

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Statement

Wednesday, December 14, 2005/Agrahayana 23, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today you are in Indian dress.

MR. SPEAKER: It is also an Indian dress.

[English]

Thank you.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, Q. No. 302

[English]

Indo-Pak Trade Links

*302. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision to establish trade links across the Line of Control was taken between the Indian Foreign Secretary and his counterpart in Islamabad during the month of August, 2006;

(b) whether the modalities for establishing such trade links have since been finalised;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the modalities are likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

During the Foreign Secretary level talks in Islamabad on 1 and 2 September 2005 to review the progress of the second round of the Composite Dialogue, it was agreed to start a truck service for trade on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route. During Foreign Minister level talks in Pakistan, October 2-5, 2005, it was agreed an expert level meeting would be held before the end of this year to finalize modalities to initiate a truck service on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus route. The meeting has not taken place because the earthquake on 8 October 2005 had damaged the infrastructure on both sides of the Line of Control. The matter will be taken up once the infrastructure is restored.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Hon. Speaker, Sir, when would the expert-level meeting is proposed to be held as it was stated in the Statement by the hon. Minister that due to earthquake, the meeting has not taken place to start the truck services between India and Pakistan? Track-II policy has helped us to improve the people-to-people interaction which has helped to revive the civilian travel and in the fields of cultural exchange, medical, tourism and sports. This has resulted in the increase of trade which touched 600.77 million US dollars during 2004-2005. Would the Ministry maintain this tempo and also increase the trade in the coming years? According to the FICCI study report, the annual free trade between India and Pakistan could reach six billion US dollars if trade barriers are removed.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question please?

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, is it a fact? If yes, would the Minister give the details? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Details of what? The question is on trade links.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, the trade between India and Pakistan is growing. But, in view of the fact that there are some trade barriers, we are not able to achieve as expected. However, in the financial year 2004-2005 the exports were 509.27 million US dollars and the imports were 92.74 million US dollars. The total trade is 602.01 million US dollars and in our favour it is 416.53 million US dollars. We will be doing all the best that we can to increase our trade between these two countries.

MR. SPEAKER: That is not your Ministry's job.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: It was reported that India and Pakistan have agreed to open the scheduled banks of both the countries in India and Pakistan which will facilitate the bilateral trade relations between both the countries. Is it true that such a proposal to open the branches of the scheduled banks of both the countries in India and Pakistan was discussed during the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to India in November, 2004? If yes, what are the details thereof?

MR. SPEAKER: No details. Say only yes or no.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, this is handled by the Ministry of Finance. If the hon. Member will put a separate question about the banking I will be able to give all the details.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, both Amritsar and Ferozpur and the bordering areas contiguous to Pakistan and have a long history of trade. Due to the closure of trade between the two countries several traders and the labourers are facing a lot of problem. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to resume the trade ties with Pakistan *via* Amritsar and Ferozpur.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, this is a matter which has to be taken up with the other Ministries also. Trade is mainly being handled by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. But about the people coming across the border, we have now relaxed this thing. Wagah border is one point where the people can very well go and even the trade can also move. But there are certain restrictions as they are already prevalent. Taking into account all these things the point made by the hon. Member and on the suggestion he made, we will take it up with the Ministry of Commerce for discussion as a part of the composite dialogue that is to be held from January, 2006 onwards.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the question relates to trade links across the Line of Control. Please restrict your supplementaries to this.

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Sir, the Government of India is contemplating to establish trade links between

Islamabad and our country. A report has come that on an average more than 500 kgs. of heroin is confiscated per year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Ministry of External Affairs cannot do anything this.

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: This reveals the enormity of drug trafficking through the Line of Control. Once the trade link is opened across the LoC what preventive measures Government is going to take so that such trafficking menace can be stopped?

MR. SPEAKER: Let the trade link not be misutilised by heroin trafficking.

SHRI E. AHAMED Sir, India and Pakistan are continuing their composite dialogue. Out of the eight subjects for the composite dialogue, terrorism and drug trafficking are also there about which the Home Secretaries have been holding discussions. This also will be discussed at the time of the discussions between the Home Secretaries. But this particular instance is one such instance that can happen any time. That will also be looked into by the Home Secretaries during their discussions.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what is the current status of the trade between India and Pakistan at present and if any trade has been taking place between the countries which includes both imports and exports then that is the quantum thereof and how much it is going to increase in the ensuing years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered it.

SHRI, E. AHAMED: Sir, I have already given the figures.

MR. SPEAKER: You have given the answer. You send this to Minister of Commerce and Industry. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the Government for opening

the trade links between the two countries. This step has sent a wave of happiness among all countrymen. Because this step has rekindled the hopes of the people of various bordering states like Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister specifically whether the Government propose to open the trade route along the LOC. If so, whether such trade route is likely to be opened along the actual line of control and what items and goods are propose to be allowed to treat?

MR. SPEAKER: It is related to the Ministry of Commerce. Can you answer it?

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I can just say that along the Line of Control we have five points which are opened. The people can also take their goods to that side after the due checks and following other instructions by the customs authorities. What are the materials to be taken are normally whatever the people will be carrying usually from one side of the border to other side. From across the Line of Control also, they will be coming here. That will also be allowed after the checking etc. by the customs authorities.

MR. SPEAKER: Usual procedure will be followed.

Availability of Generic Medicines for AIDS Patients

+
*303. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether expenses on the treatment of AIDS through Anti-Retro-Viral Therapy has been reduced by twenty times due to availability of generic medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage use/availability of the generic medicines at cheaper rate throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Yes, Sir, the expenses on the treatment of AIDS through Anti Retroviral Therapy has been reduced considerably due to availability of generic medicines.

The cost of branded ARV drugs per patient per year used to be approximately Rs. 30,000 per month in the year 1996 and then it was reduced to Rs. 18,000 per month in 1998 due to introduction of Nevirapine in the branded triple drugs combination. With the introduction of generic medicines, the market price of these triple drugs combination came down to approximately Rs. 1200 per month in the year 2004. However, the Government of India is procuring these triple drugs combination for Rs. 550 per month due to bulk purchase centrally for all the ART centers functioning in various states.

Following steps have been taken to encourage availability of ARV drugs at cheaper rates throughout the country:

- (a) A working group headed by Secretary (H) with Additional Secretary and Project Director, DGHS, representatives from Pharma Industries, FICCI and CII as members was constituted to examine the modalities for cost reduction of ARV drugs by pharma industry, types of custom and excise duty levied on equipment and antiretroviral drugs for consideration of their waiver by the Government and existing facilities for follow-up and monitoring for both public and private sectors. The Working Group meeting was held on 19th November, 2003, and 24th November, 2003. Ministry of Finance and Department of Commerce were requested for waving of excise and custom duties on indigenous/imported ingredients of raw materials.
- (b) GOI have waived the excise duty on ten ARV drugs. These ARV drugs include Stavudine, Zidovudine, Lamivudine, Neirapine, Efavirenz, Didanosine, Indinavir, Nelfinavir, Ritonavir and Saquinavir.
- (c) Custom duty on finished product of following ARV drugs is waived: Ritonavir, Sequanavir, Didanosine, Indinavir. The same is also reduced to only 5.1% on Lamuvudine and Zidovudine. Custom duty on raw material of ARV drugs Indinavir, Didonasine, Ratinovir, Sequinavir is waved and it is also reduced for ARV drugs Zidovudine and Lamovudine.

- (d) The CII has supplied two CD4 machines for use under the programme. Free ART services was started from 1st April, 2004, under National AIDS Control Programme through eight (8) selected Government hospitals. Today 40 hospitals across the country are providing free ART services. It is also planned to provide free ARV treatment to 1.8 lakh patients till end of year 2010. The EFC proposal has already been approved. In this regard, bulk procurement of ARV drugs is being done through competitive bidding which also helps in reducing the cost.
- (e) The anti AIDS Drugs also include treatment given for Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) of HIV infection and for post exposure prophylaxis. Drugs for PPTCT have been supplied to all the States/UTs for free distribution to mother and new born child. Currently, 377 centers are providing PPTCT services across the country. Funds are provided to all the State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) for purchase of antiretroviral drugs for use in post exposure prophylaxis and the same, is purchased by the states locally and supplied to the government hospitals for treatment of the patients as per need.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is unwell. Let us wish him speedy recovery.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: You are aware that India is the largest victim of AIDS and HIV and more than 60 lakh patients are here. At the same time, last Thursday, the Prime Minister himself said 'not enough is being done for the HIV infected'.

[Translation]

There was a target to cover 1 lakh patients but so far only 15,000 have been covered. I would like to know as to what steps are being taken by the Government to achieve this target? In his reply, the hon'ble Minister has stated that 8 hospitals have been recognized where free medicines would be provided to the AIDS patients. Along with it he has also mentioned that 40 centres have also been opened. Where the patients suffering from AIDS would be treated. The hon'ble Minister has stated that the medicines are available at the cost of Rs. 550-800. But even today, it requires an amount of 2-3 lakh per patient.

[English]

Since the medicine for HIV-AIDS is a life-saving drug, can the Government think over distributing it free of cost throughout the country because we are the largest victim of this disease?

MR. SPEAKER: Can you give it free?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we are providing medicine free of cost in 40 recognised hospitals. The average cost is Rs. 550 per month and Rs. 6600 per year.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister has stated that under the national policy one lakh 8 thousand patients are likely to be treated by 2012. In this regard, I would like to know whether the Government have taken into account the fact that the number of patients suffering from AIDS would also rise by the each passing year till 2010. Therefore, whether the Government propose to bring some changes in the said programme so that the poor may get the medicines at the affordable cost and also whether there is any need to fix any water tight targets like 2010 when the increase in the number of patients is imminent.

[English]

We can advance the programme.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we are going to add 60 more hospitals. So, the total number of such recognised hospitals will be 100. Through this, we are trying to control it.

MR. SPEAKER: Well done.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to convey to the hon'ble Minister that I am not satisfied with the reply of part C given by him. Under the National Health Policy 2002, the use of generic drugs have been accepted in both private and public health care sector to strengthen and make the public health system cost effective. It has also been provided under the said policy that except under the exceptional circumstances, government doctors are not supposed to

prescribe the patent branded medicine but the medicine of the generic nature. Still, the doctors have been prescribing patent medicines which is resulting in increase in the cost of medicine for the common man and he has to shell out Rs. 16 for a medicine which he can get for Rs. 2 only. I would like to know as to what steps are propose to be taken by the Government to put a check on such practice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is it?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, if the hon. Member tells the specific case, we will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Arvind Sharma.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am talking about the common man. You, are also well aware of the condition of the common man and how he is compelled to pay Rs. 16 for a medicine which otherwise can be available in Rs. 2 only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you have any specific case, send it to her. She will look into it.

DR. ARVIND SHARMA: thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that you have given me a chance.

At international level, Stop and Prevention AIDS Project has been started to prevent HIV transmission amongst sex workers. Has our Government taken proper measures to educate such people? I would also like to know whether district hospitals and primary health centres are instructed to educate people and prevent spread of HIV in rural areas, especially in close proximity of red light areas.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we are doing this. Recently, we have launched the National Rural Health Mission. Our Prime Minister launched it. Through the National Rural Health Mission, we are selecting ASHA in rural areas. We are giving training and going to educate them.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is well known that India has developed as a hub of generic

medicines in the international scenario. Way back in 1970s, Hathi Committee had recommended the use of generic drugs in a big way. In 2002 Health Policy also, it has been stated in the similar fashion on similar lines. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is planning to make use of generic medicines mandatory in the Government hospitals.

Further move, how are the generic medicines getting encouraged in the non-Governmental hospitals for general consumption in the country?

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing to spread the use of generic drugs?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we are providing generic medicines in the Government hospitals, and also in the private hospitals.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: I would like to say that it is a very serious subject and the way it is being replied is very casual. I need your protection. There is a need to hold a separate discussion on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion would definitely be held on the subject and it has taken place in the past also. What the hon'ble Minister has said is that you can send any specific case that you would like to refer.

SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this concerns the entire country and is not confined to a particular persons or case. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are absolutely right that it is a very important matter. Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, it is not related to a specific case, but it is the question related to the generic medicines.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, she has said that the use of generic medicines is being encouraged. Hon.

Members, can you always get answers to your complete satisfaction? If it is so, then there is no need for Ministers to have Ministries.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while on one hand it is being talked about the anti retro viral therapy, on the other especially in the region Saharsa in Bihar from which I hail, there does not exist even the facility of conducting the diagnostic test for HIV in the Government hospitals. The camps are organized by the Government from time to time to make people aware about the disease. However, it is quite surprising to note that the facility of conducting the diagnostic test named the Western Blast Test for confirming as to whether a person is HIV positive or not, is not available in the Government hospitals of not only my region but also in the PMCH medical college of Patna and Dharbhanga Medical College. Recently, a hospital called Prabha Hospital has been opened in Patna. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, please see the Question. It is on the availability of a particular drug.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Through you, I would like to say that initially the people of my area are not aware of the disease. Secondly they also feel a lot of embarrassment when people are asked to get HIV test conducted. The samples to conduct the Western Blast Test are sent to the Ranbaxy hospital in Mumbai which costs Rs. 1500 to 2000.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, this is not the way to put a supplementary. The Question before us is related to the availability of generic medicines.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Sir, it is a very important issue.

[Translation]

I would like to know whether the Government propose to make the faculty of conducting the western blast test available even in smaller district hospitals of the country at affordable rates?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, but it depends on her whether to answer this Question. But please do not do this. A supplementary means that it must be related to the main Question or based on the reply of the hon. Minister. Yes, I have understood your point, and I have understood your anxiety in this matter. Hon. Minister, can you reply to this query of the hon. Member?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, health is a State subject. Therefore, we will discuss this matter with the State Governments. We are also providing kits, etc. for tests under the National Rural Health Mission.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. P.P. Koya, but please put a specific question on generic medicines.

DR. P.P. KOYA: Thank you very much, Sir. I suppose that the Anti-Retro-Viral medicine is very very costly. I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Has the Government accepted this treatment as a part of the National AIDS Control Programme? Is it within the reach of an ordinary man if it is so? Is the Government going to make available such medicines in the Government hospitals, so that an ordinary man can get treatment? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Koya, this question has already been answered by the hon. Minister. Hon. Minister, are you going to make available such medicines?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we have already reduced the price for it, and we are providing it at Rs. 550 per head. But due to Excise Duty, etc. some medicines are costly, and we are trying to reduce the price too.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I compliment you.

Q. No. 304, Shri Brajesh Pathak—absent.

Renewal of Empanelment of Private Hospitals

*305. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of renewal of empanelment of private hospitals throughout the country for treatment of CGHS beneficiaries is pending since 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some of the hospitals having sufficient infrastructure have not been included for inspection for empanelment renewal;

(d) if so, the details of such hospitals and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether many hospitals with lesser infrastructure and fewer beds have been included for inspection for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Tenders for fresh empanelment/renewal of empanelment of private hospitals and diagnostic centers were invited in March, 2004. 768 hospitals and 404 diagnostic centers gave their bids/offers for empanelment/renewal of empanelment. All these offers/bids were scrutinised by a Screening Committee for checking whether the bidders fulfilled the eligibility conditions prescribed in the tender document and also whether the tender/bid had been filed as per prescribed procedure. Accordingly, 334 hospitals and 262 diagnostic centers have been shortlisted. These are now being inspected through the Quality Council of India (QCI) for ensuring/verifying availability of infrastructures, staff etc. This inspection is necessary for ensuring that hospitals/diagnostic centres with lesser infrastructure do not get empanelled through misrepresentation of facts in tenders. Tenders/bids of only such institutions have been rejected that had failed to comply with the conditions of the tender.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, time and again the hon. Health Minister has stated, according to various media reports, that he was going to revise the CGHS and bring in its place a health scheme on the lines of Medclaim. What is the thinking of the Health Ministry in this regard? When he brings in such a scheme, what will happen to the employees of the CGHS and what will happen to the CGHS beneficiaries who are undergoing treatment in various empanelled hospitals?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, I would like to remove this fear from the minds of the CGHS beneficiaries. I announce in the House that CGHS will not be closed. Rather it is going to be made into a vibrant organisation providing treatment and health care services.

MR. SPEAKER: Compliment the Minister by asking no more supplementaries.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I take this opportunity to thank the hon. Minister for her statement but I want to ask another supplementary. Is the Minister aware of a hospital, which is facing a CBI investigation, being inspected for empanelment? If so, what is the action that she proposes to take?

MR. SPEAKER: About Bangalore?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Anywhere in the country, Sir.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: if there is any such case, we will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: You send the details to the Minister. Anything after this? She has admitted whatever is to be done.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several of the state capitals cities do not have the CGHS dispensaries. While there is one dispensary in Kanpur, there is no dispensary in Lucknow which is quite surprising. My first question is whether the Government propose to open the CGHS dispensaries in all the capital cities of the country? Besides whether the Government also propose to empanel certain reputed hospitals under the CGHS scheme so that the people could get treatment in those hospitals and get reimbursement for their expenses on treatment. I would like to thank you hon'ble Minister for his assurance to strengthen the said scheme given in the House. In my opinion the first in this direction would be to cover the high-tech hospitals of the states government under the said scheme and opening of CGHS dispensaries in all the capital cities of the country.

[English]

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, we will consider this demand. That is why we called for tenders.

After finalising the tenders, we will arrange it in every city, State Capital and all.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. It is very charitable!

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, it is mentioned in the reply that tenders were invited a long time back, around two years back. Till now the Quality Council of India has not inspected the institutions. Many hospitals have come up with better value added services in the last two years. Is there any proposal with the Government to invite fresh applications so that these hospitals can also be sent for inspection along with the shortlisted ones, for better utilisation of health services by people at large?

MR. SPEAKER: Then, it will never be finalised.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: After finalising that bid, we are again calling for specific hospitals. There is one more thing. We want to include 242 private and Government medical college hospitals in this CGHS facility.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, you are getting whatever you want.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that initially when CGHS cards were being issued, I was asked as to which dispensary was the most suitable for me. In the reply, I said that there is no CGHS dispensary in Jammu and Kashmir. The absence of any CGHS dispensary in Jammu and Kashmir is a major cause of inconvenience for the Central Government employees there. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to make an announcement that CGHS dispensary should be opened in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how many dispensaries are proposed to be opened in Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary is not for making a request. You put it in the form of a question.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Let the hon'ble Minister respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Will the Minister consider opening of CGHS hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir?

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: It is time to enjoy the largesse. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: The Government will consider his request.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Sir, hon. ...*

MR. SPEAKER: This remark be removed from the records.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: The Minister has informed the House that 334 hospitals and 262 diagnostic centres have been short-listed. What I would like to know is this. Out of 334 hospitals and 262 diagnostic centres, how many hospitals and diagnostic centres in the list are located in Kerala? If there is none, why was it so? Is there any proposal to include hospitals from Kerala in the list?

MR. SPEAKER: The question was on renewal of empanelment of private hospitals.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: I will inform the Member in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Inform the Member.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: The system of providing medical facilities to beneficiaries through CGHS is very good. The beneficiaries in this group are senior citizens. Cities like Pune are provided with this facility. But there are no such facility in southern Maharashtra cities like Miraj and Kolhapur so that senior citizens need go to and fro to avail CGHS facilities. Would the Government make efforts to locate private hospitals in Miraj, Sangli and Kolhapur?

MR. SPEAKER: You wanted the facility to be removed from Pune!

*Not recorded.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: No, Sir. What I meant was that the facility should be extended to the southern Maharashtra cities also.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: After this tendering work, we would call new tenders when we can include his request.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to compliment the Minister.

[Translation]

Illegal Mining

*306. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15 workers including some women were killed on September 29, 2005 in an incident of subsidence of a mine due to illegal mining carried out in the area under the jurisdiction of the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof including compensation paid to the next of kin of victims;

(c) whether loss worth crores of rupees is incurred every year due to illegal mining and pilferage of coal in the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL);

(d) whether the above mentioned companies of the Coal India Limited have failed in checking illegal mining and smuggling of coal;

(e) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to check smuggling of coal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Officer Incharge of Rajrappa Police Station in his report dated 29.9.2005 has mentioned

that two bodies were recovered from the accident site when a portion of mine roof collapsed at Section-I quarry of Rajrappa Project of Central Coalfields Ltd. near Hazaribagh, Jharkhand while illegal mining was being done on 29.9.2005. The Police has registered a case vide Rajrappa Police outpost (Police Station, Ramgarh), case No. 399/05 dated 29.9.2005 under sections 286, 287, 338, 379, 304(A) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 30 (ii) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and the matter is under enquiry by the police. Coal companies are not required to pay any compensation in case of accidents due to illegal mining.

(c) Illegal mining is carried out stealthily and clandestinely from abandoned/closed/disused mines/non-working part of mine or from outcrop regions. As such it is not possible to have full details of such instances. Similarly theft of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely and as such it is not possible to exactly specify the location from and quantity of coal that might have been stolen.

(d) Law and order is State subject. It is primarily the responsibility of State/District Administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining and pilferage of coal. Coal companies invite the attention of concerned state governments to such incidents from time to time for necessary action.

(e) and (f) Following steps have been taken to check the smuggling of coal:

- (i) Management has been taking action for filling/dozing/sealing/blasting of the old/abandoned/exposed coal faces in phased manner.
- (ii) Conducting raids/intensive patrolling at sensitive areas jointly with Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)/Internal Security and State Administration.
- (iii) Inter-action and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meetings with District Administration, every month.
- (iv) Check posts have been installed on the main roads manned with armed Home Guards & State Police to check illegal trafficking of coal.
- (v) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage.

- (vi) FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) with local Thana against illegal mining and pilferage/theft of coal.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply of the Part 'a' of the question No. 306. In my question I had mentioned that 15 people were killed. When I reached at the site after two hours of that incident taking place, as the area falls in my constituency, seven dead bodies were already taken away from the site and four dead bodies were noticed enroute and two of the dead bodies were taken away during my presence. When two dead bodies were recovered with the help of machines after four hours, it formed the basis of the registration of FIR by the police. My question was that whether fifteen people have died there. It is only after I reached there, DC, SP and the officers of the Coal India accepted that 11 or 12 people were killed. Besides, two more dead bodies could have been recovered from there but the police and administration did not cooperate.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: I am asking the question only. It happened in connivance with the police and administration because the work at the site where the incident took place had been going on for the last six months under the Rajrappa Project. Approximately 300 to 400 people labourers were engaged in the work of illegal mining there. Neither the police nor the administration made any efforts to stop the said work. GM had also written latest to the DC and SP of the area five times. He had written those letters in the month of May, June and July and 18 FIRs were also registered by him. Through you, I would like to say to the hon'ble Minister that the mention of death of two persons in FIR is totally false. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the

Government propose to hold a high level probe into it to know whether the number of those killed was 15 or 2? Besides, I would also like to say that more dead bodies could have been recovered as many hidden dead bodies were still left behind.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to hold an inquiry?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: No, Sir. There are two questions of the hon. Members, Firstly, he is claiming that there are 15 bodies but I would like to say that this is an illegal mining incident. Actually, the responsibility lies with the State Government. It has nothing to do with the Coal India Limited.

Some activities are going on at the same spot for two years. Further, the Coal India has immediately reacted to it. As the hon. Member says that the Coal India has not taken any interest in it, it is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER: You can say that it is not borne out by facts.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Actually, the case regarding the accident is with the Police. CIL has written quite a number of letters before this incident took place. One letter was written in July addressed to the Superintendent of Police. One more letter was written in August. In September, just before few days of the incident, they had written a letter. The Police has not reacted to it properly. He has said, the number is 15 and the Media has reported it as 18. Actually, the Police authorities have registered a case. They found two dead bodies. After this incident, I met the Chief Minister of Jharkhand and I also met the Chief Minister of West Bengal and explained to them the seriousness of the incident. After this, they constituted a body. Now they are trying to address this illegal mining. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said in the beginning itself that the FIR was only registered when the letters were written to the SP and DC. ...*(Interruptions)* This activity was going on for the last 6 months and the work of illegal mining upto a depth of 400 feet was going on in the area. The illegal mining was going on the site under the CCL. In the part 'd' of the reply he has accepted that the losses

to the tune of crore of rupees do take place on account of the illegal mining but no honest reply has been given. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to hold an enquiry into the various incidents of illegal mining going on in the dozens of depots of Coal India Ltd., CCL, ECL or BCCL, which is in the knowledge of the officers of the Coal India Ltd. Further, whether the officers of the Coal India Ltd. are in connivance with those carrying out illegal mining. I would also like to know whether he wants to hold an enquiry into the said incidents of illegal mining wherein thousands of tonnes of coal is being illegally sent to the sponge iron factories or other depots?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the response of the Central Government?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: These types of allegations are always there about illegal mining. So far as information with the Coal India is concerned, we did not receive any information from any of the depots there. The hon. Member belongs to that area. I would request him that if he could officially give any information about this, we are ready to take it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not reply to it.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: We are very much concerned about this illegal mining. There is a socio-economic issue that is involved in this illegal mining. I have personally seen some miners carrying gunny bags in the morning and evening. There is also the political issue in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no politics in illegality. There should not be any politics in it.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: There is the socio-economic problem. We have taken serious steps. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, it should be known to your Authority that there is no illegal mining.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is aware that unauthorized depots of illegal mining are operating in his area. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting the hon. Minister to discuss with the hon. MPs from this region. There is illegal mining going on in my constituency also. I know about it. Therefore, please take it very seriously and treat it as a national issue as you are doing it.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Has the Coal India Limited taken any safety measures in 2004 to ensure safe mining, which involves random checks by the G.M. and various other officers? Despite that many dead bodies have been recovered from there in September, 2005. At that time, a reply was given that it was difficult for the CIL to give the details about the smuggling of coal and the quantum of smuggled coal. In June, 2005, police action has been taken against 12 officers of the CCL due to the mine accident. Undoubtedly, the officers and officials of the coal department overtly or covertly connive in the smuggling of coal. Therefore, I would like to know about the number of departmental officials and external people penalized by him and the number of cases under consideration for taking action to curb illegal mining, theft and smuggling of coal in the CIL and its ancillary companies, particularly in the CCL.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you prosecuted anyone?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, in 2004-05, in the CCL 408 incidents took place and nearly 428 tonnes of coal was seized. Similarly, about the BCCL and ECL also, I have got the statement with me. It is a big statement. I would send the statement to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: How many persons have been prosecuted? Have you got the list?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Yes, Sir. I have got the list. In the CCL, 113 FIRs were registered and six were prosecuted. There is one thing. I am sorry for this situation. There is a threat also. Actually, there has been a researched document prepared by an Indian student in the Australian University. He has studied this, and come out with certain things. He says that the police are also

scared. He says that police have full knowledge of the large operation of illegal mining and they let these villagers do this because if they do not, they will commit other crimes, and then the crime rate will also go up. This is the recent document, which has come out.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Has it been accepted by your Government?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: No, Sir. So, that is the situation. Actually, we are taking all measures to control it.

MR. SPEAKER: But the situation is serious.

Now, Shrimati Karuna Shukla.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat first.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Sir, now this seat has been allotted to me. Now seat number 492, has been allotted to me instead of seat no. 503.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I stand corrected. I am sorry.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister is highly objectionable. He has said that there are political reasons behind it. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards two points urging him that he should not pass the buck on to the State Government. Frequently, the Government while giving replies to the questions say that the State Governments are not able to check the illegal mining. What steps are they going to take in this direction? Whether any new policy will be formulated to check the pilferage and smuggling of coal? What policy is going to be formulated to check the revenue losses of crores of rupees due to the pilferage of coal?

[*English*]

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, I am not saying anything on the State Government, but law and order is the responsibility of the State Government. This illegal mining or theft or pilferage is taking place from production to dispatch, and then from dispatch to the consumers. This is the thing. So, at the production level, we have taken all measures. Previously, there was a mixture of grades. Today, 100 per cent, we are crushing it so that the selection of coal from one grade to another would go away. Then, with the armed security personnel, we are sending the trucks through the railway wagons. But from the railway wagons, sometimes, thefts take place. We have even reported that also. But once it is loaded with the railway wagons, the responsibility of the Coal India is over.

Therefore, this Government has taken so many measures. Our hon. Prime Minister has an idea to constitute a national level committee on the pilferage and illegal mining.

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY: Sir, is the Government considering to coordinate with the State Governments to check illegal mining? What is the mechanism that they have evolved to check illegal mining in the States?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I compliment you on your maiden Supplementary!

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: We are regularly taking steps. We have identified certain spots. We are taking steps like back-filling of old quarries, dumping of overburden on the outcrop zones, construction of fence on illegal mining sites, filling of rat holes with stones and debris, construction of concrete walls on the mouth of abandoned mines, digging of trenches to isolate the illegal mining sites, etc. All these things are being done.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mitrasen Yadav, are you interested? Do you want to put a Supplementary?

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not want to put a Supplementary, Okay. Very well, you changed your mind.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the questions posed by the hon. Members, it is evident that this is a matter of concern. All are aware that the coal, which is excavated from the mines and reaches to the consumers through the railway wagons or by private trucks is pilfered by the local employees as well as the employees of the railway department. The railway employees as well as the miners are involved in this. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the measures he has taken to curb this malpractice. Just now, the hon. Minister informed about the CCL that 138 cases have been registered out of which only 6 are being prosecuted but verdict in respect of not a single case has been given. Whether the hon. Minister would take measures to set up fast track courts to settle such cases expeditiously or make any such provision so as to check the pilferage of coal and save revenue?

[English]

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: This question is already answered. I have already mentioned the measures that we have taken.

MR. SPEAKER: He says that he has already mentioned.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: To check the nexus between the officers and those who are doing illegal mining, will the hon. Minister consider—as is being done in China—giving license to unemployed youths for coal mining which will generate revenue also?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: I will consider the hon. Member's idea. Definitely we will discuss it.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: The Minister has already admitted that illegal mining is going on in CCL and ECL. That is big revenue loss to the country. Has he made any estimate about the loss due to illegal mining? What steps he has taken to stop illegal mining? What type of coordination he has got with the State Governments? Has he created any special task force to stop illegal mining?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already mentioned about the steps that he has taken. He may answer the rest.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Yes, Sir. Regarding illegal mining, I would like to clarify one thing. Illegal mining can take place only in the abandoned mines and closed mines. When coal is exhausted, we close down the mines and they dig and take it.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: When coal is exhausted, how does illegal mining take place?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: There is still left over.

MR. SPEAKER: 'Abandoned mines' does not mean, it has 'zero' coal. Still there is something left. You know how it is done. It is put in the bags and taken on cycles. It is not taken in huge quantities.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Some coal mines are under the control of the Coal India and some mines are not allotted to Coal India, which are the properties of the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER: But a good suggestion was made about utilizing the unemployed youths for this purpose.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: There is one more thing. The Chief Minister of Jharkhand has already constituted a Task Force last month. The first meeting has taken place in the last week of last month.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, we had a fairly good discussion.

Let us go to the next Question—Q. No. 307.

[Translation]

Improvement of Standard of Medical Education

*307. SHRI ⁺ SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) whether the Medical Council of India, the State Medical Councils as well as the Nursing Council of India have failed to carry out the mandate provided to them for regulating the profession, raise the standard of medical education and enforce the stipulated standards as pointed out by the National Commission on Macro Economics and Health in its reports;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the standard of medical education in the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The National Commission on Macro Economics and Health in its recently submitted Report has inter-alia stated that the Medical Council of India (MCI) and State Medical Councils as also the Nursing Council of India (NCI) have failed to carry out the mandate provided to them for regulating the profession and raising the standards of medical education and enforcing them. In this context, the Commission has stated that there is an urgent need to have suitable mechanism to ensure quality in medical education through more stringent regulation for registration and also in registration of medical practitioners after every five years based on the attendance | continued medical education programmes.

A number of regulation already exist which provide procedure and norms for establishment of medical colleges, admission of students, qualifications for teachers etc. which prescribe minimum requirement for maintenance of standards in medical colleges. The MCI conducts periodic inspections of various recognized medical colleges to ensure that continued maintenance of standards and in the event of the college not conforming to this minimum requirement, can take action as per the provisions of the Act. Corresponding provision for verification of standards for allowing Institution to start the courses and for maintenance of standards exist in Regulations framed under the Indian Nursing Council Act.

In order to ensure effective implementation of various provisions of the Regulations made under IMC Act, the Government is reviewing the entire process of inspection, including appointment of Inspectors so as to make it transparent and effective.

The Government is also examining the issue of renewal of registration of medical practitioners. The

requirements of the medical curriculum are also under examination for revision to suit the current needs.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked whether the Indian Medical Council, the State Medical Councils and the Nursing Council of India have failed to carry out the mandate given to them, as the 'National Commission on Macro Economics and Health' has indicated in its report. These Institutions have got a huge responsibility of getting the Medical Colleges' Nursing Colleges, Health Training Institutes registered. It has been said in the report that the Government would investigate and review it. The responsibility of keeping the people of the country healthy and to provide health services depends on them but they have failed to carry out their responsibility. Who is responsible for it and what action has been taken against the guilty?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Last week we had a full discussion on this.

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, in order to ensure effective implementation of various provisions of the regulations made under the IMC Act, Government is reforming the entire process of inspections by MCA and IMC Act. The Government wanted to review the entire process of inspection, including appointment of inspectors, so as to make it transparent and effective.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: It has been said in this very report that there are 60 medical colleges, 225 nursing colleges and 6 public health schools, which have been recommended. Whether the Government will take the required steps expeditiously to remove their backlog, in the areas where they exist?

[English]

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, in order to ensure every built of the required infrastructure, faculty, etc. in private colleges, a Commission will be appointed and permission in respect of colleges not meeting the requirement will be withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: Will new applications be considered?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: The National Commission on Macro Economics and Health has in its report emphasized on the need to set up suitable mechanisms to ensure the quality of medical-science education through the Indian Medical Council, The State Medical Council and the Nursing Medical Council. In my constituency of Dhule, Maharashtra, the medical college which was set up in 1989 was set for having four new buildings constructed, out of which one was to be for OPD, second was for college and there were to be two buildings containing 250 beds. However, from the year 1989 till date, three buildings have not been completed. According to the Medical Council, getting a building constructed over there is urgently required for the proper treatment of the patients. As per the rules and norms of the medical council, there are no such provisions for setting up a medical college under which they can be directed to get the building constructed in a time-limit so as to ensure proper and timely treatment of the patients. Whether the Central Government will direct the State Governments to get these buildings constructed within a stipulated time?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking a specific question about your constituency. Does the Minister have the information?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: I will send the information to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Please see that the building is quickly constructed.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. In the reply it has been stated that there is an urgent need to ensure quality in medical education and more stringent regulation for registration of medical practitioners after every five years based on the attendance in continued medical education programmes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, what is meant by the words 'based on the attendance in continued medical education programmes'. Whose attendance is being sought? Is it for the students

because that is generally provided in the regulations of the concerned university or institution? This may kindly be clarified.

MR. SPEAKER: Both teachers and students should attend.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): Sir, this is both for teachers and students.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, certainly both should attend and also the staff.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply it has been said that these institutes have failed to comply with the norms. I want to know about the number of medical colleges or nursing colleges in which irregularities have been found and the action taken against them. I would also like to know that in case registration or licence of any college has been cancelled, the way in which the future of the affected students has been managed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you cancelled any registration?

SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN: We have a Committee for the purpose and after the report of this Committee, we take action.

MR. SPEAKER: Q-308, Shri Bagun Sumbui—Not present.

Lok Pal Bill

*309. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the First Administrative Reforms Commission in 1966 had recommended for setting up of the office of Lok Pal;

(b) whether the legislation on Lok Pal is yet to be enacted despite several attempts in the past;

(c) if so, the reasons for such inordinate delay;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bring about political consensus on the varied aspects of Lok Pal; and

(e) the time by which the Bill is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Lokpal Bills, earlier introduced in the years 1968, 1971, 1977, 1989, 1996, 1998 and 2001, lapsed with the dissolution of the respective Lok Sabha. The Lokpal Bill, 1985 was, however, withdrawn.

(d) and (e) The Government is committed to bring a Bill on Lokpal. Accordingly, a Group of Minister has been constituted to examine and make recommendations on the Lokpal Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the need for Lokpal Act was mandated by the Administrative Reforms Commission in 1996 but till date that Bill has not been presented in the House. What are the reasons for this delay? Whether the Government is going to table that bill in the next budget session.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already stated through you that the Administrative Reforms Commission constituted in 1996 had recommended that the office of the Lokpal should be established. It has also been mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA that they will soon introduce this Lokpal Bill. As far as the background of the Lokpal bill is concerned I would like to state that as I have stated in my reply that Lokpal bill was introduced in 1968, 1971, 1977, 1989, 1996, 1998 and 2001 but after introduction Lok Sabha was dissolved this was the reason for delay. When it was introduced in 1985, then the issue of widening the scope of bill was raised by including public grievances under the ambit of Lokpal and it was on account of this that it was delayed in that year. As far as U.P.A. Government is concerned, this

Government is committed to root out the Corruption and for this reason Lokpal bill would be introduced. It is in the UPA Government's programme. As far as the bills present status is concerned about which the hon'ble Member has sought to know, I would like to state through you that the Group of Minister has been considering over its various aspects and as and when they reach at some definite conclusion the bill could be introduced in its final form.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said that a Group of Minister has been constituted to examine the said bill whether any time frame has been fixed in regard to the Group submitting its report, if not, what time frame is proposed to be fixed in regard thereto?

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, as it is in the knowledge of the hon'ble Member and my other colleagues that when the cabinet clears some bill and some suggestion are received on the bill, the bill is forwarded to the Group of Ministers. As far as the question of time frame is concerned, it is not fixed, but even then we have communicated our concerns to the Group of Ministers that they should submit their recommendation as soon as possible. As far as the steps taken by the Group of Ministers on this issue is concerned, I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that two meetings have been convened, one meeting was held on 2nd April, 2005 and other was held on November, 2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan—Absent.

KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated that the bill is under the consideration of the Group of Ministers. Through you, I want to know that whether any suggestion from the Standing Committee have been received on this subject, if so what is the detail thereof?

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Lokpal Bill of 2001, was considered by Department related Standing Committee on Home Affairs. Shri Pranab Mukherjee was its Chairman and the committee submitted its report on 30th December 2001. As far as the main recommendations of the Standing Committee are concerned, several such recommendations have been made whereas it has been stated therein that the Prime

Minister, Ministers and Members of Parliament should also be brought under the purview of the bill and Lokpal should be granted powers equivalent to a civil court. Another main recommendation was that under a clause Lokpal was empowered to take help of any agency of any person for investigation, the deletion of that clause was also recommended.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, the concept of Ombudsman started in the North European countries specially Sweden and Norway, and we have innovated the idea of having the Lok Pal. As the Minister has said, this has been going on for the last 35 years, namely, since 1966, to eradicate corruption at higher places. My pointed question is whether the Office of the Prime Minister would be coming under the contemplated Bill and whether the Government is moving in that direction or not.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: As far as the commitment of this Government is concerned, I have said it very clearly that the UPA Government is committed to enforce the law to eradicate corruption.

As far as Ombudsman is concerned, we have examined the system in various countries as to what system are they going to adopt and what system is there in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, UK, New Zealand, America and other countries.

The last part of the question of the hon. Member is whether we are going to have the Office of the Prime Minister and others under the purview of Lok Pal Bill. Until and unless the Group of Ministers takes a final decision, it would not be appropriate for me to disclose any information at this juncture.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, I want to know through you whether the judiciary would also be included in the Lok Pal Bill along with the Office of the Prime Minister.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, as I said through you, it will not be appropriate for me to disclose anything now. But this was one of the suggestions given to us. At the same time, there was another suggestion also that we should have a Commission to bring the Judiciary under its purview. So, various suggestions are there

before the Group of Ministers. When we finally reach a conclusion, you will come to know about it.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

*310. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to promote cultivation of medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in regard to suitability of different States/areas for cultivation of medicinal plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the funds to be allocated for promoting the cultivation of medicinal plants?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Government has set up the National Medicinal Plants Board to coordinate all matters relating to development of medicinal plants sector. The Board has been implementing schemes for cultivation and promotion of medicinal plants under which financial assistance is provided to government/non-government organizations and farmers.

(c) No such survey has been conducted, however, the State Governments have been requested to formulate proposals for cultivation of medicinal plants as per suitability of soil and climatic conditions in their respective areas for consideration of the Board.

(d) An allocation of Rs. 30 crores has been made for the schemes of National Medicinal Plants Board during the current financial year.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the names of the organisations which were granted financial assistance to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants and the organisation-wise quantum of funds provided thereto alongwith the names of those states which have been requested to encourage the cultivation of medicinal Plants.

[English]

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, except Meghalaya and Delhi, there is no other State. We are giving Rs. 30 crore for this National Medicinal Plants Board.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to convey my sincerest gratitude to all the hon. Members for their kind cooperation. Today, we have reached the 9th Question. Thank you very much. That is how we should do.

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I am rather upset that my Question has not been reached. It is the next Question.

MR. SPEAKER: I ask you to give the Chair the authority to pick and choose so that I can target you. I could not do that. I am not given that authority.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

New Strategy of CVC for Investigation

*304. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) proposes to prepare any new strategy to make the inquiry of the cases of corruption in Government Departments rapid, effective and transparent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said strategy is likely to be finalized; and

(d) the names of the Ministries/Departments proposed to be brought under its jurisdiction on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) CVC has already been taking effective steps for expeditious disposal of cases of corruption by closely monitoring them. However, as per information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission, no new strategy is, at present, under its consideration.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Radiation from Tailing Ponds

*308. SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tailing ponds in Jaduguda where mining of uranium is undertaken;

(b) the total number of people being evicted by tailing ponds including the details of the compensation paid to them;

(c) whether they have been rehabilitated;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the emission level of the radioactive wastes being dumped in tailing ponds;

(f) the number of people suffering from diseases caused by radiation in Jaduguda;

(g) the precautions being taken to prevent the ill-effects of radioactivity in uranium mines and its surrounding areas; and

(h) the reasons for uranium wastes being brought back to Jaduguda from all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Three Sir. Two filled up and one in use.

(b) The total number of people displaced due to construction of tailings ponds and the compensation paid to them is given below:

Sl.No.	Description	Area of land (acres)	Number of families displaced	Amount of compensation paid (Rs.)
(i)	1st Tailings Pond	32.94	Nil	80,363 (for property)
(ii)	2nd Tailings Pond	29.17	13	2,30,058
(iii)	3rd Tailings Pond			
	(a) Land	51.07	46	24,24,519
	(b) Grant for construction of houses			18,90,000

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of reply to (c) above

(e) The emission level of the radioactive waste in the tailings ponds is well within the permissible limits as prescribed by International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

(f) None

(g) The guidelines as prescribed by AERB are being followed strictly.

(h) No waste is being brought back to Jaduguda from other parts of the country.

National Urban Renewal Mission

*311. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) for the development of infrastructure in cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its objective;

(c) the names of the cities selected under the Mission, State-wise;

(d) the funds earmarked for the Mission during the year 2005-06, city-wise; and

(e) the time by which the Mission will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) including its objectives are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) List of cities covered under the Mission is enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 5467.17 crore has been provided in the Annual Budget of 2005-06. Funds are not earmarked city-wise.

(e) The Mission has been launched on 3.12.2005 and will be implemented in seven years.

Statement I

Details of JNNURM and its objectives:

- The Mission comprises two sub-mission, viz., Sub-Mission-I for Urban Infrastructure and Governance and Sub-Mission-II for Basic Services for the Urban Poor.
- The Mission provides focussed attention to 63 select cities in different States.
- For cities/towns not covered under the Mission, the Ministry of Urban Development has launched a scheme known as Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium

- Towns (UIDSSMT) while the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation has formulated a scheme known as Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP).
- The following on-going schemes of the Ministries of Urban Development and Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation have been subsumed in JNNURM:—
 - (i) Infrastructure Development in Mega cities.
 - (ii) Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns.
 - (iii) Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme.
 - (iv) Urban Reform Incentive Fund
 - Provision of Central assistance is linked to implementation of certain mandatory as well as optional reforms at the State and ULB/Para statal levels.
 - Implementation of all mandatory and optional reforms has to be completed during the Mission period of 7 years beginning from 2005-06.
 - Central assistance is in the form of 100% grant to be funded as Additional Central Assistance (ACA).
 - Cities have to prepare City Development Plans (CDPs) and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).
 - 5% of the Central grant of actual requirement, whichever is less, is provided for preparation of City Development Plans, Detailed Project Reports, Capacity Building, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities etc.
 - Signing of Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) by the State Governments and Urban Local Bodies/Parastatals with Central Government is a necessary condition to access Central funds. MoA should indicate commitments and milestones to be achieved in the implementation of reforms at the State & ULB/Parastatal levels.
 - Financing Pattern
 - Depending upon population, geographical, location of the cities and category to which a city belongs, fund is provided as indicated below:—
 - (i) 35%/50%/80%/90% of the cost of projects would be funded by Govt. of India through 100% ACA; and
 - (ii) 65%/50%/20%/10% would be funded by State/ULBs/Financial Institutions.
 - Funds to be released in four installments.
 - First installment shall be released on signing of MoA and approval of City Development Plans (CDPs)/Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).
 - Release of subsequent installment to be linked to achievement of reform/milestones and progress of projects.
 - A provision of Rs. 50,000 crore will be made available as Central assistance over the Mission period.
- Objectives of JNNURM are:
1. To provide focused attention to integrated development of infrastructural services in the cities.
 2. To secure effective linkages between asset creation and asset management so that the infrastructural services created in the cities are not only maintained efficiently but also become self-sustaining over time.
 3. To ensure adequate investment of funds to fulfil deficiencies in the urban sector.
 4. To have planned development of identified cities including peri-urban areas, out growths, urban corridors.
 5. To scale up delivery of civic amenities and provision of utilities with emphasis on universal access to urban poor.
 6. To take up urban renewal programme, i.e., re-development of inner (old) cities area to reduce congestion.

