions at the level of the Commerce Secretaries of both the countries. The Foreign Secretary will be travelling to Dhaka at the end of this month to have Foreign Office consultations. We have decided that the Joint Commission between Bangladesh and India will meet in Dhaka before the 15th July and I hope those dates will also be fixed. There are issues between Bangladesh and India. But it does not mean that our relationship is not very cordial and friendly. We are in touch with them. Bangladesh Foreign Minister and I speak whenever it is necessary even on phone.

Sir, with Japan, again I would like to say that we have been able to get over that phase which had started with our nuclear tests in 1998. As we know, Japan is one country which did suffer a nuclear holocaust. Therefore, their mind set is very different. They were disappointed, no doubt, when we went for our nuclear tests. We have been explaining it very patiently to them and I am very glad once again to be able to tell the House that the Japanese Foreign Minister visited New Delhi. I think Japanese Foreign Minister came to India after six to eight years. She visited New Delhi and we had very good discussions. The National Security Advisor was in Japan recently. He had also had very good discussion. The Japanese Prime Minister was in India. Our Prime Minister went to Japan. Our Raksha Mantri

and other Ministers had also gone there. We are engaging Japan at all levels—economic, political and strategic. We have a global partnership with Japan. So, with most of the countries we have this relationship.

Now, I come to more difficult part. I will come to Pakistan. I have deliberately decided to talk about Pakistan last because an impression goes round that there is nothing more to India's Foreign Policy than Pakistan. I would talk about America also. Let me begin by saying that as far as the United States of America is concerned, we worked hard to establish cordial, friendly and good relationship with them over the last few years. There was a great deal of misunderstanding once again after the nuclear tests. The house is aware that US with some other countries had imposed economic sanctions on India in the wake of the nuclear tests. But engagement with the US has led to an understanding. I am making bold to say that sustained hostility with the United States of America cannot and should not be the policy of India. We are the largest democracy of the world. The US is also a powerful democracy. Just as we will not under estimate the strength of democracy in our country, we would and should not under estimate the strength of democracy in the US. There is no reason why the two largest democracies should not work together. I am not for a moment saying that we agree on all issues. We do not and the most recent disagreement has been on the issue of Iraq. But single issues do not define relationship between two countries because the relationship covers a vast area.

Therefore, despite these differences—we have other areas of difference, where we are patiently working together and some of them may continue and some of them may vanish. I cannot predict that—we would continue to promote friendship between India and the United States of America. There have been exchange of visits between the USA and India and the relationship is being guided by the shared commitment of the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President George Bush which was outlined in November, 2001 when they met in Washington. Therefore, without compromising on anything, I would like Shri Rupchand Pal and some others to please take note of it, without compromising our national interests, without compromising on our principles of we can build a great relationship with the USA, then we would try and do so. That is why I said, this compulsive hostility to the US as something a baggage that we should leave behind. It does not suit our national interest. It is not conducive for the world peace.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: When you say that there is a baggage of compulsive hostility, are you suggesting that there was a deliberate promotion of compulsive hostility with the US in the past? Is that the charge you are bringing against the Governments run by the Congress in the past?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No I think, you are reading too much into what I have said. What I meant to say was that there are sections of opinion in the country which do have this compulsive hostility towards the US. This comes out every now and then. I am also saying that in the past, I am not making this to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar as a charge, we have dwelt more on our differences than on our commonalties. What is the difference today? How has the situation changed? It is not because those differences have vanished but both countries have decided that we will emphasise the commonalties more than our differences. We will continue to deal with our differences. We will continue to evolve a common plan but that should not be the sum total of our relationship.

Sir, I am glad that Shri Rashid Alvi has come back. But I was wondering about the paragraph from where he quoted I got the Annual Report of the Ministry. I have gone through both the chapters on US and the introductory remarks but I could not find that sentence where we have said that our relations with the US has improved.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It is there.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Please tell me the page number.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is at page 78. I am reading out that paragraph.

"The terrorist attacks in US on 11th September, 2001 and on the Indian Parliament on 13th December, 2001 have led to the deepening of the Indo-US co-operation in this field."

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It says about deepening of the Indo-US co-operation in fighting terrorism. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is there. I am reading what is written there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Shri Rashid Alvi read out as if Indo-US relations have deepened as a result of that

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terrorist attack in the US. The terrorist attacks have led to the deepening of Indo-US co-operation in this field. Why is there any misunderstanding on this?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In which field?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is in the field of fight against terrorism.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Does the United States also recognise that there is cross-border terrorism?

Your own admission is that there has been double standard in their measurement of terrorism.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Just let me say one sentence.

[Translation]

If you say in a way that there has not been any terrorist activity and such activity has been there in our country that is why we have come closer then how we have come closure? Whether, U.S. has not waive of one billion Dollar loan of Pakistan for terrorism, whether they have not given aid, whether U.S. has changed his policy in respect of Pakistan, you please let the House know where and how we have come closer to U.S.? ...*(Interruptions)*. I have read the whole paragraph. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You have expressed your views.

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed your view, now please sit down.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You have come very close to US. Even then I ask you simply one question. Can you trust US and is America a trustworthy country?