Statement-II

Name of State	Name of City	Population (in lakh)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	57.42
	Vijayawada	10.39
	Visakhapatnam	13.45
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	0.35
Assam	Guwahati	8.19
Bihar	Bodh Gaya	3.94
	Patna	16.98
Chandigarh (UT)	Chandigarh	8.08
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	7.00
Delhi	Delhi	128.77
Goa	Panaji	0.99
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	45.25
	Rajkot	10.03
	Surat	28.11
	Vadodara	14.91
Haryana	Faridabad	10.56
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	1.45
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	6.12
	Srinagar	9.88
Jharkhand	Dhanabad	10.65
	Jamshedpur	11.04
	Ranchi	8.63
Karnataka	Bangalore	57.01
	Mysore	7.99
Kerala	Cochin	13.55
	Thiruvananthapuram	8.90

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	14.58
	Indore	16.40
	Jabalpur	10.98
Maharashtra	Ujjain	4.31
	Greater Mumbai	164.34
	Nagpur	21.29
	Nanded	4.31
	Nashik	11.52
	Pune	37.60
Manipur	Imphal	2.50
Meghalaya	Shillong	2.68
Mizoram	Aizawl	2.28
Nagaland	Kohima	0.77
Orissa	Bhubaneswar	6.58
	Puri	1.57
Pondicherry	Pondicherry	5.05
Punjab	Amritsar	10.03
	Ludhiana	13.98
Rajasthan	Ajmer-Pushkar	5.04
	Jaipur	23.27
Sikkim	Gangtok	0.29
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	65.60
	Coimbatore	14.61
	Madurai	12.03
Tripura	Agartala	1.90
Uttar Pradesh	Agra	13.31
	Allahabad	10.42

1	2	3
	Kanpur	27.15
	Lucknow	22.46
	Mathura	3.23
	Meerut	11.61
	Varanasi	12.04
Uttaranchal	Dehradun	5.30
	Hardwar	2.21
	Nainital	2.20
West Bengal	Asansol	10.67
	Kolkata	132.06

[Translation]

Recognised Medical Colleges

*312. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the medical colleges in Eastern Europe including Bulgaria which have been recognised by the Medical Council of India, country-wise;

(b) whether students of Indian origin who have been awarded degrees by the aforesaid colleges face some problems while getting themselves registered here;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether applications of such students who have been awarded degrees by the aforesaid medical colleges are lying pending for registration with the MCI; and

(e) if so, the number of such pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) After the amendment of provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 through Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2001 and notification of the "Screening Test Regulation 2002 framed

thereunder" any Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India, who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with Medical Council of India or any State Medical Councils on or after 15th March, 2002, shall have to qualify the Screening test conducted by the prescribed authority for that purpose. The primary medical qualification possessed by the Indian students must be a recognized medical qualification for enrolment as medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated and which is equivalent to MBBS in India.

(b) and (c) The Medical Council of India (MCI) has informed that no such complaints have been received by the Council.

(d) and (e) The MCI has received approximately 1525 applications for Provisional Registration/Permanent Registration from the Indian National applicants for who have studied outside India upto March, 2005. The MCI has registered 1405 applicants after verifying the authenticity of their Certificate at 10+2 level and Degree through the Indian Embassy of the concerned country.

[English]

External Assistance for Health Projects

*313. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any financial assistance from any external source for the implementation of various health projects in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated out of the external assistance for the health projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A statement indicating utilization of Government Grant/Loan during the last three years and current year is enclosed.

Statement

Utilisation of Government Grant/Loan during the last three years and current year

LOAN

(Amount in thousands; in Donor currency)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	State/Sector	Dor.or	Currency	Agreement date	Loan Amount	Utilisation			
							2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (April-Nov. 05)	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Immunization Strengthening Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	26.02.2004	59500.00	0.00	24480.97	34858.09	0.00
2.	Food & Drugs Capacity Building Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	29.09.2003	39700.00	0.00	0.00	1708.61	1537.00
3.	Integrated Disease Surveillance Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	23.09.2004	46900.00	0.00	0.00	4400.61	6.00
4.	Rajasthan Health System Development Project	Rajasthan	IDA	XDR	03.06.2004	61000.00	0.00	0.00	2787.20	551.00
5.	Tamil Nadu Health System Project	Tamil Nadu	IDA	XDR	05.01.2004	60636.00	0.00	0.00	4873.39	11.00
6.	NAMCHI Hospital Modernization Project	Sikkim	France	EUR	01.07.1997	3654.38	284.73	0.00	0.00	—
7.	Supply & Implementation of Medical Equipment at Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	France	EUR	25.01.1998	4804.10	309.04	83.55	0.00	
8.	Health System Project	Andhra Pradesh	IDA	XDR	22.12.1994	84759.21	5817.90	0.00	0.00	
9.	Family Welfare (Urban Slum) Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	04.02.1994	55262.15	8414.60	0.00	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.	Second Integrated Child Development Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	23.03.1993	141600.00	11934.86	0.00	0.00	
11.	Cataract Blindness Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	19.05.1994	68762.02	11916.38	-1937.60	0.00	
12.	Family Welfare Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	24.06.1994	61606.04	8080.53	0.00	0.00	
13.	Tuberculosis Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	14.03.1997	89224.00	11138.66	12768.13	12081.36	16287.00
14.	Malaria Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	30.07.1997	86109.80	8023.21	9772.09	12853.56	4763.00
15.	Second National HIV/AIDS Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	14.09.1999	140820.00	20537.84	23415.47	11317.57	18582.00
16.	Immunization Strengthening Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	19.05.2000	106500.00	24616.12	33763.88	3277.56	2832.00
17.	Second National Leprosy Elimination Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	19.07.2001	23294.46	10843.96	6682.48	2636.13	6.00
18.	Reproductive and Child Health Project—Supl. Finance	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	26.03.2003	10000.00	0.00	6314.69	3685.31	546.00
19.	Reproductive and Child Health Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	30.07.1997	179500.00	15838.07	16189.96	30514.79	221.00
20.	Women & Child Development Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	06.07.1999	205920.00	45933.98	-5865.80	39008.88	38758.00
21.	Integrated Child Development Services	Multistates	IDA	XDR	23.10.1990	56660.26	0.00	-339.74	0.00	
22.	Second State Health System Development Project	Multistates	IDA	XDR	18.04.1996	228943.81	38937.80	19474.32	7799.57	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
23.	Health System Development Project	Uttar Pradesh	IDA	XDR	19.05.2000	62203.00	6435.98	12488.63	4668.11	5392.00
24.	Health System Development Project	Orissa	IDA	XDR	13.08.1998	56800.00	5217.07	4486.99	22586.38	5573.00
25.	Health System Development Project	Maharashtra	IDA	XDR	14.01.1999	73762.00	12984.93	19906.84	16894.01	12276.00
GRANT										
1.	Pulse Polio Immunization Programme V	Central sector	Germany	EUR	15.10.2004	10000.00	0.00	0.00	388.55	8829.00
2.	Pulse Polio Immunization Programme IV	Central sector	Germany	EUR	03.11.2003	7669.36	0.00	386.50	6847.24	17.00
3.	Secondary Level Hospital Development Project	Karnataka	Germany	EUR	16.01.1997	13804.88	2232.74	1824.35	771.13	0.00
4.	Upgrading Health Facilities	Karnataka	Germany	EUR	16.01.1997	52119.43	0.00	0.00	3651.89	
5.	Polio Eradication Programme	Central Sector	United Kingdom	GBP	02.01.2002	98000.00	19590.37	23511.29	15486.88	0.00
6.	National AIDS Control Programme	Central Sector	United Kingdom	GBP	09.07.2004	54350.00	0.00	0.00	1586.59	2498.00
7.	Reproductive Child Health Programme	Central Sector	United Kingdom	GBP	04.01.2005	20000.00	0.00	0.00	20000.00	
8.	Decentralization of Health Management & Strengthening	Madhya Pradesh	United Kingdom	GBP	20.05.2003	14450.00	0.00	0.00	1134.00	0.00
9.	Project for Control of Emerging Diarrhoeal Diseases, NICKED, Kolkata	West Bengal (Central Govt. Project)	Japan	JPY	15.07.2004	2134000.00	0.00	0.00	642068.00	481551.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.	Improvement of Bangalore Medical College	Karnataka	Japan	JPY	27.01.2004	61463.19	0.00	0.00	61463.19	
11.	Improvement of Sir J.J. Hospital. Mumbai	Maharashtra	Japan	JPY	27.09.2003	759000.00	0.00	300.00	732900.00	0.00
12.	Expansion of Revised National Tuberculosis Programme	Central Sector	Global Fund	USD	02.02.2005	6819.00	0.00	0.00	397.00	0.00
13.	HIV/AIDS Control Project	Central Sector	Global Fund	USD	09.02.2004	26118.00	0.00	0.00	4931.43	3535.00
14.	HIV/AIDS Control Project	Central Sector	Global Fund	USD	09.02.2004	7080.00	0.00	0.00	1921.00	1810.00
15.	Integrated Health Nutrition and Family Welfare Project	Karnataka	IDA	USD	03.01.2002	680.00	68.00	27.97	496.38	11.00
16.	Advocacy and Communication Project	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	01.07.2003	1800.00	0.00	0.00	277.23	77.00
17.	Umbrella Project	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	01.04.1997	1.08	1.10	0.00	0.00	
18.	Integrated Population and Development Project (Phase II)	Gujarat	UNFPA	USD	16.12.2004	6848.66	0.00	0.00	2716.81	806.00
19.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme (Phase II)	Central Sector	-Denmark	DKK	17.09.1991	70000.00	4331.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Revised National TB Control Programme	Orissa (Phase I)	Denmark	DKK	02.12.1996	54800.00	2475.37	911.46	1568.58	0.00
21.	Health Care Project (Phase III)	Tamil Nadu	Denmark	DKK	24.12.1996	102500.00	16372.08	14640.91	0.00	0.00
22.	National Programme for Control of Blindness (Phase III)	Central Sector	Denmark	DKK	07.11.1997	55000.00	8700.54	10021.55	2534.85	-0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
23.	Leprosy Eradication Programme (Phase III)	Central Sector	Denmark	DKK	16.11.1998	76400.00	0.00	6586.06	0.00	0.00
24.	Basic Health Services	Madhya Pradesh	Denmark	DKK	15.11.1999	58400.00	8262.78	6746.82	4146.06	0.00
25.	Basic Health Services	Chhattisgarh	Denmark	DKK	15.11.1999	21000.00	3875.97	1414.43	4269.85	0.00
26.	Revised National TB Control Programme (Phase II)	Orissa	Denmark	DKK	12.12.2003	21180.00	0.00	3921.57	1007.77	0.00
27.	Health & F.W. Sector Development	Central Sector	EEC	EUR	02.09.1987	240000.00	31540.00	18480.00	67000.00	1900.00
28.	Pulse Polio Immunization Programme (III)	Central Sector	Germany	EUR	29.10.2001	10225.84	8525.93	1073.09	0.00	25.00
29.	Basic Health	Maharashtra	Germany	EUR	23.07.1996	10225.84	1194.96	977.97	704.07	628.00
30.	Basic Health Programme	West Bengal	Germany	EUR	22.06.1999	30677.51	566.16	727.41	965.99	
31.	Health care	Gujarat	The Netherlands	EUR	27.11.1997	18072.27	2093.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Partnership for Sexual Health	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Orissa	United Kingdom	GBP	05.10.1999	28100.00	2639.86	2689.13	2884.36	0.00
33.	Interim Support to Deptt. of H & FW	Orissa	United Kingdom	GBP	29.11.2002	1189.00	0.00	196.98	46.05	
34.	Health & F.W. Project (Phase III)	Orissa	United Kingdom	GBP	21.08.1997	1610.58	726.34	0.00	0.00	
35.	National TB Control Programme	Multistates	Global	USD	10.01.2003	5651.00	0.00	1000.00	3313.84	3375.00
36.	AIDS Prevention & Control Project	Central Sector	USA	USD	30.09.1992	19563.00	1340.35	2914.40	2520.35	2010.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
37.	Innovation in Family Planning Services	Central Sector	USA	USD	30.09.1992	129714.08	5783.00	16456.00	12032.00	276.00
38.	Support to Responsee HIV/AIDS Project	Central Sector	UNDP	USD	22.03.2001	1500.00	208.46	219.30	449.43	510.00
39.	Programme for Support to Deptt. of Family Welfare	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	01.07.2003	11500.00	0.00	0.00	282.18	288.00
40.	Extension of Non Scalpel Vasectomy	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	15.05.1997	1361.26	304.29	0.00	0.00	
41.	Integrated Population and Development Project	Rajasthan	UNFPA	USD	14.07.1996	12062.90	1127.95	1314.62	0.00	
42.	Improving the Status of Reproductive Health	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	03.08.1996	408.09	21.72	3.05	0.00	0.00
43.	Integrated Population and Development Programme	Kerala	UNFPA	USD	07.08.1996	4223.90	448.17	291.66	0.00	
44.	Integrated Population and Development Programme	Madhya Pradesh	UNFPA	USD	1608.1999	7140.36	607.45	1309.80	0.00	0.00
45.	Integrated Population and Development Programme	Orissa	UNFPA	USD	08.07.1999	5982.00	253.78	391.42	199.72	0.00
46.	Support to Gender Issue	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	15.09.1999	483.55	161.14	584.64	0.00	
47.	Advocacy on Population Reproductive Health	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	08.11.1999	139.03	48.55	28.43	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
48.	Making Safe Motherhood & Reality	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	01.04.2000	488.51	207.06	49.98	0.00	
49.	Programme for Advancement of Gender Equality	Haryana	UNFPA	USD	22.07.2003	560.34	0.00	151.44	0.00	147.00
50.	Integrated Population and Development Project (Phase II)	Kerala	UNFPA	USD	20.12.2004	935.50	0.00	0.00	153.39	23.00
51.	Integrated Population and Development Project (Phase II)	Maharashtra	UNFPA	USD	01.07.2003	9185.36	0.00	0.00	2336.27	918.00
52.	Integrated Population and Development Project	Maharashtra	UNFPA	USD	04.02.1999	4595.52	1677.66	1770.07	0.00	
53.	Integrated Population and Development Project (Phase II)	Madhya Pradesh	UNFPA	USD	01.07.2003	9428.91	0.00	0.00	1746.61	779.00
54.	Integrated Population and Development Project (Phase II)	Orissa	UNFPA	USD	01.07.2003	7737.94	0.00	0.00	997.84	536.00
55.	Integrated Population and Development Project (Phase II)	Rajasthan	UNFPA	USD	01.07.2003	10012.15	0.00	0.00	3087.84	835.00
56.	Support to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria	Central Sector	Global Fund	USD	01.11.2004	2667.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00
57.	Antiretroviral Treatment to HIV/AIDS	Central Sector	Global Fund	USD	27.06.2005	21673.00	—	—	0.00	2972.00
58.	Intensified Malaria Control Project	Central Sector	Global Fund	USD	27.06.2005	30159.00	—	—	0.00	857.00
59.	Policy support to Deptt. of Family Welfare	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	01.11.2003	840.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
60.	Upgradation of Secondary Level Health Care Project (Phase II)	Karnataka	Germany	EUR	26.04.2004	14300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
61.	Health System Development Initiative	West Bengal	United Kingdom	GBP	01.07.2005	97500.00	—	—	0.00	14500.00
62.	Interim Support to Deptt. of Health & F.W.	Orissa	United Kingdom	GBP	29.11.2002	1189.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	287.00
63.	Preparation of India HIV/AIDS III	Central Sector	IDA	USD	31.05.2005	861.00	—	—	0.00	150.00
64.	Promoting Gender Equality	Central Sector	UNDP	USD	30.06.2004	600.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00
65.	Capacity Building of PRIs on Population Issues	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	01.09.2003	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
66.	Support to Adolescent Health & Development	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	01.02.2004	510.00	—	0.00	0.00	32.00

Potable Water Projects

*314. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding the supply of potable water with reference to population of urban and rural areas;

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

(c) whether the World Bank, the WHO and the UNICEF have provided financial assistance to the projects meant for supply of potable water in urban areas;

(d) if so, the details of such projects being financed, State-wise alongwith the date of their implementation; and

(e) the details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi has, on behalf of the Ministry of Urban Development, conducted a study of 301 Class I & II towns/cities in the country regarding coverage of water supply. As per the study, on an average 94% population of these 301 towns/cities is covered with water supply. However, as per information collected, from time to time, from the States/UTs and implementing agencies in the States, about 89% of urban population is covered with water supply, as on 31.3.2002. State-wise coverage is enclosed as Statement-I. The term 'coverage' indicates only the reach (accessibility) of the public water supply system. It does not indicate quantity, quality, duration or mode of water supply to the covered population.

Ministry of Rural Development, which is concerned with rural water supply, has informed that the State

Governments/UT Administrations were requested in 2003 to conduct a habitation survey with reference to coverage of water supply. The survey results received from the States/UTs are being validated by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA).

(c) to (e) The World Bank has been providing financial assistance for water supply projects in urban areas of the country. Details of the projects completed with World Bank assistance are given in the enclosed Statement-II and those of ongoing projects are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

UNICEF has informed that it is working closely with the Central and State Governments under Child Environment Programme (CEP) in 14 States for strengthening capacities of key stakeholders and enhancing the quality of implementation of reform programmes (Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign) in the rural water supply and sanitation sector.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which is the nodal Ministry for WHO, has informed that there are no water supply projects in urban areas with financial assistance from WHO.

Statement I

Status of Urban Water Supply in India

State-wise status of population having Access to Water Supply Facilities as on 31.3.2000

(Population in Thousands)

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	Estimated Populn. No. 31.3.2000	*Population Provided with Water Supply Through			
			H.S.C.	P.S.P.	Total	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra PR-PHED	15738	6767	4008	10775	68
	Andhra PR-HMWSSB	3500	2640	500	3140	90
	Andhra PR-Total	19238	9407	4508	13915	72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	231	117	25	142	61
3.	Assam	3100	600	200	800	26
4.	Bihar**	11892	4187	5327	9514	80
5.	Delhi	13300	9560	3740	13300	100
6.	Goa	557	439	118	557	100
7.	Gujarat**	16810	13227	3307	16534	98
8.	Haryana	3705	2108	402	2510	68
9.	Himachal Pradesh	596	509	87	596	100
10.	Jammu & Kashmir (Kashmir)	1378	1240	50	1290	94
11.	Karnataka UWS&DB	11000	5720	2420	8140	74
	Karnataka BWSSB	5750	3525	1175	4700	82
	Karnataka-Total	16750	9245	3595	12840	77
12.	Kerala	7680	3260	2764	6024	78
13.	Madhya Pradesh	25000	16200	8800	25000	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Maharashtra-MJP Maharashtra-BMC					
	Maharashtra-Total**	34309	23744	10176	33920	99
15.	Manipur	969	481	176	657	68
16.	Meghalaya	457	221	201	422	92
17.	Mizoram	258	63	30	93	36
18.	Nagaland	296	232	0	232	78
19.	Orissa	4877	859	2221	3080	63
20.	Punjab	8496	5212	317	5529	65
21.	Rajasthan	12897	10318	2579	12897	100
22.	Sikkim	156	137	8	145	93
23.	Tamil Nadu-TWAD B	19515	8107	8734	16841	86
	Tamil Nadu-CMWSSB	6010	5729	117	5846	97
	Tamil Nadu-Total	25525	13836	8851	22687	89
24.	Tripura	553	136	327	463	84
25.	Uttar Pradesh	33000	16100	16500	32600	99
26.	West Bengal-CMDA West Bengal-PHED					
	West Bengal-Total**	18495	6261	9505	15766	85
	Total States	260525	147699	83814	231513	89
	Union Territories					
1.	A&N Islands	109	98	9	107	98
2.	Chandigarh	762	610	152	762	100
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15	9	5	14	93
4.	Daman & Diu	47	6	1	7	15
5.	Lakshadweep	30	0	20	20	67
6.	Pondicherry	678	598	80	678	100
	Total U.T.s	1641	1321	267	1588	97
	Grand Total	262166	149020	84081	233101	89

Remarks:

H.S.C.—House Service Connection

P.S.P.—Public Stand Post

* Indicates Accessibility Only. Adequacy and Equitable Distribution of Water Supply may not be as per the prescribed norms in some Urban Areas

** The Figures Indicated are as on 31.3.1997 Since the concerned States have not furnished the information as on 31.3.2000.

— The data on newly formed States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh & Uttaranchal are included in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively. National Capital Territory of Delhi has been included as a State.

*Statement II**Water Supply & Sanitation Projects completed with World Bank assistance*

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Cost (Rs. in crores)	External Assistance (US\$ million)	Year of Completion
1.	Mumbai Water Supply & Sanitation Project Phase-I	185.00	55.00	1981
2.	Maharashtra Water Supply & Sanitation Project	86.00	48.00	1985
3.	Punjab Water Supply & Sanitation Project	67.00	38.00	1988
4.	UP Water Supply & Sanitation Project	60.00	40.00	1983
5.	II Mumbai Water Supply and Sanitation Project	640.00	196.00	1988
6.	Rajasthan Water Supply and Sanitation Project	137.76	80.00	1988
7.	Gujarat Water Supply & Sanitation Project	207.33	72.00	1991
8.	Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Sanitation Project	321.66	73.00	1994
9.	Kerala Water Supply and Sanitation Project	127.88	30.11	1994
10.	Madras Water Supply and Sanitation Project	255.95	69.00	1996
11.	III Bombay Water Supply and Sanitation Project	915.00	145.00	1996
12.	Gujarat Urban Development Project	208.00	62.00	1995
13.	UP Urban Development Project.	463.86	150.00	1996
14.	Hyderabad Water Supply & Sanitation Project	337.80	81.90	1998
15.	II Chennai Water Supply Project	778.79	86.50	2004
16.	Mumbai Sewage Disposal	131.57	192.00	2004

Statement III**List of On-going Projects with World Bank Assistance**

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Year of commencement	Name of Agency	Cost (Rs. in crores)	Expected year of completion	Present position & Components of Project
Karnataka						
1.	Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project	2004	World Bank	237.04 (revised)	2007	Agreement signed on February 2005. (Investment on bulk water supply; Demonstration Projects; Design, Construction & Operation fees; Assistance to Project Implementation; Sector Development)

*[Translation]***Blood Banks**

*315. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

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

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding mounting pressure on Blood Banks due to the growing number of patients in big hospitals of the country;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made regarding shortage of platelets in Government Blood Banks for treatment of patients;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the World Health Organisation has raised objection on the quality of blood being provided by private Blood Banks;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the number of Blood Banks; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) The number of patients demanding blood/blood component units is monitored at state level by the State Blood Transfusion Councils (SBTC). The assessment report given by SBTC includes total blood units collected, blood component prepared and quantity supplied. The demand for the year 2004-2005 is as under:—

Year	Total blood units collected	Total blood components prepared	Total platelet prepared
2004	4051554	1595837	266851
Jan-Sep. 2005	2882850	1296236	220492

As per reports received from SBTCs, the hospital based Blood Banks in their State/UTs are collecting adequate quantity of blood and blood components including platelets. Hence, there is no mounting pressure on these Blood Banks due to the growing number of patients. The Blood Component Separation Units (BCSU) operating in the Government Blood Banks are preparing adequate quantity of platelets to meet the demand of the patients.

The government has not received any objections from the World Health Organisations (WHO) regarding the quality of blood being provided by private blood banks. NACO has taken initiative for improving the standards of the blood banks in the country by conducting workshops for Blood Bank Medical Officers, NGOs and Programmes for Blood Transfusion Services, Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donations and Appropriate clinical use of blood."

There are 2177 licensed blood banks throughout the country of which 855 blood banks are in the government sector, 288 under charitable organization and the remaining 1034 are under private sector. The annual demand of the blood is approximately 7 million units including the blood components. These Blood Banks are able to fulfil these required demand of blood supply for the country.

However, the Government is committed to have one blood bank in every district of the country over a period of time.

[English]

GDP Growth Rate

*316. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has projected a GDP growth of 10 per cent for the Eleventh Five Year Plan in its mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has also identified factors which might hinder the growth process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan has not projected a growth rate of 10 per cent for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The factors that might hinder the growth process include the performance of agriculture sector on account of vagaries of monsoon, infrastructure bottlenecks, rising prices of oil in international market, inadequate investment demand, lower public investment and slowdown in the world economy. The Mid-Term Appraisal to the Tenth Plan has suggested a number of measures to raise the level of per capita income in the country by achieving over 7 percent growth rate of GDP in the remaining years of the Tenth Plan. Some of these include raising public investment in different sectors particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, viz. power, roads, greater focus on health and education, improving allocative efficiency of resources, enacting policy reforms with a view to creating an investor friendly environment, improving governance and enhancing the efficiency of delivery systems, etc. The details of the measures suggested are listed in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), which has been placed in the Parliament library.

Supply of Vaccines to States

*317. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various vaccines like Hepatitis-B, anti-rabies, antidote etc. are being supplied by the Union Government to different States particularly North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the current year till date, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the expenditure incurred/being incurred thereon by the Union Government during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government to supply such types of vaccines on regular basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Vaccines under the National Immunization Programme are supplied free of cost to State/UT Government. These vaccines are BCG

(Bacillus Calmette-Guerin), DPT (Diphtherias, Pertussis and Tetanus Toxoid), Polio, Measles, DT (Diphtherias and Tetanus Toxoid), TT (Tetanus Toxoid) and Hepatitis B (in Pilot Project areas). All other vaccines/anti-sera are procured by State/UT Governments directly as per their need.

Government of India is implementing Hepatitis B pilot project with support from Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) in 15 cities and 33 districts where coverage of DPT 3rd dose was more than 80%.

Under the Pilot Project, Hepatitis B vaccine & AD Syringes are being received in kind as commodity assistance with support from GAVI through UNICEF. The programme was launched on 10th June, 2002, and activities were started in the 15 cities in the year 2002-03 and in the 33 districts in the year 2003-04. In the North Eastern States, the pilot project is being implemented in the two districts of Assam i.e. Jorhat and Sibsagar w.e.f. November, 2003.

The vaccine supplies of these two districts of North East are given below (since inception):—

Name of District	No of Children (0-1 year) vaccinated with 3 doses of Hepatitis B and quantity of Hepatitis B vaccine supplied					
	Supply	Children vaccinated 2003-04	Supply	Children vaccinated 2004-05	Supply	Children vaccinated 2005-06
Jorhat	72600	7250	41900	52948	33000	27280
Sibsagar	66800	9471	47800	72711	45000	14056

[Translation]

Identity Proof for Entry into Nepal

*318. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has made Identity card mandatory for every individual going to Nepal from India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which this is likely to affect the relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The Government of India and His Majesty's Government of Nepal have launched a pilot project from November 1, 2005 to regulate cross-border movement through the Rupaidiha (District Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh)—Nepalgunj (District Banke, Nepal) check-posts.

As per this pilot project, it is mandatory for both Indian and Nepalese citizens crossing the border at this check-post to be in possession of any of the prescribed identity documents, as mutually agreed upon by India and Nepal.

The regulation of movement of the citizens of the two countries at the border has been agreed by India and Nepal to help in addressing the security concerns of the two countries, and in controlling movement of undesirable elements; as such this is expected to have a positive impact on bilateral relations.

[English]

Allocation of Spectrum

*319. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended measures for achieving guaranteed spectrum availability by 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has requested the Defence Ministry to release more spectrum for civilian use to achieve the said goal by 2006;

(d) if so, whether any inter-Ministerial official group has been constituted for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended, among others, to make available additional spectrum for the growth of mobile services. In the 1800 MHz band, the quantum of spectrum to be vacated by 2006 was assumed by TRAI to be upto 2x25 MHz.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) A Project Definition Team has been constituted by Ministry of Defence comprising of officers from Ministry of Defence and Department of Telecom for examining various aspects relating to release of spectrum by Defence services. The time frame for release of additional spectrum can be assessed after the receipt of the report of the Project Definition Team which has been given time till 20th January, 2006.

Indians Lodged in Foreign Jails

*320. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indians are lodged in various foreign jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise alongwith the dates from which they have been held prisoners;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that many Indians have been detained in Saudi jails in connection with road accidents;

(d) if so, whether they are unable to pay Diya (blood money);

(e) if so, the details of these detainees; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to get all the Indian prisoners released from the various jails at the earliest?

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

(b) The details as per latest information available with the Government are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be furnished later on.

(f) Indian Missions and Posts abroad make all possible efforts to get Indian Nationals in foreign jails released quickly and provide assistance which includes requesting speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, seeking consular access to the detainees and prisoners, providing advice/guidance in legal and other matters, interacting with prisoners' relative in India, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails, and facilitating repatriation to India on release. In countries with large concentration of Indian workers (e.g. in the Gulf), our Missions and Posts have separate wings exclusively looking after the work of welfare of Indian nationals. Officials of these wings regularly visit local prisons to find out if there are any detained Indian nationals and to render permissible assistance.

Statement

Sl.No.	Country	No. of Indian's Jailed Abroad
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	Nil
2.	Algeria	Nil
3.	Argentina	NA
4.	Armenia	NA
5.	Australia	35
6.	Austria	NA
7.	Azerbaijan	NA
8.	Bahrain	NA
9.	Bangladesh	893
10.	Belgium	1
11.	Belize	NA
12.	Bhutan	NA

1	2	3
13.	Bolivia	NA
14.	Botswana	NA
15.	Brazil	Nil
16.	Brunei	NA
17.	Bulgaria	Nil
18.	Burkina Faso	NA
19.	Cambodia	1
20.	Canada	NA
21.	Central African Republic	NA
22.	Chile	NA
23.	China	NA
24.	Colombia	NA
25.	Comoros	NA
26.	Cote d'Ivoire	NA
27.	Croatia	NA
28.	Cuba	NA
29.	Cyprus	1
30.	Czech Republic	NA
31.	Denmark	NA
32.	Djibouti	NA
33.	El Salvador	NA
34.	Ethiopia	Nil
35.	Fiji	Nil
36.	Finland	NA
37.	France	1
38.	Germany	Nil
39.	Ghana	NA
40.	Greece	NA
41.	Guatemala	NA

1	2	3
42.	Guinea	NA
43.	Guyana	NA
44.	Honduras	NA
45.	Hong Kong	NA
46.	Hungary	1
47.	Indonesia	NA
48.	Iran	7
49.	Ireland	1
50.	Israel	NA
51.	Italy	51
52.	Ivory Coast	Nil
53.	Jamaica	NA
54.	Japan	NA
55.	Jordan	NA
56.	Kazakhstan	Nil
57.	Kuwait	73
58.	Laos	Nil
59.	Latvia	NA
60.	Lebanon	70
61.	Liberia	NA
62.	Libya	NA
63.	Macedonia	NA
64.	Madagascar	NA
65.	Malaysia	NA
66.	Maldives	NA
67.	Mauritius	21
68.	Mexico	NA
69.	Mongolia	Nil
70.	Morocco	4

1	2	3
71.	Mozambique	2
72.	Myanmar	50
73.	Namibia	Nil
74.	Netherlands	Nil
75.	New Zealand	NA
76.	Nicaragua	NA
77.	Niger	NA
78.	Norway	2
79.	Oman	72
80.	Pakistan	365
81.	Panama	2
82.	Papua New Guinea	NA
83.	Peru	NA
84.	Philippines	27
85.	Poland	6
86.	Portugal	NA
87.	Qatar	NA
88.	Russian Federation	2
89.	Saudi Arabia	1444
90.	Senegal	1
91.	Serbia and Montenegro	NA
92.	Seychelles	NA
93.	Sierra Leone	NA
94.	Singapore	580
95.	Slovak Republic	NA
96.	Soloman Islands	NA
97.	South Africa	3
98.	Sri Lanka	58
99.	Sudan	Nil

1	2	3
100.	Suriname	Nil
101.	Swaziland	NA
102.	Sweden	Nil
103.	Switzerland	Nil
104.	Syria	Nil
105.	Tajikistan	1
106.	Tanzania	NA
107.	Thailand	NA
108.	Togo	NA
109.	Tunisia	NA
110.	Turkey	Nil
111.	Turkmenistan	Nil
112.	U.A.E.	937
113.	U.K.	NA
114.	U.S.A.	199
115.	Uganda	NA
116.	Ukraine	1
117.	Uzbekistan	1
118.	Vanuatu	NA
119.	Vietnam	NA
120.	Yemen	Nil
121.	Zambia	Nil
122.	Zimbabwe	Nil
Total		4913

NA denotes "Informational not available"

[Translation]

Consumption of Banned Drugs by Sports Persons

*321. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian sports persons have been found guilty of consuming banned drugs in international events;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With increasing pressure from parents, coaches and with their personal desire to achieve success and earn laurels, sports persons get tempted to use performance-enhancing substances, with a view to gaining an unfair competitive advantage. It is a worldwide phenomena. In India, it has been reported recently, in a few disciplines like weightlifting and athletics.

(c) The control of doping in sports requires a multidimensional approach with primary responsibility of direct action vested with the Indian Olympic Association and the National Sports Federations. The Ministry through Sports Authority of India (SAI) has played the role of facilitator in this regard. Following actions are taken by the Sports Authority of India:—

- (i) Educate and counsel the sportspersons about the banned drugs and their harmful effects during the National Camps through Coaches.
- (ii) Conduct lectures during camps through sports scientists, doctors and sports specialists.
- (iii) Display of the list of banned drugs and placards for education of players in the rooms of the campers.
- (iv) Regular checking of the rooms and belongings of the players.
- (v) Random test of urines samples of sports persons during the coaching camps.
- (vi) Publication of two booklets 'Drugs in Sports-Directory' and 'Drug Education Hand Book on Drug Abuse in Sports' respectively for disseminating information, spreading awareness about prohibited substances and methods as well

as Indian trade names of medicines containing banned substances among sportspersons, coaches, sports officials and doctors, etc.

In addition, India has signed the Copenhagen Declaration on Anti-Doping and has recently registered the National Anti-doping Agency (NADA) as Apex Body for anti-doping programmes and activities. Government have set up a modern Dope Control Laboratory. Upgradation of the laboratory is taken up as part of a continuous process.

[English]

Nominated Members of TAC

3090. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the norms being followed for appointment of Member in the Telephone Advisory Committee;

(b) the number of Members nominated to the Telephone Advisory committee on the recommendation of each Member of Parliament;

(c) the details thereof, member-wise;

(d) the number of letters from the Members of Parliament related to the TAC forwarded by the PMO to the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) are constituted Secondary Switching Area (SSA) wise and the norms followed for appointment of members in the Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) are as follows:—

- The members of TAC are taken from all segments of society such as Social Workers, Press, Trade, Commerce, Industry, Medical and other professionals etc.
- Each Member of Parliament may recommend five names of eminent persons from his/her constituency to be considered for nomination in the TAC.

- The Hon'ble Members of Parliament shall be members of only one TAC falling within their constituency by virtue of their office. In case of nominated Rajya Sabha MPs, they may be nominated in the TAC falling within their adopted constituency [with regard to the constituency adopted for Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) programme].
- However, Hon'ble MPs who become ministers shall not be nominated/cease to continue in the TAC.
- When appointments are made, all efforts are made to ensure that all segments of society are appropriately represented.

(b) and (c) Member of Parliament-wise list of the number of members nominated to TAC on their recommendation is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Letters from two Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) forwarded by PMO regarding nominations for TAC have been received and the same are under process.

Statement

Number of Members in the TAC,

Recommended by the Hon'ble MPs, (LS)

State-wise as on 8.12.2005

Sl.#	Name of the Hon'ble MP	Number of Members Nominated on the Recommendation of Hon'ble MP
1	2	3

Andhra Pradesh

1.	Shri T. Madhusudan Reddy	05
2.	Shri G.V. Harsha Kumar	05
3.	Shri Pallala Chalapathirao	05
4.	Shri Anantha Venkatarami Reddy	05
5.	Smt. Daggubati Purandareswari	03
6.	Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam	05
7.	Shri K.P. Naidu	05

1	2	3
8.	Shri D.K. Audikesavulu	05
9.	Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy	05
10.	Shri Kavuru Samba Siva Rao	03
11.	Shri Sambesiva Rayapati Rao	05
12.	Shri Vinod Kumar Boianapalli	00
13.	Shri G. Nizamuddin	05
14.	Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	01
15.	Shri Mallipudi Raju Pallem Mangapati	15
16.	Shri Kaiva Kuntia Chandrasekhar Rao	07
17.	Smt. Renuka Chowdhury	05
18.	Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash Reddy	09
19.	Shri Ramakrishna Badiga	05
20.	Shri Devarakonda Vittal Rao	05
21.	Shri Ale Narendra	17
22.	Shri Jaipal Sudini Reddy	00
23.	Dr. M. Jagannath	04
24.	Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy	05
25.	Shri S.P.Y. Reddy	01
26.	Shri Chegondi Venkata Hariram Jogaiiah	05
27.	Shri Mekapati Rajamohan Reddy	04
28.	Smt. Lakshmi Panbaka	08
29.	Shri Madhu Goud Yasichi	02
30.	Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy	20
31.	Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo	05
32.	Shri G. Venkatswamy	05
33.	Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli	06
34.	Shri Sai Prathap Annayyagari	05
35.	Shri M. Anjan Kumar Yadav	05
36.	Shri Sathyanarayana Sarvey	05
37.	Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu	15

1	2	3
38.	Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni	05
39.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	00
40.	Shri Rajagopal Lagadapati	05
41.	Shri Nedurumali Janardhana Reddy	12
42.	Shri Ravinder Naik Dharavath	05
<i>Arunachal Pradesh</i>		
1.	Shri Tapir Gao	05
2.	Shri Kiren Rijiju	05
<i>Assam</i>		
1.	Shri Biren Singh Engti	05
2.	Shri A.F. Golam Omani	00
3.	Shri Anwar Hussain	04
4.	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	05
5.	Shri Kirip Chaliha	05
6.	Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique	00
7.	Shri Dip Gogoi	00
8.	Shri Latil Mohan Sukdabaidya	05
9.	Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary	05
10.	Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma	05
11.	Shri Narayan Chandra Borkataky	05
12.	Shri Rajen Gohain	05
13.	Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev	29
14.	Shri Moni Kumar Subba	05
<i>Bihaar</i>		
1.	Shri Sukdeo Paswan	05
2.	Smt. Kanti Singh	05
3.	Shri Nikhil Kumar	05
4.	Shri Kailash Baitha	05
5.	Shri Suraj Singh	05

1	2	3
6.	Shri Giridhari Yadav	05
7.	Shri Vijay Krishna	05
8.	Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan)	05
9.	Shri Raghunath Jha	05
10.	Shri Sushil Kumar Modi	02
11.	Shri Ajit Kumar Singh	05
12.	Shri Lalmuni Chaubey	04
13.	Shri Lalu Prasad	00
14.	Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi	05
15.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi	04
16.	Shri Anirudh Prasad Yadav (Sedhu)	05
17.	Shri Ram Vilas Paswan	107
18.	Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh	05
19.	Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav	05
20.	Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary	05
21.	Shri Rabindra Kumar Rana	05
22.	Shri Tasimuddin	05
23.	Shri Rajesh Ranjan (Pappu Yadav)	00
24.	Dr. Shakeel Ahmad	02
25.	Shri Prabhunath Singh	05
26.	Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav	05
27.	Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh	00
28.	Shri George Fernandes	00
29.	Shri Nitish Kumar	05
30.	Shri Virchandra Paswan	05
31.	Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	05
32.	Shri Uday Singh	00
33.	Shri Ramchandra Paswan	05
34.	Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan	01
35.	Shri Alok Kumar Mehta	06

1	2	3
36.	Smt. Meira Kumar	02
37.	Shri Sitaram Singh	01
38.	Shri Sita Ram Yadav	10
39.	Dr. Mohammed Shahabuddin	05
40.	Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	05
<i>Chhattisgarh</i>		
1.	Shri Baliram Kashyap	00
2.	Shri Punnulal Mohale	05
3.	Shri Tarachand Sahu	05
4.	Smt. Karuna Shukla	05
5.	Shri Sohan Potai	05
6.	Shri Ajit Jogi	05
7.	Shri Vishnu Dev Sai	00
8.	Shri Ramesh Bais	05
9.	Shri Pradeep Gandhi	05
10.	Shri Guharam Ajailey	04
11.	Shri Nand Kumar Sai	05
<i>Haryana</i>		
1.	Kumari Selja	05
2.	Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi	03
3.	Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana	05
4.	Shri Jai Prakash	05
5.	Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma	05
6.	Shri Naveen Jindal	05
7.	Shri Inderjit Singh Rao	05
8.	Shri Atma Singh Gill	05
9.	Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan	05
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>		
1.	Shri Suresh Chandel	05
2.	Prof. Chander Kumar	05

1	2	3
3.	Smt. Pratibha Singh	05
4.	Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram Shandil	05
<i>Gujarat</i>		
1.	Shri Harin Pathak	09
2.	Shri Virjibhai Thummar	05
3.	Shri Bharatsinh Madhevsinh Solanki	05
4.	Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh Chavda	05
5.	Smt. Jayaben B. Thakkar	05
6.	Shri Rajendrasinh Ghanshyamsinh Rana (Raju Rana)	05
7.	Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava	05
8.	Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai Patel	05
9.	Shri Narenbhai J. Rathwa	05
10.	Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma	05
11.	Shri Babubhai Khimabhai Katara	05
12.	Shri Lal Krishna Advani	05
13.	Shri Bhupendrasinh Prabhatsinh Solanki	05
14.	Shri Ahir Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam	05
15.	Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai Barad	05
16.	Shri Dinsha J. Patel	05
17.	Shri Shanker Singh Vaghela	05
18.	Shri Pushpdan Shambhuden Gedhavi	05
19.	Dr. Tushar Amarsinh Chaudhary	05
20.	Shri Jivabhai Ambalal Patel	05
21.	Shri Maheesh Kumar Kanodia	05
22.	Shri Harilal Madhavijibhai Patel	05
23.	Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria	05
24.	Shri Madhusudan Devram Mistry	05
25.	Shri Kashi Ram Rana	05
26.	Shri Somabhai Gandlal Koli Patel	05

1	2	3
<i>Goa</i>		
1.	Shri Churchill Alemao	05
2.	Shri Shripad Yasso Naik	05
<i>Jharkhand</i>		
1.	Shri Dharendra Agarwal	16
2.	Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey	12
3.	Shri Shibu Soren	04
4.	Shri Tek Lal Mahto	05
5.	Shri Furkan Ansari	05
6.	Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad Mehta	05
7.	Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato	05
8.	Smt. Sushila Kerketta	07
9.	Shri Babu Lal Marandi	05
10.	Dr. Rameshwar Oraon	05
11.	Shri Manoj Kumar	05
12.	Shri Hemlal Murnu	05
13.	Shri Subodh Kant Sahay	25
14.	Shri Bagun Sumbrai	10
<i>Jammu and Kashmir</i>		
1.	Ms. Mehbooba Mufti	05
2.	Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen	05
3.	Shri Madan Lal Sharma	05
4.	Shri Thupstan Chhewang	05
5.	Shri Omar Abdullah	00
6.	Chaudhary Lal Singh	05
<i>Karnataka</i>		
1.	Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar	05
2.	Shri H.T. Sangliana	05
3.	Shri Ananth Kumar	00

1	2	3
4.	Shri Suresh Chanabasappa Angadi	05
5.	Shri Karunakara G. Reddy	05
6.	Shri Narsingh Hulla Suryawanshi	00
7.	Shri Basangouda Patil	05
8.	Shri M. Shivanna	05
9.	Shri R.L. Jalappa	05
10.	Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi	05
11.	Shri D.C. Srikantappa	05
12.	Shri N.Y. Hanumanthappa	05
13.	Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa Siddeswara	05
14.	Shri Prathad Venkatesh Joshi	05
15.	Shri Kunnur Manjunath Channappa	05
16.	Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saragdi	05
17.	Shri H.D. Devegowda	00
18.	Dr. (Smt.) Tejashwini Seeramesh	05
19.	Shri Anant Kumar Hegde	05
20.	Shri K.H. Muniyappa	05
21.	Shri K. Virupakshappa	05
22.	Shri M.H. Ambareesh	05
23.	Shri D.V. Sadanand Gowda	05
24.	Shri C.H. Vijayashankar	05
25.	Shri A. Venkatesh Naik	05
26.	Shri S. Bangarappa	05
27.	Shri S. Mallikarjunaiah	05
28.	Smt. Manorama Madhwaraj	05
<i>Kerala</i>		
1.	Shri Chengara Surendran	05
2.	Dr. K.S. Manoj	05
3.	Smt. P. Sathedeivi	05

1	2	3
4.	Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar	05
5.	Shri A.P. Abdullakutty	05
6.	Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	00
7.	Dr. Sebastian Paul	00
8.	Shri K. Francis George	05
9.	Shri P. Karunakaran	05
10.	Shri Suresh Kurup	05
11.	Shri T.K. Hamza	05
12.	Shri C.S. Sujatha	00
13.	Shri Lonappen Nambadan	05
14.	Shri P.C. Thomas	05
15.	Shri S. Ajaya Kumar	05
16.	Shri N.N. Krishnadas	05
17.	Shri E. Ahmed	21
18.	Shri P. Rajendran	05
19.	Shri C.K.P. Chandrappan	05
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>		
1.	Shri Gauri Shankar Chaturbhuj Bisen	00
2.	Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal	05
3.	Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh	05
4.	Shri Kailash Joshi	00
5.	Shri Kamal Nath	87
6.	Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya Singh	05
7.	Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar	00
8.	Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia	83
9.	Shri Ramsevak Singh (Babuji)	05
10.	Shri Sartaj Singh Chhatwal	05
11.	Smt. Sumitra Mahajan	05
12.	Shri Rakeesh Singh	05

1	2	3
13.	Shri Kantilal Bhuria	30
14.	Dr. Ramkriehna Kusmaria	08
15.	Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan	05
16.	Shri Krishna Murari Moghe	05
17.	Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste	05
18.	Dr. Luxminarayan Pandey	05
19.	Shri Ashok Argal	05
20.	Shri Laxhman Singh	05
21.	Shri Chandramani Tripathi	05
22.	Shri Virendra Kumar	05
23.	Shri Ganesh Singh	05
24.	Smt. Neeta Pateriya	05
25.	Shri Dalsat Singh Paraste	00
26.	Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	05
27.	Baba Saheb Chandra Pratap Singh	05
28.	Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya	04
29.	Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan	05
<i>Maharashtra</i>		
1.	Shri Tukaram Gangadhar Gadakh	05
2.	Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre	05
3.	Shri Anantrao Gudhe	05
4.	Shri Chandrakant Bhauroo Khaine	05
5.	Shri Sharad Chandra Govindrao Pawar	05
6.	Shri Jaisingrao Gaikwad Patil	05
7.	Shri Shishupal Natthu Patle	05
8.	Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul	05
9.	Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir	05
10.	Shri Mahadeo Rao Shiwankar	05
11.	Shri Damu Barku Shingda	05

1	2	3
12.	Shri Bapu Hari Chaure	05
13.	Shri Anna Saheb M.K. Patil	05
14.	Smt. Suryakanta Patil	10
15.	Smt. Nivedita Mane	05
16.	Shri Y.G. Mahajan	05
17.	Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve	05
18.	Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil	05
19.	Shri Shivaji Adhalrao Patil	05
20.	Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba Mandlik	05
21.	Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil	05
22.	Shri Abdul Rehman Antulay	05
23.	Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar Patil	05
24.	Shri Harischandra Deoram Chavan	05
25.	Shri Govinda Arun Ahuja	01
26.	Shri Eknath Mahadeo Gaikwad	05
27.	Shri Gurudas Kamat	05
28.	Shri Milind Murti Deora	05
29.	Shri Mohan Rawale	05
30.	Shri Vilas Baburao Muttemwar	13
31.	Shri Digamber Bapuji Patil	05
32.	Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit	05
33.	Shri Devidas Anandrao Pingle	05
34.	Smt. Kalpana Ramesh Narhne	05
35.	Shri Ramdas Athawale	05
36.	Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil	05
37.	Shri Suresh Kalmadi	00
38.	Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabu	06
39.	Shri Subodh Mohite	05
40.	Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	06

1	2	3
41.	Shri Prakash V. Patil	05
42.	Shri Laxman Rao Pandurang Patil	05
43.	Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh	05
44.	Shri Prakash Vishwanath Paranjpe	05
45.	Shri Suresh Ganpatrao Wagmare	05
46.	Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao Gawali	05
47.	Shri Harisingh Nasaru Rathod	05
48.	Late Sunil Dutt	05
	<i>Manipur</i>	
1.	Dr. Thokchom Meinya	05
2.	Shri Mani Charenamai	05
	<i>Meghalaya</i>	
1.	Shri Paty Ripple Kyndiah	05
2.	Shri Pumo Agitok Sangma	06
	<i>Mizoram</i>	
1.	Shri Vanlazawma	05
	<i>Nagaland</i>	
1.	Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak	05
	<i>Orissa</i>	
1.	Shri Hari Har Swain	05
2.	Shri M.A. Kharabela Swain	03
3.	Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu	05
4.	Shri Arjun Charan Sethi	05
5.	Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani	05
6.	Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo	00
7.	Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	05
8.	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	05
9.	Shri Tathagata Satpathy	05
10.	Shri Brahmananda Panda	05

1	2	3
11.	Shri Mohan Jena	02
12.	Shri Bikram Keshari Deo	05
13.	Smt. Archana Nayak	05
14.	Shri Ananta Nayak	05
15.	Shri Girdhar Gamang	05
16.	Shri Sudam Mamdi	05
17.	Shri Parsuram Majhi	00
18.	Shri Sugrib Singh	06
19.	Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy	05
20.	Shri Prasanna Acharya	05
21.	Shri Jua Oram	00

Punjab

1.	Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu	05
2.	Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan	05
3.	Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal	04
4.	Sardar Zona Singh Mann	05
5.	Shri Vinod Khanna	05
6.	Shri Avinash Rai Khanna	05
7.	Shri Gurjeet Singh Rana	00
8.	Shri Sharanjit Singh Dhillon	05
9.	Smt. Preneet Kaur	05
10.	Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal	02
11.	Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra	05
12.	Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa	00
13.	Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala	05

Rajasthan

1.	Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	05
2.	Dr. Karan Singh Yadav	05
3.	Shri Dhan Singh Rawat	05

1	2	3
4.	Shri Manvendra Singh	05
5.	Shri Ramswaroop Koli	00
6.	Shri Vahvendra Singh	05
7.	Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh	00
8.	Shri Dharmendra	05
9.	Shri Srichand Kripalani	00
10.	Shri Ram Singh Kaewan	05
11.	Shri Sachin Pilot	00
12.	Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan	00
13.	Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargav	05
14.	Smt. Susheela Luxman Bengaru	05

15.	Shri Dushyant Singh	05
16.	Shri Sis Ram Ota	05
17.	Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi	05
18.	Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal	05
19.	Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas	05
20.	Shri Pusp Jain	00
21.	Shri Mahavir Bhagora	05
22.	Shri Namo Narain Meena	05
23.	Shri Subhash Maharia	05
24.	Shri Kailash Meghwal	05
25.	Smt. Kiran Maheeshwari	05

Uttar Pradesh

1.	Shri Raj Babbar	05
2.	Shri Shankhial Majhi	05
3.	Shri Bijendra Singh	05
4.	Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh	05
5.	Shri Rahul Gandhi	05
6.	Shri Harish Nagpal	05

1	2	3
7.	Shri Kunwar Sarvraj Singh	05
8.	Shri Ramakant Yadav	05
9.	Shri Ajit Singh	05
10.	Smt. Rubab Sayda	05
11.	Shri Chandra Shekhar	05
12.	Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh	05
13.	Shri Shyama Charan Gupta	05
14.	Shri Mahabir Prasad	05
15.	Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat	05
16.	Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	05
17.	Shri Lal Mani Prasad	05
18.	Shri Munshiram	05
19.	Shri Raja Ram Pal	05
20.	Shri Saleem Iqbal Shervni	00
21.	Shri Kalyan Singh	05
22.	Shri Shailendra Kumar	05
23.	Shri Kailesh Nath Singh Yadav	00
24.	Shri Mohan Singh	05
25.	Shri Mohammed Muqees	05
26.	Dr. Kunwar Devendra Singh Yadav	00
27.	Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya	05
28.	Shri Mitrasen Yadav	04
29.	Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh	05
30.	Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad	05
31.	Shri Ramji Lal Suman	05
32.	Shri Radhey Shyam Kori	05
33.	Shri Afzal Ansari	05
34.	Shri Chandra Dev Prasad Rajbhar	05
35.	Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh	05

1	2	3
36.	Shri Aditya Nath	05
37.	Shri Rajnarayan Budholiya	05
38.	Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal	00
39.	Smt. Usha Verma	05
40.	Shri Kishan Lal Diler	05
41.	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	05
42.	Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel	00
43.	Shri Parasnath Yadav	05
44.	Shri Chandrapal Singh Yadav	05
45.	Smt. Anuradha Choudhary	00
46.	Shri Beni Prasad Verma	05
47.	Shri Akhilesh Yadav	00
48.	Shri Shripakash Jaiswal	05
49.	Shri Bhal Chandra Yadav	05
50.	Shri Ravi Prakash Verma	00
51.	Shri Ashok Kumar Pradhan	00
52.	Shri Daroga Prasad Saroj	05
53.	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	00
54.	Shri Umakant Yadav	05
55.	Shri Pankaj Chaudhary	05
56.	Shri Dharmendra Yadav	00
57.	Shri Manvendra Singh	05
58.	Shri Mohammed Shahid	05
59.	Shri Narendra Kumar Kushwaha	05
60.	Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat	05
61.	Shri Jai Prakash	05
62.	Shri Shafiqur Rahman Barq	00
63.	Chaudhary Munawwar Hasan	05
64.	Shri Baleshwar Yadav	05

1	2	3
65.	Shri Ateeq Ahmad	05
66.	Smt. Maneka Gandhi	05
67.	Shri Akshay Pratap Singh	05
68.	Smt. Sonia Gandhi	00
69.	Smt. P. Jaya Prada Nahata	03
70.	Shri Lal Chandra	04
71.	Shri Rasheed Masood	02
72.	Shri Tufani Saroj	05
73.	Shri Hari Kewal Prasad	05
74.	Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav	00
75.	Shri Iliyas Azmi	05
76.	Shri Jitin Prasada	23
77.	Shri Rajesh Verma	05
78.	Shri Mohammad Tahir Khan	05
79.	Shri Brajesh Pathak	05
80.	Dr. Rajesh Kumar Mishra	05
<i>Sikkim</i>		
1.	Shri Nakul Das Rai	00
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>		
1.	Shri Rangasamy Velu	05
2.	Shri A.K. Moorthy	19
3.	Shri Dayanidhi Maran	00
4.	Shri C. Kuppusami	07
5.	Shri T.R. Baalu	00
6.	Shri E. Ponnuswamy	05
7.	Shri K. Subbarayan	05
8.	Shri Kannusamy Venkatapathy	00
9.	Dr. Raman Senthil	09
10.	Shri N.S.V. Chitthan	07

1	2	3
11.	Shri E.V.K.S. Elangovan	05
12.	Shri K.C. Palanisamy	10
13.	Shri E.G. Sugavanam	00
14.	Shri Mohan Ponnuswamy	06
15.	Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar	05
16.	Shri A.K.S. Vijayan	07
17.	Shri A.V. Bellamin	05
18.	Shri R. Prabhu	06
19.	Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy Kharventhan	00
20.	Shri Anandimuthu Raja	36
21.	Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid	05
22.	Dr. C. Krishnan	05
23.	Shri Sevugan Regupathy	43
24.	Smt. M.S. Bhavani Rajenthiran	05
25.	Smt. K. Rani	07
26.	Shri K.V. Thangka Balu	20
27.	Shri Palaniappan Chidambaram	05
28.	Shri A. Ravichandran Sippiparai	05
29.	Shri A. Krishnaswamy	07
30.	Shri M. Appadurai	05
31.	Shri S.S. Palanimanickam	05
32.	Dr. K. Dhanaraju	05
33.	Smt. V. Radhika Selvi	05
34.	Smt. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan	10
35.	Shri L. Ganesan	01
36.	Shri Dhanuskodi Athithan	11
37.	Shri Danapal Venugopal	06
38.	Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran	00
39.	Shri K.M. Kader Mohideen	17

1	2	3
<i>Tripura</i>		
1.	Shri Baju Ban Riyan	00
2.	Shri Khagen Das	00
<i>Uttaranchal</i>		
1.	Shri Bachi Singh Rawat	05
2.	AVSM, Maj Gen. (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri	00
3.	Shri Rajendra Kumar	05
4.	Shri K.C. Singh Baba	05
5.	Lt. Col. (Retd.) Maharaja Manabendra Shah	05
<i>West Bengal</i>		
1.	Shri Joachim Baxla	05
2.	Shri Anil Basu	05
3.	Shri Ranen Barman	05
4.	Shri Basudeb Acharia	05
5.	Shri Subrata Bose	05
6.	Shri Tarit Baran Topdar	00
7.	Shri Ajay Chakraborty	05
8.	Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury	05
9.	Dr. Ram Chandra Dome	05
10.	Shri Somnath Chatterjee	05
11.	Shri Nikhilananda Sar	05
12.	Shri Mohammad Salim	00
13.	Shri Sudhangshu Seal	00
14.	Shri Kumari Mamata Banerjee	00
15.	Shri Prasanta Pradhan	05
16.	Shri Hiten Barman	05
17.	Shri Dawa Narbula	05
18.	Shri Samik Lahiri	05

1	2	3
19.	Shri Amitava Nandy	00
20.	Shri Sunil Khan	05
21.	Shri Rupchand Pal	00
22.	Shri Swadesh Chakraborty	05
23.	Dr. Sujan Chakraborty	05
24.	Smt. Minati Sen	05
25.	Shri Pranab Mukherjee	11
26.	Shri Rupchand Murmu	10
27.	Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal	05
28.	Shri Mahboob Zahedi	00
29.	Smt. Joytirmoyee Sikdar	05
30.	Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhary	05
31.	Prof. Basudeb Barman	05
32.	Shri Prabodh Panda	05
33.	Shri Abdul Manan Hossain	05
34.	Shri Alakesh Das	00
35.	Shri Gurudas Das Gupta	05
36.	Shri Bir Singh Mahato	05
37.	Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	18
38.	Shri Santasri Chatterjee	05
39.	Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth	05
40.	Shri Hannan Mollah	05
41.	Smt. Susmita Bauri	05
<i>Andaman and Nicobar</i>		
1.	Shri Manoranjan Bhakta	00
<i>Chandigarh</i>		
1.	Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	10
<i>Dadra and Nagar Haveli</i>		
1.	Shri Mohanbhai Delkar	05
<i>Daman and Diu</i>		
1.	Shri Dahya Bhai V. Patel	00

1	2	3
<i>Delhi</i>		
1.	Shri Kapil Sibal	09
2.	Shri Jagdish Tytler	00
3.	Shri Sandeep Dikshit	05
4.	Smt. Krishna Tirath	07
5.	Shri Ajay Maken	02
6.	Shri Sajjan Kumar	05
7.	Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra	10
<i>Lakshadweep</i>		
1.	Dr. P. Pookunhi Koya	05
<i>Pondichery</i>		
1.	Prof. M. Ramadass	05
<i>Nominated Members</i>		
1.	Shri Francis Fanthome	00
2.	Smt. Ingrid Mcleod	00
<i>Number of Members in the TAC Recommended by the Hon'ble MPs, (RS) State-wise as on 8.12.2005</i>		
Sl.#	Name of the Hon'ble MP	Number of Members Nominated on the Recommendation of Hon'ble MP
1	2	3
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>		
1.	Shri Sudarshan Akarapu	00
2.	Shri Raashid Alvi	00
3.	Shri S.M. Lajjan Basha	00
4.	Smt. N.P. Durga	05
5.	Shri Penumalli Madhu	05
6.	Shri Nandi Yellaiah	06
7.	Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar	05

1	2	3
8.	Shri C. Ramechandraiah	05
9.	Shri Jairam Rameesh	00
10.	Dr. Dasari Narayana Rao	05
11.	Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao	05
12.	Shri V. Hanumantha Rao	04
13.	Shri Ravula Chandra Sekhar	08
14.	Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy	16
15.	Shri Gireesh Kumar Sanghi	05
16.	Shri Jesudasu Seelam	00
17.	Shri Rama Muni Reddy	05
18.	Smt. Vanga Geetha	05
<i>Arunachal Pradesh</i>		
1.	Shri Nabam Rebia	06
<i>Assam</i>		
1.	Shri Kamendu Bhattacharjee	06
2.	Shri Indramoni Bora	05
3.	Shri Urkhao Gwra Brahma	05
4.	Shri Silvius Condpan	05
5.	Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah	05
6.	Dr. Manmohan Singh	00
7.	Smt. Syeda Anwara Taimur	05
<i>Bihar</i>		
1.	Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary	05
2.	Shri R.K. Dhawan	05
3.	Dr. Faguni Ram	05
4.	Shri Prem Chand Gupta	05
5.	Dr. Mahendra Prasad	05
6.	Shri Mangani Lal Mandal	05
7.	Shri Jai Narain Prasad Nishad	05

1	2	3
8.	Shri Vidya Sagar Nishad	05
9.	Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	05
10.	Shri Motiur Rahman	05
11.	Smt. Kum Kum Rai	05
12.	Shri Bashietha Narain Singh	06
13.	Shri Shatrughan Sinha	05
14.	Shri Sherad Yadav	00
15.	Shri Subhash Prasad Yadav	05
16.	Shri Vijay Singh Yadav	05
<i>Chhattisgarh</i>		
1.	Shri Dilip Singh Judev	01
2.	Shri Ramadhar Kashyap	05
3.	Smt. Mohsina Kidwai	05
4.	Smt. Kamla Manhar	05
5.	Shri Motilal Vora	05
<i>Goa</i>		
1.	Shri Santaram Laxman Naik	00
<i>Gujarat</i>		
1.	Shri Lekhraj Bachani	05
2.	Shri Jayantilal Barot	05
3.	Shri Arun Jaitley	00
4.	Shri Jana Krishnamurthy K.	05
5.	Prof. Aika Balaram Kshatriya	05
6.	Shri Lalitbhai Mehta	05
7.	Shri Raju Parmar	10
8.	Dr. A.K. Patel	05
9.	Shri Ahmed Patel	142
10.	Shri Keshubhai S. Patel	05
11.	Smt. Savita Sharda	00

1	2	3
<i>Haryana</i>		
1.	Shri Ajay Singh Chautala	00
2.	Smt. Sumitra Mahajan	05
3.	Shri Harendra Singh Malik	06
4.	Shri Faqir Chand Mullana	05
5.	Shri Tarlochan Singh	00
<i>Himachal Pradesh</i>		
1.	Shri Sharma Anand	05
2.	Shri Suresh Bhardwaj	05
3.	Shri Kripal Parmar	05
<i>Jammu and Kashmir</i>		
1.	Dr. Farooq Abdullah	04
2.	Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	00
3.	Shri T.S. Bajwa	05
4.	Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz	00
<i>Jharkhand</i>		
1.	Shri S. Ahluwalia	00
2.	Shri R.K. Anand	00
3.	Shri Devdas Apte	00
4.	Shri Ajay Maroo	04
5.	Shri Digvijay Singh	00
6.	Shri Yashwant Sinha	03
<i>Karnataka</i>		
1.	Smt. Prema Cariappa	05
2.	Shri Oscar Fernandes	04
3.	Shri B.K. Hariprasad	05
4.	Shri K. Rahman Khan	06
5.	Dr. Vijay Maliya	00
6.	Shri K.B. Krishna Murthy	05

1	2	3
7.	Shri M. Rajasekhara Murthy	05
8.	Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu	05
9.	Shri Janardhana Poojary	05
10.	Smt. Bimba Raikar	05
11.	Shri M.V. Rajasekharan	05
12.	Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy	00
<i>Kerala</i>		
1.	Shri Abdul Wahab Peevee	00
2.	Shri A.K. Antony	00
3.	Prof. P.J. Kurian	05
4.	Shri K. Chandran Pillai	00
5.	Shri Thennala G. Balakrishna Pillai	05
6.	Shri N.K. Premachandran	05
7.	Shri Vayalar Ravi	05
8.	Shri M.P. Abdussamad Samadani	00
9.	Shri A. Vijayaraghavan	10
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>		
1.	Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi	03
2.	Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj	00
3.	Shri Narayan Singh Kesari	05
4.	Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal	05
5.	Shri P.K. Maheshwari	05
6.	Shri Suresh Pachouri	39
7.	Shri Laxminarayan Sharma	04
8.	Shri Arjun Singh	78
9.	Smt. Maya Singh	05
10.	Shri Su. Thirunavukkaraasar	05
11.	Shri Vikram Verma	05
<i>Maharashtra</i>		
1.	Dr. P.C. Alexander	01
2.	Shri Balavant Alias Balapte	05

1	2	3
3.	Shri Prithviraj Chavan	04
4.	Shri Vasant Chavan	00
5.	Shri Vijay J. Darda	07
6.	Shri Murli Deora	05
7.	Shri Rajkumar Dhoot	00
8.	Shri Yusuf Sarwar Khan Alias Dilip Kumar	00
9.	Shri R.S. Gavai	05
10.	Shri Vedprakash P. Goyal	00
11.	Shri Ram Jethmalani	00
12.	Shri Sharad Anantrao Joshi	05
13.	Shri Pramod Mahajan	05
14.	Shri Datta Meghe	05
15.	Shri Praful Patel	05
16.	Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patel	05
17.	Shri Sanjay Raut	05
18.	Shri Tariq Anwar	05
19.	Shri Ekanath K. Thakur	00
<i>Manipur</i>		
1.	Shri Rishang Keishing	01
<i>Meghalaya</i>		
1.	Shri Robert Kharshing	05
<i>Mizoram</i>		
1.	Shri Lalthming Liana	05
<i>Nagaland</i>		
1.	Shri T.R. Zeliang	00
<i>Delhi</i>		
1.	Shri Janardan Dwivedi	05
2.	Shri P.M. Sayeed	24
3.	Dr. Karan Singh	05

1	2	3
<i>Nominated</i>		
1.	Shri Nana Deshmukh	05
2.	Kumari Nirmala Deshpande	00
3.	Smt. Hema Malini	02
4.	Dr. Bimal Jalan	00
5.	Dr. K. Kasturirangan	00
6.	Dr. Narayan Singh Manakdao	00
7.	Ms. Lata Mangeshkar	00
8.	Dr. Chandan Mitra	01
9.	Shri Fali S. Nariman	01
10.	Shri Cho S. Ramaswamy	00
11.	Shri Dara Singh	05
<i>Orissa</i>		
1.	Ms. Pramila Bohidar	05
2.	Shri Surendra Lath	05
3.	Dr. Chhatrapal Singh Lodha	01
4.	Shri pyarimohan Mohapatra	03
5.	Dr. Radhakant Nayak	01
6.	Shri B.J. Panda	05
7.	Shri Rudra Narayan Pany	05
8.	Shri Dilip Ray	05
9.	Shri Birabhadra Singh	00
10.	Smt. Sushree Devi	05
<i>Pondicherry</i>		
1.	Shri V. Narayanasamy	05
<i>Punjab</i>		
1.	Shri Ashwani Kumar	05
2.	Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa	05
3.	Dr. M.S. Gill	01

1	2	3
4.	Shri Raj Mohinder Singh Majitha	05
5.	Shri Dharam Pal Sabharwal	00
6.	Smt. Ambika Soni	00
7.	Smt. Sukhbuns Kaur	04
<i>Rajasthan</i>		
1.	Shri Santosh Bagrodia	05
2.	Smt. Jamana Devi Barupal	05
3.	Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi	05
4.	Shri R.P. Goenka	04
5.	Dr. (Smt.) Najma A. Heptulla	05
6.	Shri Molchand Meena	05
7.	Shri K. Natwar Singh	30
8.	Dr. Gyan Prakash Pilonia	05
9.	Shri Jaswant Singh	05
10.	Dr. Prabha Thakur	05
<i>Sikkim</i>		
1.	Shri Palden Tsering Gyamtso	05
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>		
1.	Shri S. Anbalagan	05
2.	Shri S.S. Chandran	05
3.	Shri T.T.V. Dhinakaran	05
4.	Shri B.S. Gnanadesikan	05
5.	Shri N.R. Govindarajar	05
6.	Smt. S.G. Indra	05
7.	Shri N. Jothi	05
8.	Shri R. Kamaraj	05
9.	Shri S.P.M. Syed Khan	05
10.	Dr. K. Malaisamy	06
11.	Shri P.G. Narayanan	05

1	2	3
12.	Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	05
13.	Shri C. Perumal	01
14.	Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss	05
15.	Shri R. Sarath Kumar	05
16.	Shri Thanga Tamil Selvan	05
17.	Shri R. Shunmugasundaram	08
18.	Shri G.K. Vasani	01
<i>Tripura</i>		
1.	Shri Matilal Sarkar	00
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>		
1.	Prof. M.M. Agarwal	05
2.	Dr. Akhilesh Das	05
3.	Shri Kamal Akhtar	02
4.	Shri Anil Dhirubhai Ambani	00
5.	Shri Gandhi Azad	06
6.	Shri Abu Asim Azmi	05
7.	Smt. Jaya Bachchan	00
8.	Shri Dara Singh Chauhan	05
9.	Dr. Murlidhar Manohar Joshi	05
10.	Shri Ghanshyam Chandra Kharwar	05
11.	Shri Ram Nath Kovind	05
12.	Dr. Swami Sakshi Ji Maharaj	05
13.	Mies Mayawati	00
14.	Shri Janeshwar Mishra	00
15.	Shri Kalraj Mishra	05
16.	Shri Satish Chandra Misra	00
17.	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	01
18.	Shri Balbir K. Punj	00
19.	Shri Ram Narayan Sahu	05
20.	Shri Arun Shourie	00

1	2	3
21.	Shri Rajeev Shukla	05
22.	Shri Shahid Siddiqui	01
23.	Shri Amar Singh	00
24.	Shri Bhagwati Singh	05
25.	Shri Isam Singh	05
26.	Shri Raj Nath Singh	01
27.	Shri Uday Pratap Singh	05
28.	Shri Veer Singh	05
29.	Shri Lalit Suri	00
30.	Prof. R.B.S. Varma	05
31.	Shri Nand Kishore Yadav	07
<i>Uttaranchal</i>		
1.	Shri Harish Rawat	08
2.	Shri Satish Kumar Sharma	05
3.	Smt. Sushma Swaraj	00
<i>West Bengal</i>		
1.	Shri S.K. Khabir Uddin Ahmed	00
2.	Shri Nilotpal Basu	00
3.	Shri Jayanta Bhattacharya	01
4.	Shri Manoj Bhattacharya	05
5.	Shri Debabrata Biswas	06
6.	Shri Prasanta Chatterjee	05
7.	Smt. Sarla Maheshwari	00
8.	Shri Chittabrata Majumdar	00
9.	Shri Dipankar Mukherjee	00
10.	Smt. Chandra Kala Pandey	00
11.	Shri Abani Roy	05
12.	Shri Jibon Roy	00
13.	Shri Tarini Kanta Roy	05
14.	Shri Shankar Roy Chowdhury	04
15.	Shri Dinesh Trivedi	00

*[Translation]***Release of Subsidy**

3091. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any subsidy has been released till date to the backward areas as announced in budget for the year 2005-2006 out of the newly constituted fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms prescribed for granting subsidy out of the said fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. However, funds for the existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana are being release.

(b) Funds released during 2005-06 till date for the three components of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana are as follows: Special Plan for Bihar—Rs. 269.96 crore, Special Plan for the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) district of Orissa—Rs. 166.66 crore, Backward Districts Initiative—Rs. 510.00 crore.

(c) The Backward Regions Grant Fund and the norms for granting funds are under finalization.

*[English]***Sports Programmes/Schemes in Assam**

3092. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sportspersons from Assam who has received sports scholarship and assistance from the National Welfare Fund for Sportsperson;

(b) the details of sports programmes/schemes undertaken in the State by the National Welfare Fund for Sportsperson;

(c) the number of sportspersons from the State who has received pension from the National Sports Fund;

(d) the amount allocated to Assam for the creation of sports infrastructure during the last three years; and

(e) the number of schools in Assam covered under the scheme of grants to rural schools for purchase of sports equipment and development of playground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Under the Sports Scholarship Scheme, the number of sports scholarship awarded to Assam during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of Scholarships
2002-2003	201
2003-2004	465
2004-2005	344

No sportsperson from Assam is receiving pension under the scheme of 'National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons'.

(b) The National Welfare Fund for sportspersons and their families was set up primarily to assist outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears, who are living in indigent circumstances. The financial support is stipulated in the following forms:—

- (i) A monthly pension upto Rs. 2500/- per month.
- (ii) Lump-sum financial assistance upto Rs. 40,000 for medical treatment in case of injury;
- (iii) Financial assistance upto maximum of Rs. 1 lakh to sportspersons who suffer from fatal injury in the course of participation in sports events or during training.

(c) Two sportspersons from Assam are receiving pension under "Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons" launched in 1994 under which pension is given to sportspersons who win medals in Olympic games, World Cup/World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games and Para-Olympic Games.

(d) The details of the Central assistance provided for creation of sports infrastructure in Assam during the last three years under the scheme of 'Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure' are as under:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
73.50	17.00	188.09

(e) The number of schools in Assam to which central assistance was provided during the last three years under the scheme of Grants to Rural Schools for purchase of Sports Equipment and development of playgrounds is as under:—

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
No. of Schools	14	41	38

Access Deficit Charge

3093. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India proposes to introduce an Access Deficit Charge (ADC) that will be based on revenue share instead of the current per-call levy;

(b) if so, the reasons for introducing the above change;

(c) whether cellular operators are opposing the above change; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against these operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It addresses some of the incongruities of the present Access Deficit Charge regime resulting in lesser charge to some of the present subscriber categories.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Fixed Wireless Phone

3094. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the cost "per line" of setting up of a Fixed Wireless Phone (FWP) *vis-à-vis* a wireline Network;

(b) whether there is any difference in gestation period of setting up fixed Wireless Network *vis-à-vis* a Wireline Network;

(c) the approximate cost saving if FWP network is deployed instead of Wireline Network;

(d) whether the Government would consider deploying FWP phones instead of Wireline Network in case FWP phones are more affordable; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) According to information received from BSNL, the estimated per line cost of Fixed Wireless Phones is Rs. 9000/- against Rs. 26000/- in respect of wireline network.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As indicated in para (a) above, approximate cost saving is of the order of Rs. 17,000/- per line.

(d) and (e) The licences are technology neutral. The various operators selected the technology depending upon techno-economic consideration.

Road Projects Undertaken by TCIL

3095. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) which was formed to share Indian Telecom expertise in India and abroad has started taking up road construction projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the profit earned/likely to be earned by the TCIL by undertaking road construction projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. TCIL has started taking road construction projects.

(b) TCIL have been initially engaged in external plant network constructions required for fixed line telecom network which includes civil works. With change in technology, there has been substantial reduction of external plant networks world over including in our own country. In order to utilize its expertise and increase the productivity of civil engineers, as well improve turnover the road construction sector which is presently a booming sector and similar other works have been taken up. TCIL has been pre-qualified for road construction tenders in the State of MP for Bina-Guna-Sironj Project on the basis of its experience in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe. Company also started undertaking other Civil and Architecture Consultancy Project particularly for construction of cyber park which ultimately shall result in award of networking projects to TCIL. TCIL's quality work at most competitive market price has given edge over other purely Civil Engineering Construction Companies.

(c) For road construction and civil and architecture consultancy projects, profits earned during 2004-05 amounted to Rs. 3.64 crores and profits anticipated in 2005-06 is Rs. 3.34 crore.

[Translation]

PCO Booths in Maharashtra

3096. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCO Booths in Parbhani and Jalna districts in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of applications pending for approval of PCO Booths in the said districts;

(c) whether the reasons behind the pending of the said applications are inaction of the concerned officers; and

(d) if so, the time by which all the applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of Public Call Offices working in Parbhani and Jalna District as on 31.10.2005, are 2785 and 2696 respectively.

(b) The Number of applications of PCOs pending for approval in Parbhani and Jalna District as on 31.10.2005, are 72 and 13 respectively.

(c) The applications pending for approval are mostly recent applications. The reasons for pendency are as follows:—

- (i) Non completion of formalities by the applicants.
- (ii) Non-availability of exchange hardware (inter-face cards for PCOs).

(d) The pending applications are likely to be cleared by 31st March, 2006 subject to completion of formalities by the applicants.

Damage of Optical Fibre Cable

3097. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether areas of Thekama Bazaar of district Azamgarh of Uttar Pradesh and surrounding villages were disconnected from the entire country and the world due to damage of OFC cable during road construction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the losses to the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited as a result thereof;

(d) whether the BTS Tower of Thekama Bazaar is frequently found out of work or is low powered due to which the people are facing signal problems in mobile telephones; and

(e) if so, the action taken to restore the telecom services in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were a number of cases of damage of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) due to road construction works in Thekama Bazar area of Azamgarh District. The details for the month of November, 2005 are given below:

OFC damage date & time	Restoration date & time	Hours of interruption/duration of fault
7.11.05 : 20.00 hrs	8.11.05 : 17.00 hrs	21.00 hrs
8.11.05 : 19.00 hrs	9.11.05 : 15.00 hrs	20.00 hrs
11.11.05 : 20.30 hrs	12.11.05: 15.00 hrs	18.30 hrs
15.11.05: 21.00 hrs	16.11.05 : 14.00 hrs	17.00 hrs
17.11.05 : 19.30 hrs	18.11.05 : 14.30 hrs	19.00 hrs

(c) Estimated loss on account of repairs of the cable is Rs. 2 lakh approximately which is proposed to be claimed from State PWD.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Working and Power radiation of BTS Tower at Thekama Bazar is satisfactory. The services in the area have already been restored on 18.11.05 at 14.30 hrs.

Integrated Mechanism for Monitoring Schemes/ Programmes

3098. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several welfare schemes and development programmes are being run by various departments of the Union Government for poverty alleviation, reducing unemployment and ameliorating the living standard of various sections along with the development of various areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds are provided after making budgetary provisions by various departments separately for these welfare and development programmes;

(d) if so, whether monitoring is also done by departments;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to evolve an integrated mechanism for the monitoring of these schemes and programmes to ensure that concrete action is taken and misappropriation of funds is avoided;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the said mechanism is likely to be activated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) It is a fact that several welfare schemes and development programmes are being run by various departments of the Government of India and funds are provided separately for these schemes and programmes after making budget provisions. The details are available in the annual reports and on the websites of the Ministries/Departments concerned.

(d) to (g) Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have been created at different levels of Central and State Governments as part of the programme guidelines. Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission also carries out evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the delivery systems and impact of the programmes/schemes. A Programme Outcome & Response Monitoring Division has been set up in the Planning Commission to measure physical outcomes of major programmes/schemes.

In pursuance of the directions of the Prime Minister and the commitment made in the Budget Speech of 2005-06 to stress upon the importance of the outcomes of major programmes to improve the quality of implementation of development programmes, Government has decided to place before the Parliament on 'Outcome Budget' every year. The Outcome Budget for 2005-06 for the Plan expenditure was placed in the Parliament on August 25, 2005.

Construction of Postal Colonies

3099. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether postal colonies for the postal employees have been constructed all over the country;

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

(c) the class of employees entitled to live therein;

(d) the facility provided by the Government to those employees who do not get the above Government accommodation;

(e) whether the Government is aware that land has also been acquired to build Government Postal colonies all over the country;

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

(g) whether land has been acquired at Hoshiarpur in Punjab to build a postal colony there;

(h) if so, whether the Department of Posts is paying any penalty for the delay in construction; and

(i) if so, the time by which the Government proposes to build the above colony?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise and area-wise details of residential colonies for Postal employees are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) All categories of postal employees are considered for allotment of postal staff quarters according to their entitlement.

(d) House Rent Allowance is payable, as per rules, to employees who are not provided Government accommodation.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(g) Yes, Sir. The land has been acquired at Hoshiarpur in Punjab to build a postal colony there.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise in view of (h) above.

Statement

No. of Postal Colonies, State-wise and Area-wise

Sl.No.	State/Area	No. of Postal colonies
1	2	3
1. Assam		
	1. Guwahati	3
	2. Dibrugarh	1
	3. Tinsukia	1
	4. Jorhat	1
	5. Nagaon	1
	6. Dhubri	1
	7. Silchar	1
	8. Diphu	1
	9. Haflong	1
	10. Tezpur	1
	11. Karimganj	1
	Total	13
2. Andhra Pradesh		
	1. Hyderabad City	9
	2. Adilabad	1
	3. Medak	1
	4. Nalgonda	1
	5. Sangareddy	1
	6. Suryapet	1
	7. Wanaparthy	1
	8. Hanamkonda	1
	9. Visakhapatnam	5
	10. Kakinadda	1
	11. Parvathipuram	1
	12. Rajahmundry	2

1	2	3
13.	Vizianagaram	1
14.	Araku Valley	1
15.	Samalkota	1
16.	Chipurapally	1
17.	Vijayawada	1
18.	Guntur	1
19.	Machilipatnam	1
20.	Khammam	1
21.	Eluru	1
22.	Nellore	1
23.	Tenali	1
24.	Gudur	1
25.	Mangalagiri	1
26.	Kothagudem	1
27.	Palancha	1
28.	Bhadrachalam	1
29.	Venkatapuram	1
30.	Jangareddigudem	1
31.	Kurnool	2
32.	Cuddapah	1
33.	Anantapur	1
34.	Hindupur	1
35.	Nandyal	1
36.	Tirupathi	1
37.	Guntakal	1
Total		51

3. Arunachal Pradesh

1.	Itanagar	1
2.	Pasighat	1

1	2	3
3.	Tawang	1
4.	Tezu	1
5.	Along	1
6.	Bomdilla	1
Total		6

4. Andaman & Nicobar

1.	Shadipore	1
2.	Dilthamantank	1
3.	Middle Point	1
4.	Car Nicobar	1
5.	Junglighat	1
6.	Ranghat	1
7.	Wimberly Gunj	1
8.	Hutbay	1
Total		8

5. Bihar

1.	Patna	5
2.	Bhagalpur	1
3.	Aurangabad	1
4.	Bhojpur	2
5.	Nalanda	1
6.	Rohtas	Nil
7.	Vaishali	1
8.	Munger	1
9.	Nawada	Nil
10.	Gaya	2
11.	Saran	3
12.	Siwan	Nil
13.	W. Champaran	1

1	2	3
14.	E. Champaran	4
15.	Purnea	6
16.	Saharsa	1
17.	Madhubani	1
18.	Darbhanga	1
19.	Samastipur	2
20.	Sitamarhi	2
21.	Muzaffarpur	1
22.	Begusarai	Nil
Total		36

6. Chandigarh

1.	Chandigarh	3
Total		3

7. Chhattisgarh

1.	Raipur	3
2.	Bhilai	2
3.	Kanker	1
4.	Jagdalpur	1
5.	Korba	1
6.	Bilaspur	1
7.	Durg	1
8.	Raigarh	1
Total		11

8. Delhi

1.	R.K. Puram Sector-VI	1
2.	Sarojini Nagar	1
3.	Moti Bagh	1
4.	Sewa Nagar	1
5.	Atul Grove Road	1

1	2	3
6.	Kali Bari	1
7.	Dev Nagar	1
8.	Khurshed Square	1
9.	Pankha Road (Janakpuri)	1
10.	Telecom Colony (Janakpuri)	1
11.	Vivek Vihar (Telecom. Colony)	1
12.	Delhi General Post Office compound	1
13.	Gopi Nath Bazar (Delhi Cantt.)	1
Total		13

9. Daman & Diu

Nil	Nil
Total	Nil

10. Gujarat*

1.	Ahmedabad	4
2.	Mehsan	1
3.	Gandhinagar	1
4.	Himatnagar	1
5.	Modasa	1
6.	Anand	1
7.	V.V. Nagar	1
8.	Ahwa Dang	1
9.	Fort Songadh	1
10.	Waghi	1
11.	Godhra	1
12.	Kapadwanj	1
13.	Jambusar	1
14.	Palej	1

1	2	3
15.	GIDC Kabilpore	1
16.	Khergam	1
17.	Maroli Bazar	1
18.	Kim	1
19.	Kosamba	1
20.	Valsad	1
21.	Udwada. RS	1
22.	Umargam	1
23.	Silvassa	1
24.	Vapi. I.E.	1
25.	Nanaponda	1
26.	Atul	1
27.	Sanjan	1
28.	Nanivahiyal	1
29.	Sankheda	1
30.	Vadodara	2
31.	Kunkavav	1
32.	Talaja	1
33.	Botad	1
34.	Jetpur	1
35.	Jamnagar	1
36.	Dwarka	1
37.	Junagadh	1
38.	Veraval	1
39.	Una	1
40.	Mendarda	1
41.	Keshod	1
42.	Gandhidham	1
43.	Kandla	1

1	2	3
44.	Adipur	1
45.	Mandvi	1
46.	Rajkot	1
47.	Wankaner	1
48.	Surenderanagar	1
Total		52

11. Goa

1.	Alto Pervorim	1
2.	Dicarpale Margaon	1
3.	Sada	1
Total		3

12. Haryana

1.	Ambala	4
2.	Yamunagar	1
3.	Kalka	1
4.	Faridabad	4
5.	Rewari	1
6.	Narnaul	1
7.	Hissar	3
8.	Sirsa	1
9.	Kurukshetra	1
10.	Kaithal	1
11.	Karnal	2
12.	Panipat	1
13.	Jind	1
14.	Rohtak	2
15.	Jhajjar	1
16.	Sonepat	2
Total		27

1	2	3
13. Himachal Pradesh		
1.	Shimla	20
2.	Bilaspur	1
3.	Hamirpur	1
4.	Kangra	1
5.	Dehra	1
6.	Rampur	1
7.	Rekong Peo	1
8.	Kaza	1
9.	Kullu	1
10.	Sarkaghat	1
11.	Chauntra	1
12.	Keylong	1
13.	Bhangrotu	1
14.	Sundernagar	2
15.	Bakloh	1
16.	Dalhousie	1
17.	Dharamsala	2
18.	Palampur	1
19.	Baijnath	1
20.	Shahpur	1
21.	Una	1
22.	Chail	1
23.	Dagshai	1
24.	Subathu	1
25.	Kasauli	1
26.	Parwanoo	1
27.	Nahan	2
28.	Solan	2

1	2	3
29.	Paonta Sahib	1
30.	Sanawar	1
31.	Rohroo	1
32.	Theog	1
Total		55
14. Jammu & Kashmir		
1.	Srinagar	2
2.	Jammu	4
3.	Udhampur	1
4.	Leh	1
5.	Rajouri	1
Total		9
15. Jharkhand		
1.	Ranchi	1
2.	Dhanbad	1
3.	B.S. City	1
4.	Hazaribagh	1
5.	Girdih	1
6.	Daltonganj	1
7.	Golmuri	1
8.	Bistupur	1
9.	Tatanagar	1
Total		9
16. Karnataka		
1.	Bangalore	3
2.	Dodballapur	1
3.	Chikmagalur	1
4.	Birur	1
5.	Chitradurga	1

1	2	3
6.	Hiriyur	1
7.	Davangere	2
8.	Hassan	1
9.	Arsikere	1
10.	Belur-Hassan	1
11.	Saklespura	1
12.	Madikeri	3
13.	Virajpet	1
14.	Kolar	1
15.	Mulbagal	1
16.	Mangalore	2
17.	Mysore	1
18.	Nanjangud	2
19.	Puttur	1
20.	Karkala	1
21.	Shimoga	1
22.	Sagar	1
23.	Bhadravati	1
24.	Tumkur	1
25.	Udupi	1
26.	Kundapura (Tallur)	1
27.	Badami	1
28.	Belgaum	1
29.	Bellary	1
30.	Bidar	1
31.	Humnabad	1
32.	Bijapur	1
33.	Indi	1
34.	Sindgi	1
35.	Athni	1
36.	Chikodi	1
37.	Nippani	1
38.	Dharwad	1
39.	Hubli	1
40.	Gadag	1
41.	Gokak	1
42.	Hukkeri	1

1	2	3
43.	Gulbara	1
44.	Shahabad	1
45.	Wadi	1
46.	Haveri	1
47.	Ranebennur	1
48.	Karwar	1
49.	Raichur	1
50.	Koppal	1
51.	Gangavati	1
52.	Kushtagi	1
53.	Lingsugur	1
54.	Sirsi	1
55.	Dandeli	1
56.	Haliyal	1
Total		63
17.	Kerala**	
1.	Kasargod	2
2.	Kanhangad	1
3.	Kannur	2 1
4.	Taliparamba	1
5.	Mananthavady	1
6.	Temple Gate	1
7.	Vadakara	1
8.	Quilandy	1
9.	Kozhikode	3
10.	Meppadi	1
11.	Vythiri	1
12.	Ottapalam	1
13.	Shomur	1
14.	Agali	1
15.	Palakkad	1
16.	Alappuzha	1
17.	Aluva	1
18.	Kothamangalam	1
19.	Kanjirappally	1
20.	Devikulam	1
21.	Elappara	1

1	2	3
22.	Kumuly	1
23.	Maraiyur	1
24.	Munnar	1
25.	Peermade	1
26.	Santhanpara	1
27.	Thodapuzha	1
28.	Vandiperiyar	1
29.	Fairfield	1
30.	Vandiperiyar	1
31.	Pudukkad	1
32.	Kottayam	1
33.	Erattupetta	1
34.	Thrissur	1
35.	Ernakulam	1
36.	Kollam	1
37.	Chavara	1
38.	Rannya	1
39.	Thenmala	1
40.	Trivandrum	4
41.	Balaramapuram	1
Total		48

18. Madhya Pradesh

1.	Krishi Upaj Mandi, Jabalpur	1
2.	Jabalpur Factory, Jabalpur	1
3.	Katni	1
4.	Balaghat	1
5.	Seoni	1
6.	Sidhi	1
7.	Singrauly Colliery, Singrauly	1
8.	Waidhan	1
9.	Amarkantak	1
10.	Dhanpuri	1
11.	Rewa	1
12.	Satna	1
13.	Betul	1
14.	Parasia	1
15.	Bhopal	7