MR. SPEAKER: It is very simple. There is a difference in the perception with which you have made your points.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The impression which Shri Rashid Alvi created in this House by quoting from the Annual Report was that because of the terrorist strike in the US and on Indian Parliament, we have come closer together.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: That is what you have said.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: No. We are just saying that it has deepened cooperation in this field.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Please accept that it is a ridiculous sentence not written by you, but your officers. Pull them up and move on.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I do not share the mindset of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. I have never shared it. I am sorry, I do not share it *vis-a-vis* the officers. There is no question of pulling up anyone because what has been said in the Annual Report is exactly what we meant to say. There is no mistake. So, what should I pull them up for?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: That is what we are objecting to. You share the view of your poor draftsmen and are suggesting that international cooperation has increased only because there was an attack on them and an attack on us. It is an extremely unfortunate position that the Minister of External Affairs instead of exercising his ministerial responsibility, in exactly the same way as he behaved in the Ministry of Finance, is just finding excuses.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The Indian Foreign Service, as Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will know, is one Foreign Service which is sought after internationally for its drafting capabilities. If Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar believes that that quality has degenerated after he left the Service, I am sorry, I do not accept it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It certainly has. I just do not see why the Foreign Minister must stand up for a poorly drafted sentence.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, how much more time do you need to complete?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Just a few more minutes and I will be done.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Maybe the IAS has drafted that line. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Attack on Parliament is just one incident. In India also we have been seeing things which are happening for the last fifteen years.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The Report has to be read in its totality. That sentence occurs after many-many sentences and it is in a certain perspective.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: That is the second sentence in the paragraph.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: But there are many more paragraphs before that.

I now come to the final issue of Pakistan and then I will be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: You please admit your mistake.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Why should I admit mistake? ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to that point. Bansal Sahib, you become so restless. Shivraj Patil has raised it, I will touch it, I am not going out.

[English]

It has been a difficult relationship with our neighbour, Pakistan not in the last few years, but since 1947, since the sub-continent of India was partitioned. This is something which is history. There have been ups and downs in this relationship over the last 55 years. I do not want to take the time of the house over the history of this. But I would like to say that the first and the most preferred option of the Government vis-a-vis Pakistan is the option of peace, is the option of friendship and the option of dialogue. This is the first and most preferred option. The Prime Minister has clarified it in Srinagar and he has clarified it today that for a meaningful dialogue to begin, it is important that infiltration and cross-border terrorism is brought to an end and the those terrorist camps which are there in Pakistan are dismantled. That is the position as explained by the Prime Minister today. As he said, the ball is in the court of Pakistan. If Pakistan were to respond, they were to see evidence in the ground, then we will certainly move forward in that direction.

Now, there are many people who see a divergence of the position taken by me and the Prime Minister and much has been written and said on this. Let me quote from what I said in the interview which I gave to *The Hindustan Times*. The question was:

"USA and UK, without UK support, attacked Iraq. Is not Pakistan which has weapons of mass destruction, a lack of democracy, and shelters international terrorists, a fit case for such action?"

I would quote my reply also.

"It is a fit case. I won't oppose it. But whether they (they means US and UK) will is up to them. We can't go to someone and ask them to attack another country. We keep pointing out the activities in Pakistan, and in them, the role of the Pakistan army, the drug business centred in Pakistan; and third, how, in PoK, people are repressed and trampled upon."

We keep pointing it out in our dialogue with foreign countries. This is what I said. The headlines of the news report of this interview was "Pak a fit case for attack without UN support: Sinha." I do not choose the headline. And that is why, I said that I would quote from what I have said.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You said that it is a fit case. You have just read it out to us. Your first two sentences are exactly reflected in the headlines. Once again, I would request you to improve your drafting ability, now that you are no more in the IAS and you have joined the Ministry of External Affairs.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The great honourable Mani Shankar Aiyar, I do not want to waste my time joining issue with you in this House on this particular point.

I was speaking in the other House when the Iraq Resolution came up and there, this issue had been raised and I had clarified it there. I had said that as far as comparison with Iraq is concerned. I said that we have reasons to believe that Iraq does not have weapons of mass destruction. I said that we have reasons to believe that Iraq is not linked with Al-Qaeda and terrorism. So, the only thing which is common as far as these three criteria are concerned, between Iraq and Pakistan, if at all, is the issue of lack of democracy. So, this impression that I was thereby lending support to US action in Iraq was entirely erroneous. I hope this will clarify the issue as far as Pakistan is concerned.

In the end, I would like to say that I was not surprised to hear a charge once again in this House because I have heard this charge over four years as the Finance Minister. This is with regard to the independence and autonomy of our decision-making process, whether it be the economic policy, foreign policy or any other policy. I think, as a great nation, we do injustice to ourselves by immediately linking every decision to some pressure or the other and that too, with this Government. Members like General Tripathy and Shri Kharabela Swain have

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

pointed it out. Did we carry out the nuclear tests in May, 1998 also under American pressure? Was that also the result of American pressure? Was the missile test also the result of American pressure? Why should the foreign policy of this country based on a broad national consensus? Our foreign policy is based on a broad national consensus and must continue to remain based on a broad national consensus, for the simple reason that when I stand up on behalf of India, I am not standing up on behalf of any particular party. I am standing up for the whole country. When the Prime Minister speaks, he speaks for the whole country. He is the Prime Minister of India.

We have our small differences. We will continue to have them because that is what politics is all about. But my very humble plea would be, let us not weaken India's position and let us not weaken India's case by appearing to be divided and by accusing each other of acting under pressure. India does not act under the pressure of any country. That is why I quoted from my speech on China to say that we are too big, too great and too large a nation to be cowed down by anyone. We will not be cowed down. We will continue to follow our policies independently and according to our best judgement of our national interest.

I am quite sure that when we do that the whole House, the whole country will support it because we will be acting in the best national interest.

MR. SPEAKER: A few cut motions have been moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to the Demand for Grant

relating to Ministry of External Affairs. Shall I put all the cut motions to the vote of the House together or does the hon. Member want any particular cut motion to be put separately?

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demand for Grants relating to the Ministry of External Affairs 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, 2004, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand No. 30 relating to the Ministry of External Affairs."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House stand adjourned till eleven of the clock tomorrow.

20.28 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 24, 2003/Vaisakha 4, 1925 (Saka)

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