1	2	3
16.	Sagar	1
17.	Damoh	1
18.	Hoshangabad	1
19.	Narsinghpur	1
20.	Pachmari	1
21.	Chhatarpur	1
22.	Khajuraho	1
23.	Panna	1
24.	Nowgaon	1
25.	Guna	1
26.	Gwalior	1
27.	Indore	4
28.	Khandwa	1
29.	Mandsaur	1
30.	Morena	1
31.	Shivpuri	1
32.	Dewas	1
33.	Mahow	1
34.	Khargone	1
35.	Burhanpur	1
36.	Ratlam	1
37.	Sehore	1
38.	Ujjain	1
Total		47

19. Maharashtra

1.	Mumbai	12
2.	Pune City	5
3.	Ahmed Nagar	1
4.	Shrirampur	1
5.	Pandharpur	1
6.	Baramati	1
7.	Junnar	1
8.	Lonawala	1
9.	Karmala	1
10.	Mahabaleshwar	1
11.	Solapur	1
12.	Pimpri Chinchwad New Township	1

1	2	3
13.	Khadki	1
14.	Ratnagiri	1
15.	Kolhapur	1
16.	Ichalkaranji	1
17.	Phulewadi	1
18.	Aurangabad	1
19.	Jalna	1
20.	Ashti	1
21.	Bhusawal	1
22.	Shirpur	1
23.	Jalgaon	1
24.	Malegaon	1
25.	Nashik	1
26.	Udgir	1
27.	Hingoli	1
28.	Parbhani	1
29.	Akola	1
30.	Akot	1
31.	Washim	1
32.	Amravati	1
33.	Badnera	1
34.	Buldhana	1
35.	Khamgaon	1
36.	Shegaon	1
37.	Warora	1
38.	Gadchiroli	1
39.	Nagpur	1
40.	Wardha	1
41.	Arvi	1
42.	Shewagram	1
43.	Wani	1
44.	Nandura	1
45.	Jalgaon Jamod (Buldhana)	1
46.	Dhamangaon	1
47.	Savner	1
48.	Sakoli	1
Total		63

1	2	3
20. Meghalaya		
	Shillong	5
	Akhongiri	2
Total		7
21. Manipur		
	Imphal	2
	Churachanpur	1
Total		3
22. Tripura		
1.	Agartala	1
2.	Dharmanagar	1
Total		2
23. Mizoram		
1.	Champhai	1
Total		1
24. Nagaland		
1.	Kohima	1
2.	Dimapur	1
Total		2
25. Orissa		
1.	Bhubaneswar	3
2.	Cuttack	3
3.	Puri	3
4.	Balasore	2
5.	Bhadrak	1
6.	Mayurbhanj	2
7.	Sundargarh	1
8.	Sambalpur	2
9.	Rourkela	1
10.	Bolangir	1
11.	Koonjhar	1
12.	Jharsuguda	1
13.	Berhampur (Gm)	1
14.	Chatrapur	1
15.	Korapet	1
16.	Bhawanipatna	1
17.	Phulbani (o)	1
Total		26

1	2	3
26. Punjab		
1.	Amritsar	1
2.	Bathinda	1
3.	Ropar	1
4.	Ferozepur	1
5.	Gurdaspur	1
6.	Jalandhar	1
7.	Luchiana City	1
8.	Jagraon	1
9.	Khanna	1
10.	Patiala	1
Total		10

27. Rajasthan

1.	Swaimadhopur	1
2.	Gangapur	1
3.	Hindaun	1
4.	Alwar	3
5.	Bahrur	1
6.	Bhiwadi I.A.	1
7.	Chomu	1
8.	Phalera	1
9.	Dausa	1
10.	Bandikui	1
11.	Jobner	1
12.	Bharatpur	1
13.	Dholpur	1
14.	Jaipur	4
15.	Barmer	1
16.	Chohtan	1
17.	Pachpadra	1
18.	Bikaner	2

1	2	3
19.	Lunkaransar	1
20.	Churu	1
21.	Ratangarh	1
22.	Sadulpur	1
23.	Jhunjhunu	1
24.	Khetri Nagar	1
25.	Pilani	1
26.	Jodhpur	2
27.	Phalodi	1
28.	Jaisalmer	1
29.	Nagaur	1
30.	Didwana	1
31.	Makrana	1
32.	Pali Marwar	1
33.	Marwar Jn.	1
34.	Sumerpur	1
35.	Sikar	1
36.	Srimadhopur	1
37.	Sirohi	1
38.	Jalore	1
39.	Sheoganj	1
40.	Abu Road	1
41.	Mount Abu	1
42.	Sriganganagar	1
43.	Hanumangarh	1
44.	Bhadra	1
45.	Sangaria	1
46.	Srikaranpur	1
47.	Ajmer	3
48.	Beawar	1
49.	Bhilwara	1

1	2	3
50.	Chittorgarh	1
51.	Dungarpur	1
52.	Banswara	1
53.	Kota	2
54.	Jhalawar	1
55.	Tonk	1
56.	Bundi	1
57.	Udaipur	2
58.	Mavli Jn.	1
59.	Nasirabad	1
60.	Gulabpura	1
61.	Kankroli	1
Total		72

28. Sikkim

1.	Sikkim	1
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Total		1
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29. Tamil Nadu***

1.	Kodaikanal	1
2.	Karaikudi	1
3.	Kovilpatti	1
4.	Tuticorin	1
5.	Virudhunagar	1
6.	Rameswaram	1
7.	Udankudi Christianagraram	1
8.	Arumuganeri	1
9.	Nagercoil	1
10.	Podanur	1
11.	Gobichettipalayam	1
12.	Udagamandalam	1
13.	Coonoor	1
14.	Wellington	1

1	2	3
15.	Aravangadu	1
16.	Kothagiri	1
17.	Makkinaickenpatti	1
18.	Valparai	1
19.	Chinna Tirupathi	1
20.	Mettur Dam	1
21.	Mettupalayam	1
22.	Bhavani Sagar	1
23.	Talavadi	1
24.	Tirupattur	1
25.	Trichy	1
26.	Pudukkottai	1
27.	Perambalur	1
28.	Boiler Project	1
29.	Mannapuram	1
30.	Neyveli	1
31.	Chennai	6
32.	Vellore	2
Total		38

30. Uttar Pradesh

1.	Azamgarh	1
2.	Agra	1
3.	Aligarh	2
4.	Allahabad	3
5.	Bahraich	1
6.	Ballia	1
7.	Bulandshahar	1
8.	Bharthana (Etawah)	1
9.	Bijnore	1
10.	Bareilly	3
11.	Barabanki	1

1	2	3
12.	Deoria	1
13.	Etah	1
14.	Etawah	1
15.	Fatehpur	1
16.	Faizabad	1
17.	Gorakhpur	1
18.	Gonda	1
19.	Ghazipur	1
20.	Ghaziabad	2
21.	Hathras	1
22.	Hathras	1
23.	Hapur	1
24.	Jhansi	2
25.	Jaswant Nagar (Etawah)	1
26.	Jaunpur	1
27.	Kanpur	4
28.	Kheri	1
29.	Lucknow	3
30.	Mau	1
31.	Mathura	1
32.	Mainpuri	1
33.	Mirzapur	1
34.	Moradabad	1
35.	Modi Nagar	1
36.	Meerut	3
37.	Noida	2
38.	Orai (Jalaun)	1
39.	Pratapgrah	1
40.	Pilibhit	1
41.	Puranpur (Pilibhit)	1
42.	Rampur	1
43.	Raebareilly	1

1	2	3
44.	Shikohabad	1
45.	Shahjahanpur	1
46.	Sitapur	1
47.	Tundala (Ferozabad)	2
48.	Varanasi	1
49.	Fatehgarh	1
Total		65

31. Uttaranchal

1.	Almora	1
2.	Thapalia	1
3.	Ranikhet	1
4.	Gopeshwar	1
5.	Papariyana	1
6.	P&T Colony Dehradun	1
7.	Dehradun Cantt.	1
8.	Virbhadra	1
9.	Dehradun Head Post Office campus	1
10.	Chakrata	1
11.	Kalsi	1
12.	Indrapuram	1
13.	Haridwar	1
14.	Roorkee	1
15.	Divisional Office Compound Nainital	1
16.	Head Office Compound Nainital	1
17.	Telephone Exchange Compound Nainital	1
18.	Rudrapur Compound	1
19.	Ramnagar PO Compound	1

1	2	3
	20. P&T Colony Pauri	1
	21. Satpuli	1
	22. Dugadda	1
	23. Kandolia	1
	24. Pithoragarh	1
	25. Champawat	1
	26. Didihat	1
	27. Narendra Nagar	1
	28. Uttarkashi	1
	Total	28

32. West Bengal

1.	Panihati	1
2.	Cossimbazar	1
3.	Jiagunj	1
4.	Kandi	1
5.	Khagra	1
6.	Lalgola	1
7.	Madhupur	1
8.	Raghunathganj	1
9.	Baruipur	1
10.	Diamond Harbour	1
11.	Bishnupur	1
12.	Budge Budge	1
13.	Kalyani	1
14.	R.R. Tegore Road	1
15.	Krishnanagar	1
16.	Anandapur	1
17.	Bhubandanga	1

1	2	3
	18. Saithia	1
	19. Kolkata	6
	20. Asansol	2
	21. Durgapore	2
	22. Bidhannagar	1
	23. Bahirsarbamangala	1
	24. Burdwan	1
	25. Teiinipara	1
	26. Midnapore	1
	27. Kharagpur	1
	28. Mogra	1
	29. Pandua	1
	30. Deshbandhunagar	1
	31. Haldia	1
	32. Darjeeling	1
	33. Malda	1
	34. Dinajpur	1
	35. Coochbehar	1
	36. Jalpaiguri	1
	Total	43

*Includes Dadra & Nagar Haveli

**Includes Lakshadweep

***Includes Pondicherry

Loss of Archaeological Remains in Flood

3100. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several archaeological remains of Amreli district have been washed away due to flood in Setarunji river;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) to (c) No, Sir. No archaeological remains of Amreli district have been washed away due to flood in Satrunji river.

[English]

**Protected Religious Places/Temples
In West Bengal**

3101. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ancient religious places and temples in West Bengal being protected by the Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) whether there are any schemes for the protection and development of these places/temples;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds provided for development of these places/temples during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):
(a) The list of protected religious places/temples under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India in West Bengal is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) The conservation, preservation, maintenance and environmental development around the centrally protected monuments is a continuous process. However, during the year 2005-06, 41 monuments/sites under worship have been identified for restoration and development.

(d) The following expenditure has been incurred during the last three years for the maintenance and development of these monuments:

2002-03	Rs. 40,23,229/-
2003-04	Rs. 94,79,716/-
2004-05	Rs. 1,56,29,555/-

Statement

*List of Protected Religious Places/Temples under the Jurisdiction of
Archaeological Survey of India in West Bengal*

Sl.No.	Name of Monument/Sites	Location	District
1	2	3	4
1.	Jormandir	Bishnupur	Bankura
2.	Jor Bangla Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
3.	Kalachand Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
4.	Lalji Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
5.	Madan Gopal Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
6.	Madan Mohan Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
7.	Mallesvara Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
8.	Murali Mohan Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
9.	Nanda Lal Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
10.	Patpur Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
11.	Radha Vinod Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura

1	2	3	4
12.	Radha Govinda Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
13.	Radha Madhav Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
14.	Radha Shyam Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
15.	Rasmancha	Bishnupur	Bankura
16.	Shyamrai Temple	Bishnupur	Bankura
17.	Stone Chariot	Bishnupur	Bankura
18.	Sallesvara Temple	Dihar	Bankura
19.	Saresvara Temple	Dihar	Bankura
20.	Radha Damodar Jau Temple	Ghutgarya	Bankura
21.	Gokul Chand Temple	Gokulnagar	Bankura
22.	Ratnesvara Temple	Jagannathpur	Bankura
23.	Shyam Sunder Temple	Madanmohanpur	Bankura
24.	Temple of Dharmaraj	Kabilaspur	Birbhum
25.	Temple of Basuli and the mound together with fourteen other temples near them containing the Linga images of Shiva	Nanoor	Birbhum
26.	Damodar Temple	Suri	Birbhum
27.	Two Ancient Temple (Joined together)	Baidyapur	Barddhaman
28.	Group of four Ancient Temples	Begunia	Barddhaman
29.	Stone Temple	Garui	Barddhaman
30.	Temple of Ichai Ghosh	Gourangapur	Barddhaman
31.	Jain brick Temple known as Sat-Deul	Deulia	Barddhaman
32.	Group of Temples (12 nos. Temples)	Kalna	Barddhaman
33.	Hansevari and Vasudeva Temples	Bansberria	Hugli
34.	Group of temples known as Brindaban Chandra's Math	Guptipara	Hugli
35.	Mosque	Pandua	Hugli
36.	Mosque & Tombs	Satgaon	Hugli
37.	Shrine and Mosque known as Dargah of Zafar Khan Gazi	Tribeni	Hugli

1	2	3	4
38.	Sri Mayer Ghat	Belur	Haora
39.	Adina Masjid	Pandua	Maldah
40.	Baraduari Masjid or the Great Golden Mosque	Gaur	Maldah
41.	Chamkatti Masjid	Gaur	Maldah
42.	Chika Mosque	Gaur	Maldah
43.	Gunamant Mosque	Gaur	Maldah
44.	Lottan Masjid	Gaur	Maldah
45.	Qdam Rasul Mosque	Gaur	Maldah
46.	Tantipara Masjid	Gaur	Maldah
47.	Two tombs in front of Tantipara Masjid	Gaur	Maldah
48.	Eklakhi Mausoleum	Pandua	Maldah
49.	Qutub Sahi Masjid	Pandua	Maldah
50.	Bhabanisvar Mandir	Baranagar	Murshidabad
51.	Char Bangla Group of Four Siva Temples	Baranagar	Murshidabad
52.	Mosque	Kheraul	Murshidabad
53.	Tomb & Mosque of Murshid Kuli Khan	Sabjkatra	Murshidabad
54.	Hazarduari Place & Imambara together with adjacent area	Killa Nizamat	Murshidabad
55.	St. John Church	Council House Street	Kolkata
56.	Temple	Paipara	Nadia
57.	Old Temple at Banda	Banda	Puruliya
58.	Jatar Deul	Jata	24 Parganas (South)
59.	Maghen David Synagoge	B.R.B. Bose Road	Kolkata
60.	Beth-el-Synagogue	Pollock Street	Kolkata
61.	White Mosque, Killa Nizamat	Lalbag	Murshidabad
62.	Yellow Mosque, Killa Nizamat	Lalbag	Murshidabad
63.	26 Siva Temple	Khardah	24 Parganas (North)

1	2	3	4
64.	Temples of Bandopadhaya family	Pathra	West Medinipur
65.	Navaratna Temple Complex and Kalachand Temple Complex	Pathra	West Medinipur
66.	Sitala Temple	Pathra	West Medinipur
67.	Dharmaraj Temple	Pathra	West Medinipur
68.	Dubbi Monastery	Kheochod Phalri, Yuksam	West Sikkim

Protected Monuments in Karnataka

3102. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka has submitted any plans to the Union Government for maintenance and conservation of protected monuments in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) A proposal was received from the Government of Karnataka in December 2003 seeking financial assistance to the tune of 19.75 crore for conservation of one ancient monument of each distinguished dynasty in Karnataka, five Jaina monuments in different districts, conservation of fort and monuments at Basava Kalyana and for conservation activities at Marthur village in Gulburga district.

(c) As the monuments for which financial assistance is sought are not centrally protected, there is no provision to extend such financial assistance.

Privatisation of CGHS

3103. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to privatise the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration in Directorate General of Health Services.

(b) The question does not arise.

Development of New Towns

3104. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has identified new towns for development under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns during the current financial year;

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

(c) the allocation of funds for development of new towns during the current financial year, state-wise; and

(d) the number of towns developed under the scheme with basic facilities during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Number of town provided with Central assistance for development under Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT), during the last 3 years, State-wise is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement*State-wise No. of Towns covered under IDSMT Scheme during last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05).*

Sl.No.	State	2002-03 Towns	2003-04 Towns	2004-05 Towns	Total Towns
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	13	17	37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	8	0	8
3.	Assam	7	0	21	28
4.	Bihar	1	8	7	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	5	10	20
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	4	25	15	44
8.	Haryana	2	8	6	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	2	2	9
10.	Jammu-Kashmir	1	7	6	14
11.	Jharkhand	1	0	0	1
12.	Karnataka	19	29	28	76
13.	Kerala	3	7	25	35
14.	Madhya Pradesh	19	24	34	77
15.	Maharashtra	23	13	0	36
16.	Manipur	9	0	0	9
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	3	3
18.	Mizoram	1	0	4	5
19.	Nagaland	0	1	0	1
20.	Orissa	6	1	1	8
21.	Punjab	2	2	16	20
22.	Rajasthan	5	6	0	11
23.	Sikkim	0	0	22	22
24.	Tamil Nadu	13	18	4	35
25.	Tripura	0	1	3	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Uttaranchal	0	3	45	48
27.	Uttar Pradesh	25	26	22	73
28.	West Bengal	10	7	0	17
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
32.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
33.	Pondicherry	0	1	0	1
Total		168	215	299	682

Recovering Unspent Grant

3105. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the failure to recover the unspent grant from the organizing committee of the first Afro-Asian Games held in 2001;

(b) the amount be recovered from the organizing committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government had sanctioned Rs. 10.00 crores to First Afro-Asian Games 2001 Organizing Committee (OC) on 14th June, 2001. The Games were postponed on 11th September, 2001. ON 22nd October, 2001, OC was asked to send accounts, UC and unspent balance to this Ministry which was followed by reminders. However, due to non-settlements of accounts, etc. and pending re-scheduling of the Games, OC could not refund the unspent balance. Consequent upon decision for holding the First Afro Asian Games at Hyderabad in 2003, OC has refunded Rs. 6.70 crores to the Government. OC is yet to submit the Utilization Certificate are accounts for the expenditure of Rs. 3.43

crores indicated to have been incurred by it. OC has reported an unspent balance of Rs. 35.31 Lakhs kept for meeting the expenditure on convening last meeting of OC for adoption and approval of dissolution of the Society and for audit fee of Chartered Accountant. OC has been asked to finalize its accounts and get it approved by its General Body at the earliest.

Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3106. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 348 dated March 2, 2005 and state:

(a) the details of schemes identified for transfer to States;

(b) the Ministries/Departments responsible for further steps to be taken; and

(c) the time by which the transfer would take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The issue of transfer of CSS to the States is being looked into by a Committee of the National Development Council (NDC). Planning Commission as part of its normal processes had undertaken an exercise regarding transfer/rationalization/review of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and some schemes were identified for transfer to States. In the meantime NDC in its 51st

Meeting held on 27th and 28th June, 2005 directed the Planning Commission to consider setting up of a Expert Group to develop concrete proposals for restructuring the CSS in consultation with the Ministries/Departments concerned. Accordingly, the Planning Commission has set up an Expert Group on 13th October, 2005 and the Terms of Reference of the Group, inter-alia, includes examining the feasibility of transfer of CSS to States/UTs and the modalities thereof. The Expert Group is expected to submit its report to the Planning Commission within six months.

HIV Infection Through Blood Transfusion

3107. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government and Private Blood Banks functioning in the country;

(b) the number of them having the facility of carrying out HIV tests;

(c) the number of people having contracted HIV infection because of blood transfusion;

(d) the average cost of testing blood before transfusion; and

(e) the measures the Government proposes to take to prevent the spread of HIV through blood transfusion and the availability of blood to the poor people at reasonable cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There are 2177 licensed blood banks in the country of which 855 blood banks are in Government sector, 288 in charitable sector and 1034 in private sector.

(b) All the 2177 licensed blood banks have the facility of carrying out HIV test.

(c) The Surveillance report of NACO has detected 2322 cases (1.99%) of all HIV infection in the country is attributed to blood transfusion since 1986 to 30th November 2005.

(d) The processing cost of blood is estimated to about Rupees five hundred only (Rs. 500/-) per unit, which is collected as a service charge from the patient.

(e) All licensed blood banks in the country require to screen every donated blood units mandatorily for HIV, Hepatitis B & C, Syphilis and Malaria before they are transfused to the patient.

Beside, all blood banks are insisted to collect blood from healthy and safe donors, preferably regular voluntary blood donors.

Further in order to ensure strict adherence to norms in the blood banks, the licenses of the blood banks are renewed after due verification of the availability of the requisite infrastructure with the blood banks as prescribed in Drug & Cosmetic Rules.

A service charge of Rs. 500 is collected for each blood unit. However, no service charge is collected from patients with Thalassemia, Hemophilia as well as poor patients.

Setting up of Medical/Dental Colleges

3108. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is according approval to private organisations for setting up of Medical and Dental Colleges; and

(b) if so, the details of such new medical colleges set up in Maharashtra during the year 2004-2005, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government is permitting new Medical and Dental Colleges under the provision of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, and The Dentists Act, 1948 and the Regulations made thereunder.

(b) During the year 2004-05 permission was granted for establishment of new Medical College at Ahmednagar with intake of 100 students. No new Dental College was permitted during 2004-05.

[English]

Relaxation of Norms for Centrally Sponsored Schemes

3109. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representation from Orissa for relaxation of norms for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes particularly in the road sector;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No such proposal has been received in the Planning Commission.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Allocation of Funds for Schemes

3110. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has allocated funds to the State Governments for various schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount allocated by the Union Government to the State Governments for implementation of schemes is not being utilised fully;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the guidelines issued by the Union Government to the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Planning Commission determine the Annual Plan Outlay of the States in consultation with the State Government. The Annual Plan consists of State's Own Resources and Central Assistance. Central Assistance for State Plans is allocated broadly under three sub-heads: (a) Normal Central Assistance (NCA), (b) Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects (ACA for EAPs) and (c) Additional Central Assistance for Special and other programmes. Normal Central Assistance for State Plans is allocated to State Government on the basis of the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula approved by the National Development Council in 1991.

(c) to (e) Based on the Guidelines circulated by the Planning Commission, a proportionate cut in Central Assistance is imposed by the Ministry of Finance for

States which record lower expenditure than the Revised Approved Plan outlay and also on account of shortfalls in the earmarked outlays, with a view to ensure that the Plan projects are implemented as per the time schedule envisaged.

[*English*]

Hanta Virus

3111. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deadly life-threatening Hanta virus that causes hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, a acute adult respiratory disease, could be surfacing in India as reported in the Times of India dated November 4, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Hanta virus has been noticed anywhere in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the precautionary measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the information received from Indian Council of Medical Research, recent study conducted by the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore and published in Indian Journal of Medical Research is the first report of the presence of Hanta Virus infection in humans in India. The 'Study for Serological evidence of Hanta virus infection in human population in South India' was done on serum samples from 152 fever patients showing symptoms of dengue and leptospirosis. Out of these patients, 23 were found positive for Anti-Hanta virus IgM. In addition, 87 blood donors were also studied in which 5.7% were found to be positive for Anti-Hanta virus IgM.

(c) and (d) As reported by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Thottapalayam virus (TPMV), the indigenous hantavirus was isolated from the spleen of a shrew in Vellore during July, 1964. National Institute of Communicable Diseases has also reported that one sera sample collected from Andaman and Nicobar Islands during an outbreak of acute fever, haemoptysis and

pulmonary oedema in 1988 was found positive for Hanta virus.

(e) Evidence from all studies on Hanta virus for infection of human population in India is entirely serological. The virus can be prevented by limiting contact with rodents and their excrement. NICD provides technical inputs for laboratory diagnosis on infection from hanta virus.

National Programme on Cardio Vascular Diseases

3112. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to start National Programme on Cardio Vascular Diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the programme is likely to be started and the benefits expected to be achieved through this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to initiate and implement a National Programme for the prevention and control of Cardio Vascular Diseases (CVD) and Diabetes to reduce the adverse health impact of heart diseases, stroke and diabetes. Draft National CVD, Diabetes and Stroke Control Programme which was submitted to Planning Commission earlier is being updated to make it comprehensive.

The common behavioural and biological risk factors which are responsible for these diseases link these three major disorders and provide a common pathway for their prevention and control. Besides, the new programme which will be initiated several activities regarding prevention and treatment are being undertaken by the States and Center in the Health Care Delivery System. The simple cases like hypertension, uncomplicated diabetes etc. are treated at the PHC/CHC level while the complicated cases require tertiary level care at medical Colleges and District Hospitals and higher centers e.g. AIIMS, PGI Chandigarh and SGPGI Lucknow etc.

The National Programme would be operational after completion of the procedures including the approval of the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

The benefits out of this programme would include reduction in the cases of heart disease, diabetes as well as their timely treatment avoiding further complications.

Tilting of Minarets of Taj Mahal

3113. DR. R. SENTHIL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the minarets of Taj Mahal are tilting;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) to (d) From the triangulation, traverse and levelling data, Survey of India has concluded that the dome and four minarets of Taj Mahal remained quite stable in plan as well as in elevation from 1940 to 1994. Recently Geodetic and Research Branch of Survey of India has carried out further studies and observations of verticality of minarets in March, 2005. Their report is awaited.

Stem Cell Therapy

3114. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private hospitals in the country have started Stem cell therapy;

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

(c) whether international approval of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had been obtained by such hospitals before the start of the same;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the guidelines of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi has informed that some of

the private hospitals in the country have started stem Cell Therapy. The major private institute involved in stem cell research and therapy in India is the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, based at Hyderabad. Its doctors succeeded in transplanting limbal stem cell to more than 200 patients. According to media reports recently the Neu Tech Mediworld, New Delhi has claimed treating 100 cases with various ailments by embryonic stem cell therapy.

Approval of US FDA is not required to start this kind of practice in India. Approval of Institutional Ethics Committee is required and once the Apex Committee is in position, registration, and permission have to be taken from the National Apex Committee for Stem Cell Research and Therapy.

Indian Council of Medical Research has drafted guidelines to help in regulation of stem cell research and its application in the year 2002 and those were put on ICMR web site for suggestions and comments. The draft guidelines cover all the important issues related to Stem Cell Research and Therapy.

Declaration of Majuli Island as Culturally Protected Area

3115. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to declare Majuli Island as a culturally protected area, as a step towards its recognition as World Heritage by the UNESCO;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir. However, the site is nominated for consideration of inclusion in the World Heritage List for 2006.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) Do not arise.

Cash Balance with Missions/Posts

3116. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Missions/Posts abroad retain more cash balance than officially laid down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has instructed repeatedly to the Missions/Posts not to keep cash balances in excess of the prescribed requirement;

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

(e) the details of the Missions/Posts which retained more cash balance than required between April 2000 and July 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Most of the Missions/Posts abroad maintain their cash balances as per laid down norms. However, some of them have, on certain occasions, kept balances beyond their six weeks requirement.

(b) The retention of Cash balance by Missions/Posts in excess of their six weeks requirement during certain months has been mainly due to the following reasons:

1. Sudden spurt in Consular receipts;
2. Special or additional remittances reaching them towards end of month,
3. Last moment cancellation or postponement of VVIP visits for which special remittances were sent earlier;
4. Donations received for PM's relief fund;
5. Sale proceeds of Cars
6. Reimbursement of VAT by local government in local currency; which are non-convertible and cannot be utilized immediately;
7. Funds required for payments in regard to construction/renovation project,
8. Delays in transactions owing to local banking regulations.

(c) The Ministry of External Affairs has issued instructions to Missions/Posts abroad reiterating the need to manage their cash requirements in such a way that their cash balances do not exceed six weeks' requirement

and to repatriate excess funds or approach the Ministry for cancellation/reduction of their monthly remittance in a timely manner.

(d) The Ministry of External Affairs has regularly reviewed monthly cash balance reports received from Missions/Posts to monitor their cash balances. Mission/Posts possessing excess cash balance were asked to repatriate the excess.

(e) The details of Missions/Posts which retained excess cash balances during the period April 2000 to July 2005 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Missions/Posts which retained excess cash balance for one month or more during the period April, 2000 to July, 2005

Sl.No.	Name of the Missions/Posts
1	2
1.	Accra
2.	Addis Ababa
3.	Almaty
4.	Antananarivo
5.	Baku
6.	Belgrade
7.	Birmingham
8.	Bucharest
9.	Budapest
10.	Cape Town
11.	Copenhagen
12.	Dhaka
13.	Durban
14.	Dubai
15.	Gaborone
16.	Harare
17.	Helsinki

1	2
18.	Johannesburg
19.	Kampala
20.	Luanda
21.	Kyiv
22.	Madrid
23.	Manila
24.	Milan
25.	Moscow
26.	Muscat
27.	Phnom Penh
28.	Pretoria
29.	Riyadh
30.	St. Petersburg
31.	Teheran
32.	Vladivostok
33.	Zanzibar
34.	Thimphu
35.	Lagos
36.	Bangkok
37.	Tel Aviv
38.	Windhoek
39.	Sana'a
40.	Ho Chi Minh City
41.	Dakar
42.	Amman
43.	Hong Kong
44.	Tunis
45.	Rabat
46.	Abidjan
47.	Bahrain

*[Translation]***Visa Relaxation by Panama**

3117. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Panama has announced relaxation in visa for Indians, as reported in the Hindi Daily 'The Hindustan' dated November 19, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for the said relaxation; and

(d) the number of persons of Indian origin likely to be benefited as a result of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under an exchange of letters signed between the Foreign Minister of Panama and Minister of State for External Affairs of India on 18th November, 2005, Panama has agreed to issue one year multiple entry business visa for Indians. The visa provides for maximum stay of 30 days during each visit.

(c) The business visa applicant should meet the requirements established by the competent authority of Panama. The Embassy of Panama will issue visas after satisfying themselves about the credentials of the company and the purpose of the visit.

(d) Indian businessmen interested in trade and business with Panama stand to benefit from this.

*[English]***Creation of Tamil Language Promotion Board**

3118. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long pending demand for creation of a Tamil Language Promotion Board for the development of Tamil language;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken so far by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the said Board is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Government of India has already constituted a Tamil Language Promotion Board with the objective of advising the Government in matters pertaining to the development of Tamil language including areas of research in respect of Tamil language and culture such as historical comparative linguistics, manuscriptology, epigraphy, literature, philosophy, art and architecture etc.

*[Translation]***Installation of Computers in Post Offices**

3119. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of computers installed in Post Offices of Andhra Pradesh for registration of posts during the last three years, location-wise; and

(b) the details of the places where computers are proposed to be installed in the State during the current year, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) the number of Post Offices where computers have been installed in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is as follows:

2002-03	Nil
2003-04	Nil
2004-05	170

The names of Post offices, location-wise, along with the number of computers installed in each Post Office is given in the enclosed Statement I.

(b) 282 post offices have been provided with computers in Andhra Pradesh in the year 2005-06. The details of the places, location-wise is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Names of the Post Offices where computers have been installed in Andhra Pradesh during 2004-05 [No computer was supplied in 2002-03 & 2003-04]

Sl.No.	Name of the Post Office	Number of Computers Available
1	2	3
1.	Amalpuram H.O.	5
2.	Anantpur H.O.	18
3.	Ankapalli H.O.	5
4.	Arundalpet Guntur H.O.	17
5.	Attili H.O.	5
6.	Bhadrachalam H.O.	5
7.	Bhongir H.O.	5
8.	Buckinghampet H.O.	8
9.	Chirala H.O.	5
10.	Chittor H.O.	16
11.	Cuddapah H.O.	20
12.	Eluru H.O.	15
13.	Gadwal H.O.	5
14.	Gudur H.O.	5
15.	Guntakal H.O.	6
16.	Hanamkonda H.O.	15
17.	Hindupur H.O.	5
18.	Huzurabad H.O.	5
19.	Hyderabad GPO	39
20.	Hyderabad Jubilee H.O.	24
21.	Kakinada H.O.	15
22.	Karimnagar H.O.	12
23.	Khairatabad H.O.	31
24.	Khammam H.O.	6
25.	Kothagudem Collery H.O.	5

1	2	3
26.	Kurnool H.O.	23
27.	Machilipatnam H.O.	5
28.	Madanapalli H.O.	6
29.	Mahbubnagar H.O.	9
30.	Maancherial H.O.	8
31.	Markapur H.O.	8
32.	Medak H.o.	5
33.	Miryalaguda H.O.	5
34.	Naalgonda H.O.	5
35.	Nandial H.O.	19
36.	Nellore H.O.	17
37.	Nizamabad H.O.	12
38.	Ongole H.O.	5
39.	Parvathipuram H.O.	5
40.	Peddapalli H.O.	9
41.	Proddatur H.O.	8
42.	Rajahmundry H.O.	25
43.	Rajampeth H.O.	5
44.	Ramachandrapuram H.O.	11
45.	Samalkot H.O.	5
46.	Sangareddy H.O.	6
47.	Sattenapalli H.O.	5
48.	Secunderabad H.O.	41
49.	Srikakulam H.O.	16
50.	Srikalaashthi H.O.	5
51.	Stn. Kachiguda H.O.	9
52.	Suryapet H.O.	5
53.	Tekkali H.O.	5
54.	Tenali H.O.	18

1	2	3
55.	Tirupati H.O.	23
56.	Trimulchery H.O.	11
57.	Vijayawada H.O.	18
58.	Vishakhapatnam H.O.	31
59.	Vizianagar H.O.	12
60.	Waltair RS H.O.	13
61.	Wanapathy H.O.	5
62.	Warangal H.O.	17
63.	Adllabad H.O.	11
64.	Adoni H.O.	11
65.	Allagadda H.O.	11
66.	Amadalavalasa H.O.	11
67.	Armoor H.O.	11
68.	Avanigadda H.O.	11
69.	Bapatla H.O.	11
70.	Bhimavaram H.O.	11
71.	Bobbili H.O.	11
72.	Chandragiri H.O.	11
73.	Chilakaluripet H.O.	11
74.	Chodavaram H.O.	11
75.	Dargamitta H.O.	11
76.	Dharmavaram H.O.	11
77.	Gudivada H.O.	11
78.	Jagtial H.O.	11
79.	Jangaon H.O.	11
80.	Jangareddygudem H.O.	11
81.	Kamareddy H.O.	11
82.	Kandukur H.O.	11
83.	Kanigir H.O.	11

1	2	3
84.	Kavali H.O.	11
85.	Kothapeta H.O.	11
86.	Kovvur H.O.	11
87.	Mahabubabad H.O.	11
88.	Manbapeta H.O.	11
89.	Mangalagiri H.O.	11
90.	Narasaraopet H.O.	11
91.	Narsipatnam H.O.	11
92.	Nuzvid H.O.	11
93.	Palakol H.O.	11
94.	Palamaner H.O.	11
95.	Parakal H.O.	11
96.	Pulivendla H.O.	11
97.	Razole H.O.	11
98.	Repalle H.O.	11
99.	Siddipet H.O.	11
100.	Jadcherlav H.O.	11
101.	Tadepalligudem H.O.	11
102.	Tanuku H.O.	11
103.	Vikarabad H.O.	11
104.	Zaheerabad H.O.	11
105.	Andhrakesarinagar SO	4
106.	Begumpet SO	4
107.	D.H. Shutoon SO	4
108.	Danavaipet SO	4
109.	Patancheru SO	4
110.	Himayathnagar SO	4
111.	Humayun Nagar SO	4
112.	Jagannaikpur SO	4

1	2	3
113.	Kothapet SO	4
114.	Kurnool Camp SO	4
115.	Maharanipet SO	4
116.	Malakpet Colony SO	4
117.	Musheerabad SO	4
118.	Mydekur SO	4
119.	Nizamabad RS SO	4
120.	P&T Colony SO	4
121.	Sanathnagar SO	4
122.	Vijayawada Polytechnic SO	4
123.	Lallaguda SO	4
124.	Kukatpally SO	4
125.	Balanagar Township SO	4
126.	IDA Jeedimetla SO	4
127.	Bollarum SO	4
128.	EME (Records) SO	4
129.	ECIL SO	4
130.	Himatnagar SO	4
131.	Railnilayam SO	4
132.	Nehrunagar SO	4
133.	Sithaphalmandi SO	4
134.	Amberpet SO	4
135.	Bahadurpura SO	4
136.	Falaknuma SO	4
137.	High Court SO	4
138.	I.E. Nacharam SO	4
139.	Kanchanbagh SO	4
140.	Keshogiri SO	4
141.	New Nallakunta SO	4

1	2	3
142.	Rajendranagar SO	4
143.	Saidabad SO	4
144.	Sahifa SO	4
145.	Saroomagar SO	4
146.	Shalibanda SO	4
147.	Uppal SO	4
148.	Vanasthalipuram SO	4
149.	Yakutpura SO	4
150.	LIC Division SO	4
151.	Putlibowli SO	4
152.	S.R. Nagar SO	4
153.	Somajiguda SO	4
154.	Central Secretariat SO	4
155.	Golconda SO	4
156.	State Bank of India SO	4
157.	Srinagar Colony SO	4
158.	Vijayanagar Col SO	4
159.	Jubilee Hills SO	4
160.	A.G. Office SO	4
161.	Gandhibhavan SO	4
162.	IB Lines SO	4
163.	Karwansahu SO	4
164.	Narayanguda SO	4
165.	Parishram Bhavan SO	4
166.	APSEB SO	4
167.	Yousufguda SO	4
168.	Banjara Hills SO, Hyderabad	4
169.	Begum Bazar SO, Hyderabad	4
170.	Jama-I-Osmania SO, Hyderabad	4

NB. HO—Head Post Office SO—Sub Post Office

Statement II

Names of the Post Offices where computers have been provided in Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06

Sl.No.	Name of the Post Office
1	2
1.	A.P.S.P. Camp SO
2.	Achanta SO
3.	Addatigala SO
4.	Admn. Buildings SO
5.	Akividu SO
6.	Akkayapalem SO
7.	Allur SO
8.	Ambajipet SO
9.	Anaparthi SO
10.	Andhra University SO
11.	Annavaram SO
12.	Antervedipalem SO
13.	Aryapuram SO
14.	Atmakur (K) SO
15.	Atmakur SO
16.	Autonagar SO
17.	B. Kothakote SO
18.	B.R. Palem SO
19.	Badvel SO
20.	Banaganapalle SO
21.	Banswada SO
22.	Bantumalli SO
23.	Bellampalli SO
24.	Bethamcherla SO
25.	Bhainsa SO
26.	Bhattiproler SO

1	2
27.	Bheemunipatnam SO
28.	Bhimadole SO
29.	BHPV SO
30.	Bitragunta SO
31.	Bodhan SO
32.	Cementnagar SO
33.	Chalapalli SO
34.	Chandramoulinagar SO
35.	Chebrole SO
36.	Chennur SO
37.	Chilakalapudi SO
38.	Chimakurthy SO
39.	Chintapalle SO
40.	Chinnoor SO
41.	Chintalapudu SO
42.	Chipurupalle SO
43.	Chittivalasa SO
44.	Chowdepalli SO
45.	Collectorate (KMM) SO
46.	CTR Collectorate SO
47.	Cumbum SO
48.	Daba Gardens SO
49.	Dachepalle SO
50.	Darsi SO
51.	Deverkonda SO
52.	Dhone SO
53.	Donakonda RS
54.	Dornakal SO
55.	Dowlaiswaram SO

1	2
56.	Draksharamam SO
57.	Dubbak SO
58.	Duggirala SO
59.	Duvvur SO
60.	Dwaraka Nagar SO
61.	Eluru Collectorate SO
62.	Eluru R.S. SO
63.	Engg. College SO
64.	Fertilizer City SO
65.	G.L. Puram SO
66.	G.V. Khani SO
67.	Gajapathinagaram SO
68.	Gaguwaka SO
69.	Ganapavaram SO
70.	Gandhi Gram SO
71.	Gandhi Nagar SO
72.	Gandhichowk SO
73.	Gannavaram SO
74.	Georgepet SO
75.	Giddalur SO
76.	Gokavaram SO
77.	Gooty R.S. SO
78.	Gooty SO
79.	Gopalapatnam SO
80.	Gudivada R.S. TSO
81.	Gudlalleru SO
82.	Gujvail SO
83.	Gurazalla SO
84.	Hanumanjunction SO

1	2
85.	Hill Colony SO
86.	Hiramanadalam SO
87.	Holmespet SO
88.	Huzumagar SO
89.	Indrapalem SO
90.	Industrial Estate SO
91.	Industrial Estate SO
92.	Itchapuram SO
93.	Jaggalahpet SO
94.	Jaggampeta SO
95.	Jammalamadugu SO
96.	Jammikunta SO
97.	Jogipet DSO
98.	Jyothinagar SO
99.	K.M. College SO
100.	Kadiri SO
101.	Kadiyam SO
102.	Kaikalur SO
103.	kakinada Collectorate SO
104.	Kalikiri SO
105.	Kaluvoya SO
106.	Kalwakurthy SO
107.	Kalyandurg SO
108.	Kalyanikhani SO
109.	Kamakotinagar SO
110.	Kamalapuram SO
111.	Kancharapalem SO
112.	Kanchikacherla SO
113.	Kanchili SO

1	2
114.	Kankipadu SO
115.	Kannekal SO
116.	Kapileswarapuram SO
117.	Karvetinagar SO
118.	Kasibugga SO
119.	Kazipet SO
120.	Khajipet SO
121.	Kodad SO
122.	Kodangal SO
123.	Kodur SO
124.	Koilkuntla SO
125.	Kolapur SO
126.	Kollur SO
127.	Kondapalli SO
128.	Koratla SO
129.	Korukonda SO
130.	Kotabommilli SO
131.	Kotanandur SO
132.	Kovur SO
133.	Koyyalagudem SO
134.	Kuppam SO
135.	Kurichedu SO
136.	L.B. Colony SO
137.	Lawyer SO
138.	Macherla SO
139.	Madakasira SO
140.	Madhira SO
141.	Makthal SO
142.	Malkapuram SO

1	2
143.	Mandasa SO
144.	Manthani SO
145.	Mantralayam SO
146.	Manuguru Collieries SO
147.	Marripalem SO
148.	Maruteru SO
149.	Morrispet SO
150.	Mothcore SO
151.	Mudinepalli SO
152.	Mummidivaram SO
153.	Mylavaram SO
154.	N.R. Peta (K) SO
155.	NAD SO
156.	Nagaram LSG SO
157.	Nagari SO
158.	Nagarkumool SO
159.	Nagayalanka SO
160.	Nakrikal SO
161.	Nandalur SO
162.	Nandigama SO
163.	Nandikotkur SO
164.	Nandipet SO
165.	Nandyal RS
166.	Narasampet SO
167.	Narasannapet SO
168.	Narasimharaopet SO
169.	Narayankhed DSO
170.	Narayanpet SO
171.	Narasapur DSO

1	2
172.	Narasapur SO
173.	Nirmal SO
174.	O.F. Yeddumailaram SO
175.	Old Town Anantapur SO
176.	Ootnur SO
177.	P&T Colony SO
178.	Paderoo SO
179.	Pakala SO
180.	Palakonda SO
181.	Palasa SO
182.	Pamaru SO
183.	Pamidi SO
184.	Parchuru SO
185.	Pathapatnam SO
186.	Pattikonda SO
187.	Pedakurapadu SO
188.	Pedana SO
189.	Pedanandipadu SO
190.	Pedapadu SO
191.	Peddapuram SO
192.	Pendurthi SO
193.	Pentapadu SO
194.	Penugonda SO
195.	Penukonda SO
196.	Parala SO
197.	Piduguralla SO
198.	Piler SO
199.	Pithapuram SO
200.	Podalakur SO
201.	Podili SO

1	2
202.	Polavaram SO
203.	Ponduru SO
204.	Ponnur SO
205.	Porumamilla SO
206.	Prashantinilayam SO
207.	Prathipadu SO
208.	Punganur SO
209.	Puttur SO
210.	R.C. Puram SO
211.	R.E. College SO
212.	Rajam SO
213.	Rajanagaram SO
214.	Ramagundam SO
215.	Ramakrishnapuram SO
216.	Ramgiri TSO
217.	Rampachodavaram SO
218.	Ravindranagar SO
219.	Ravulapalem SO
220.	Rayachoty SO
221.	Rayadurg SO
222.	Rayavaram SO
223.	Renigunda SO
224.	Rty. W.W. Shop SO
225.	S.K. Nagar SO
226.	S.R.S. Project SO
227.	S.S. Dam East SO
228.	S.V. University SO
229.	Sadasivpet SO
230.	Salur SO
231.	Sankarapuram SO

1	2
232.	Sathupalli SO
233.	Satyanarayanapuram SO
234.	Satyaveedu SO
235.	Shadnagar SO
236.	Shakaranagar SO
237.	Sigarayakonda SO
238.	Sirsilla SO
239.	Sivaraopet SO
240.	Sompeta SO
241.	Sreeram Nagar SO
242.	Sreeram Nagar SO
243.	Stonehousepet SO
244.	Subedari SO
245.	Subhashnagar SO
246.	Sullurpet SO
247.	Tadepalle SO
248.	Tadpatri SO
249.	Tanguturu SO
250.	Tirumala SO
251.	Tirupathi North SO
252.	Tiruvuru SO
253.	Trunk Road (Nellore) SO
254.	Tuni SO
255.	Udayagiri SO
256.	Ukkunagaram SO
257.	Ullithota SO
258.	Undi SO
259.	Uravakonda SO
260.	V.A. Puri SO
261.	Vayalpadu SO

1	2
262.	Veeraghattam SO
263.	Venkatraopet SO
264.	Vetapalem SO
265.	Vinjamur SO
266.	Vinukonda SO
267.	Vishakapatnam Bus Stn. SO
268.	Vizianagaram Cantt SO
269.	Vizianagaram City SO
270.	VJ. Polytechnic SO
271.	VSP Naval Base SO
272.	VSP Port SO
273.	VSP Steel Project SO
274.	VTPSO Ibrahimpatnam SO
275.	Vuyyuru SO
276.	Yanam SO
277.	Yelamanchilli SO
278.	Yeleswaram SO
279.	Yefiandu SO
280.	Yellareddy SO
281.	Yemmiganur SO
282.	Yerramukkapalle SO

NB : SO—Sub Post Office

[English]

Posts of Pharmacists Lying Vacant

3120. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6864 dated May 11, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though candidates were sponsored by the Central Employment exchange, the process of recruitment against the said posts have been kept in abeyance till a decision is taken by the Government on the modalities of implementation of the recommendation contained in the SIU Report for AYUSH CGHS dispensaries/units.

(c) The question does not arise.

Grameen Sanchar Seva Scheme

3121. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the States where the Grameen Sanchar Seva Scheme has been launched;

(b) the number of villages covered under this scheme in each of these States;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal for the expansion of the scheme in the remaining States also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Grameen Sanchar Seva (GSS) Scheme was implemented in all the States of the country except Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) A total number of 12,064 villages (as on 31.10.05) are covered under the Grameen Sanchar Seva Scheme throughout the country. State/Circle-wise details of villages covered under the scheme are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present for further expansion in Punjab, Haryana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In Delhi it will not be introduced as the State is served by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

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

Statement

Number of Villages Covered under Grameen Sanchar Seva Scheme

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No. of villages covered under GSS Scheme
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153
2.	Assam	402
3.	Bihar	2465
4.	Jharkhand	856
5.	Gujarat	172
6.	Himachal Pradesh	163
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	32
8.	Karnataka	529
9.	Kerala	105
10.	Madhya Pradesh	778
11.	Chhattisgarh	709
12.	Maharashtra	256
13.	North East-I	146
14.	North East-II	25
15.	Orissa	925
16.	Rajasthan	132
17.	Tamil Nadu	671
18.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	2084
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	499
20.	Uttaranchal	726
21.	West Bengal	236
Total		12064

[Translation]

Funds to NGOs in Himachal Pradesh

3122. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NGOs in Himachal Pradesh provided funds under the different schemes of the Ministry alongwith the amount of funds provided from April 1, 1998 to March 31, 2002 and the purpose for which funds were provided, year-wise, NGO-wise;

(b) whether the funds were utilised by the above NGOs for the purpose for which they were provided;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There are three NGOs in Himachal Pradesh to whom funds under the different scheme of the Ministry have been provided from April 1, 1998 to March 31, 2002. The details of the NGOs to whom fund were provided, year-wise, NGO-wise is as under:

Scheme	Year	Name of NGO	Amount sanctioned
National	1998-99	—	—
Integration	1999-2000	Friends Sports & Social Welfare Club, Kangra	Rs. 80,625/- 1st Installment of Rs. 60,469/- released on 27.5.1999
	2001-2002	—	—
Adventure Scheme	1998-99	—	—
	1999-2000	Baba Maninder Paul, Kullu	Rs. 1,87,500/- Released on 11.6.1999
		-do-	Rs. 62,500/- Released on 4.1.2000
	2000-2001	Manali Climber Association, Manali.	Rs. 67,500/- Released on 23.10.2000
	2001-02	—	—

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Renovation of Ancient Temples

3123. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant financial assistance for renovation of ancient and famous temples in Kanchipuram in Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds likely to be sanctioned for the said purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India, Chennai Circle, Chennai is preserving the following seven centrally protected monuments at Kanchipuram and all conservation and maintenance works are taken up by ASI in these monuments:

1. Iravathareswara Temple
2. Piravatareswara Temple
3. Jvarahareswara Temple
4. Mathangeswara Temple
5. Vaikuntaperumal Temple

6. Kailasanatha Temple

7. Mukteswara Temple

For conservation of the above 7 centrally protected monuments, Archaeological Survey of India incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 32.62 lac in 2003-04 and Rs. 54.79 lac in 2004-05 and allocated 35 lac for 2005-06.

Modification of Policy for Allotment of House

3124. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) proposes to modify its policy for allotment of house as reported in 'The Times of India' dated December 2, 2005;

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

(c) whether there has been a number of cases in the past where double allotments have been made by the DDA;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the DDA on such cases?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the modified policy, one person or family can submit only one application for allotment of DDA flat. If a case of multiple applications by one person or family is detected, all applications and allotments, if any, made against such applications of the concerned applicant are liable for cancellation.

(c) to (e) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that two cases of multiple allotments under the Festival Housing Scheme, 2004 have come to their notice. In both cases, the applicant was finally allotted only one flat and other allotments made to him/her were cancelled, as per the then prevailing DDA policy.

Realisation of Outstanding Amount

3125. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount is pending to be realised by the Government from the Private Telecom Operators and allied Service providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to realize the same;

(c) whether any concession in this regard has been given to them during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The details of amount outstanding against private Telecom operators are given in the enclosed Statement. The steps taken by the Government for realisation of outstanding license fee include reminders, invocation of available Bank Guarantees and arbitration proceedings. Cancellation of licenses is also resorted to in suitable cases after following the procedure prescribed in the license agreement.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Statement

License Fee Dues of Private Telecom Operators (As on 31.10.2005)

Sl.No.	Name of Licensee	Service	Dues outstanding (In Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s Koshika Telecom	CMTS	4,530,000,000
2.	Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	CMTS	6,138,873
3.	Aircel Ltd.	CMTS	7,302,375
4.	BPL Mobiles Comm. Ltd.	CMTS	290,000,000

1	2	3	4
5.	Escorts Ltd.	CMTS	164,926
6.	Idea Mobiles Ltd.	CMTS	9,715,325
7.	Hutch South Ltd.	CMTS	4,808,350
8.	Idea Cellular Ltd.	CMTS	985,377
9.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	CMTS	90,900,000
10.	Reliance Ltd.	CMTS	840,547
11.	M/s. ICNET Ltd.	E-Mail	3,025,000
12.	M/s Dataline	E-Mail	2,064,549
13.	M/s Datapro	E-Mail	1,550,000
14.	M/s Archana	E-Mail	2,073,333
15.	M/s Elnet Technology Ltd.	E-Mail	756,666
16.	M/s Business India	E-Mail	1,000,000
17.	VSNL	ILD	490,000,000
18.	Data Access Ltd.	ILD	156,356,575
19.	Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	ILD	31,800,000
20.	Rail Tel	IP-II	32,325,940
21.	GAIL	IP-II	1,413,597
22.	Tata Power Company Ltd.	IP-II	1,302,262
23.	Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	NLD	31,755,603
24.	VSNL	NLD	8,627,172
25.	Mobilkom Ltd.	PMRTS	319,286
26.	Quick Call	PMRTS	849,753
27.	Smart Talk	PMRTS	206,840
28.	Arvind Mills Ltd.	PMRTS	2,818,347
29.	German Exp. Ship Agency (I) Pvt. Ltd.	PMRTS	119,807
30.	ITI Ltd.	PMRTS	155,544
31.	United Liner	PMRTS	1,864,000
32.	M/s ABC Communication India Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	193,890,861
33.	M/s D.S.S. Mobile Comm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	103,824,000
34.	M/s Elder PWI Comm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	86,174,483
35.	M/s Elder PWI Paging Service Ltd.	Radio Paging	173,250,000

1	2	3	4
36.	M/s Easycall Comm. (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	48,109,834
37.	M/s Matrix Paging (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	104,195,583
38.	M/s Modi Korea Telecomm Ltd.	Radio Paging	204,747,755
39.	M/s. Netherland India Comm. Enterprise	Radio Paging	109,056,985
40.	M/s RPG Paging Services Ltd.	Radio Paging	180,648,661
41.	M/s Telesystem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Radio Paging	21,980,000
42.	M/s Punwire Mobile Communications	Radio Paging	4,609,757,711
43.	M/s Punwire Paging Service	Radio Paging	818,990,450
44.	M/s BPL Systems & Project Ltd.	Radio Paging	3,156,630
45.	M/s Beltron Telecomm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	197,818
46.	M/s Microwave Comm. Ltd.	Radio Paging	232,475,537
47.	Tata Teleservices	UASL	5,604,783
48.	Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	UASL	5,577,674
49.	Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	Basic	740,200,000
50.	M/s Microwave	V-Mail	18,439,433
51.	M/s Dataline & Research	VSAT	10,000,000
52.	Marcosat	VSAT	17,400,000
53.	Stanet Telecom	VSAT	11,100,000
54.	Hughes Escorts Communications Ltd.	VSAT	245,275,705
55.	Essal Shyam Ltd.	VSAT	7,127,649
56.	Gujarat Narmada Ltd.	VSAT	691,552
Total Dues			13,742,913,171

Note:-Above figures are inclusive of interest.

Free Roaming Facilities

3126. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the cell phone companies in Delhi are providing free roaming facilities to the subscribers of 'National Capital Region' towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subscribers of certain towns in the NCR have been deprived of this facility;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in order to bring about uniformity in this regard particularly for the subscribers of Bahadurgarh and Sonapat towns; and

(f) the status of such a facility for the people living in other Metro Cities & important cities like Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) For the purpose of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences, the Delhi Metro Service Area comprises of Local Areas served by Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon Telephone Exchanges. No roaming charges are applicable within the service area.

(c) to (e) Some of the towns in the National Capital Region (NCR), like Bahadurgarh and Sonapat are not part of the Delhi Metro Service Area. Bahadurgarh and Sonapat are part of Haryana Telecom Circle Service Area. There is no proposal to change the boundaries of these Service Areas.

(f) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has extended free roaming facility to its subscribers between Kolkata Metro and West Bengal Telecom Circle Service Areas and Chennai Metro and Tamil Nadu Telecom Circle Service Areas.

As per CMTS and UAS Licences, Hyderabad is a part of Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle Services Area and within the service area no roaming charges are applicable.

[*Translation*]

IAS Officers of Deputation

3127. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.A.S. officers of deputation to the Union Government, State-wise; and

(b) the number of I.A.S. officers from Rajasthan cadre on deputation to the various Central Ministries/Departments at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) As on 08.12.2005, there are 23 IAS officers from the Rajasthan Cadre on central deputation to various Ministries/Departments.

Statement

Number of IAS Officers of Deputation of Government of India Statewise as on 8.12.2005

Cadre	No. of Officers
Agmut	32
Andhra Pradesh	35
Assam-Meghalaya	41
Bihar	44
Chhattisgarh	8
Gujarat	37
Haryana	23
Himachal Pradesh	25
Jammu & Kashmir	14
Jharkhand	14
Karnataka	33
Kerala	37
Madhya Pradesh	57
Maharashtra	40
Manipur-Tripura	44
Nagaland	9
Orissa	30
Punjab	11
Rajasthan	23
Sikkim	2
Tamil Nadu	25
Uttar Pradesh	81
Uttaranchal	8
West Bengal	33
Grand Total	706

Income and Expenditure of Indian Hockey Federation

3128. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of income and expenditure of Indian Hockey Federation;

(b) the details of funds being spent on training of sports persons; and

(c) the details of expenditure incurred by President of IHF during the recent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per information received from the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF), the details of Income and Expenditure of IHF for the last three years are as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)		
Financial Year	Income	Expenditure
2002-03	272.77	255.63
2003-04	362.86	376.80
2004-05	548.00	532.32

(b) Details of expenditure incurred by Indian Hockey Federation on training of sportspersons during the last three years are as given below:

(Rupees in lakhs)	
Financial Year	Amount
2002-03	14.59
2003-04	21.90
2004-05	100.08

(c) As informed by IHF, the post of President in Indian Hockey Federation is an Honorary post and no expenditure as such is incurred on him. The expenditure incurred is relating to his official domestic and international

travel for attending the FIH (International Hockey Federation), AHF (Asian Hockey Federation Meeting) Selection Committee Meetings, National and International Tournaments and other related meetings. Details of expenditure incurred on his official visits during the last three years are indicated below:

(Rupees in lakhs)	
Financial Year	Amount spent
2002-03	7.51
2003-04	2.28
2004-05	6.32

[English]

CBI Raids on IAS/IPS/IRS Officers

3129. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS, IPS and IRS officers raided by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) during the last five years;

(b) the number of cases registered against these officers on the basis of these raids;

(c) the number of officers charge-sheeted out of the above cases;

(d) the number of officers convicted out of the charge-sheeted cases;

(e) the details of the conclusion drawn by the Government regarding corruption scenario in elite services;

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to improve the situation; and

(g) the details of achievement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Year-wise number of IAS, IPS

and IRS officers against whom CBI has conducted searches and the number of cases registered against

them during last five years i.e. from 2000 to 2005 (up to 31.10.2005) is as follows:—

Year	IAS		IPS		IRS	
	No. of cases	No. of Officers	No. of cases	No. of Officers	No. of cases	No. of Officers
2000	14	14	1	1	9	9
2001	3	4	1	1	18	23
2002	1	1	1	1	15	15
2003	8	6	1	1	21	19
2004	2	2	3	2	25	27
2005	2	2	1	1	21	21
Total	30	29	8	7	109	114

(c) and (d) Out of the above, charge sheets have been filed against 9 IAS, 3 IPS and 31 IRS Officers in one of more cases as on 31.10.2006; and 3 IRS Officers have been convicted.

(e) to (g) No definite conclusion can be drawn regarding corruption scenario on the basis of limited figures available herein. However, the objective of the Government being 'zero tolerance towards corruption', various anti-corruption measures have been taken like formulating and implementing effective anti-corruption policies and practices; constituting preventive anti corruption bodies (CVC/CBI); establishing systems based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in public procurement and management of public finances; and enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005 enhancing public access to information.

Treatment of Bone Cancer

3130. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian doctors have made a breakthrough in treatment of bone cancer by replacing the affected bone by a successful operation in a hospital in India recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to ICMR, Prof. Mayilvahanan Natrajan, Prof. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Madras Medical College and Government General Hospital, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) has developed a prosthesis in collaboration with Arc Bio Medical Engineering and have been using it on bone cancer patients. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Note on Bone Bank

(Ref: *The Hindu*, Sunday, Sept. 5, 2004)

- Dr. Mayilvahanan pioneered the treatment of patients with bone cancer by introducing the technology of "custom mega prosthesis" in bone tumours in 1988 itself. By this specialized technique, amputation in patients can be avoided by surgically removing the bone affected with tumour and replacing it with a metallic prosthesis which is made according to the patient's individual requirement. It is known as the custom mega prosthesis. This prosthesis can be done for both hands and legs.
- The custom mega prosthesis has been submitted for a patent with the Director General of patents.
- In India, the cost will be about Rs. 3000/- if the bone is taken out of a cadaver and is processed in the bone bank.

Landline/Mobile Phone Connections

3131. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total landline connections in both rural and urban areas separately at the end of 2004-05;

(b) the number of cellular subscribers in the country separately for rural and urban areas;

(c) the combined tele density for rural and urban areas;

(d) the targets regarding tele density in both urban and rural areas set for 2005 and 2010; and

(e) the strategy adopted by the Government to achieve the above mentioned targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As on 31.03.2005 the total landline connections were 41484257 of which 12437065 were in rural and 29047192 in urban areas respectively. The total number of cellular connections during the same period was 41025940.

(c) The overall teledensity was 10.53% as on 31.10.2005.

(d) and (e) The targets set for teledensity are 7% by 2005 and 15% by 2010. The steps taken by the Government to achieve these targets include the following:—

- (i) About 150 million additional phones are planned to be provided during the period April, 2005 to December, 2007;
- (ii) The USO Fund Administrator has finalized the agreements with four telecom service providers for provision of rural phones; and
- (iii) BSNL has relaxed the distance for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Km to 5.0 Km for landline exchanges. This would facilitate the larger coverage in the rural areas from the existing exchanges.

Assistance for Health Facilities to Pak

3132. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 1000 hospitals have reported to have been destroyed in Pakistan in the recent earthquake that shook the Asian countries on October 8, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has extended any help to Pakistan to restore the health facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

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

(b) to (d) India has provided substantial quantities of relief material to Pakistan. So far about 1,300 tonnes of relief material has been handed over to Pakistani authorities, which includes medicines, vaccines and x-rays machines. At the international conference in Geneva on October 26 and at the international conference organised by Pakistan on November 19, 2005 in Islamabad, India announced an assistance of US \$ 25 million. In the donors' Conference held in Islamabad on November 19th, India offered to take up specific projects in sectors such as health and education, which could be financed out of the US \$ 25 million pledged by India. The Indian offer of aid has been accepted by Pakistan.

Appointment of Chief Commissioners

3133. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retired officers appointed as Chief Commissioner of Right to Information;

(b) the reasons for selection of retired officials as Chief Commissioner of Right to Information;

(c) whether several officers who are on the verge of retirement are also appointed Chief Commissioners; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) The Right to Information Act, 2005 does not place any restriction on retired officers being appointed as Chief Information Commissioners in the Information Commissioners constituted by the Central Government and the various State Governments. The details of retired/retiring officers appointed as Chief Information Commissioners in the States are not centrally available.

Zonal Cultural Centres

3134. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Zonal Cultural Centres in the country;

(b) the details of the best performers sent abroad to showcase our rich cultural and art tradition during the last two years;

(c) the number of foreign youths imparted training in these Zonal Cultural Centres under the cultural exchange programme during the said period;

(d) whether non-competitive martial art forms like Silambattam and Kalari are also patronised in these centres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Zonal Cultural Centres are autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Culture. The seven Zonal Cultural Centres with their headquarters are; North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, Eastern Zone Cultural Centre, Kolkata, North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur, South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, and South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) No foreign youth has been imparted training at the Zonal Cultural Centres during the said period.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur are providing training to 30 school students under 'SILAMBATTAM' free of cost. They are also giving training in 'Kakaripayat', a Martial art form of Kerala. Martial art forms of Gatka (Punjab) and Thodu (Himachal Pradesh) are being patronized in North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala. During National Cultural Exchange Programme and other programmes, North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur sponsors the non-competitive martial art form like Tangta of Manipur. Rabanshe Dance (West Bengal) and Thang-Ta Dance (Manipur) are included in the Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme in the Eastern Zone Cultural Centre. Besides, they also organize martial art forms, namely, Palka (Jharkhand, Orissa), Rukmar Naach (Orissa), Dhali (West Bengal) etc. Mer Raas of Gujarat was invited for performance in Republic Day Children Contingent 2003 in New Delhi. Besides, Kalaripayattu, Thang-ta, Dhali Dance and Bratachari were invited by West Zone Cultural Centre for performance. South Central Zone Cultural Centre takes care of Akhada (Madhya Pradesh), Akhada Dandpatta (Maharashtra), Lezim (Maharashtra) and Kamsale.

Statement

South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur sent troupes of 5 persons of Bharatnatyam and 15 persons of Karagam to Sri Lanka in October, 2004. Further, a troupe of 8 persons of Bharatnatyam and 13 persons of Folk Songs were sent to Sri Lanka during October 2005.

North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala has sent the following best performers to Muscat to show our rich cultural and art traditions during the last two years:

2003-04	Mrs. Sunita Bhatti, Mrs. Dolly Gulreja, Shri Sukhwinder Sukhi and Shri Gurpal Mutlar (Punjabi Folk Singers)
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2004-05	Shri Hans Raj Hans, Mrs. Sarajit Bhasin (Punjabi Folk Singers)
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North East Zone Cultural Centre participated internationally at the Edenburg Military Tattoo during July-August 2004. The Cheraw Dancers from Mizoram took part in the Tattoo in Edenburg. The cultural troupe consisted of 35 Cheraw dance artistes and 3 officials of north East Zone Cultural Centre.

Eastern Zone Cultural Centre, Kolkata sponsored 10 member Bhojpuri folk dance and song group for

participation at the Sphinx Auditorium, at the Indira Gandhi International Centre, Port Louis, Mauritius and at Village School Riviere-du-Rempport, Mauritius during January-February, 2005. Eastern Zone Cultural Centre also participated along with cultural troupes in 'Days of Indian Culture in Russia' during September-October 2005 at Moscow, St. Peter's Burg, Tver and Kaluga in Russia.

West Zone Cultural Centre sponsored Kalbelia dancers of Rajasthan and Garba, Raas dancers of Gujarat in the 'Festival of India in Bhutan' in June 2003. A contingent of 5 artistes of Udaipur, performing Bhopang Vadan, Rawan Hatta and Puppet shows participated in Edenburg Mela 2003. There artistes of Rajasthan participated in Edenburg Mela 2004 in United Kingdom. A contingent of Kalbelia, Teratal dancers and Mangniar singers of Rajasthan participated in 'Indian Cultural Festival (Bharat Utsav) in Dhaka' in October 2004. Two musicians from Rajasthan participated in workshops and performances at different venues along with BBC National Orchestra of Wales in November 2004 in Wales.

South Central Zone Cultural Centre sent "Lavani Troupe" of Maharashtra in 2003-04. A "Dholu Kuniitha" troupe of Kamataka participated in Indian Cultural heritage Festival in Russia.

In September-October 2005, Days of Indian Culture in Russia was held in Moscow/St. Petersburg, Tver and Kaluga 95 artistes including folk and classical artistes from all over the country participated in the 10-day long festival. North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala was the implementing agency for this festival. The Russian media had highly appreciated the programme.

Preservation of Heritage Villages

3135. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned any special project to preserve cultural heritage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposals from State Governments for preservation of "heritage villages".

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has given any financial assistance to Government of Kerala for implementation of its project titled The Heritage Villages; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Culture supports through its Schemes and Institutions the preservation of cultural heritage of the country. The National Akademies, the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sanghralaya, Bhopal, the National Museum and Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts are engaged in preservation of heritage. Besides the above, the Ministry has set up a Pilot Project to study, document and safeguard the rich Intangible Cultural heritage of the country. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has been made the nodal agency to undertake this task.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Historical Places in Tribal/Backward Areas

3136. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the places of archaeological importance under the control of ASI in tribal/backward areas in different States, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) the funds provided by the Government for their maintenance during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for development of these places?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

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

*[English]***Protected Monuments In AP**

3137. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the protected national monuments/heritage sites/historical places in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) the agency responsible for their upkeep; and

(c) the amount spent for maintenance of these monuments during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) and (b) At present there are 137 monuments/sites of national importance in the State of Andhra Pradesh under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India as per list enclosed as Statement.

(c) The following amount has been spent on these monuments/sites for proper maintenance and conservation during the last three years:

2002-03	Rs. 396.31 lacs
2003-04	Rs. 350.00 lacs
2004-05	Rs. 307.97 lacs

However, during the current financial year 2005-06, against an allocation of Rs. 400.00 lacs, Rs. 234.00 lacs have been utilized upto November, 2005.

Statement

List of Centrally Protected Monuments/Sites in Andhra Pradesh under the Jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India

Sl.No.	Name of Monument/Site	Locality	Taluk/District
1	2	3	4
1.	Hill fort and buildings therein and the fortifications at the foot of the hill	Gooty Gooty Mandal	Gooty Anantapur Dist
2.	Madhavaraya Temple (Old Vishnu Temple)	Gorantla Gorantla Mandal	Hindupur Anantapur Dist
3.	Outer wall of the Mahalakshmi Temple	Goripalli Tnkal Mandal	Kadiri Anantapur Dist
4.	Group of Sculptures	Hemavathi Amarapuram Mandal	Madakasira Anantapur Dist
5.	Group of Old Temples	Hemavathi Amarapuram Mandal	Madakasira Anantapur Dist
6.	Large Dolmen on a Rocky Hillock	Kalyandurg Kalyandurg Mandal	Kalyandurg Anantapur Dist
7.	Mallikarjuna (Siva) Temple	Kambaduru Kambaduru Mandal	Kambaduru Anantapur Dist
8.	Basavanna Temple	Lepakshi Lepakshi Mandal	Hindupur Anantapur Dist

1	2	3	4
9.	Veerabhadra Temple	Lepakshi Lepakshi Mandal	Hindupur Anantapur Dist
10.	Hill Fort	Madakasira Madakasira Mandal	Madakasira Anantapur Dist
11.	Large Bastion and an Old Gateway	Madakasira Madakasira Mandal	Madakasira Anantapur Dist
12.	The Citadel and Ruined Buildings on the Hill	Penukonda Penukonda Mandal	Penukonda Anantapur Dist
13.	The Hill Fort and Northern Gateway with Inscriptions	Penukonda Penukonda Mandal	Penukonda Anantapur Dist
14.	Old Gopuram	Penukonda Penukonda Mandal	Penukonda Anantapur Dist
15.	Old Stamba or Lamps Pillar in the Sub-Collector's office compound	Penukonda Penukonda Mandal	Penukonda Anantapur Dist
16.	Sitatirtham stepped well with entrance in the form of a bull	Penukonda Penukonda Mandal	Penukonda Anantapur Dist
17.	Small pavilion and ruined water tower	Penukonda Penukonda Mandal	Penukonda Anantapur Dist
18.	Watch Tower known as Rama's Bastion	Penukonda Penukonda Mandal	Penukonda Anantapur Dist
19.	Hill Fort and a Large Well	Ratnagiri Rolla Mandal	Madakasira Anantapur Dist
20.	Extensive Hill Fortress with Outlying Fortification	Rayadurg Rayadurg Mandal	Rayadurg Anantapur Dist
21.	Place and two temples of Rama and Krishna	Rayadurg Rayadurg Mandal	Rayadurg Anantapur Dist
22.	Chintalarayasvami Temple	Tadipatri Tadipatri Mandal	Tadipatri Anantapur Dist
23.	Rameswarasvami Temple	Tadipatri Tadipatri Mandal	Tadipatri Anantapur Dist
24.	Lower Fort	Chandragiri Chandragiri Mandal	Chandragiri Chittoor Dist.
25.	Upper Fort	Chandragiri Chandragiri Mandal	Chandragiri Chittoor Dist.
26.	Parasurameswara Temple	Gudimallam Yerpedu Mandal	Thottambedu Chittoor Dist.

1	2	3	4
27.	Fort	Gurramkonda Gurramkonda Mandal	Vayalpadu Chittoor Dist.
28.	Lower Fort, Centre Fort Wall, Moat, Old Fort Gate-Way, Old Hunuman Temple, Old Mandapam and Old Mosque	Gurramkonda Gurramkonda Mandal	Vayalpadu Chittoor Dist.
29.	Mahal	Gurramkonda Gurramkonda Mandal	Vayalpadu Chittoor Dist.
30.	Pallisvara Mudalya Madeva Temple	Kalakada Kalakada Mandal	Vayalpadu Chittoor Dist.
31.	Venkatesvara Vishnu Temple	Mangapuram (Hamlet of Mittapalem) Chandragiri Mandal	Chandragiri Chittoor Dist.
32.	Chennakesavasvami Temple	Sompalle Mulakalacheruvu Mandal	Thambalapalli Chittoor Dist.
33.	Agasthisvarasvami Temple	Chilmakuru Yerraguntla Mandal	Yerraguntla Kamalapuram Kadapa Dist.
34.	Vighnesvarasvami Temple	Chilmakuru Yerraguntla Mandal	Yerraguntla Kamalapuram Kadapa Dist.
35.	Remains of the buried Jain Temple	Danavulapadu Jammalamadugu Mandal	Jammalamadugu Kadapa Dist.
36.	Fort with enclosed ancient buildings, Madhavaperumal Temple, tower known as Madarasala	Gandikota Jammalamadugu Mandal	Muddanur Kadapa Dist.
37.	Bhimesvarasvami Temple	Pushpagiri (Hamlet of Koturu) Valluru (Velluru) Mandal	Kadapa Taluk Kadapa Dist.
38.	Indranathesvarasvami Temple	Pushpagiri (Hamlet of Koturu) Valluru (Velluru) Mandal	Kadapa Taluk Kadapa Dist.

1	2	3	4
39.	Kamalasambhavesvarasvami Temple	Pushpagiri (Hamlet of Kotluru) Valluru (Velluru) Mandal	Kadapa Taluk Kadapa Dist.
40.	Raghavesvarasvami Temple	Pushpagiri (Hamlet of Kotluru) Valluru (Velluru) Mandal	Kadapa Taluk Kadapa Dist.
41.	Sivakesavasvami Temple	Pushpagiri (Hamlet of Kotluru) Valluru (Velluru) Mandal	Kadapa Taluk Kadapa Dist.
42.	Trikotesvarasvami Temple	Pushpagiri (Hamlet of Kotluru) Valluru (Velluru) Mandal	Kadapa Taluk Kadapa Dist.
43.	Vaidyanathasvami Temple	Pushpagiri (Hamlet of Kotluru) Valluru (Velluru) Mandal	Kadapa Taluk Kadapa Dist.
44.	Saumyanatha Temple	Nandalur Nandalur Mandal	Rajampet Kadapa Dist.
45.	Ancient Village Site	Peddamudiyam Peddamudiyam Mandal	Jammalamadugu Kadapa Dist.
46.	Kodandarama Temple	Peddamudiyam Peddamudiyam Mandal	Jammalamadugu Kadapa Dist.
47.	Mukudesvara Temple with Inscriptions	Peddamudiyam Peddamudiyam Mandal	Jammalamadugu Kadapa Dist.
48.	Old Vishnu Temple with Inscriptions	Peddamudiyam Peddamudiyam Mandal	Jammalamadugu Kadapa Dist.
49.	Narasimha Temple	Peddamudiyam Peddamudiyam Mandal	Jammalamadugu Kadapa Dist.
50.	Attirala Parasurama Temple	Poli Rajampet Mandal	Rajampet Kadapa Dist.

1	2	3	4
51.	Fort with Ancient Buildings Enclosed therein	Sidhout Sidhout Mandal	Sidhout Kadapa Dist.
52.	Visvanathasvami Temple	Sivaipalle Chennur Mandal	Chennur Kadapa Dist.
53.	Sri Kodandaramasvami's Temple and Adjoining buildings	Vontimitta Vontimitta Mandal (Ontimitta)	Sidhout Kadapa Dist.
54.	Mounds containing Buddhist remains such as Stupas	Adurru Mamidikuduru Mandal	Gannavaram East Godavari Dist.
55.	Golingeswara Group of Temples, Nakkalagudi, Kancharagudi, Veerabhadra Temple	Blocavolu Biccavolu Mandal	Rayavaram East Godavari Dist.
56.	Monolith Ganesa Image	Biccavolu Biccavolu Mandal	Rayavaram East Godavari Dist.
57.	Bhimeswara Temple	Draksharama Ramachandrapuram Mandal	Ramachandrapuram East Godavari Dist.
58.	Rock-Cut Caves and Cisterns and Remains of Buddhist Stupas, Chaityas and Viharas (Monasteries) on hill Pandavula or Pandavakonda	Kaparavaram Korukonda Mandal	Korukonda East Godavari Dist.
59.	Buddhist Remains	Kodavali Gollaprolu Mandal	Pithapuram East Godavari Dist.
60.	Bhimesvara Temple	Samalkot Bhimavaram Samalkot Mandal	Kakinada East Godavari Dist.
61.	Inscribed Rock to the west of Dharanikota	Amaravathi' Amaravathi Mandal	Tadikonda/ Guntur Dist.
62.	Ruined Buddhist Stupa and other remains	Amaravathi' Amaravathi mandal	Tadikonda/ Guntur Dist.
63.	An Ancient Siva Temple with Inscriptions	Ayyangaripalem (Hamlet of Pondugula) Dachepalle Mandal	Piduguralla Guntur Dist.

1	2	3	4
64.	Sri Bhavanarayanasvami Temple	Bapatla Bapatla Mandal	Bapatla Guntur Dist.
65.	Ruined Buddhist Stupa	Bhattiprolu Bhattiprolu Mandal	Repalle Guntur Dist.
66.	The Sculptures, Carvings, Images, Bas-Relie or other like objects discovered within the revenue limit	Buddam Kariapalem Mandal	Bapatla Guntur Dist.
67.	Kopoteswara Temple with 5 inscriptional slabs within the temple site	Chejerla Nekarikallu Mandal	Narsaraopet Guntur Dist
68.	Fort in Ruins	Dharanikota Amaravati Mandal	Tadikonda Guntur Dist.
69.	Mounds with Ancient Remains	Grandhasiri (Hamlet of Vorvakallu) Atchampet Mandal	Talluru Guntur Dist.
70.	Inscribed Marble Pillar near the Gopala Temple	Ipuru Ipuru Mandal	Ipuru Guntur Dist.
71.	Ancient Buddhist Remains with Brahmi Inscriptions on the Mound	Manchikallu Rentachintala Mandal	Painad Guntur Dist
72.	Mound	Nagulavaram Macherla Mandal	Macherla Guntur Dist.
73.	Hill of Nagarjunakonda with the ancient remains	Pullareddygudem (agraharam) Macherla Mandal	Macherla Guntur Dist.
74.	Sculptures, Carvings, Images, Bas-Relie on the Ancient Mound	Pullareddygudem (agraharam) Macherla Mandal	Macherla Guntur Dist.
75.	The mounds with the ancient remains (Buddhist Ancient sites)	Veipur Atchampet Mandal	Talluru Guntur Dist.
76.	Four Storeyed Rock-cut Hindu Temple	Undavalli Tadepalli Mandal	Mangalagiri Guntur Dist.
77.	Charminar	Charminar Charminar Mandal	Municipality Hyderabad Distt.
78.	Golconda Fort	Hyderabad Golconda Mandal	Municipality Hyderabad Dist.
79.	Pre-Historic Site	Janampet Pinapaka Mandal	Manugur Khammam Dist.

1	2	3	4
80.	Ancient Site with the Mound marking the Buddhist stupas in it	Alluru Veemulapadu Mandal	Kanchikacherla Krishna Dist.
81.	Buddhist remains in a Mound	Ghantasala Ghantasala Mandal	Movva Krishna Dist.
82.	Mound containing Buddhist remains and ancient village site	Gudiwada Gudiwada Mandal	Gudivada Krishna Dist.
83.	Sculptures, Carvings, Images, Bs-Relie other like objects found in the vicinity of the old mosque	Gudur Gundur Mandal	Bandar Krishna Dist.
84.	Hillock containing the mound marking the remains of ancient Buddhist stupas situated on it	Gummadiduru Penuganchiprolu Mandal	Nandigama Krishna Dist.
85.	Buddhist remains of a stupa on the hill	Jaggayyapeta Jaggayyapeta Mandal	Jaggayyapeta Municipality Krishna Dist.
86.	Bandar Fort: 1. Armoury known as port and customs office 2. Belfry	Masulipatnam (Bandar) Masulipatnam Mandal (Bandar)	Masulipatnam (Bandar) Krishna Dist
87.	Dutch Cemetery	Masulipatnam (Bandar) Masulipatnam Mandal (Bandar)	Masulipatnam (Bandar) Krishna Dist
88.	Rock-cut cave temples on the Hill	Mogalrazapuram Vijayawada Urban (Municipality)	Vijayawada Krishna Dist.
89.	Ancient Site and Remains	Munagacherla Nandigama Mandal	Nandigama Krishna Dist.
90.	Four pillars in the ruined Mandapam In Jamidoddi	Vijayawada Vijayawada Urban (Municipality)	Vijayawada Krishna Dist.
91.	Inscribed pillar and slab in Mallesvarasvami Temple	Vijayawada Vijayawada urban (Municipality)	Vijayawada Krishna Dist.

1	2	3	4
92.	Kiratarjuna pillar on the Indrakilla Hill	Vijayawada Vijayawada Urban (Municipality)	Vijayawada Krishna Dist.
93.	Two rock-cut cave temples on the Indrakilla hill known as Akkana Madanna caves consisting of (1) A two celled shrine facing the east and (2) a triple celled temple with a pillared hall in front and linga in the middle cell	Vijayawada Vijayawada urban (Municipality)	Vijayawada Krishna Dist.
94.	Ruined fort and buildings therein except Ramizan Maszid	Adoni Adoni Mandal	Adoni Kurnool Dist.
95.	Inscribed boulder bearing Andhra Records of 150 AD	Chinnakadaburu Peddakadabur Mandal	Adoni Kurnool Dist.
96.	A Prominent Granti Hillock Bearing Asoka Inscriptions	Jonnagiri Tuggali Mandal	Pathikonda Kurnool Dist.
97.	Mausoleum known as Abdul Wahab Khan's Tomb and Adjoining Buildings	Kurnool Kurnool Urban (Municipality)	Kurnool Kurnool Dist.
98.	Gateways and Bastions of the old fort, 1/2z., (1) Beach Ghantki Buruzu (2) Bastion No. 2 Lal Bangalow Buruzu (3) Gateway to Gopala Darwaja (4) Gateway Panikiddi	Kurnool Kurnool Urban (Municipality)	Kurnool Kurnool Dist.
99.	Nandavaram Temple including the sculpture of Subramanya	Nandavaram Banaganapalle Mandal	Banaganapalle Kurnool Dist.
100.	The Asokan Inscription, two early Chalukyan Inscription and one late Chalukyan Inscription	Rajulamandagiri (Hamlet of Jutur) Pattikonda Mandal	Pattikonda (Pathikonda) Kurnool Dist.
101.	Inscribed stone lying to the east of siva temple	Rayachoti Nandawaram Mandal	Yemmiganur Kurnool Dist.
102.	Old Cave Temple	Yaganti Banaganapalle Mandal	Banaganapalle Kurnool Dist.
103.	Uma Maheswarswami Temple	Yaganti Banaganapalle Mandal	Banaganapalle Kurnool Dist.

1	2	3	4
104.	Ancient Mound	Kondapur Kondapur Mandal	Sadasivpet Taluk Medak Dist.
105.	Alampur Temples	Alampur Alampur Mandal	Alampur Mahaboobnagar Dist
106.	Mound known as 'Bodipati Dibba'	Ramathiratham (Hamlet of Varini) Vidavalur Mandal	Kovur Nellore Dist.
107.	Ancient Mound	Ramathiratham (Hamlet of Varini) Vidavalur Mandal	Kovur Nellore Dist.
108.	Hill Fort with Ancient Buildings therein	Udayagiri Udayagiri Mandal	Udayagiri Nellore Dist.
109.	Krishna Temple in a part of Donka with Gopuram, Kalyanamandapam and Masonry build tank	Udayagiri Udayagiri Mandal	Udayagiri Nellore Dist.
110.	Ranganayakula temple	Udayagiri Udayagiri Mandal	Udayagiri Nellore Dist.
111.	Ancient Mounds	Kanuparti Nagaluppalapadu Mandal	Chirala Prakasam Dist.
112.	A Group of Eight Rock-cut Temples in Bhairavakonda Hill	Kottapalli Chandrasekhara Puram Mandal	Chandrasekhara Puram Prakasam Dist.
113.	Chola Temple	Motupalle Chinaganjam Mandal	Chirala Prakasam Dist.
114.	Ancient Mound	Pedaganjam Chinaganjam Mandal	Chirala Prakasam Dist.
115.	Pitikeswara Group of Temples including Approach Road	Pittikayagulla Bestavaripeta Mandal	Bestavaripeta Prakasam Dist.
116.	Ancient Site	Pusalapadu Bestavaripeta Mandal	Bestavaripet Prakasam Dist.
117.	Ramalingesvara Group of Temples	Satiavel Giddalur Mandal	Giddalur Prakasham

1	2	3	4
118.	Ancient Buddhist Site	Kalingapatnam (Calingapatnam) Gara Mandal	Srikakulam Tq Srikakulam Dist.
119.	Sri Somesvara Temple	Mukhalingam Jalumuru Mandal	Pathapatnam Srikakulam Dist.
120.	Bhimesvar Temple, Mukhalingesvara Temple	Mukhalingam Jalumuru Mandal	Pathapatnam Srikakulam Dist.
121.	Buddhist remains: (1) Six Images (2) Three Images and some more images on the Hill (3) One image (4) Three Images	Salihundam Gara Mandal	Srikakulam Tq Srikakulam Dist.
122.	Eastern Portion of Salihundam Hill containing Buddhist Remains (Achaity) and four stupas)	Salihundam Gara Mandal	Srikakulam Tq Srikakulam Dist.
123.	Ancient Buddhist Mounds Locally Known as 'Dhana Dibbalu'	Kotturu (Near Gokivada Forest) Kambilli Mandal	Yellamanchilli Visakhapatnam Dist.
124.	Buddhist Rock-Cut Stupas, Dagabas and Caves and the Ruins of a Structural Chaitya with its outbuilding and other ancient remains on two adjoining hills known as Bojjanna Konda	Sankaram Anakapalli Mandal	Sabbavaram Visakhapatnam Dist.
125.	(Durga Bhairavakonda) having an ancient monument called durga	Nilavati Gantyada Mandal	Gantyada Vizianagaram Dist.
126.	Ruined Buddhist Monastery at Gurubhaktulakonda	Ramatrithalu (Ramatirtham) Nellimaria Mandal	Nellimaria Vizianagaram Dist.
127.	The Old, Dibbesvarasvamivari Temple	Sarapalli (Sarapalle) Nellimaria Mandal	Nellimaria Vizianagaram Dist.
128.	Thousand Pillared Temple	Hanamkonda Hanamkonda Mandal	Hanamkonda Warangal Dist.
129.	Ramappa Temple	Palampet Venkatapur Mandal	Mulugu Warangal Dist.
130.	Warangal Fort, Defences and Gateways	Warangal Hanamkonda Mandal	Hanamkonda Warangal Dist.

1	2	3	4
131.	Mounds containing Buddhist remains	Arugalonu Tadepalligudam Mandal	Tadepalligudam West-Godavari Dist.
132.	Mounds locally known as Bhimalingadibba	Denduluru Denduluru Mandal	Bimadole West-Godavari Dist.
133.	Buddhist Monuments (1) Rock-cut temple (2) Large monastery, (3) Small Monastery, (4) Brick Chaitya (5) Ruined Mandapa, (6) Stone built stupa, and (7) Large Group of Stupas	Guntupalle Kamavarapukota Mandal	Chintalapudi West-Godavari Dist.
134.	The Caves and structural Stupa of Archaeological interest on Dharmalingesvarasvami hill	Jilakarragudem (Hamlet of Guntupalle) Kamavarapukota Mandal	Chintalapudi West-Godavari Dist.
135.	The Mounds of Pedavegi, Dibba No. 1, Dibba No. 2, Dibba No. 3, Dibba No. 4, Dibba No. 5.	Pedavegi Pedavegi Mandal	Eluru West-Godavari Dist.
136.	Ancient Mounds	Pedavegi Pedavegi Mandal	Eluru West-Godavari Dist.
137.	Reconstructed Monuments at Anupu and Nagarjunakonda Hill Top	Nagarjunakonda Anupu Macherla Mandal	Macherla Guntur Dist.

[*Translation*]

Taking over of BCCL by Tata Steel

3138. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tata Steel Limited has proposed to takeover certain mines of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL);

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

(c) whether losses in some mines of BCCL are continuously increasing; and

(d) if so, the details of the mine-wise losses incurred during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Tata Steel Limited has requested for allocation of Kapuria block in the leasehold area of BCCL to work the block in joint venture with BCCL.

(b) Similar interest has also been expressed by M/s Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and M/s. JSW Steel Ltd. a view would be taken in consultation with Coal India Limited/Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details of the mine-wise losses incurred during the current financial year (up to Sep., 2005) are as under:—

Name of Mine Open cast)	Loss (in Rs. lakhs)
Godhur	-343.56
E-Bassuriya	-166.69
Gondudih	-82.50
Bhowrah South OC	-59.59
Total	-652.34

Name of the Mine (Underground)	Loss (in Rs. Lakhs)
1	2
Moonidih	-1889.85
Sudamdihshaft	-1494.18
Tetulmar	-1328.78
Lodna	-1134.44
Loyabad	-1040.83
Bhowrah North	-1031.40
Joyrampur	-964.42
Amlabad	-920.38
Bararee	-877.83
Pootki	-807.40
Jogidih	-783.99
Sendra Bansjora	-774.10
Basantimata	-765.50
Mudidih	-750.73
Sudamdih incline	-739.18
Bhalgora Proj	-732.38
Burragah	-697.64
5/6 PIT GOP (HMP)	-658.88
Kankani	-614.98

1	2
Govindpur	-610.37
Bastacolla	-597.25
Salanpur	-587.28
Bhowrah South	-565.62
Ramkanali	-558.68
Phularitand	-529.46
Kusunda	-507.46
Akaskinari Colliery	-501.10
Bhatdih	-482.43
Gamdda	-477.38
Dobari	-473.01
Khas Kusunda	-464.90
E Bassurya	-463.84
Patherdih	-459.33
E Bhagaidih	-440.12
Alkusa	-431.30
Katras Chaitudih	-403.66
Godhur	-396.99
Kuiya	-383.21
Block IV	-371.31
Balihari	-345.92
Kharkhariee	-303.53
S. Govindpur	-279.01
Bera	-270.83
Teturiya	-270.73
Victoria West	-240.10
Kenduadih	-232.71
Basdeopur	-190.70
Mahespur	189.74
Madhuband	-179.17
Kujama	-721.98
Total	-30270.47

[English]

**World Bank Assistance for
Water Supply Projects**

3139. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of water supply projects in various States being run by World Bank assistance; and

(b) the amount allocated/released by the Government for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):
(a) and (b) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of ongoing World Bank Assisted Water Supply Projects

There are four World Bank assisted water supply projects being run in various States. Details are as follows:—

-
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project | |
| Project Cost | Rs. 211.59 crore |
| Loan assistance | US \$ 39.5 million |
| Date of commencement | April 2004 |
| Credit Closing Date | March 2007 |
| Cumulative Disbursement up to October, 2005 | US \$ 2.478 million |
| Project Area | Three Municipal Corporations Hubli-Dharwad, Belgaum & Gulbarga |
| 2. Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project. | |
| Project Cost | US \$ 89.8 million |
| Loan assistance | US \$ 55.50 million |
| Date of commencement | January 2001 |
| Credit Closing Date | December 2006 |
| Cumulative Disbursement up to October, 2005 | US \$ 31.093 million |
| Project Area | Originally 89 Gram-Panchayats in 4 districts namely Kozhikode, Mallapuram, Palakkad and Thrissur. Later scope of work expanded in the remaining 10 districts of the state on pilot basis covering 20 more Gram-Panchayats. |
| 3. Second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project | |
| Project Cost | US \$ 193.44 million |
| Loan assistance | US \$ 136.6 million |
| Date of commencement | April 2002 |
| Credit Closing Date | December 2007 |
| Cumulative Disbursement up to October, 2005 | US \$ 51.615 million |
| Project Area | 700 Gram Panchayats comprising 2100 villages in 11 districts namely Uttara Kanada, Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur and Koppal |
| 4. Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project | |
| Project Cost | Rs. \$ 268.65 million |
| Loan assistance | US \$ 181.00 million |
| Date of commencement | September 2003 |
| Credit Closing Date | September 2009 |
| Cumulative Disbursement up to October, 2005 | US \$ 13.729 million |
| Project Area | 2800 Gram Panchayats in 26 districts. |
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[Translation]

Indo-Israel Collaboration

3140. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel is contemplating to improve collaboration with India in various fields;

(b) if so, whether any talks have been held between the two countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the areas in which both the countries are likely to extend co-operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) India and Israel have ongoing mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields.

Israeli Vice Premier and Minister of Industry, Trade and Labour, Mr. Ehud Olmert visited India in December, 2004 and had discussions with a number of our Ministers. It was agreed to set up a Joint Study Group to explore ways of enhancing bilateral commercial and economic cooperation. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Kamal Nath visited Israel from 9-11 November 2005 during which the report of the Joint Study Group between India and Israel was jointly released by the two Ministers.

Minister of State for Science and Technology, Shri Kapil Sibal, visited in May 2005 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set up a joint fund to enhance cooperation in various areas of science and technology.

Minister of State for Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Kumari Selja, visited Israel during 24-27 September, 2005, to attend the "International Conference for Women Leaders on Gender and Migration issues under the Millennium Development Goals."

Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar visited Israel from 13-17 November to participate in commemoration of the 10th death anniversary of former

Israeli PM and Nobel laureate Yitzak Rabin. He also discussed with his Israeli counterpart during the visit various ideas to broaden and intensify bilateral cooperation in agriculture and dairy farming.

[English]

Classical Language Status to Kannada

3141. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to accord the status of classical language to Kannada;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Many representations including one from the State Government of Karnataka have been received in this regard. As per Notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the criteria for classification of a language as a classical language is as under:

- (i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.
- (ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
- (iii) The literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
- (iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

A Committee of linguistic experts has been constituted to look into the matter. The issue of declaring Kannada as a classical language will be put up before it.

Simplifying/Improving Passport & Visa Schemes

3142. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to simplify/improve the Passport and Visa Schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The Government has taken a host of measures for speedier issuance of passports and visas for the convenience of the passport and visa seeking public.

Several changes have been made in the passport issuance system. These include submission of passport applications at the District Passport Cells (DPCs) and Speed Post Centres all over the country. A system of process re-engineering has been started, resulting in quicker processing of the application forms. The time slabs for issuing passports under Tatkaal Scheme have been revised to 1 to 10 days and 11 to 20 days. Passport Offices are issuing full validity passports for 10 years under Tatkaal scheme and also in cases of duplicate passports or passport booklets due to change in appearance, name, date of birth, place of birth, signatures or when pages are exhausted, irrespective of the validity of the existing passports. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested to direct State Police authorities to complete Police Verification procedures within a period of two weeks.

A new category of visa called 'medical visa' has been introduced. The visa permits the holder to take medical treatment in Indian hospitals. Student visa has been liberalised. In its liberalised form, a foreigner intending to study in India can be granted a provisional student visa without furnishing proof of confirmed admission in a recognised educational institution.

[Translation]

Shortage of Pre-paid SIM Cards

3143. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of pre-paid SIM cards in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

- (c) the time by which these cards are likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) In Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), due to overwhelming demand, additional capacity rolled out in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh States have been subscribed to and as a result BSNL is facing cellular network capacity constraints in these States. Therefore, inspite of availability of SIM cards, the release of connections is being controlled temporarily.

- (b) and (c) BSNL has plans to expend its cellular network by an additional capacity of 4.5 lakh lines in Madhya Pradesh and 1.5 lakh lines in Chhattisgarh States respectively during next year.

[English]

Retired Bureaucrats Working In Private Companies

3144 SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS officers are working in private sector of Indian and foreign companies after their retirement;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognisance of this matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (e) As per provisions of the existing rules, IAS, IPS, IFS and IRS officers shall obtain previous sanction of the Government for their post retirement commercial employment in private companies. The sanction of the Government is not required after two years of the retirement of the pensioner. Data in respect of such officers is not centrally maintained.

*[Translation]***DDA Flats in Narela**

3145. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has allotted DDA flats in Narela, Delhi without providing any basic amenities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the Government proposes to provide basic amenities?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that flats in Narela were allotted after providing all the basic amenities like water supply, storm water drains, sewerage, road and electricity.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]***Retaining Passports of Workers**

3146. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the employers/sponsors retain the Passports of the employees after they are recruited for employment in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether this causes serious inconvenience to the poor employees in Gulf countries; and

(c) if so, the step taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. As

per information received from the Indian Missions in Gulf countries, the sponsors normally retain the passports of the employees when they reach the destination country in order to obtain work permit/extension or renewal of visas and for security reasons as well as to discourage lateral movement of the emigrant workers to other employers. Such passports are returned to the employees by the sponsor in case of need, such as foreign travel or return to India. In case of any inconvenience reported, the concerned Mission immediately takes up the case with the sponsor directly and with the local authorities through local foreign office.

*[Translation]***Extending Subsidy to Private Telecom Companies**

3147. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether Telecommunication companies have sought subsidy in the form of exemption from paying TDS on interconnection for providing telephone services in rural areas as reported in the Hindi daily *Dainik Jagran* dated November 20, 2005;

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

(c) whether private cellular companies are facing scarcity of resources for their network expansion;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to extend subsidy to private companies in order to achieve the target of providing telephone facilities in rural areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the extent to which the target of providing telephone facility in rural areas is likely to be achieved by providing subsidy to the private sector; and

(h) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cellular Operators Association of India has submitted a proposal as a part of budget recommendations, for exemption of paying TDS on interconnection charges. Such proposals are considered depending upon their merit as a part of budget formulation exercise.

(c) and (d) As per the terms and conditions of the licence, private cellular companies have to provide service in 50% of District Headquarters/towns within three years of the effective date of the licence. Network expansion of such networks depends upon their business plans.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Financial support from the Universal Service Obligation Fund is provided to Basic Service Licensee, Cellular Mobile Service Licensee and Unified Access Service Licensee or any other entity as may be specified in this behalf by the Government from time to time. Such financial support is provided to meet the net cost of providing the specified Universal Service obligations as per procedure.

(g) and (h) The activities supported by Universal Service Obligation Fund includes support for maintenance of 5,02,532 village public telephones, replacement of VPTs which were earlier working on Multi Access Radio Relay Technology and installed before 1.4.2002, to provide VPTs in 66,822 uncovered villages excluding those villages having population less than 100 and affected with insurgencies, for provisioning of individual rural household, direct exchange lines in eligible 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas and support for 46,253 rural community phones.

Festival Housing Scheme

3148. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were irregularities in the allotment of flats under the "Festival Housing Scheme" launched in 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of persons found guilty for these irregularities and the action taken against them;

(d) whether there is no transparency in the functioning of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA); and

(e) if so, the concrete measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that there were no irregularities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) DDA has informed that there is transparency in its functioning and to avoid any possibilities of manipulation, the computerized draws for the flats are held in the presence of senior officers, independent judges from different organizations and the media. The process is also displayed parallelly on a big screen. The results of the draws are immediately posted on the notice board in the reception area, the web site and published in the newspapers. All these arrangements have substantially minimized the scope for any complaint. The procedures are continuously reviewed to bring any further improvements, wherever possible.

Diplomatic Relations with Countries

3149. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with which India has no diplomatic relations;

(b) the reasons for the same;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to have friendly relations with such countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) India has diplomatic relations with all 191 Member States of the United Nations Organization.

Indian's Civilian Nuclear Energy Programme

3150. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many countries have agreed to cooperate with Indian in its civilian nuclear energy programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far by the government in civilian nuclear energy programme; and

(d) the total amount likely to be spent by the Government on this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The recent Indo-US joint statement issued during the visit of our Prime Minister to the United States is aimed at opening up of international cooperation in the Indian civilian nuclear power programme. Considering the complexities involved, it is difficult to indicate the time schedule and the detailed estimates of the expenditure to be incurred at this stage.

[English]

Amendments in Visa/Consular Services

3151. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has proposed to Pakistan regarding wide-ranging amendments in bilateral visa and consular services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan has accepted this proposal;

(d) if so, whether any agreements are likely to be signed by the two countries in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these agreements are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (f) In keeping with our policy of encouraging people to people contact between India and Pakistan, India presented a draft proposing amendments to the present India-Pakistan Visa Agreement during the visit of former EAM, Shri K. Natwar Singh to Pakistan from October 2 to 5, 2005. The draft envisages longer duration visit visas for people from both countries and proposes the addition of new categories of visas such as student, pilgrims and business visa to facilitate easier movement of people across the border. Both sides have agreed to pursue this matter under the Composite Dialogue framework. The third round of the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue is scheduled to be held from January to July 2006.

[Translation]

Setting up of State Sports Academy

3152. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
MOHD. SHAHID:

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

(a) whether the Union Government introduced a scheme of setting up of State Sports Academy in states during the Tenth Five year Plan;

(b) if so, the States where such Academies have been set up during the Tenth Five year Plan;

(c) whether the Government has received proposals for setting up such Academies in those States where there are none;

(d) if so, whether such Academies are likely to be set up in such State during the Tenth Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far no such academy has been set up, under the scheme.

(c) to (e) 'In principle' approval has been given to the State Government of Orissa for setting up of an Academy at Bhubaneswar by Orissa Council of Sports, Cuttack subject to completion of formalities. Setting up of Sports Academies during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan will depend on receipt of viable proposals from State Governments.

[English]

Effect of Acetic Acid on Health

3153. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various soft drinks like pepsy and coke available in the country contain acetic acid which is generally used to clean toilets as a germicide;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study to assess its effect on the health of the consumers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Acetic acid is an approved food additive by Codex Alimentarius Commission. Food grade acetic acid has been recommended to be used as preservative and acidity regulator in food products. The joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) evaluated the use and safety profile of acetic acid in 1965 which has been reviewed from time to time with the last review being carried out in 2002.

Vinegar which is a food item and consumed by the populace at large is basically acetic acid. Under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, acetic acid (food grade) is permitted to be added in some food products including carbonated water.

[Translation]

Alleged Remark by Nepali Minister

3154. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Nepali Minister has allegedly remarked recently about the undue interference of India in the internal matters of Nepal;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether leaders of major political parties of Nepal visited India recently;

(e) if so, the details of discussions held on the occasion; and

(f) the names of the Nepali leaders who formed part of the contingent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Government have seen reports in the media attributed to a Nepali Minister of His Majesty's Government of Nepal criticizing the Government of India for its alleged intervention in the internal affairs of Nepal. Government are of the view that such comments and statements do not contribute to the development of friendly relations between India and Nepal.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir. Mr. G.P. Koirala, President of Nepali Congress and Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) accompanied by their party colleagues were among the leaders who visited India most recently during the last few weeks. The two leaders separately called on the Prime Minister and other Members of the Union Council of Ministers, as well as on some leaders of political parties in India during which they apprised them of the current situation in Nepal.

[English]

Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns

3155. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial allocation made to the North Eastern Region for the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) for the last three years, State-wise & year-wise;

(b) the criteria fixed for deciding the amount to be granted to the states of NER for the purpose; and

(c) the details of central assistance earmarked for the NER under the IDSMT during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Financial allocation made for the States in North Eastern Region (NER) for Integrated Development of Small & Medium Towns (IDSMT) during the last three years is as under:—

	(Rs. in Crore)
2002-03	10.35
2003-04	9.85
2004-05	19.85

State-wise Central assistance released to north Eastern Region for the last three years based on proposals submitted by the State Governments is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) 10% of total allocation to all the States is allocated to the States of NER including Sikkim, under IDSMT scheme.

(c) Rs. 9.85 crore has been tentatively earmarked for NER states, including Sikkim, under IDSMT during the current financial year, 2005-06.

Statement

State and Year-wise Central Assistance Released IDSMT Scheme to North Eastern Region for last Three Years (2002-03 to 2004-05)

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	State	Central Assistance Released			Total
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	71.00	192.00	0.00	263.00
2.	Assam	168.00	40.00	344.84	552.84
3.	Manipur	207.00	0.00	6.00	213.00
4.	Meghalaya	123.60	0.00	0.00	123.60
5.	Mizoram	24.00	0.00	80.00	104.00
6.	Nagaland	16.00	163.00	0.00	179.00
7.	Tripura	45.60	88.12	94.00	227.72
8.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total		655.20	483.12	524.84	1663.16

World Bank Assistance for AIDS Control Programme

3156. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance, showing grants and credit separately provided by the World Bank

for implementing National AIDS Control Programme during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans;

(b) the details of terms and conditions, if any, from the Bank in this regard;

(c) the details of funds actually utilised so far;

(d) the details of items under the programme allowed to be funded including those to receive priority focus;

(e) the present State-wise status of implementation of the programme; and

(f) the target fixed, if any, for modernization of blood banks including setting up of blood testing centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The details of Financial Assistance provided by World Bank as soft loan for implementing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) during Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan are indicated below.

National AIDS Control Programme Phase-I (1992-1997) extended till 31st March, 1999. An amount of US \$ 84 million (Rs. 325 crore) was mobilized and spent during NACP-Phase-I.

The National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II (1999-2004) extended till 31st March, 2006. The total cost of the project (1999-2004) is Rs. 1155 crores. Of this Rs. 959 crores is reimbursable from World Bank as a credit and balance Rs. 196 Crores is the Domestic Budgetary Support from the Government of India. Already Rs. 800.06 crores has been spent.

The objectives of NACP-I and II was to slow the spread of HIV in India, so as to reduce possible future morbidity, mortality and socio economic impact associated with AIDS. Major items are:

- Targeted Intervention amongst groups with highest risk behaviour (Sex Worker, Injecting Drug Users, Truck Drivers) and broadening the approach to Multi-Sectoral one;
- Strengthening the Management Capacity for HIV Control;
- Promoting Public awareness and condom promotion in general population;
- Improving Blood Safety and rational use;
- Building surveillance and clinical management capacity;
- Controlling sexually transmitted diseases; and
- Low cost AIDS care and Institutional Strengthening.

(e) HIV/AIDS awareness activities and condom promotion are done in all the states/UTs. The treatment of Opportunistic infections and post exposure prophylaxis

are being provided through all the government medical colleges and district hospitals. Facility for Voluntary Counselling & Testing, treatment of STI/RTI and blood banks are available in most of the districts in all the states. The state-wise estimated prevalence of HIV is given at Statement-I enclosed and state-wise physical infrastructure providing services is given at enclosed Statement-II.

(f) Under the NACP projects 255 blood banks were modernized, 683 District Level Blood Banks and 82 Blood Component Separation Units established. Also 10 State-of-the-art Model Blood Banks are being established in the underserved states of which 7 have been made operational. Further, it has been planned to modernize additional 200 Blood Banks in the country.

Statement I

State-wise estimated HIV infections-2004

S.No.	State/UT	HIV estimate
1	2	3
High prevalence states		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1394738.54
2.	Karnataka	604135.37
3.	Maharashtra	1105082.52
4.	Manipur	30653.24
5.	Nagaland	20803.13
6.	Tamil Nadu	360425.89
Moderate prevalence states		
7.	Goa	15081.64
8.	Gujarat	86212.40
9.	Pondicherry	2727.64
Low prevalence states		
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	2093.48
11.	Assam	27943.21
12.	Bihar	114837.47
13.	Chhattisgarh	40705.40
14.	Delhi	99243.97
15.	Haryana	43020.60
16.	Himachal Pradesh	5648.54

1	2	3	1	2	3
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	8621.49	28.	Uttar Pradesh	266608.44
18.	Jharkhand	39505.59	29.	Uttaranchal	13881.38
19.	Kerala	107618.26	30.	West Bengal	279124.52
20.	Madhya Pradesh	109887.15	31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	873.11
21.	Meghalaya	3931.89	32.	Chandigarh	6165.98
22.	Mizoram	12065.48	33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	603.05
23.	Orissa	121909.72	34.	Daman and Diu	624.80
24.	Punjab	49263.92	35.	Lakshadweep	126.35
25.	Rajasthan	96805.69		Total (Adults)	5077076.52
26.	Sikkim	961.83	36.	Infected children across the states	56786.74
27.	Tripura	5144.83		Total	5133883.25

Statement II*State-wise Physical Infrastructure providing services under National AIDS Control Programme**No. of Units in States by October 2005*

Sl.No.	States	VCTC (1)	PPTCT (2)	Community Care Centre
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad MACS	4	—	1
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9	—	0
3.	Andhra Pradesh	109	37	17
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	0	1
5.	Assam	23	3	1
6.	Bihar	45	6	0
7.	Chandigarh	3	3	1
8.	Chennai MACS	11	—	1
9.	Chhattisgarh	9	—	0
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	—	0
11.	Daman and Diu	1	—	0
12.	Delhi	20	10	3

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Goa	2	1	2
14.	Gujarat	33	10	1
15.	Haryana	15	2	1
16.	Himachal Pradesh	9	0	1
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	0	0
18.	Jharkhand	7	0	0
19.	Karnataka	46	45	10
20.	Kerala	15	5	1
21.	Lakshadweep	0	—	0
22.	Madhya Pradesh	31	2	1
23.	Maharashtra	56	55	2
24.	Manipur	9	9	5
25.	Meghalaya	1	0	0
26.	Mizoram	9	0	0
27.	Mumbai MACS	26	18	2
28.	Nagaland	12	9	4
29.	Orissa	20	3	1
30.	Pondicherry	3	2	1
31.	Punjab	17	6	0
32.	Rajasthan	32	6	1
33.	Sikkim	3	1	0
34.	Tamil Nadu	117	133	5
35.	Tripura	1	0	0
36.	Uttar Pradesh	70	0	0
37.	Uttaranchal	16	1	0
38.	West Bengal	27	10	1
Total		825	377	64

1. Voluntary Counselling & Testing Centres (CTC)

2. Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT)

Status of interventions implemented by NGOs under NACP

Sl.No.	State	TIs	DICs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	0
2.	Ahmedabad	25	1
3.	Andhra Pradesh	117	3
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	0
5.	Assam	33	1
6.	Bihar	21	1
7.	Chandigarh	12	1
8.	Chhattisgarh	12	0
9.	Chennai	20	2
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0
11.	Daman and Diu	1	0
12.	Delhi	30	0
13.	Goa	8	1
14.	Gujarat	97	0
15.	Haryana	17	1
16.	Himachal Pradesh	9	1
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	0
18.	Jharkhand	9	1
19.	Karnataka	31	2
20.	Kerala	56	1

1	2	3	4
21.	Lakshadweep	0	0
22.	Madhya Pradesh	12	0
23.	Maharashtra	40	0
24.	Mumbai (MC)	22	3
	AVERT	36	0
25.	Manipur	42	1
26.	Meghalaya	6	0
27.	Mizoram	27	1
28.	Nagaland	42	4
29.	Orissa	10	0
30.	Pondicherry	1	0
31.	Punjab	0	0
32.	Rajasthan	17	1
33.	Sikkim	3	1
34.	Tamil Nadu	64	7
	APAC	44	0
35.	Tripura	19	0
36.	Uttaranchal	8	0
37.	Uttar Pradesh	21	0
38.	West Bengal	35	3
	Total	965	37

TI = Targetted interventions, DIC = Drop in Centres

State-wise Number of Blood Banks Modernised by NACO

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	District level Blood Banks	Major Blood Banks	Blood Component Separation Units	State-of-the-art Model Blood Bank
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40	22	4	—
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	1	1	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	1	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Assam	23	4	2	2
5.	Bihar	38	5	1	1
6.	Chandigarh	1	3	1	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	14	2	1	1
8.	Delhi	2	13	4	—
9.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	—	—	—
10.	Daman and Diu	3	—	—	—
11.	Goa	1	2	1	—
12.	Gujarat	42	15	6	—
13.	Haryana	17	4	2	—
14.	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	1	—
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	8	3	—
16.	Jharkhand	18	4	3	1
17.	Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—
18.	Karnataka	43	14	4	—
19.	Kerala	22	15	6	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	42	8	5	1
21.	Maharashtra	42	31	9	—
22.	Manipur	7	2	1	—
23.	Meghalaya	7	2	1	—
24.	Mizoram	5	2	1	—
25.	Nagaland	7	1	—	—
26.	Orissa	43	7	1	—
27.	Pondicherry	4	1	1	—
28.	Punjab	25	8	2	—
29.	Rajasthan	18	8	2	2
30.	Sikkim	1	1	—	—
31.	Tamilnadu	66	28	6	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Tripura	3	3	1	—
33.	Uttar Pradesh	46	20	7	1
34.	Uttaranchal	10	2	—	1
35.	West Bengal	61	15	5	—
Total		683	255	82	10

Number of patients on ART as on 31st October 2005

Sl.No.	State	Name of the Centre	No. of patients				
			Male	Female	Children	Eunuchs	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Tamil Nadu (7)	GHTM, Tambaram, Chennai	895	642	146	7	1690
2.		Madras Medical College, Chennai	172	83	3	0	258
3.		Government Medical College, Madurai	299	180	12	0	491
4.		Government Hospital, Namakkal	266	214	27	1	508
5.		Kitpouk Medical College, Chennai	2	0	0	0	2
6.		Medical College, Salem	5	0	0	0	5
7.		Medical College, Tirunelveli	3	0	0	0	3
8.	Maharashtra (8)	JJ Hospital, Mumbai	1484	679	28	1	2192
9.		KEM Hospital, Mumbai	19	16	2	0	37
10.		Nair Hospital, Mumbai	7	6	0	0	13
11.		Sion Hospital, Mumbai	31	14	7	2	54
12.		Government Medical College, Sangli	310	214	17	4	545
13.		B.J. Medical College, Pune	385	219	27	0	631
14.		Government Medical College, Nagpur	314	108	28	0	450
		NARI Pune	8	5	0	0	13
15.	Manipur (2)	RIMS, Imphal	159	63	4	0	226
16.		Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, Imphal	67	92	33	1	193
17.	Andhra Pradesh (3)	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad	592	226	11	—	829
18.		Government Medical College, Guntur	320	145	4	0	469
19.		Government Medical College, Vizag.	114	61	0	0	175

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Karnataka (3)	Bowring & Lady Curzon Hosp., Bangalore	420	211	35	0	666
21.		Mysore Medical College, Mysore	158	81	2	0	239
22.		KIMS, Hubli	331	167	19	0	517
23.	Nagaland (1)	Naga District Hospital, Kohima	70	35	5	0	110
24.	Delhi (3)	RML Hospital, New Delhi	615	230	104	3	952
25.		LNJP Hospital, New Delhi	329	117	9	0	455
26.		AIIMS, New Delhi	318	102	25	3	448
27.	Chandigarh (1)	PGIMER, Chandigarh	276	144	67	0	487
28.	Rajasthan (1)	SMS Hospital, Jaipur	73	30	3	0	106
29.	Gujarat (1)	B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad	338	130	13	2	483
30.	West Bengal (1)	School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkatta	361	113	16	0	490
31.	Uttar Pradesh (2)	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	467	132	13	0	612
32.		KGMC, Lucknow	49	17	1	0	67
33.	Goa (1)	Government Medical College, Bambolim	23	54	5	0	182
34.	Kerala (3)	Medical College, Thiruvanthapuram	178	108	18	0	303
35.		Medical College, Kotayyam	108	54	7	0	169
36.		Medical College, Calicut	124	66	15	0	226
37.	Himachal Pradesh (1)	IGMC Shimla	178	0	0	0	12
38.	Pondicherry (1)	GGH, Pondicherry	5	5	0	0	10
39.	Madhya Pradesh (1)	Medical College, Indore	12	6	0	0	18
40.	Assam (1)	Medical College, Guwahati	23	10	0	0	33
Total			9845	4787	706	24	15362

State-wise STD Clinics providing services under NACP

Sl.No.	Name of AIDS Control Society	Total Districts	STD Clinics till March 2005
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	2	04
2.	Assam	23	23

1	2	3	4
3.	Andhra Pradesh	23	61
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	07
5.	Ahmedabad MC	0	04
6.	Bihar	37	33
7.	Chandigarh	1	04

1	2	3	4
8.	Chennai MC	0	14
9.	Chhattisgarh	16	17
10.	Delhi	9	16
11.	Daman and Diu	2	02
12.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	01
13.	Goa	2	04
14.	Gujarat	25	29
15.	Haryana	21	16
16.	Himachal Pradesh	12	20
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	17
18.	Jharkhand	18	21
19.	Karnataka	27	40
20.	Kerala	14	20
21.	Lakshadweep (UT)	1	02
22.	Madhya Pradesh	45	45
23.	Maharashtra	35	61
24.	Manipur	9	10
25.	Meghalaya	7	06
26.	Mizoram	8	08
27.	Mumbai DACS	0	15
28.	Nagaland	13	13-
29.	Orissa	30	17
30.	Pondicherry	4	05
31.	Punjab	17	17
32.	Rajasthan	32	33
33.	Sikkim	4	3
34.	Tamil Nadu	30	61
35.	Tripura	4	04
36.	Uttar Pradesh	70	83

1	2	3	4
37.	Uttaranchal	13	09
38.	West Bengal	18	30
Total		603	775

National Commission for Youth

3157. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the implementation of the National Commission for Youth (NCY) set up by the Government;

(b) the achievements thereof so far;

(c) whether the NCY has reviewed its existing related schemes and programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the NCY for better implementation and coordination of youth related schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Out of twenty five recommendations made by National Commission for Youth, fourteen recommendations pertaining to this Ministry have been accepted, in-principle. The remaining recommendations have been sent to the concerned Ministries/State Governments for implementation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per the Terms of Reference, the National Commission for Youth has reviewed the following major existing youth related schemes/programmes:

(i) National Service Scheme (NSS);

(ii) Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS);

(iii) Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD);

(iv) National Service Volunteer Scheme;

- (v) Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities and Training;
- (vi) Promotion of National Integration;
- (vii) Scheme for Promotion of Adventure;
- (viii) Youth Hostel Scheme;
- (ix) Scheme for Awards to outstanding Youth Clubs;
- (x) Scheme for Assistance to Rural Youth and Sports Clubs; and
- (xi) Scheme for Promotion of Scouting and Guiding.

(e) The measures suggested by the National Commission for Youth for better implementation of existing youth related schemes are as under:

- (i) Merger of schemes run by various departments;
- (ii) Establishment of an Inter-Departmental Committee on Youth Affairs;
- (iii) Strengthening and revitalizing of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS);
- (iv) Expansion of the National Service Scheme (NSS); and
- (v) Revitalizing of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD).

India's Stand on Nuclear Issue of Iran

3158. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has decided to abstain from voting regarding Iran's nuclear issue;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether U.S.A. and some other countries are helping India to adopt a middle path;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Iran on India's decision;
- (e) whether there is any noticeable change in Iran's external policy towards India, specially regarding supply of oil and petroleum products; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The IAEA Board of Governors discussed the issue of Iran's nuclear programme at its meeting on 24 November 2005. No resolution was presented to the Board and no voting took place. Government maintains that issues related to Iranian nuclear programme should be resolved in a transparent manner within the framework of the IAEA and through negotiations.

(d) to (f) Former External Affairs Minister (EAM) had met the Iranian Vice President Parviz Dawoodi and 26 October 2005 in Moscow on the sidelines of summit meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Iranian Vice-President conveyed that Iran attached great importance not just to economic cooperation with India but also to the civilisational and cultural links which bind the two countries together. Former EAM reciprocated these sentiments and expressed India's satisfaction at the ongoing cooperation with Iran in the energy sector.

Upgradation of ICMR

3159. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI RABINDER KUMAR RANA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the Indian Council of Medical Research in order to make the research project easier in the field of biotechnology etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government is considering a proposal to create a separate department of Medical Research in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which will cause an impetus in Medical and Health Research activities in the country. The proposal can be finalized once the consultation with various nodal Ministries is completed.

Three Year Medical Course

3160. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposals to introduce a three year medical course to build up a special cadre of doctors capable and willing to serve in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the views of the various State Governments have been sought in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Government has set up a Task Force on Medical Education under NRHM under Chairmanship of Ex Union Health Secretary to look into the measures required for providing adequate health services in rural/underserved areas. State Governments have also been requested to give their comments in this matter.

[Translation]

Extension of Metro Timings

3161. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the current timings of Metro Rail services in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new timing are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Presently, Shahdra-Rithala and Vishwavidyalaya-Central Secretariat corridors are in operation. Barakhamba

Road-Dwarka corridor is also targeted for commissioning in December, 2005. If ridership increases to the level requiring and justifying the extension of operational timings, the same will be done keeping the minimum time required at night for maintenance of Metro infrastructure.

[English]

Vacant Shops

3162. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the shops belonging to the Directorate of Estates in New Delhi lying unallotted as on date including their reserve prices and date from which these are lying vacant along with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has any policy to allot shop to the retired Government employees on concessional rates;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to formulate a policy in this regard; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be formulated and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) As on date nearly 119 shops are unallotted in different localities of Delhi. The details of the shops, their minimum reserve price and the date from which they are lying vacant are given in the enclosed Statement.

The shops have been vacant for variety of reasons including poor response to repeated tenders, vacation by allottees on their own, eviction under rules on account of breach of the terms of licence, reconsideration of the policy of tendering, replaced by auction to realize optimum value for the shops in a more transparent manner.

(b) to (e) The minimum reserve price quoted in the tender is worked out on the basis of institutional land rates instead of commercial land rates, which in itself is a concession provided by the Government with a view to cater to the needs of residents of Government colonies where these shops are located. At present, there is no policy nor is it under consideration to allot these shops to retired Government employees. They can, however, participate in open auction floated for the purpose.

Statement*List of Vacant Shops*

S.No.	Shop/Stall No.	Locality	Minimum Reserve Price (Rs.)	Date of Vacation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Shop No. 1	Vasant Vihar Shopping Complex (Ground Floor)	2936	12.4.2001
2.	Shop No. 2	-do-	-do-	3.4.2002
3.	Shop No. 3	-do-	-do-	29.1.2004
4.	Shop No. 4	-do-	-do-	-do-
5.	Shop No. 5	-do-	-do-	29.5.2003
6.	Shop No. 6	-do-	-do-	29.1.2004
7.	Shop No. 7	-do-	-do-	*
8.	Shop No. 8	-do-	-do-	*
9.	Shop No. 9	-do-	-do-	20.7.2005
10.	Shop No. 10	-do-	-do-	-do-
11.	Shop No. 11	-do-	-do-	20.11.1998
12.	Shop No. 12	-do-	-do-	23.5.2001
13.	Shop No. 13	-do-	-do-	2.12.2000
14.	Shop No. 14	-do-	-do-	1.12.2000
15.	Shop No. 15	-do-	1004	5.4.2000
16.	Shop No. 16	-do-	-do-	31.5.2001
17.	Shop No. 17	-do-	-do-	9.7.2001
18.	Shop No. 18	-do-	-do-	9.5.2001
19.	Shop No. 19	-do-	-do-	28.7.2000
20.	Shop No. 21	-do-	-do-	*
21.	Shop No. 22	-do-	-do-	21.4.2003
22.	Shop No. 23	-do-	-do-	*
23.	Shop No. 25	-do-	-do-	2.1.2001
24.	Shop No. 26	-do-	-do-	13.11.2003

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Shop No. 27	Vasant Vihar Shopping Complex (First Floor)	2590	29.5.20003
26.	Shop No. 28	-do-	-do-	*
27.	Shop No. 29	-do-	-do-	*
28.	Shop No. 30	-do-	-do-	*
29.	Shop No. 31	-do-	-do-	*
30.	Shop No. 32	-do-	-do-	4.11.2000
31.	Shop No. 33	-do-	-do-	*
32.	Shop No. 34	-do-	-do-	*
33.	Shop No. 35	-do-	-do-	*
34.	Shop No. 36	-do-	-do-	*
35.	Shop No. 37	-do-	-do-	*
36.	Shop No. 38	-do-	-do-	*
37.	Shop No. 39	-do-	-do-	*
38.	Shop No. 40	-do-	-do-	*
39.	Shop No. 41	-do-	-do-	*
40.	Shop No. 42	-do-	-do-	*
41.	Shop No. 43	-do-	-do-	*
42.	Shop No. 44	-do-	-do-	*
43.	Shop No. 45	-do-	-do-	*
44.	Shop No. 46	-do-	-do-	*
45.	Shop No. 2	Sector-I, M.B. Road, (Ground Floor)	1179	*
46.	Shop No. 3	-do-	-do-	31.5.2003
47.	Shop No. 7	-do- (FF)	913	*
48.	Shop No. 8	-do-	-do-	*
49.	Shop No. 9	-do-	-do-	*
50.	Shop No. 10	-do-	-do-	28.2.2002
51.	Shop No. 11	-do-	-do-	*
52.	Shop No. 12	-do-	-do-	*
53.	Shop No. 13	-do-	-do-	*

1	2	3	4	5
54.	Shop No. 3	Sec. III Market, M.B. Road (GF)	1700	7.9.2005
55.	Shop No. 24	-do-	-do-	-do-
56.	Shop No. 25	-do-	-do-	-do-
57.	Shop No. 26	-do-	-do-	-do-
58.	Shop No. 27	-do-	-do-	-do-
59.	Shop No. 47	Sec. III Market M.B. Road (FF)	3189	*
60.	Shop No. 60	-do-	1451	*
61.	Shop No. 61	-do-	3189	*
62.	Shop No. 62	-do-	-do-	*
63.	Shop No. 63	-do-	1451	*
64.	Shop No. 64	-do-	-do-	*
65.	Shop No. 65	-do-	-do-	*
66.	Shop No. 66	-do-	3189	*
67.	Cov. Stall No. 42	-do-	393	14.1.2003
68.	Covered Stall No. 4	Sector-III-A, M.B. Road	1193	*
69.	Shop No. 1	Sec. IV Market, M.B. Road (FF)	1422	*
70.	Shop No. 2	-do-	2154	*
71.	Shop No. 3	-do-	3269	*
72.	Shop No. 4	-do-	2154	*
73.	Shop No. 5	-do-	-do-	*
74.	Shop No. 6	-do-	-do-	24.2.2005
75.	Shop No. 7	-do-	-do-	*
76.	Shop No. 8	-do-	-do-	*
77.	Shop No. 9	-do-	-do-	*
78.	Shop No. 10	-do-	-do-	*
79.	Shop No. 11	-do-	-do-	*
80.	Shop No. 12	-do-	-do-	*

1	2	3	4	5
81.	Shop No. 17 (GF)	Sector IV Market M.B. Road (FF)	1387	24.2.2005
82.	Shop No. 20 (GF)	-do-	-do-	3.12.2004
83.	Shop No. 21 (GF)	-do-	-do-	3.12.2004
84.	Shop No. 28 (GF)	-do-	-do-	18.6.2005
85.	Shop No. 29 (GF)	-do-	-do-	24.2.2005
86.	Covered Stall No. 2	Sector-V, M.B. Road	1079	*
87.	Covered Stall No. 3	-do-	-do-	*
88.	Covered Stall No. 4	-do-	-do-	*
89.	Covered Stall No. 5	-do-	-do-	*
90.	Shop No. 2	Sadiq Nagar	4002	18.6.2003
91.	Shop No. 1	Mohammadpur	1246	6.4.2005
92.	Shop No. 2	-do-	-do-	29.5.2003
93.	Shop No. 4	-do-	-do-	26.6.2003
94.	Shop No. 5	-do-	-do-	26.6.2003
95.	Shop No. 6	-do-	-do-	6.4.2005
96.	Shop No. 7	-do-	-do-	19.5.2004
97.	Shop No. 7	Lodhi Rd. Complex-I	1243	28.2.2005
98.	Shop No. 10	-do-	1192	23.5.2003
99.	Shop No. 11	-do-	-do-	28.6.2003
100.	Shop No. 12	-do-	-do-	30.6.2005
101.	Stall No. 8	-do-	301	25.6.2003
102.	Stall No. 10	-do-	-do-	14.9.2004
103.	Stall No. 12	-do-	-do-	2.7.2003
104.	Stall No. 14	-do-	-do-	13.1.2004
105.	Stall No. 16	-do-	-do-	31.8.2004
106.	Stall No. 18	-do-	-do-	23.5.2003
107.	Shop No. 1	Lodhi Road Complex Centre-II	1732	25.7.2005

1	2	3	4	5
108.	Shop No. 2	Lodhi Road Complex Centre-II	1732	26.3.2003
109.	Stall No. 1	-do-	611	6.7.2004
110.	Stall No. 4	Hanuman Road Market	414	1.5.2003
111.	Shop No. 15	Kamla Market	590	4.2.2004
112.	Flat No. 6	Sec-VIII, R.K. Puram	932	15.11.2003
113.	Platform No. 17	Site-D Market, Sec. VI R.K. Puram.	147	15.3.2004
114.	Shop No. 15	Lancer Road Market	683	1.12.2004
115.	Shop No. 1	HUDCO Place	2530	Vacancy received in 2004
116.	Shop No. 2	-do-	2356	-do-
117.	Shop No. 3	-do-	2530	-do-
118.	Shop No. 4	-do-	2530	-do-
119.	Platform No. 148	Ring Road Market	146	25.8.2005

*These shops remain vacant since 1997 in spite of repeated tenders.

[Translation]

Construction of New CGHS Building

3163. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

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

(a) whether the construction work of the new CGHS building in Rajouri Garden, New Delhi has commenced;

(b) if so, the details of its commencement along with the target of completion; and

(c) the time by which the dispensary is likely to be shifted to the new building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The date of commencement as conveyed by CPWD is 20.8.2004 and the target date for completion is 31.12.2005.

(c) Soon after the CPWD hands over the completed building to CGHS the dispensary will be shifted to new building.

[English]

Training to Bureaucrats

3164. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impart training to Indian bureaucrats in management and governance by engaging the international business schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the training is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) to (c) The Government has decided to introduce mandatory mid career training programme for IAS officers at three different levels in their career. These will be a programme of 8-weeks between the 7th and 9th year of service, another 8-weeks between the 14th and 16th year of service and a programme of 4-weeks between the 26th and 28th year of service.

It is proposed that the work of detailed design and delivery of each of the Phases of the Mid Career Training would be entrusted to a reputed domestic/international institution. The programme is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of the financial year 2006-07.

[Translation]

Services of Trained Instructors

3165. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India used to provide the services of trained instructors from the National Institute of Sports for schemes run by the Centre as well the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such services have since been discontinued;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is a proposal to restore the services;

(f) if so, the time by which these services are likely to be restored; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the alternative proposal of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the National Coaching Scheme, Sports Authority of India's (SAI) coaches had been posted to the State Coaching Centres (SCC) and the District Coaching Centres (DCC) & also all Sports Promotional Schemes being run by SAI.

(c) The coaches from DCC have been redeployed, however, under the SCC Scheme SAI coaches are still working.

(d) The Staff Inspection unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance had, *inter alia*, recommended redeployment of SAI coaches from DCC to SAI Centres.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) In order to strengthen the schemes of SAI and its programmes, coaches have been redeployed. The promotion of sports in the States is the responsibility of the State Governments. Government of India supports and supplements their efforts. SAI has continued the deployment of its coaches in the State Coaching Centres.

Losses Suffered by BSNL and MTNL

3166. MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have suffered losses to the tune of more than Rs. 2000 crores during the last two months as reported in the Hindi daily *Dainik Jagaran* dated November 22, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether any assessment has been made regarding losses likely to be suffered by the BSNL/the MTNL due to delay in the implementation of the projects undertaken;

(e) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) Both BSNL/MTNL have stated that no loss has been caused as reported in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagaran' dated November 22, 2005. This report is based on the Press conference addressed by the President and General Secretary of the Indian Telecom Service Association (ITSA). ITSA has reportedly referred to reversion of about 1300 ITS officers to Government on expiry of their deemed deputation from BSNL/MTNL.

The process of absorption was in accordance with the decision already made by the Government regarding corporatisation of telecom services according to which the ITS officers in March, 2005 were offered terms of absorption. Various clarifications were given from time to time.

However, a large number of cases filed by Group A officers of Indian Telecom Services (ITS) individually and through their Associations challenging the option letter dated 24.3.2005 and/or 18.10.2005 are pending adjudication by various Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and High Courts. As on dated pending final disposal of cases, interim orders of various Benches of Central Administrative Tribunal and High Courts, *inter alia*, staying letter dated 24.03.2005 and/or 18.10.2005 are in operation. Certain Benches of Central Administrative Tribunals granted interim orders for maintaining *status quo* ante prior to 18.10.2005. The Department of Telecommunications *vide* order dated 02.11.2005 has directed BSNL/MTNL to respect and implement all Court orders. BSNL/MTNL have informed that they have complied with the directions of the judicial authorities and that the concerned officers involved therein have been allowed to join back on duty.

Thus the subject matter of absorption in BSNL/MTNL and of repatriation of Group-A officers of Indian Telecom Service (ITS) pursuant to the letters dated 24.03.2005 and/or 18.10.2005 being under adjudication by Courts of law is at present *sub judice*.

[English]

Disposal of Cases

3167. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CSMOP), time limits are required to be fixed for the disposal of cases but the same is not being adhered to by the Ministries, Departments and Government Offices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Committee of Secretaries took a decision on June 02, 2004 that Government Offices will purchase stationery upto Rs. 10,000/- from Kendriya Bhandar and DOP&T will revise its instructions;

(d) if so, the reasons for DOP&T not revising its instructions and adhering to the time limit fixed for the disposal of the cases; and

(e) the time by which the DOP&T would revise its instructions in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Para 121 of the CSMOP states that time limits will be fixed for disposal of as many types of cases as possible handled in the Department through departmental instructions. All Ministries/ Departments are required to follow the guidelines laid in this regard.

(c) to (e) The Committee of Secretaries considered the question of purchase preference for Kendriya Bhandar/ National Consumers Cooperation Federation and made certain recommendations. The Ministry of Finance, after extensive review has since issued new General Financial

Rules (GFR) 2005, modifying the provisions of GFR, 1963. Accordingly, instructions have been issued that the special dispensation under the procedure of inviting tenders/quotations provided to Kendriya Bhandar and National Consumers Cooperative Federation are no longer in force and all purchases/procurement of goods for use by Government of India officers will now be guided by the relevant provisions of GFR 2005.

[Translation]

Closure of Mine

3168. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the coal production in Swang Colliery in Jharkhand district has been discontinued;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) has deposited about Rs. 18 crores with the Department of Forests Khas Mahal to commence production in the colliery;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the production is likely to resume?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. CCL has deposited Rs 18.47 crore with the District Forests Officer, Bokaro for Khas Mahal Opencast Project in July 2004 in compliance of Stage-I clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(e) The production in the mine is going on at a restricted level due to non-acquisition of forest land.

[English]

Medicines at Affordable Rates

3169. SHRI A.V. BELLARMJN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Haemophilia is a dreadful disease which requires life long treatment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are any proposals under the consideration of the Government to provide medicines at affordable rates to patients in the Government hospitals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Haemophilia is a commonest coagulation disorder where females are carriers and males are sufferers. The treatment of such disease is undertaken by transfusion of blood components and administration of coagulation factor concentrates. So far as the Central Government hospitals are concerned, coagulation factor and blood transfusion are provided to such indoor patients free of cost.

Sports Training Centres

3170. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

- (a) the number of functional sports training centres in the country at present including the training centres established by the Sports Authority of India (SAI);
- (b) whether the training centre of the SAI at Patna has been closed;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to establish any new training centres for imparting training to the rural sports persons;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise; and
- (f) the time by which the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) "Sports" is a State subject and promotion of the same at state level is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, the Government of India, through various Schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Government in promotion of sports at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior level. The selected trainees are trained in these centre.

The number of SAI Training Centres (STC), Special Area Games (SAG) and Centre of Excellence (COX) established by SAI are as follows:

Centres	Numbers
STC	57
SAG	18
COX	08

- (b) No, Sir.
 (c) Does not arise.
 (d) No, Sir.
 (e) and (f) Do not arise.

Probation for ISS Staff

3171. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from Member of Parliament requesting that ISS staff who held a post on ad-hoc basis for a number of years should not be again placed on probation on his regular appointment to the post;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter so far;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented especially in the case of Grade-IV officer of ISS; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) No such reference has been received during this year. As per Indian Statistical Service Rules, 1961 candidates appointed to the Service either by selection through competitive examination or otherwise or by promotion, shall be on probation for a period of two years. The competent authority has the discretion to count any period of officiating service in that grade. The competent authority has not however used this provision for those who have been promoted in 2003 and 2004.

Setting up of Hardware Technology Parks

3172. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Hardware Technology Parks in every State in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) At present, the Government of India has no proposal to set up Hardware Technology Parks in every State in the country.

Government Houses in Chandigarh

3173. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Government Houses in U.T. of Chandigarh built and allotted to different categories of employees, category-wise; and

(b) the total amount of expenditure incurred on their maintenance, renovation and upgradation during each of the last three years, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Details of General Pool Residential Accommodation available at Chandigarh is given as under:

Category	Units Built	Units Allotted
Type I	672	650
Type II	1070	1044
Type III	542	526
Type IV	109	109
Type V	32	32
Type VI	02	02
Total:	2427	2363

22 units of Type-I category, 26 of Type-II category & 16 of Type-III category are presently under renovation for up-gradation of category.

(In lakhs)

(b) Category	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Type I	15.40	19.16	26.20
Type II	24.42	30.37	30.14
Type III	12.42	15.45	30.00
Type IV	5.00	6.24	15.00
Type V	2.15	2.67	8.00
Type VI	0.23	0.28	1.00

New Cancer Drugs

3174. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has invented any new drugs to treat cancer effectively;

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

(c) the time by which the new drugs will be available in the open, market with the prices being affordable to the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and subsequently it will be laid on the floor of the House.

Mobile Phones in Assam

3175. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile telephones in operation in the various districts of Assam particularly Bongaigaon, exchange-wise;

(b) the number of village Gram Panchayats covered by each exchange and the number of mobile telephones including VPT connections issued till date;

(c) the number of villages covered under mobile network;

(d) the number of VPT connections issued in Bongaigaon district;

(e) the number of applications for mobile connections pending during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken to clear all the applications expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.10.2005, the number of mobile connections provided in Assam are 4,76,778 out of which Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has provided 2,12,914. BSNL has covered 26 district headquarters (DHQs). In Bongaigaon district, BSNL has so far provided 30,884 mobile connections. In mobile network, the whole service areas is treated as local area and the subscriber figures are maintained service-area wise.

(b) In Assam, BSNL has provided around 22,147 Villages Public Telephones (VPTs) including 2,403 Gram Panchayat Public Telephones (GPPTs) using Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Multiple Access Rural Radio (MARR) and land line technologies.

(c) In Assam, around 2,576 villages are getting incidental coverage of BSNL's cellular service.

(d) 891 VPTs have been provided by BSNL in Bongaigaon district.

(e) 68,279 applicants are in waiting list for mobile connections of BSNL in Assam Telecom Circle Service Area.

(f) BSNL has plans to augment the capacity by 2.5 lakh lines in Assam during the current financial year.

Functioning of NACO

3176. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) is now under the scanner,

(b) if so, whether the functioning of NACO is not satisfactory;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the functioning of NACO;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to have an independent evaluation of the programme undertaken with the objective to assess the structure, functioning and technical aspects of the programme. It will take 4 to 6 months time to initiate the process.

Improving Performance of TCIL

3177. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project turnover of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) during 2004-2005 has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the justification for appointing part time consultants/ advisors;

(d) the number of retired TCIL employees retained as consultants during the last 2 years till date including their names, remuneration and expertise;

(e) the number of new regular employees recruited during the last 3 years; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to improve the performance of TCIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The turnover of TCIL during there year 2004-05 is Rs. 449.14 crores as against Rs. 544.43 crores during the previous year 2003-04.

(b) The turnover is reduced due to decreasing trend world over in creation of External Plant Network for fixed lines, which was the core business of the Company since its inception. Year 2004-05 was a transition period to high-tech business areas.

(c) Consultants/Advisors are appointed for short duration to take advantage of their vast experience and shortfall of manpower which was traditionally available from Department of Telecommunications till formation of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in October, 2000.

(d) TCIL has retained 14 retired TCIL employees as consultant/advisors in the last 2 years, out of which 5 have already discontinued and 9 are continuing. Their names, remuneration and level of expertise are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) During the last three years, TCIL has recruited total 105 number of employees as against 115 employees retired/resigned.

(f) Performance of TCIL is reviewed at regular interval. For increasing the turnover, efforts are being made to enter new areas of business and secure business from new clients. Turnover is expected to be higher than that achieved in 2004-05. Against specific requirement of Project TCIL deploys manpower from its own staff, engages consultant/advisors and some trained manpower from the absorbed employees of BSNL and MTNL.

Retired TCIL Employees Engaged as Consultants in the Last Two Years Uptill Now

Sl.No.	Name	Deegn. Before Superannuation	Date of Appointment/Engagement	Consolidated remuneration (Rs. Per Month)	Field of specialization (expertise)	Remarks
1.	S.N. Bhat	Sr. Mgr., TCIL	07.01.2004	7600	Telecom Transmission	Discontinued
2.	S.S. Chauhan	JGM, TCIL	01.07.2004	8000	Telecom switching & Networking	
3.	R.D. Chaturvedi	JGM, TCIL	30.09.2004	8000	Switching and Network Planning	
4.	Y.R. Bhasin	GM, TCIL	01.10.2004	10,500	Rehabilitation of External Network	Discontinued
5.	Jamail Singh	JGM, TCIL	01.12.2004	10,500	OSP and Material Management	
6.	J.C. Ajmani	Sr. Mgr. TCIL	07.12.2004	7600	Commercial Engineer	
7.	J.P. Singh	JGM, TCIL	13.12.2004	US\$ 28 per day	Transmission	Posted in Afghanistan (Discontinued)
8.	A.K. Bhargava	ED, TCIL	01.03.2005	13,500	Tower, Microwave and Foreign Projects	
9.	B.L. Arora	ED, TCIL	02.05.2005	13,500	Corporate Strategies, Material Management	Discontinued
10.	F.C. Sikri	Mgr. TCIL	02.05.2005	6,800	Repaid or HFRC equipment	Discontinued
11.	V.B. Mathur	GM, TCIL	02.05.2005	10,500	Finance	
12.	V. Venkata Subbu	Dy. Mgr., TCIL	01.06.2005	SR 2200	Satellite O&M	Posted in KSA
13.	O.P. Sharma	GM, TCIL	01.09.2005	10,500	Transmission, Microwave and GSM Projects.	
14.	Mohammed	AM, TCIL	28.09.2005	US\$ 23 per day	Coaxial O&M	Posted in Ethiopia

*[Translation]***Lowering of Water Table by Metro Rail**

3178. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether introduction of the Metro Rail has caused the lowering of water table in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. At the time of construction, water table is lowered temporarily for facilitating the construction activities. However, the water pumped during this exercise is recharged to the ground level.

*[English]***Renovation of Protected Monuments**

3179. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of poor upkeep and encroachment in and around the Belur and Halebidu protected monuments in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any plan to renovate these monuments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the encroachment from these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) to (d) No, Sir. The centrally protected monuments at Belur and Halebidu in Karnataka are maintained in a very presentable condition and there is no encroachment in the protected area.

The maintenance and conservation of these monuments are attended to on a regular basis and both these monuments have been provided with toilets, drinking water facilities and international standard signages. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has deposited Rs. 61.04 Lakhs with CPWD for illumination of Halebidu temple. The work is in progress. The Archaeological Survey of India is also maintaining a beautiful garden all around the temple.

At Belur, the temple is surrounded by a village and ASI needs the land around the temple for landscaping and to shift the parking slot away from the monument. The District Authorities, particularly Endowment Department, have been requested to vacate one of the mandapas, which is being used as a site office since long period.

Road Project in Afghanistan

3180. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Security has sanctioned Rs. 377.47 crore for Zarang-Delaram Road Project in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the present position of the project;

(c) whether the said funds have not yet been released to the Border Roads Organisation for executing this project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure timely release of funds for this road project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) As on 30 November 2005, the physical progress was 10% and financial progress, including capital cost of equipment procured, was 25.5%.

(c) and (d) Funds are being released as per requirement of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Till date Rs. 125 crore have been released to BRO of which Rs. 96.29 crore have been spent by BRO, which includes firm and contingent liabilities.

(e) Ministry of External Affairs makes the required budgetary allocation annually for the project. Payments are made to Border Road Organisation as per its requirement.

Central Information Commission

3181. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted the "Central Information Commission" (CIC) under the Right to Information (RTI) Act which came into force on October 12, 2005; and

(b) if so, the details of its composition and functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Central Government has constituted the Central Information Commission consisting of one Chief Information Commissioner and four Information Commissioners. As per the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the functions of the Information Commission are to receive and inquire into complaint from any person, to decide the appeals and also to monitor and report to the Government on the implementation of the provisions of the Act.

[Translation]

Targets to Start Sub/Primary/Community Health Centres

3182. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) whether the targets set by the Government to start sub/primary/community health centres still continue to be based on the 1991 census;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the target for the same are likely to be revised as per the 2001 census?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 10th Plan (2002-2007) targets were fixed on the basis of 1991 census. It was decided by the Planning Commission in consultation with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare that gaps in infrastructure be first filled on the basis of 1991 population.

(c) Under the recently launched, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), it is proposed to fill up the gaps in respect of Sub-centres & Community Health Centres as per 2001 census.

[English]

Donation of Organs

3183. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has recently passed an order and given directions to Government on donation of organs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate some guidelines in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement dated 31.3.2005 in Writ Petition No. 156 filed by Shri Kuldip Singh and other *versus* State of Tamil Nadu and others has opined that in order to rule out commercial dealings in donation of organs, it would be desirable to require the donor and recipient to give details of their financial incomes and vocations for previous three years. This would help the Authorisation Committees to assess whether any commercial dealings are involved or not. It would be appropriate if the Rules and Form I are amended accordingly. The Hon'ble Court has also observed that it would be appropriate for all States to adopt this Act. A copy of the judgement dated 31.3.2005 of Hon'ble Supreme Court has been circulated to all hospitals/institutions in the Union Territories registered under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 as well as to the Health Secretaries of all the States for information and appropriate necessary action.

(d) and (e) Review and updation of the existing guidelines on donation of human organs is a continuous process.

World Heritage Sites

3184. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Heritage sites in India, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to include more places in the list of World Heritage sites in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) So far 21 cultural and 5 natural sites have been inscribed from India in the UNESCO World Heritage list. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has nominated Majuli Island in Assam for consideration of inclusion in the World Heritage List in the year 2006. The Government also proposes to submit the nomination dossiers of Red Fort for consideration in the year 2007.

There are 14 cultural sites in the tentative list maintained at the World Heritage Centre (list enclosed at

Statement-II) for which nominations would be submitted in due course.

Statement I

List of Cultural and Natural Sites from India inscribed on the World Heritage List

Sl.No.	Name of Monument/Site	State
1	2	3
Cultural Sites		
1.	Ajanta Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
2.	Ellora Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
3.	Agra Fort (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
4.	Taj Mahal (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Sun Temple, Konark (1984)	Orissa
6.	Group of Monuments, Mahabalipuram (1984)	Tamil Nadu
7.	Churches and Convents at Goa (1986)	Goa
8.	Group of Monuments, Khajuraho (1986)	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986)	Karnataka
10.	Fatehpur Sikri (1986)	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Group of Temple at Pattadakal (1987)	Karnataka
12.	Elephanta Caves (1987)	Maharashtra
13.	Great Living Chola Temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram (1987 and 2004)	Tamil Nadu
14.	Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)	Madhya Pradesh
15.	Humayun's Tomb (1993)	Delhi
16.	Qutab Minar Complex (1993)	Delhi
17.	Mountain Railways of India (1999 and 2005)	West Bengal and Tamil Nadu
18.	Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (2002)	Bihar
19.	Prehistoric Rockshelters of Bhimbetka (2003)	Madhya Pradesh
20.	Champaner-Pavagarh Archaeological Park (2004)	Gujarat
21.	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) Mumbai (2004)	Maharashtra

1	2	3
Natural Sites		
1.	Kaziranga National Park (1985)	Assam
2.	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985)	Assam
3.	Keoladeo National Park (1985)	Rajasthan
4.	Sunderban National Park (1987)	West Bengal
5.	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988, 2005)	Uttaranchal

Statement II

List of Cultural Sites from India included in the Tentative List approved by UNESCO World Heritage Committee (Up to 2005)

Sl.No.	Name of Monument/Site	Name of state
1.	Ancient Buddhist site of Samath (Varanasi)	Uttar Pradesh
2.	Buddhist Monastery Complex known as Alchi Chos-Kor at Alchi (Leh)	Jammu & Kashmir
3.	Harappan City at Dholavira, Distt Kuchchh	Gujarat
4.	Golconda Fort, Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Group of monuments at Mandu, Distt. Dhar	Madhya Pradesh
6.	Hemis Gompa	Jammu & Kashmir
7.	Mattanchery Palace, Ernakulam	Kerala
8.	Rani-ki-Vav (Queen's Step-well) at Patan, Distt. Mahesana	Gujarat
9.	River Island of Majuli in midstream of river Brahmaputra	Assam
10.	Sri Harimandir Sahib at Amritsar	Punjab
11.	Temple at Bishnupur	West Bengal
12.	Tomb of Sher Shah Suri at Sasaram	Bihar
13.	Kalka-Simla Railway	Haryana/H.P.
14.	Red Fort, Delhi	Delhi

*[Translation]***Establishment of AIDS Control Centres**

3185. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIDS control centres have been set up in the country under the agreement reached between the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and the Trust of Bill Clinton in September, 2004

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

(c) whether the above trust would provide the funds and training for AIDS control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS initiative (CF) signed a memorandum of understanding with Government of India in September 2004 to assist NACO in scaling up care and treatment process for people living with HIV/AIDS in India. Currently Clinton Foundation & NACO are working together in the following areas:

Physicians Training Institute: It is proposed to train 150,000 private sector doctors in India in HIV/AIDS care and treatment in collaboration with Indian Medical Association (IMA), Department for International Development (DFID) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Laboratory Strengthening: CF is assisting NACO in strengthening laboratory capabilities in its ART centers across India and have committed 13 CD4 machines, reducing the cost of reagents by over 50% and developing National Guidelines for CD4 testing.

Accreditation: Clinton Foundation is assisting in the development of a national set of guidelines and establishment of a comprehensive system for monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS.

Capacity Building: Clinton Foundation is currently supporting certain staff at National AIDS Control Organization for improving monitoring & supervision of the programme.

E-Auction of Coal

3186. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal released through e-auction is being sold in black market openly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether detailed information about the purchasers and consumption of coal is sought while releasing coal through e-auction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of coal companies which have sold coal through e-auction alongwith the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The sale of coal through E-auction is an innovative scheme introduced by the coal companies to curb the black marketing of coal and provide coal to those consumers who have not been getting being inadequate in a transparent manner. The possibility of black marketing of coal sold under e-auction is ruled out and so far no such complaints have been received.

(c) and (d) Under the E-auction scheme any consumer of coal can avail of this opportunity to buy the coal and thus information about consumption of coal is not necessitated.

(e) The name of the coal companies which have sold coal through e-auction alongwith quantity allocated till November 2005 during the year 2005-06 is as under:

(figures in tonnes)

Sl.No.	Name of the Coal Company	Quantity
1.	Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	844348
2.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	2349188
3.	Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	1839030
4.	Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)	249740
5.	Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	1372930
6.	South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)	1225088
7.	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	1996310
8.	North Eastern Coalfields (NEC)	335640
Total Coal India Limited		10212272

*[English]***Improvement of Cancer and Mental Health Care**

3187. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to sanction Rs. 60 crores for improvement of cancer and mental health care in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the action plan for Gujarat in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The budgetary allocation for the Tenth Five Year Plan under the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) is Rs. 266 crores. An allocation of Rs. 69 crores has been made for the year 2005-06 under the National Cancer Control Programme.

Under the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) an allocation of Rs. 139 crores has been made for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

The budget provisions under the National Cancer Control Programme and the National Mental Health Programme are not made State-wise and the proposals are considered on case to case basis after receiving the recommendations of the State Governments.

Preference to Tsunami Affected States Students

3188. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give preference to students of tsunami affected States for admission in the Government medical colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The admission in the Government Medical Colleges is made through (i) All India Entrance Examinations for 15% of the MBBS/BDS seats

and 50% of the PG seats, and (ii) by the State Governments for the remaining seats through their own procedures. For All India Entrance Examination, the seats are filled up purely on merit basis and there is no preference for any category. The seats under the State Government quota are filled up by the State Governments as per their own procedure.

However, as a one time measure, six MBBS seats were kept reserved for the students from the Tsunami effected States during the year 2005-06 from the Central Pool of MBBS and BDS seats maintained in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

*[Translation]***Amount Provided to Himachal Pradesh**

3189. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to Himachal Pradesh under various schemes/projects of Urban Development during each of the last three years, scheme/project-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the amount was utilised by Himachal Pradesh for the purpose for which it was provided; and

(c) if so, the extent thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Sky Bus Project In Goa

3190. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'sky bus' project has been operational by the Government in Goa for its use as transport system;

(b) if not, the reasons for its delay;

(c) the present status of the project;

(d) the total amount spent thereon; and

(e) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed and operationalised?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) 'Sky Bus' is a new technology of public transport proposed by the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited and is based on the concept of coaches suspended from guided wheel systems. Since the system is new, safety aspects of its operations need to be proven. The project was taken up a test track of 1.6 km in Goa, which was not intended for being itself used as a public transport system.

An amount of Rs. 50 crore had been sanctioned for this project by the Ministry of Railways. Trial runs started on the test track in September, 2004.

An Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. P.V. Indiresan, Retd. Director, IIT Chennai was set up by the Ministry of Urban Development to evaluate the system and examine its feasibility and techno-economic aspects. In its report submitted on 29th August 2005, the Expert Committee has recommended further development & testing of the system, with the objective of proving it technologically.

Only after successful demonstration of this new system, can its operation as an urban transport alternative, be allowed. No time limit can be indicated as this is a new concept and it is yet to be proved technologically.

[*English*]

Alleged Corruption in UP Telecom Circle

3191. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received complaints from the peoples' representatives about the alleged corruption prevailing in the Uttar Pradesh Telecommunication Circle (East), Lucknow;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

(c) whether the Union Government has thoroughly investigated or proposes to investigate the complaints

received in this regard by constituting a high-level Committee at the Ministerial level;

(d) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 69 complaints of alleged corruption in Eastern UP Telecom Circle were received from the People's representatives during the last 2½ years. Out of these complaints, the investigation has been completed in 58 cases. *Prima-facie* misconduct was noticed in 11 cases. On the basis of *prima-facie* misconduct noticed in these cases, Administrative Warning is to be issued to 5 Gazetted Officers. Minor penalty has been imposed on 1 non-gazetted official. Minor penalty proceedings are in progress against 2 non-gazetted officials. Major penalty proceedings are being instituted against 2 non-gazetted officials. Action is underway on the investigation report in 5 cases. The allegations contained in 43 cases could not be established. 11 cases of complaints are still under investigation.

(c) to (e) At present there is no high level committee for investigation of these complaints. Further, there is no proposal to constitute such a high level committee as present set up of investigation is found quite satisfactory.

[*Translation*]

Anti-Corruption Cells

3192. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted Anti-Corruption Cells in all the Ministries/Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its functions;

(c) whether this cell registers complaints in regard to allegations of corruption levelled by the common man against Government employees and V.I.Ps;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any institutional mechanism to investigate such allegations leveled by the common man;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the details of the total number of complaints received by this cell till date, Ministry-wise; and

(h) the number of people found guilty on the basis of the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Each Ministry/Department of the Government has its own vigilance set-up. The Secretary of the concerned Ministry/Department assisted by the Chief Vigilance Officer has been made directly responsible for ensuring probity and integrity in that Department.

(c) and (d) The concerned vigilance unit of the Ministry/Development takes appropriate action as per rules on complaint received against Government employees/VIPs.

(e) and (f) Each Ministry/Department is competent to get the complaints investigated either through its own machinery or through other agencies as deemed fit by it.

(g) and (h) This information is not centrally maintained.

[English]

Non-Availability of Medical Care

3193. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIIMS has refused to admit a pregnant woman who gave birth to a child in the premises who subsequently died due to non-availability of medical care as reported in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagaran' dated October 8, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per report received from AIIMS, a pregnant lady reported in the AIIMS casualty on 8.10.2005. The doctors on duty took her history and examined her and concluded that patient was in first stage of labour, since the patient was stable and delivery did not appear imminent, the pregnant lady was referred to Safdarjung Hospital for further management. However, it was subsequently reported by the AIIMS Control room that the patient delivered a child outside the emergency wing of AIIMS.

(c) and (d) An enquiry into the matter was also conducted by AIIMS and Enquiry Committee, after considering all aspects, has, *inter alia*, suggested changes in the present practice of registration of Casualty patients and completion of other formalities, to be followed while referring patients to other hospitals.

[Translation]

Illegal Trade

3194. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints from the Members of Parliament regarding illegal Communication and Information trade being carried out by some companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the guilty companies have been identified;

(d) if so, the loss suffered by the Government as a result of it; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Recently Department of Telecom has received have been issued to these companies under Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

*[English]***Rural Telephony Obligations**

3195. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom companies were required to provide rural telephone services by the end of 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the telephone service providers have achieved the said target;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has now set any new deadline for the telephone service providers to fulfil their rural telephony obligations;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken/proposed to be taken against telephone service providers for their failure to fulfil the rural telephony obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (h) Licence granted to six private Basic Service Operators in 1997-98 stipulated a condition of providing 97806 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) within first three years of effective date of licence. As per information received from private operators, 348 VPTs in Madhya Pradesh, 1314 VPTs in Andhra Pradesh, 1140 VPTs in Maharashtra, 2894 VPTs in Gujarat, 693 VPTs in Rajasthan and 734 VPTs in Punjab were provided by these private operators as on 31.12.2002. Further, licences issued for basic service in 2001 stipulated setting up of Point of Presence in 15% of Short Distance Charging Area within two years of effective date of licence in equal proportion in urban, semi-urban and rural SDCA. This period of two years was not over in 2002. The six private basic operators failed to fulfill their commitments and liquidated damages of Rs. 53.75 crores were recovered for delay in commencement of service and non-provisioning of Direct Exchange Lines and Village Public Telephones. Consequent to announcement of

unified Access Service Licence regime in November, 2003, all private Basic operators migrated to unified Access Service Licence regime after payment of prescribed entry fee equivalent to 4th cellular service licence and accordingly, the roll out obligations were changed equivalent to that of 4th cellular service licence i.e. coverage of 50% of District Headquarters or any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters within three years. At present, there is no mandatory roll out obligations for private operators in rural areas.

Streamlining of Mobile Services

3196. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have chalked out any plan to streamline the services of Mobile telephone operators in the country;

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

(c) the number of private operators against whom the Government has received complaints in this regard;

(d) the number out of them against whom the Government and the TRAI have taken action during each of the last three years; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of service providers regularly. Recently, TRAI has issued directions to mobile service providers for ensuring compliance to the Quality of Service Regulation.

(c) to (e) The complaints have been received against all the private operators. In case of unsatisfactory redressal of complaint by the private operator, individual subscribers are free to approach Consumer Redressal Forum. However, on general complaints from the consumers against the service providers on various issues viz. billing etc., TRAI has taken a number of measures to protect the interest of consumers including issuance of sixteen directions in the last three years.

[*Translation*]

Investigation by CBI

3197. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers including subordinate staff as on April 1, 2005;

(b) the number of cases being investigated/initiated and the number of cases dropped as on April 1, 2005;

(c) the number of cases in which decision has been taken; and

(d) the number of cases under consideration for investigation during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) As on April 1, 2005, 4754 officers and subordinate staff were posted in CBI.

(b) As on 31.12.2004, 1354 cases were at different stages of investigation/inquiry. From 1.1.2005 to 31.3.2005, 328 more cases were registered and taken up for investigation/enquiry. After completion of investigation/enquiry, 240 cases were disposed off which included 31 cases closed during the same period (1.1.2005 to 31.3.2005). Thus, 1442 number of cases were being investigated/enquired as on April 1, 2005.

(c) Out of 1442 number of cases being investigated/enquired as on April 1, 2005 and 767 cases registered during the period from 1.4.2005 to 31.10.2005. 705 cases were disposed off after completion of investigation/inquiry during the same period.

(d) As on 31.10.2005, 1504 cases were at different stages of investigation/inquiry.

[*English*]

Right to Information Act

3198. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any public awareness campaign relating to Right to Information Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the budgetary allocation for the campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Government has initiated a number of awareness programmes to advance the understanding of The Right of Information Act, 2005 by the public. These include giving wide publicity of the Act in the national newspapers, organizing suitable programmes for the public as to how to exercise the rights under the Act, broadcasting/telecasting interviews, inter-active programmes and discussions and releasing several articles on various aspects of the Act. No specific budgetary allocation has been made for these programmes during the current financial year and the expenditure on these activities is being met from within the existing funds.

[*Translation*]

Declaration of "Madan Mahal" as Protected Monument

3199. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to declare "Madan Mahal" summer fort of Rani Durgawati of Gondwana located in Jabalpur as a protected archaeological monument; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) "Madan Mahal" in Jabalpur is a centrally protected monument of national importance declared *vide* CP No. 1219, DAB dated 26.10.1922, pub. 28.10.1922.

Allotment of Land to Small Scale Industrial Units

3200. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating on any proposal to allot land to the Small Scale Industrial units to be closed in pursuance of the Supreme Court's order;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any representation or request from the office-bearers of the Confederation of Small Scale Industries, Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof as on date alongwith the action taken thereon so far; and

(e) the time by which these Small Scale Industrial units are likely to be allotted land in the new industrial areas?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that under the scheme floated in 1996, so far 27,750 industrial units have been declared eligible for allotment of industrial plots/flats and 22,387 units have been allotted plots/flats, under the said scheme, upto 31.10.2005, GNCTD has been reported that it has not received any representation from the Confederation of Small Scale Industries.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Indo-Japan Co-operation In Communications & IT

3201. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

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

(a) whether India and Japan have signed a joint statement for bilateral cooperation in communications and IT;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the first meeting of the India-Japan Information Communications Technology Ministerial Forum was held in August, 2005;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the extent to which both countries have agreed to set up projects in India and Japan; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Minister of Communications and Information Technology of India and the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan signed a Joint Statement on January 18th 2005 in Tokyo, Japan.

In the Joint Statement the two Ministers confirmed that ICT is a major driving force in promoting sustainable economic & social development, improving quality of life, helping people achieve their full potential and maintaining cultural diversities. It has also been mentioned that the Asia Broadband Program, can make a significant contribution to the development of the information society in both countries and confirmed the necessity to strengthen cooperation between Japan and India in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The Ministers shared the view that the cooperative activities should include the following:

- Encouraging the use of affordable technologies for broadband network;
- Promoting e-services such as e-governance, e-education and e-health;
- Holding Policy dialogues and cooperating on ICT policies, laws and regulation;
- Promoting joint R&D and standardization such as the ubiquitous services and network technology;
- Encouraging joint business events and activities;
- To initiate dialogue at appropriate level to boost business between the two countries. Specific suggestions will be taken by the subject matter Ministries;
- With a view to synergise software and hardware capabilities of the two countries, establish a cooperation mechanism including facilitation of investment in each country; and
- Other forms of cooperation arranged by the participation of the two countries.

(c) Yes, Sir. The first meeting of the India-Japan Information and Communications Technology Ministerial Forum was held on August 24, 2005 at New Delhi.

(d) to (f) The Minister of Communications and Information Technology of India and the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan signed a Joint Statement during the 1st meeting of the India-Japan Information and Communications Technology Ministerial Forum, wherein it was decided to set up Working Groups on following specific areas in order to explore the possibilities of joint development, collaborations and ventures:

- Broadband systems and connectivity
- Mobile communications
- E-Governance
- Information Security
- Research and Development
- Ubiquitous computing.

[Translation]

Telephone Services in Rural Areas

3202. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private telecommunication service providers have not fulfilled the licence conditions for providing telephone services in rural areas and the said companies have been allegedly managing to get the rural phone policy changed time and again;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the policy for providing telephone services by private telecommunication service providers in rural areas;

(d) the names of private companies which flouted the terms and conditions for providing telephone services in rural areas; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Licence granted to six private Basic Service Operators *viz.* M/s Shyam Teleservice Ltd., M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd., M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd., M/s HFCL Infotel Limited, M/s Tata Teleservices Limited and M/s Teleservice (Maharashtra) Ltd. in 1997-98 stipulated a condition of providing 97806 Village Public Telephones within first three years of effective date of licence. The private basic operators failed to fulfil their commitments and liquidated damages of Rs. 53.75 crores were recovered for delay in commencement of service and non-provisioning of Direct Exchange Lines and Village Public Telephones. Consequent to announcement of Unified Access Service Licence regime in November, 2003, all private Basic operators migrated to Unified Access Service Licence regime after payment of prescribed entry fee equivalent to 4th cellular service licence and accordingly, the roll out obligations were changed equivalent to that of 4th cellular service licence *i.e.* coverage of 50% of District Headquarters or any other town in lieu of District Headquarter within three years. At present, there is no mandatory roll out obligations for private operators in rural areas. It will not be appropriate to conclude that the said companies have been allegedly managing to get the rural policy changed time and again. Universal Service Obligation Fund has been set up w.e.f. 01.04.2002 to provide access to basic telegraph services to people in rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable price.

[English]

Cadre Review of Central Government Health Service

3203. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

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

(a) whether any cadre review of the Central Government Health Service has ever been made since its constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which cadre review of the service is likely to be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Cadre review of the Central Government Health Service (CHS) was done partly in 2005, creating/upgrading 6 posts at Higher Administrative Grade (HAG) level and 48 posts Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) level. For giving effect to full fledged cadre review of CHS the suggestions/comments from concerned authorities have been called for.

Digging of Roads by Metro

3204. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Delhi Metro had to dig a number of roads in the capital for its Metro operations;
- (b) if so, whether the roads have been properly repaired/resurfaced after the work;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which these roads are likely to be repaired/resurfaced?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Some roads have to be dug for the construction of structures for the Delhi Metro. The roads are properly repaired after the work is fully completed.

Opening of New Medical Colleges in Gujarat

3205. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open new medical colleges in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Government and private medical colleges presently functioning in Gujarat;
- (d) the number of MBBS and Post Graduate seats available in these medical colleges;
- (e) the number of new medical colleges granted recognition in the State during the last three years and current year;

(f) whether there is any proposal to increase the intake of the Government and private medical colleges in Gujarat;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the Government is likely to take a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Central Government is permitting establishment of new medical colleges under the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and Regulations made thereunder. No proposal has been received from Gujarat for establishment of new medical college.

(c) A total of 13 medical colleges are functioning in Gujarat out of which 8 are in Government sector and 5 in private sector.

(d) A total of 1625 MBBS and 235 Post Graduate seats are available in these medical colleges.

(e) During the last 3 years two new medical colleges have been recognized for award of MBBS Degree by the respective Universities in Gujarat.

(f) to (h) Proposals were received in August, 2004 for increase in MBBS in 3 Government medical colleges at Bhavnagar, Rajkot and Surat. In all these cases MCI has pointed out various deficiencies. The deficiencies have been brought to the notice of the college authorities. Clearance of proposals depend on availability of facilities and recommendations of the Medical Council of India thereon.

Coal In Excess of Permissible Quantity

3206. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received complaints about the private buyers who allegedly get coal in excess of the permissible quantity against the drafts deposited by them in advance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time taken by coal companies to issue bills of actual quantity of coal released and refunded the excess amount;

(d) whether complaints regarding alleged delay in the release of coal have also been received;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to reduce delay in release of coal and refund of due amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given at part (a).

(c) As per practice, bills are raised at the time of delivery of coal or consolidated bill are raised either during the month of delivery or at the end of the subsequent month. The time period for refund of excess amount, if any, ranges from two weeks to three months depending on receipt of application for refund from the consumers after expiry of the validity period of coal delivery.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. However, such complaints are very few and arise many a time due to circumstances beyond the control of coal companies. Coal India Limited has directed its subsidiaries to deliver coal in time and to adopt a methodology under which such refund could be made within a fortnight of the expiry of the validity order without seeking an application for refund from the consumers.

Augmentation of Mobile Network

3207. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has a proposal to augment mobile network capacity during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the target set therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the achievements so far made with regard to expansion of mobile network in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the 10th Plan, BSNL has planned for 223.84 lakh mobile connections in the licensed service areas in which it operates. Out of this, BSNL had provided 94,47,357 cellular connections upto 31.03.2005. In accordance with MOU with the Government, BSNL has set a target of releasing 65 lakh cellular connections during the current financial year and tentatively 75 lakh cellular connections are planned during the year 2006-07. State-wise breakup of the targets of 2005-06 and 2006-07 and achievements during the current financial year till 31.10.2005 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise cellular distribution of cellular targets for 2005-06 and 2006-07 and achievement (upto 31.10.2005)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Target for 2005-06	Target 2006-07 (Tentative)	Achievements 2005-06 till 31.10.2005
1	2	3	4	5
EAST ZONE				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	6000	8000	7037
2.	Assam	130000	150000	60898
3.	Bihar	380000	420000	63699
4.	Jharkhand	150000	170000	47597
5.	North East I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	45000	51000	10736

1	2	3	4	5
6.	North East II (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur)	45000	51000	42059
7.	Orissa	224000	250000	75064
8.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim)	420000	500000	183474
SOUTH ZONE				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	450000	520000	39733
2.	Karnataka	500000	580000	169557
3.	Kerala	450000	500000	56598
4.	Tamil Nadu	600000	700000	193731
NORTH ZONE				
1.	Haryana	170000	195000	164286
2.	Himachal Pradesh	80000	94000	79165
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	120000	140000	186504
4.	Punjab	220000	254000	24728
5.	Rajasthan	410000	475000	336575
6.	Uttar Pradesh	820000	950000	790240
7.	Uttaranchal	80000	92000	99799
WEST ZONE				
1.	Maharashtra (Including Goa)	500000	580000	203327
2.	Gujarat	400000	465000	154301
3.	Madhya Pradesh	200000	240000	46814
4.	Chhattisgarh	100000	115000	29694
Total		6500000	7500000	3065616

[*Translation*]

Supply of Good Quality Coal

3208. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether good quality of coal is not being sufficiently by the Union Government to the Thermal Power Stations in Madhya Pradesh

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the full capacity of Thermal Power Station of the State is not being utilized due to lack of supply of good quality coal;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to supply good quality of coal as per the fixed allocation and the requirement; and

(e) if so, the time by which the required quantity of good quality coal will be supplied to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (e) The Thermal Power Stations in Madhya Pradesh are having joint sampling analysis arrangement for the coal being supplied by coal companies. This mechanism ensures regular quality audit of the supplies made to the Thermal Power Stations. The power stations of Madhya Pradesh serviced through this mechanism are assured of the quality of coal being supplied to them by Subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. It has been reported by CIL that two complaints from MPSEB had been received on quality of coal and remedial measures have since been taken and no further complaints have been received thereafter.

Delhi-Kathmandu Bus Service

3209. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to start a bus service between Delhi and Kathmandu on the pattern of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service;

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The proposal for a Delhi-Kathmandu bus service is part of a Motor Vehicle Agreement between India and Nepal that has been initialled by the two Governments. The agreement will be signed and brought into effect, after approval is received from His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

(c) Not applicable.

District Health Mission

3210. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI AHSOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal to set up a "District Health Mission" as reported in the Newspaper 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated November 19, 2005;

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

(c) whether it is being launched as "ASHA";

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether yearly expenses on this Mission has been estimated;

(f) if so, the period for which the said mission has been planned;

(g) whether it is proposed to be started in all States; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the National Rural Health Mission, the District Health Mission (DHM) is being set up under the Chairpersonship of the Chairman, Zilla Parishad. The District Collector/DM is the Co-Chairperson and the CEO Zila Parishad is the Vice Chairperson of the DHM. The members of the DHM include the MPs, MLAs, MLCs from the district, Chairpersons of the Standing Committees of the Zilla Parishad, Project Officer (DRDA), Chairpersons of the Panchayat Samitis and Hospital Management Societies, District Programme Managers for health, PHED, ICDS, AYUSH, education, social welfare, Panchayati Raj, State representative, representatives of MNGO/SNGO, etc.

The generic guidelines for number of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) to be selected, selection procedure and performance linked incentives have been disseminated to the states. Under the NRHM 2.5 lakh ASHA are proposed to be engaged in ten states by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in a phased manner. ASHAs would reinforce community action for universal immunization, safe/institutional delivery, other Reproductive & Health related services, newborn care prevention of water-borne and other communicable diseases, nutrition and sanitation. ASHAs would be selected by the Panchayat and be fully accountable to them. Though she would not be paid any salary, she

would be entitled for performance linked incentives under different programmes.

(c) The ASHA is one of the strategic activities under the National Rural Health Mission.

(d) The National Rural Health Mission is a strategy for undertaking architectural correction in the Public Health care delivery system by addressing the entire gamut of issues relating to public health in rural areas. The areas of concern which are directly addressed by the Mission include upgradation of the Infrastructure, upgradation of the available manpower and introduction of a health provider resident to the village and the decentralization of the planning process.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Budgetary outlay for the NRHM is part of the overall budget of the Ministry. The outlay for the FY 2005-06 is Rs. 6,731 crore.

(f) The mission period for the NRHM is 2005-2012.

(g) and (h) The National Rural Health Mission is operational over the entire country with special focus in 18 States *viz.* 8 Empowered Action Group States (Bihar, Jharkhand, M.P., Chhattisgarh, U.P., Uttaranchal, Orissa and Rajasthan), 8 North East States (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura) Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

Indo-Sino MoU in Health Sector

3211. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:
SHRI L. GANESAN:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether India and China have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the health sector;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said MoU;

(c) whether the Union Government has urged China to supply raw material for Tamiflu vaccine to combat bird flue;

(d) whether the Government also intends to import machines, etc. for use in hospitals from China; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Chinese Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) An agreement on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine between India and China was signed on 3.9.1994. The areas of cooperation are traditional medicine including yoga and acupuncture; pharmacology and pharmaceuticals, including methods of quality control and good manufacturing practices; infectious diseases and parasitology; maternal and child health care and family planning and occupational health and tropical medicine.

(c) and (d) There is no such specific proposal currently under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Pradesh

3212. SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone exchanges in urban and rural areas in the districts of Siddharthnagar, Basti, Gonda, Faizabad, Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Sultanpur and Gorakhpur of Uttar Pradesh where the applications for telephones have been pending for long;

(b) the details of the measures taken by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to provide new connections in the said districts;

(c) the details of connections/applicants in the said districts for which the Members of Parliament or Ministry/Minister of Telecommunications have recommended for providing the same on priority basis; and

(d) the time by which all applicants are likely to be provided telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, details of telephone exchanges where waiting list for telephones is pending

as on 30.11.2005 in respect of urban and rural areas of districts Siddharthnagar, Basti, Gonda, Faizabad, Jaunpur,

Azamgarh, Sultanpur and Gorakhpur of Uttar Pradesh are as follows:

Sl.No.	District	No. of Exch. in Urban area	Total waiting list in the Distt.	No. of Exch. in Rural area	Total waiting list in the Distt.
1.	Sidharthnagar	4	157	25	427
2.	Basti	4	200	24	476
3.	Gonda	3	374	37	1294
4.	Faizabad	10	2764	31	1045
5.	Jaunpur	13	1959	56	7297
6.	Azamgarh	15	2200	60	5102
7.	Sultanpur	8	144	69	4850
8.	Gorakhpur	21	1007	34	2241

(b) Following measures taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to provide new connections in the said districts:

- (i) Waiting list within local area of the exchange is planned to clear on landline.
- (ii) Waiting list beyond the local area of the exchange is planned to be cleared on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) for which additional 961 WLL BTS are planned up to December 2007.

(c) Details of connections/applicants in the said district for out of turn connections under quota of Members of Parliament or Ministry/Minister of Telecommunications for providing telephone connections on priority basis are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Pending connections are likely to be provided by December 2007 in a phased manner by extending the network through deployment of WLL since most of the pending waiting list is on far flung rural areas where there is no reach of the network presently. Such areas can only be covered economically through wireless deployment.

Statement

Details of Sanctions/pending connections from Members of Parliament/Minister Quota for the year 2004 & 2005

Sl.No.	Name of District	MP Quota			Minister Quota			Total		
		Total No. Sanctioned	Connections Provided	Pending	Total No. Sanctioned	Connections Provided	Pending	Total No. Sanctioned	Connections Provided	Pending
1.	Azamgarh	201	172	29	23	17	6	224	189	35
2.	Basti & Siddharthnagar	37	28	9	4	1	3	41	29	12
3.	Faizabad	14	13	1	57	46	11	71	59	12
4.	Gonda	2	0	2	5	0	5	7	0	7
5.	Gorakhpur	13	6	7	5	3	2	18	9	9
6.	Jaunpur	560	245	315	32	8	24	592	253	339
7.	Sultanpur	658	455	203	30	12	18	688	467	221
Total		1485	919	566	156	87	69	1641	1006	635

National Health Policy

3213. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has achieved the targets of National Health Policy;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to check the infectious diseases;

(c) whether the largest number of deaths have been caused by these diseases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for decreasing contribution of public health services to improve the condition of health sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The National Health Policy-2002 targets for 2005 include eradication of Polio, Yaws and Leprosy; and setting up an integrated system of surveillance and health accounts and statistics. In accordance with these targets elimination of Yaws and Leprosy is on course. Progress has also been made for interruption in transmission of polio. An Integrated Disease Surveillance Program to strengthen surveillance of communicable diseases and risk factors for non-communicable diseases has been launched by the Government in November 2004.

The Government is implementing National Disease Control Programmes for communicable diseases including Vector Borne Diseases, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and AIDS with considerable achievements. While deaths still occur from these diseases, there is a rapid upsurge in chronic disease risk factors and deaths.

[English]

CEE for MBBS Courses

3214. DR. R. SENTHIL:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

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

(a) whether the Government conducts Common Entrance Examination for entry in to MBBS courses to various Government medical colleges all over India;

(b) if so, whether the examination is conducted only in English;

(c) whether the Government is aware that rural students studying in their regional languages are at a disadvantage as a result of it; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had devised and approved the scheme under which 15% of MBBS/BDS seats in the Government Medical/Dental colleges in all the States (except Andhra Pradesh and J&K) are to be filled up on all India basis through the All India Entrance Examination to be conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education. The Hon'ble Supreme Court at the time of approval of the scheme had considered the questions of holding the examination in the regional languages. However, considering various factors, and the fact that the entire MBBS/BDS and PG Education is imparted in English throughout the country, the Hon'ble Court directed that the All India Entrance Examination should be held in the English language.

[Translation]

Replacing MARR based VPT by WLL

3215. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
MOHD. SHAHID:

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

(a) whether the target of replacing Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based VPT by those based on the WLL system in all villages of the country has been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of villages covered so far out of the target fixed for the Tenth Plan;

(d) whether any assessment has been made for the first quarter of the current year;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government has been lagging in its scheme for extending telephone facilities to the rural areas;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per agreement signed between Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), all Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based village Public Telephones (VPTs) are targeted to be replaced progressively by June, 2006.

(c) Out of 1,86,872 MARR VPTs, 1,30,915 MARR VPTs have so far been replaced during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(d) and (e) During the 1st quarter of the current financial year, 2,381 MARR VPTs have been replaced.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

(h) The Government is providing telecom facilities in rural areas of the country with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). USOF entered into agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and private service providers for providing following telecom facilities in rural areas of the country:—

- Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by November, 2007 in 66,822 remaining unconnected villages. This excludes villages having population lying in thick forest areas/ Naxalite infested areas.
- Provision of Rural Community Phones (RPCs) by September, 2007 in 46,253 villages having population of more than 2,000 and not having a PCO.

- Provision of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) 'on demand' in 1,685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the first quarter of the year 2006.

[English]

Popularisation of Contraceptive Pills

3216. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sale of emergency contraceptive pills has been permitted over the counter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any study has been conducted relating to its safety aspect; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to popularize the contraceptive pills among the women particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Based on the opinion of a Group Experts on its safety, the Drug, Levonorgestrel 0.7 mg tablet (Emergency Contraceptive pills) have been exempted from the requirement of sale against prescription from Registered Medical Practitioners. This would also improve its access among women particularly in rural areas.

(d) The measures being taken to popularize contraceptive pills include free supply to states for distribution, supply through Social Marketing Organisations (SMOs) at highly subsidized prices and publicity through electronic/print media all over the country, etc.

Second Phase of FRFRP

3217. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second phase of Fast Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plant (FRFRP) has been taken up by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the second phase of FRFRP; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The second phase of Fast Reactor Fuel Reprocessing Plant (FRFRP) will process the mixed carbide fuel on regular basis and the new design of mixed oxide fuel from Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) and also process a few sub assemblies of mixed oxide fuel of 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR).

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 1524.00 lakh has been incurred on the second phase of FRFRP as on November 30, 2005.

(d) The project is slated to be commissioned by the end of March, 2007.

Health Services in NER

3218. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any special programme for ensuring quality Health Services in the North Eastern Regions (NER);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The National Rural Health Mission has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on the 12th April 2005. The vision of NRHM is to provide effective healthcare to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 states, which have weak public health indicators and or weak infrastructure. These 18 states include the 8 North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim & Tripura.

The Mission is an articulation of the commitment of the Government to raise public spending on health from 0.9% to 2-3% of GDP. It aims to undertake architectural correction of the health system to effectively handle the increased allocation, promote policies that strengthen public health management and public health delivery in the country. It also seeks effective integration of health concerns with other determinants of health, decentralization of programmes for district management of health, aims to address inter-state & inter-district disparities and improved access of rural people especially poor women & children to affordable and effective primary health care.

In the financial year 2005-06, upto November 2005, a total of Rs. 253.91 Crore has been released under various programmes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the eight North Eastern States.

External Assistance for Medical Colleges/Hospitals

3219. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka had submitted a proposal to the Union Government on December 9, 2002 for financial assistance from external funding agencies for equipping their medical colleges and attached hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Setting up of Human Organ Banks

3220. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether there is any plan to set up Human Organ Banks for the purpose of transplantation of human organs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been by the Government to encourage organ donation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any technology has been imported for the purpose and necessary training imparted to the doctors in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Organ Retrieval Banking Organization (ORBO), a national facility & nodal center for the country is already operational at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, with a purpose of encouraging organ donations, fair and equitable distribution of human organs and optimum utilization of human organs. Networks of 15 hospitals (Government, Public and charitable) with ORBO has been formed for smooth functioning and coordination for process of Organ Donation and Transplantation in Delhi.

(c) and (d) A Review Committee was set up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to review the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and the Transplantation of Human Organ Rules, 1995 and the Committee has recommended various steps to encourage organ donation. The synopsis of the recommendations made by Review Committee are broadly as under:-

- (i) It may be mandatory that all cases of near relative donor also be routed through authorization committee.
- (ii) Guidelines for working of authorization committee have been laid down.
- (iii) Testing to establish genetic relationship and histocompatibility should be done in the laboratories approved by Directorate of Health Services.
- (iv) ORBO activities should be expanded.
- (v) A national organ transplant program with special emphasis on cadaver donations be promoted.

(vi) Every hospital should make it mandatory for ICU/ treating medical staff to make requests to relative of brain dead patient for organ donation and should report all brain dead potential donor to ORBO.

(vii) There should be incentives for the family of Cadaver Organ Donor.

(viii) Simplification of Rules for procedure have been suggested.

The Government is examining the Report of the Review Committee for implementation in phase.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Enhancing Capacity of Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant

3221. SHRI L. GANESAN:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to enhance the capacity of Kalpakkam Atomic Power Plant; and

(b) if so, the likely extent of augmentation with the details of stages involved, expenditure likely to be incurred and the time by which it is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu has two units viz. MAPS-1 & 2 in operation since January 1984 and March, 1986 respectively with installed capacity of 220 MWe each. On account of failure of manifold for heavy water flow in Calandria the capacity of these reactors was reduced to 170 MWe each since 1995. These units have been taken up for the En-masse Coolant Channel Replacement (EMCCR) to carry out upgradation work so as to restore the capacity of these units to the upgradation work so as to restore the capacity of these units to the original capacity to 220 MWe each thereby adding 50 MWe each. The EMCCR work on MAPS-2 has already been completed in 2003 and 50 MWe has already been added. The EMCCR work at MAPS-1 is progressing and it is expected that 50 MWe will be added to MAPS-1 during December 2005. The cost of EMCCR work for both the units is Rs. 490 crore.

Strike of CGHS Employees

3222. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS employees went on a nationwide strike in the month of November, 2005;

(b) if so, the main demands of the employees;

(c) the number of times CGHS employees went on strike during the current year, date-wise; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The CGHS employees went on a nationwide strike in the month of November, 2005.

(b) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) During the current year, the CGHS employees went on strike on the dates given as under:—

(i) 7.6.2005

(ii) 29.8.2005 and 30.8.2005

(iii) 18.11.2005.

(d) The demands of Central Health Employees Federation (CHEF) were discussed in a meeting taken by Secretary (Health & FW) on 1.8.2005. Further, these were discussed in a meeting taken by Minister of Health & Family Welfare on the same day. The progress of action taken on the Charter of Demands was discussed in a meeting taken on 11.11.2005 by Director General of Health Services (DGHS).

Statement

1. Stop and remove privatisation and contractualization of the services of the Health Sector.
2. Filling up all vacant posts of Group 'C' and 'D' staff.
3. Recognition of Associations/Unions whose applications are pending.

4. Settlement of all anomalies pending the Anomaly Committee of the M/o Health & Family Welfare.
5. At least 4 seats of uniform to all Health Employees and quantum of stitching charges should be at par with the market rate.
6. Grant of PCA to all left out Health employees.
7. Immediate formation of Department Council/office council.
8. Common Uniform Recruitment Rules for all cadres of Central Health.
9. Compassionate appointment should be settled without any further delay and the restriction of 5% should be removed for the Health Sector.
10. At least three promotions to all Health employees.
11. ACP Scheme should be implemented in its true spirit.
12. Scientific restructuring of various categories should be done in consultation with CGHS.
13. OT allowances should be paid to all staff working in OT.
14. Casual leave should be restored to 12 and 15 days as was earlier.
15. The posts having similar recruitment rules should have similar pay scales.

Deployment of Peacekeeping Force

3223. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether troop contributing countries like India are not presently consulted by UN in decisions relating to deployment of its peacekeeping force;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India has asserted its rights on participation and closer involvement in such matters; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The UN Security Council is responsible for the

establishment, renewal and drawdown of peacekeeping mission mandates. However, whenever India is requested by UN authorities to contribute to a peacekeeping force, decisions are taken by mutual consultations.

Indigenous Medicines for Cancer

3224. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of Cancer is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to find out remedial measures using indigenous medicines to control the Cancer; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Information regarding the remedial measures using indigenous medicines to control the cancer is being collected and will subsequently be tabled on the Floor of the House.

As per the information collected by the population based cancer registries functioning under the National Cancer registry programme of Indian Council of Medical Research, it has been estimated that about 7 to 9 lakh new cancer cases are detected every year in India. At any given point of time, there are 2 to 2.5 million cancer patients in the country. This data does not indicate any significant increase in the incidence rate of cancer of all sites combined together. The Task Force for the 11th Five Year Plan strategies regarding National Cancer Control Programme has been constituted. The Task Force is likely to submit the report in due course of time.

Modernisation of Post Offices

3225. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to modernise the working of the Post Offices in the country;

(b) whether adequate training facilities are proposed to be introduced for the postal staff for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts in the 10th Five Year Plan is focusing to modernize the working of the Post Offices through induction of technology and improving ergonomics. An outlay of Rs. 1062 crores out of a total plan outlay of Rs. 1350 crores allotted to the department has been earmarked for modernization activities in the 10th Five Year Plan.

(b) The existing training facilities are adequate to meet the requirement. In-house training is offered to officers and staff of the Department through 7 Training Institutions and 60 Work Place Computer Training Centres located in various parts of the country.

(c) The Department has an approved plan to train 1,50,000 officials in computer skills and various departmental software during the 10th Plan period. Till date 1,09,893 officials have already been trained. This training target is in addition to regular training that is imparted to the staff on various postal operations and management related subjects.

Support to Adolescent Health and Development Project

3226. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the various programmes organised under support to Adolescent Health and Development Project in Gujarat during the last three years; and

(b) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) This Ministry has collaborated with UNFPA and launched a project titled support to Adolescent Health and Development (2004-07) as part of UNFPA's Sixth Country Programme, which also covers Gujarat. In addition, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have included Adolescent Health Programme into their State Reproductive Child Health Programme Implementation Plan.

(b) To implement the project, a Special Cell for Adolescent Youth has been set up in this Ministry and Resource Material Kit on Adolescent Health and Development issues has been developed for distribution.

Medical Universities

3227. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

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

(a) the names of the Medical Universities in the country;

(b) the expenditure on these Universities during the last five years, University-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the number of graduates and post-graduates passed out from these Universities, year-wise, during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per Medical Council of India, there are Six Medical Universities in the Country, as Details given below:

- (i) NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.
- (ii) Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka.
- (iii) Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- (iv) Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot, Punjab.
- (v) Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Madras, Tamil Nadu.
- (vi) West Bengal University of Health Sciences, West Bengal.

(b) The Central Government has no information as these Universities have been set up through the State legislation.

(c) The data regarding graduate and post graduate students passing out year-wise from these Universities is not maintained Centrally.

Civic Amenities Proposals from Tamil Nadu

3228. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from Tamil Nadu to improve the water, sewage and waste disposal system in various cities and towns during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposals approved/rejected/pending during the said period; and

(d) the funds allocated/utilized for the purpose during this period?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has received proposals from Tamil Nadu to improve the water and sewage system in various cities and towns. To improve the water supply for towns with a population of less than 20,000, there is scheme of Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP). Details of proposals received under scheme of Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Out of 58 proposals received under AUWSP, 57 proposals have been approved with a total estimated cost of Rs. 47.3334 crore and remaining one scheme for the town Musiri in Trichy district had been withdrawn by the State Government. No proposal has been received during the current financial year under AUWSP as the programme has been subsumed in Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). No proposal under AUWSP is pending with this Ministry for want of approval. Government of Tamil Nadu has also forwarded the following water supply projects for seeking assistance from the World Bank and seeking financial assistance from the Government of India:

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crores)
1.	III Chennai Water supply and Sanitation Project in Chennai	750.00
2.	Desalination Plant for Chenani City	1750.00

Moreover, 3 proposals on water supply and sewerage under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) were received. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that 4 proposals for sewerage were sent to Ministry of Environment and Forests under on-going National River Conservation Programme (NRCP). Details are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) Details of funds allocated and utilized under AUWSP during the last three years and the current year

are as follows:

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Final allocation of funds	Funds released
2002-03	813.16	813.16
2003-04	823.48	653.41
2004-05	880.90	808.19
2005-06*	—	106.90 (upto 9.12.2005)

*No state-wise allocation has been made for 2005-06 as the scheme has been subsumed with the new scheme of UIDSSMT. Committed liability of central share for ongoing schemes will only be released subject to fulfilment of conditions laid down for release on first come first served basis. Against the balance committed liability of Rs. 411.94 lakh for Tamil Nadu, Rs. 106.90 lakh have been released so far and the balance fund will be released for other on-going projects subject to the fulfilment of the criteria for release of next instalment by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Statement I

Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)

State: Tamil Nadu

Status of projects received from 2002-03 to till date.

A Projects Sanctioned

Sl.No.	Name of Town	District	Project Cost (Rs. lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Aduthurai	Thanjavur	103.87
2.	Thirubuvanam	Thanjavur	105.00
3.	Thiruidaimaruthur	Thanjavur	88.76
4.	Orathanadu	Thanjavur	35.53
5.	Andipatti	Theni	200.62
6.	Peraiyur	Madurai	226.99
7.	Kayathar	Tuticorin	102.51
8.	Kalugumalai	Tuticorin	306.06
9.	Ettayapuram	Tuticorin	294.82

1	2	3	4
10.	Natham	Dindigul	490.36
11.	Nillakottai	Dindigul	63.92
12.	Keeranaur	Dindigul	17.23
13.	Annur	Coimbatore	221.59
14.	Mugasipidariyur	Erode	97.51
15.	Oattaparai	Erode	63.95
16.	Singampuneri	Sivgangai	17.48
17.	Nandivaram-Guduvancheri	Kancheepuram	108.72
18.	Arakandanallur	Villupuram	20.96
19.	Mallur	Salem	29.77
20.	Vendur	Namakkal	14.35
21.	Pilanallur	Namakkal	27.29
22.	Alangudi	Pudukottai	13.28
23.	Alwarthirunagari	Thoothukudi	17.12
24.	Eral	Thoothukudi	26.29
25.	Keeranur	Pudukottai	41.76
26.	Mudhukulthur	Ramananthapuram	331.82
27.	Kaveripakkam	North Arcot	64.92
28.	Kuttuputhur	Trichy	51.40
29.	Chettiyarpatti	Virudhunagar	33.00
30.	Panapakkam	Vellore	44.00
31.	Omalur	Salem	7.82
32.	Jalakandapuram	Salem	9.56
33.	Tharamangalam	Salem	19.52
34.	Naduvattam	Nilgiri	8.18
35.	Parmankurichi	Thoothukudi	147.78
36.	Thiruvaiyaru	Thanjavur	106.81
37.	Ammayarkuppam	Tiruvellore	22.18
38.	Thirukattupalli	Thanjavur	27.00
39.	Thondi (U.A.)	Ramnad	204.14
40.	Papanasam	Thanjavur	112.70

1	2	3	4
41.	Valangaiman	Thiruvarur	16.09
42.	Pudukottai	Pudukottai	45.95
43.	Iluppur	Pudukottai	26.33
44.	Kamuthi	Ramanathapuram	73.05
45.	Thorapadi	Vellore	15.49
46.	Neikkarapatty	Dindigul	75.04
47.	Pannaikadu	Dindigul	96.75
48.	Hubbathalai	Nilgiris	37.28
49.	Sholur	Nilgiris	24.98
50.	Puddupalayam	Namakal	11.88
51.	Pallipalayam	Namakal	53.02
52.	Balagamundram	Dindigul	21.90
53.	Ananthapuram	Villupuram	82.07
54.	Kadpadi	Vellore	94.50
55.	Udayendirum	Vellore	30.98
56.	Natrapalli	Vellore	35.37
57.	Veerpandi	Theni	48.09
Total			4733.34

B. Projects returned to State

Sl.No.	Name of Town	District	Project Cost	Remarks
1.	Musiri	Trichy	131.00	Withdrawn by State

Statement II

*Details of Proposals on Water Supply and Sewerage under Jawaharlal Nehru
National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)*

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Estimated Cost (Rs. in crores)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Chennai Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme comprises of following packages: (i) 13 packages for expanding the capacity of sewage pumping station, interceptor	413.35	Project proposals have been received in this Ministry in the first week of November, 2005, Project has been examined from technical angle. The Chennai Metropolitan Water

1	2	3	4
	system and conveyance mains in left-out areas of Chennai city.		Supply & Sewerage Board has been requested to modify the DPR.
2.	Underground sewerage scheme for Coimbatore city	106.28	Project Report has been received in this Ministry in the first week of November, 2005. Project has been examined from technical angle. Coimbatore Municipal Corporation has been requested to modify the DPR.
3.	Water Supply Improvement Scheme in Madurai city	67.53	Project Report received in the first week of November 2005 has been examined from technical angle and Madurai Municipal Corporation had been requested to modify the project. Accordingly, the modify report has been received in this office on 21.11.2005. The modified DPR is under security in CPHEEO.

Statement III

Details of proposals for sewerage with Ministry of Environment and Forests under ongoing National River Conservation Programme (NRCP)

Name of Towns/ schemes	Year	Present status	Remarks
1	2	3	4
Tiruchendur UGSS	2002-03	DPR sent by Govt. of Tamil Nadu (Environment & Forests Deptt.) in Lr. No. 9335/EC.I/2001-02 dt. 9.4.2001 at cost of Rs. 900.00 lakh to NRC, GOI for approval. Subsequently the above DPR was revised to Rs. 893.00 lakh and sent to NRC. GOI on 2.12.04. Approval waited.	The Ministry of Environment & Forests, GOI has requested to furnish final commitment and savings anticipated in the ongoing NRCP projects in the "7 Additional Towns" in the core and non-core item of work for consideration of the above proposal in NRC letter dated 17.5.05. The final commitment and the savings anticipated to a tune of Rs. 6964.15 lakh in the ongoing NRCP projects in the "7 Additional Towns" was furnished to NRC by State Government <i>vide</i> Special Secretary, MA&WS, Govt, Tamil Nadu Lr. No. 22407/MA3/2005-dt. 23.9.2005.
Rameswaram UGSS	2002-03	DPR sent by Govt. of Tamil Nadu (Environment & Forests Deptt.) in Lr. No. 9335/EC.I/2001-02 dt. 9.4.2001 at cost of Rs. 900.00 lakh to NRC, GOI for approval. Subsequently the above DPR was revised to Rs. 893.00 lakh and sent to NRC, GOI on 2.12.04. Approval waited.	
Ambur UGSS	2002-03	DPR sent by Govt. of Tamil Nadu (Environment & Forests Deptt.) in Lr. No. 30163/EC.I/2001-05 dt. 27.8.02 at cost of Rs. 2500.00 lakh to NRC, GOI for approval. Additional details required by NRC have	

1	2	3	4
		been furnished to NRC, New Delhi vide MD/TWAD Board Lr. No. F. Ambur UGSS/AE9/2003/dated 3.3.04. Approval waited.	
Ranipet & Walajapet UGSS	2002-03	DPR sent by Govt. of Tamil Nadu (Environment & Forests Deptt.) in Lr. No. 6187/EC. I/2003-15/dt. 13.3 at cost of Rs. 2500.00 lakh to NRC, GOI for approval. Additional details required by NRC have been furnished to NRC, New Delhi vide MD/TWAD Board Lr. No. F. Ambur UGSS/AE9/2003/dated 3.3.04. Approval waited.	

Increase in Feeder Service

3229. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Metro has requested the Government of Delhi to increase feeder service;

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

(c) the reaction of Government of Delhi thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 23 additional feeder routes for Shahadra-Rithala and Vishwa Vidyalaya-Central Secretariat have been proposed by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. On the Barakhamba Road-Dwarka route, feeder services on 9 additional routes have also been proposed by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

(c) A total of 29 dedicated feeder routes have been approved for operation of feeder services in addition to the 40 routes operated by Delhi Transport Corporation which already have a linkage to Metro Stations. Of the 29 dedicated routes, on 12 routes a total of 80 permits have been granted.

Assistance to Rain Ravaged Karnataka

3230. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether twelve districts in Karnataka were badly affected by incessant rains during the month of October, 2005;

(b) if so, whether Karnataka has sought Central assistance for relief and rehabilitation works especially in the cities;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has considered the said request; and

(d) if so, the quantum of immediate assistance given to Karnataka in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Dilapidated Condition of Historical Towers

3231. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ancient historical towers in Farkande village in Jalgaon district, Maharashtra, are in dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any representations from the Members of Parliament for renovation of these dilapidated towers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Ancient historical towers at Farkande village in Jalgaon district Maharashtra are not centrally protected.

(b) and (c) No representation has been received by Archaeological Survey of India from the Members of Parliament for the renovation of these ancient historical towers at Farkande village.

Problems of ITS Officers

3232. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some letters regarding the ITS officers in the communications Department;

(b) if so, the total number of such letters;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for solving the problems of the ITS officers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has received a number of letters (including about 100 from Members of Parliament) over the past few months regarding ITS officers in connection with their absorption in BSNL/MTNL.

(c) and (d) In accordance with the decision already made by the Government regarding corporatisation of Telecom services, the ITS officers, in March 2005, were offered terms of absorption. Various clarifications were given from time to time. Government also held discussions with ITS officers in this regard. The last date of giving options, which was originally 16.05.2005 has been extended from time to time up to 09.12.2005. However, a number of cases have been filed by ITS officers individually as well as their Association in various Benches of the Central Administrative Tribunals and High Courts and are pending. The matter is currently *Sub Judice*.

Maintenance of Protected Historical Monuments

3233. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many protected historical monuments in Delhi are in dilapidated condition as reported in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagaran' dated September 27, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the Government on the maintenance of protected historical monuments in Delhi during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for proper maintenance of important historical monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The centrally protected monuments in Delhi including the Red Fort, Safdarjung tomb, Purana Qila and Jantar Mantar, mentioned in the Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated 27.09.2005 are maintained as per archaeological norms and none of the protected monuments is in dilapidated condition.

(c) Details of expenditure incurred for conservation and maintenance of centrally protected monuments in Delhi during the last three years is as below:

2002-03 : Rs. 8,88,13,896

2003-04 : Rs. 9,90,61,930

2004-05 : Rs. 8,00,00,000

(d) During 2005-06; in 42 important protected monuments structural repairs of a special nature have been taken up and the works are in progress. Rs. 8.00 crore is allocated for conservation and day to day maintenance. Conservation of monuments is a continuous process and is carried out as per the need of the monument and resources available.

[English]

Cancellation of Coal Licences

3234. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cancelled the licences issued to public and private power utilities for exploration and production of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith its impact on NTPC;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the requirements of the coal in the country;

(d) the quantum of coal likely to be imported during 2006-07; and

(e) the steps taken or propose.d to be taken to overcome shortage of coal and reduce import thereof in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has not cancelled prospecting licences or mining leases granted to any public or private power utilities, except for one case where the mining lease granted to a private company, namely, M/s Central Collieries Company Ltd., over Takli-Jena-Bellora (South) block has been cancelled for violation of the condition of captive use of coal mined from the leased area in their power plant. The cancellation of lease is not connected with the NTPC and hence the question of any impact thereof on NTPC does not arise.

(c) The estimated total demand of raw coal of 445.65 million tonnes in 2005-06 on all India basis is planned to be met by domestic supply of 406.48 million tonnes, which includes all India domestic production of 405.38 million tonnes and stock liquidation of 1.10 million tonnes from CIL sources. This leaves a gap of 39.17 million tonnes. With proposed import of 31.39 million tonnes (23.89 million tonnes of coking and 7.50 million tonnes of non-coking coal) a gap of 7.73 million tonnes still persists. In view of the gap between demand and supply of indigenous coal, Government has already taken a decision to import 13.45 million tonnes coal by Power Utilities during 2005-06.

(d) As per the assessment of the Planning Commission, the amount of coal likely to be imported during the year 2006-07 is 46.62 million tonnes.

(e) The Planning Commission has assessed a demand of 473.18 million tonnes of coal for the year 2006-07. Against this demand, a supply plan of 426.56 million tonnes has been made from indigenous sources, which leaves a gap of 46.62 million tonnes. It is envisaged in the plan to import 24.19 million tonnes of coking coal

for steel sector and 22.43 million tonnes of non-coking for Power, Cement and other sectors to overcome the shortage of coal.

Nuclear Power Projects

3235. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to sluggish execution of nuclear power projects, it is not possible to achieve the target of adding more megawatts of power by the end of the current financial year; and

(b) if so, fresh steps taken by the Government for time-bound completion of nuclear power projects in order to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. The target for capacity addition from nuclear power projects for the year 2006-07 is 540 MWe. This has already been achieved by completion of Unit No. 4 of Tarapur Atomic Power Station, where commercial operation was commenced on 12.9.2005 seven months ahead of schedule. The work on all other projects is also progressing as per schedule.

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

[Translation]

Contraceptive Devices

3236. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether despite publicity of contraceptive devices, there has been steady increase in the population of the country;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of use of contraceptive devices during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government is considering any plan to promote the use of contraceptive devices in view of the decreasing interest of people towards family planning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Statement-I showing the decadal rate (%) growth of population state-wise is enclosed.

(b) Year-wise details of use of contraceptive devices during the last three years are given in the enclosed statements-II, III and IV.

(c) and (d) A large number of factors influence the population growth such as availability of the family welfare facilities in the public health system, poverty, illiteracy, unmet needs for family planning etc. The Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to provide effective healthcare to rural population by strengthening public health system in all the States with special focus in 18 States with low demographic indicators and infrastructure. Effective implementation of NRHM would ensure quality care in all fields including family

welfare services. The reproductive and Child Health Programme under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) envisages a variety of reproductive health services to meet the unmet demand of the population including family planning needs.

The Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to spread the awareness on Family Planning methods. This strategy utilised multimedia tools in print electronic media. At the same time interpersonal/ behavioural change communication tools are deployed to disseminate information and spread awareness. This Ministry regularly telecast/broadcasts the video and audio spots through National Channel of Doordarshan, Private Satellite Channels and All-India Radio to spread the message of family planning methods. Print material like posters, leaflets on Family Planning Methods have been printed and released to States for distribution to the public. The services of Anganwadis under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) are also utilised in this regard.

Statement I

Growth Rate of Population

Sl.No.	India/State/Union Territory	Decadal growth rate (%)		
		1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
1	2	3	4	5
INDIA		25.00	23.87	21.54
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23.10	24.20	14.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.15	36.83	27.00
3.	Assam	36.05	24.24	18.92
4.	Bihar	24.06	23.38	28.62
5.	Chhattisgarh	NA	25.73	18.27
6.	Goa	26.69*	16.08	15.21
7.	Gujarat	27.67	21.19	22.68
8.	Haryana	28.75	27.41	28.43
9.	Himachal Pradesh	23.72	20.79	17.54

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	29.69	30.89	29.43
11.	Jharkhand	NA	24.03	23.36
12.	Karnataka	26.75	21.12	17.51
13.	Kerala	19.24	14.32	9.43
14.	Madhya Pradesh	25.27	27.24	24.26
15.	Maharashtra	24.54	25.73	22.73
16.	Manipur	32.46	29.29	24.86
17.	Meghalaya	32.04	32.86	30.65
18.	Mizoram	48.55	39.70	28.82
19.	Nagaland	50.05	56.08	64.53
20.	Orissa	20.17	20.06	16.25
21.	Punjab	23.89	20.81	20.10
22.	Rajasthan	32.97	28.44	28.41
23.	Sikkim	50.77	28.47	33.06
24.	Tamil Nadu	17.50	15.39	11.72
25.	Tripura	31.92	34.30	16.03
26.	Uttar Pradesh	25.49	25.61	25.85
27.	Uttaranchal	NA	23.13	20.41
28.	West Bengal	23.17	24.73	17.77
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	63.93	48.70	26.90
30.	Chandigarh	75.55	42.16	40.28
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	39.78	33.57	59.22
32.	Daman and Diu	NA	28.62	55.73
33.	Delhi	53.00	51.45	47.02
34.	Lakshadweep	26.53	28.47	17.30
35.	Pondicherry	28.15	33.64	20.62

Source: Population Census, Registrar General India

*Includes Daman and Diu

NA—Not Available. As these are included in the parent states.

*Statement II**State-wise achievements in respect of IUD Insertions*

Sl.No.	State/U.T./Agency	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
1	2	3	4	5
i.	Major States (Population>20 million)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	320.889	333.723	374.566
2.	Assam	41.023	42.128	39.966
3.	Bihar	158.996	125.882	107.792
4.	Chhattisgarh	102.347	99.136	103.483
5.	Gujarat	422.336	413.632	426.390
6.	Haryana	155.171	152.700	154.694
7.	Jharkhand	57.193	52.175	52.447
8.	Karnataka	307.026	297.778	298.618
9.	Kerala	80.654	77.853	74.009
10.	Madhya Pradesh	464.871	459.971	452.291
11.	Maharashtra	452.724	449.972	550.000
12.	Orissa	144.417	144.787	160.836
13.	Punjab	338.876	318.946	337.880
14.	Rajasthan	242.230	265.779	275.333
15.	Tamil Nadu	423.575	440.924	398.704
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2,064.479	2,081.254	2,093.369
17.	West Bengal	92.624	76.635	72.655
ii.	Smaller States			
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,818	2,599	2,766
2.	Delhi	65.304	62.528	63.702
3.	Goa	2.777	2.767	2.947
4.	Himachal Pradesh	32.920	32.265	30.941
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	22.434	27.364	29.734
6.	Manipur	7,464	5,787	6,693

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Meghalaya	2,590	3,226	2,606
8.	Mizoram	2,434	2,334	2,430
9.	Nagaland	6,792	3,654	1,84
10.	Sikkim	893	835	1,252
11.	Tripura	3,685	3,149	2,908
12.	Uttaranchal	103,911	103,873	118,960
III. Union Territories				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,502	1,715	1,065
2.	Chandigarh	5,028	5,601	5,060U
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	343	290	294
4.	Daman and Diu	286	270	278
5.	Lakshadweep	49	36	53
6.	Pondicherry	4,075	3,737	3,150
IV. Other Agencies				
1.	M/o Defence	7,133	6,653	8,183
2.	M/o Railways	6,657	6,170	5,487
All India		6,148,036	6,114,639	6,249,319

Statement III*State-wise Achievements in respect of Coal Pill Users*

Sl.No.	State/U.T./Agency	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
1	2	3	4	5
I. Major States (Population > 20 million)				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	296,820	307,475	330,694
2.	Assam	29,883	31,926	32,841
3.	Bihar	67,930	51,051	NR
4.	Chhattisgarh	234,179	176,923	158,166
5.	Gujarat	208,914	228,878	223,941

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Haryana	68.823	66.559	72971
7.	Jharkhand	35,460	35.291	43782
8.	Karnataka	161.455	154.906	161650
9.	Kerala	22,000	24,580	27462
10.	Madhya Pradesh	554,784	566,653	514855
11.	Maharashtra	355.014	358.613	34615
12.	Orissa	136,776	144,185	170414
13.	Punjab	117,495	104,205	109400
14.	Rajasthan	597,141	713,715	832806
15.	Tamil Nadu	155,850	172,616	152565
16.	Uttar Pradesh	787,002	824,525	786417
17.	West Bengal	423.625	442.889	440666
II. Smaller States				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2,093	1,349	1431
2.	Delhi	17.093	12,096	10582
3.	Goa	6.213	3.557	3774
4.	Himachal Pradesh	26,136	24,750	26036
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	7,995	9,401	9715
6.	Manipur	580	1,502	1279.00
7.	Meghalaya	3,497	3,361	3824.00
8.	Mizoram	3,280	4,441	5761.00
9.	Nagaland	2,881	1,167	847.00
10.	Sikkim	4,776	5,393	6417.00
11.	Tripura	26,674	39,676	17224
12.	Uttaranchal	43,588	43,189	49711
III. Union Territories				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,570	1,616	1911
2.	Chandigarh	676	613	539
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	225	322	4090

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Daman and Diu	424	467	430
5.	Lakshadweep	85	110	254
6.	Pondicherry	1,791	1,758	1584
IV. Other Agencies				
1.	M/o Defence	3,905	4,319	4943
2.	M/o Railways	4,000	3,854	5342
Total Free Distribution		4,410,641	4,561,933	4,244,945
Comm. Distrn.		5,002,258 ⁵	5,353,878 ⁴	3,359,169
All India		9,412,899 ⁵	9,915,811 ⁴	7,684,114

* Figures are provisional

⁴ Includes 1131692 O.P. Users under full cost Commercial sales and 233919 weekly Pills users (2003-04)

⁵ Includes 1120538 O.P. Users under full cost Commercial sales and 208578 weekly Pills users (2002-03)

⁶ Includes 1147339 O.P. Users under full cost Commercial sales and 199383 weekly Pills users (2001-02)

⁷ Includes 993065 O.P. Users under full cost Commercial sales and 85564 weekly Pills users (2000-01).

Statement IV

State-wise Achievements in respect of Condom users

Sl.No.	State/U.T./Agency	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
1	2	3	4	5
I. Major States (Population>20 million)				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	666,396	709,032	818,979
2.	Assam	35,516	31,779	38,025
3.	Bihar	63,043	37,329	NR
4.	Chhattisgarh	383,073	340,460	267,617
5.	Gujarat	1,008,365	1,125,196	1,156,165
6.	Haryana	333,325	350,044	341,290
7.	Jharkhand	465,276	49,888	70,236
8.	Karnataka	286,952	277,990	292,910
9.	Kerala	155,231	153,203	138,714
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1,309,089	1,385,153	1,213,801

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Maharashtra	396.858	473.635	521.146
12.	Orissa	285.648	295.393	331.377
13.	Punjab	380,056	368,171	402,402
14.	Rajasthan	1,277,805	1,459,849	1,541,071
15.	Tamil Nadu	201,170	224.253	200.966
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1,760.517	1,747.835	1,572.665
17.	West Bengal	428.861	371.060	511.061
II. Smaller States/UTs				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,227	1,076	987
2.	Delhi	196.088	185.808	135.868
3.	Goa	9,328	14,073	8,928
4.	Himachal Pradesh	71,580	79,481	88,313
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	15,501	18,107	22,088
6.	Manipur	4,261	4,646	5,680
7.	Meghalaya	1,808	2,031	2,315
8.	Mizoram	1,363	1,570	1,904
9.	Nagaland	313	294	358
10.	Sikkim	610	1,297	1,656
11.	Tripura	15,885	6,661	14,656
12.	Uttaranchal	96,865	104,104	114,216
III. Union Territories				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,525	2,181	2,268
2.	Chandigarh	11,377	10,416	12,415
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	18	46	5,490
4.	Daman and Diu	1,282	1,437	1,610
5.	Lakshadweep	738	246	211
6.	Pondicherry	11,547	10,522	10,376
IV. Other Agencies				
1.	M/o Defence	23,621	26,085	5,838

1	2	3	4	5
2.	M/o Railways	39,689	32,492	31,482
	Total Free Distribution	9,941,807	9,902,443	9,880,092
	Comm. Distrn.	12,661,944 #	13,931,806 &	8,404,020
	All India	22,603,753 #	23,834,249 &	18,284,120

* Figures are provisional.

^a Includes 5187639 Condom users under full cost commercial sales of condoms in 2003-04

^b Includes 5365833 Condom users under full cost commercial sales of condoms in 2003-04

^c Includes 3051389 Condom users under full cost commercial sales of condoms in 2003-04

^d Includes 2834167 Condom users under full cost commercial sales of condoms in 2003-04

[English]

Allotment of Land to Private Schools

3237. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private schools to whom land was allotted on concessional rates by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) have refused to provide free education to underprivileged children and central government employees wards during regular schools hours;

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against such schools; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure free education to underprivileged children and admission to Central Government employees wards during regular schools hours?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) allots land in accordance with provisions of Nazul Rules, 1981 to private organisations for setting up of schools. One of the terms of allotment of land is grant of freeship to students

belonging to the weaker sections. No provision exists in the terms of allotment regarding reservation of freeship for children of Central Government Employees.

On receipt of lists of defaulting schools, that had not met the conditions of freeship, from Department of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD). DDA issued show cause notices to these schools for violation of the terms of allotment of land. Meanwhile the Delhi High Court which was seized of the matter of compliance with freeship condition by private schools in Civil Writ petition No. 3156 of 2002 (social Jurist Vs GNCTD & Others) took cognizance of the list of defaulting schools submitted to it by GNCTD and directed that efforts be made by GNCTD to explore the possibilities of a mutually agreed solution for complying with the condition of freeship.

In pursuance of the directions of Delhi High Court, a meeting had been conveyed under the chairmanship of Chief Minister, Delhi in which a proposal was made on behalf of private schools that schools may run evening shift in order to fulfill the obligation regarding freeship. The proposal has been taken up for examination by GNCTD. The matter is sub-judice and further action against schools defaulting on freeship conditions is linked to the outcome of the matters pending in the Delhi High Court.

Cancer Hospital of AIIMS

3238. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital of AIIMS is yet to become fully operational;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to become fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The civil and electrical works of Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital have been completed. The first four floors of the building, comprising of 96 beds are already functional. The remaining three floors of the Centre will become fully operational as soon as the Revised Cost Estimate of Rs. 98.41 crores is approved by the competent authority.

Recurring Deposit Schemes

3239. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Recurring Deposit Schemes are being implemented by the Post Offices through their appointed agents;

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

(c) whether the agents get commission for the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the pass books of the investors are kept by the agents and instalments are paid to them by the depositors;

(f) whether the investors will be benefited if the instalments are deposited in the post offices directly; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to allow investors to deposit their money directly in post offices and pass all the benefits directly by post offices to investors instead of through agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The deposits in Recurring Deposit accounts can be made through an agent appointed by the State Government under "Mahila

Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana (MPKBY)" and "Pay Roll Savings Group Leaders (PRSGL)". The agents help in canvassing and securing investment for Post Office from small savers and educate housewives mainly in the habit of thrift. The deposit in RD accounts can also directly be made by investor in the Post Office.

(c) and (d) MPKBY and PRSGL agents get commission @ 4% and 2.5% of deposits respectively.

(e) Yes, Sir. Mahila agents have to use serially numbered card in form ASLAAS-5. The agent will collect the pass book and money from the depositor under receipt in the depositor's card, deposit the money in the post office within five to ten days from the date of its receipt from the depositor and return the pass book to the depositor within ten days from its receipt back from the Post Office.

(f) and (g) In order to facilitate the depositors, two options have been provided to them. Under the first option, the depositors can directly deposit their money in RD scheme in Post offices by filling up SB-103 (a) application form available at the Post Office counter. A second option is also available to them wherein the investors can get their deposits made in the Post Offices through the authorized agents. This has been done especially to benefit and facilitate those depositors who are not able to come to the Post Office in person.

Dilution of Telecom Policy

3240. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the provision of phones in villages has suffered because of the dilution of the telecom policy;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government is unable to persuade private companies to provide connectivity to rural India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Private Operators have not done much to provide connectivity to rural India;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government proposes to fix quota on each private player to provide connectivity in rural areas;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) Licence granted to six private Basic Service Operators in 1997-98 stipulated a condition of providing 97806 Villages Public Telephones within first three years of effective date of licence. The private basic operators failed to fulfill their commitments and liquidated damages of Rs. 53.75 crores were recovered for delay in commencement of service and non-provisioning of Direct Exchange Lines and Village Public Telephones. Consequent to announcement of Unified Access Service Licence regime in November, 2003, all private Basic Operators migrated to Unified Access Service Licence regime after payment of prescribed entry fee equivalent to 4th cellular service licence and accordingly, the roll out obligations were changed equivalent to that of 4th cellular service licence *i.e.* coverage of 50% of District Headquarters or any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters within three years. At present, there is no mandatory roll out obligations for private operators in rural areas.

(g) No such proposal is under consideration.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

(i) Universal Service Obligation Fund has been set up w.e.f. 01.04.2002 to provide access to basic telegraph services to people in rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable price.

[Translation]

Adopting Villages in Afghanistan

3241. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is considering to help Afghanistan by adopting some of their villages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during his visit to Afghanistan on August 28-29, 2005 announced that India would adopt 100 villages in Afghanistan to promote integrated rural development by introducing solar electrification and rainwater harvesting using technologies that have been developed and successfully demonstrated in India. These proposals are being finalised in consultation with the Government of Afghanistan.

[English]

Unoccupied Guest Houses

3242. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is losing crores of rupees as its nine guest houses lie unoccupied as reported in the 'Asian Age' dated October 13, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government has set up any committee to examine the matter and fix responsibility in this regard;

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

(e) the plan of the Government to use these guest houses?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) Twelve Guest House Blocks were constructed by HUDCO as part of the Andrews Ganj Project. These Guest Houses were initially auctioned by HUDCO to Public Sector Undertakings. Only three guest houses were allotted to Public Sector Undertakings as there were no bidders for the rest. The remaining nine guest houses were later on auctioned to private originations and M/s MS Shoes Ltd. was allocated these blocks.

However, M/s MS Shoes Ltd. did not pay the 2nd and 3rd instalments due to which the allotment was cancelled in January 1996 forfeiting the amount paid by M/s MS Shoes Ltd. towards first instalment as per the terms of allotment.

Ms/ MS Shoes Ltd. filed a suit in the Court challenging the cancellation of the allotment and since then the matter is under litigation. The court had granted stay against re-allotment/re-tendering of the Guest House Blocks. However, the High Court has now permitted the Guest House Blocks to be utilized by HUDCO or licensing to Government agencies for short duration but re-tendering and re-allotment is not allowed till disposal of the suit by the Court. The matter is *sub-judice*.

It has been decided to utilize the vacant Guest House Blocks for General Pool Office Accommodation.

Auctioning of Parking Sites

3243. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of parking sites were not auctioned during the last three years;

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

(c) the loss of revenue suffered by the Government since 2000 as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Committee on Reserve Prices had recommended a downward revision of the reserve price during 2001;

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

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) have reported that during the last three years the process of tenders was followed for allotment of parking sites and no parking site was auctioned. NDMC has also informed that un-allotted parking sites are being run by NDMC themselves. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has also indicated that no parking site remained un-auctioned during the last three years and all the parking sites are tendered from time to time.

(d) to (f) The DDA have informed that the Committee on Reserve Prices had recommended a downward revision of the reserve price in some cases during 2001, due to the lukewarm response to the reserve price fixed for the previous tenders. The reserve price was lowered in the case of 8 parking sites, which were then put to tender by DDA.

Transfer of Clean Coal Technology

3244. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sent any delegation to the United States (US) to negotiate a deal for transfer of clean coal technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the US Department of Energy has committed to transfer any type of technology to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Visit to Pilgrim Centres Abroad

3245. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pilgrims who visited pilgrim centres abroad during each of the last three years, year-wise and pilgrim centre-wise; and

(b) the criteria adopted for their selection, pilgrim centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The total number of pilgrims who visited pilgrim centres abroad as part of the Government assisted pilgrimages during the last three years, year-wise and pilgrim centre-wise and the criteria adopted for their selection, pilgrim centre-wise are as follow:

Kailash Mansarovar

Year	Number of pilgrims
2002	469
2003	316 (Yatra duration was truncated due to SARS epidemic in China.)
2004	537

Applications for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra are invited by the Ministry of External Affairs through an open advertisement issued in January every year in all major national and regional media. Since the number of applicants is always more than the slots available for the Yatra, the Yatris are selected through a computer-generated, gender-balanced random selection process.

Pilgrim Centres in Pakistan**Nankana Sahib and other Sikh Shrines**

Year	Number of pilgrims
2002	50
2003	1000
2004	7500

Katasraj

Year	Number of pilgrims
2002	Nil
2003	Nil
2004	163

Hayat Pitaphi

Year	Number of pilgrims
2002	Nil
2003	83
2004	121

The visit of pilgrims between India and Pakistan is governed by the bilateral 'Protocol on visit to Religious Shrines—1974'. This stipulates the number of pilgrim centres, occasions as well as the number of pilgrims for visits between the two countries.

The pilgrims visiting Sikh Shrines in Pakistan is selected on the basis of state-wise quota administered by Ministry of Home Affairs in coordination with the respective State Governments and Gurudwara management committees such as SGPC, DSGMC etc. In respect of others, the names of the pilgrims are provided by the designated religious organizations directly to Ministry of External Affairs as the number of pilgrims involved is small.

No financial assistance is given by the Government. Ministry coordinates with Pakistan High Commission in getting visas for the pilgrims visiting Pakistan under the above protocol. Ministry of Railways arranges special trains for the pilgrims on cost basis as per procedures as and when requested. Arrangements in Pakistan are done by the receiving organizations.

Haj

Year	Number of pilgrims
2002	118759
2003	116078
2004	117490

The criteria for selection of pilgrims performing Haj through the Haj Committee of India is based on the pilgrim quota allocated proportionately to each State based on the Muslim population of respective States as determined by the Census of India. If the applications received from a State are more than the prescribed pilgrim quota, the selection is made by Qurrah (draw of lots). Other pilgrims perform Haj through the registered private tour operators.

[English]

National Games at Guwahati

3246. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of institutional support and other incentives granted for development of sports and youth activities in the North Eastern Region (NER) against various components of sports including adventure sports; and

(b) the projects underway for organizing the proposed National Games at Guwahati and the progress made for

development of infrastructure and other facilities for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per Statement enclosed.

(b) It is the responsibility of the State Government to develop Sports Infrastructure in the State. Out of an estimated cost of Rs. 139.45 crores for infrastructure development for National Games at Guwahati, Government of India has released Rs. 119.11 crores through Department of North Eastern Region and Planning Commission. Besides this, Rs. 5.00 crores have been sanctioned to the Government of Assam for conduct of games and purchase of equipments for National Games.

Statement

Details of the expenditure incurred on institutional support and other incentive granted for development of youth activities during 2004-05 is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme/Institution	Expenditure (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan	5.5500
2.	Promotion of National Integration	0.5500
3.	National Service Volunteer Scheme	0.6000
4.	Rural Youth/Sports Club including Evaluation	0.7500
5.	Promotion of Adventure	0.2530
6.	Promotion of Youth Activities & Training	0.7358
7.	Youth Hostel	1.4571
8.	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development	0.2000
9.	Scheme for Welfare & Development of Adolescents	2.5000
10.	National Service Scheme	2.3400
Total—Youth Welfare Scheme		14.9359

Details of the expenditure incurred on institutional support and other incentive granted for development of Sports activities during 2004-05 is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme/Institution	Expenditure (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure	4.3800
2.	Grants to Rural Schools for Development of Playfield and Purchase of Sports Equipments	0.4500
3.	Grants for Promotion of Sports in Universities & Colleges	1.7400
4.	Sports Authority of India	13.30
5.	Special Award to Winner in International Sports Events and their Coaches	0.2250

1	2	3
6.	Incentive for Promotion of Sports Activities (Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools)	0.06
7.	Incentive for Promotion of Sports Activities (Sports Scholarship Scheme)	0.9697
8.	Incentive for Promotion of Sport Activities (Rural Sports Programme)	1.30
Total—Sports and Physical Education		22.4247

[Translation]

Relief Operation along Line of Control

3247. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons crossing the border daily with the opening of the same by the Government along the Line of Control for relief operations;

(b) whether this facility has been provided without the requirement of passports;

(c) if so, the procedure being followed for the identification of Pakistan citizens entering India; and

(d) the preventive steps under taken to check the terrorists from entering India under the pretext of getting relief?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) So far, 106 Indian and 11 Pakistani nationals have used the five crossing points across LoC opened from 7 November 2004.

(b) to (d) Each crossing point across the Line of Control is open for traffic on specific days as per an agreed schedule between the two countries. The movement of people through these crossing point is based on entry permits issued after obtaining details of the individuals and verifying their identities and other information, as is normally done for a passport and visa. Government has taken security implications of opening the crossing points into account and people and goods

are able to cross over only after due procedure and checks have been completed.

[English]

Opening of Site Museums

3248. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Site Museums in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more Site Museums in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these Museums are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Archaeological Survey of India has 41 Site Museums as per list enclosed as Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir. Presently, no Site Museum is proposed to be opened in Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Following new Site Museums are proposed, which are in various stages of development and likely to be opened shortly:

(i) Dholavira, District Kachchh, Gujarat

(ii) Deeg Palace, District Bharatpur, Rajasthan

(iii) Fatehpur Sikri, District Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

*Statement**State-wise list of Site Museums under the Control and Supervision of Archaeological Survey of India*

State	District	Name of site Museum
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	District Guntur	1. Archaeological Museum, Amaravati
	District Chittoor	2. Archaeological Museum, Chandragiri
	District Medak	3. Archaeological Museum, Kondapur
	District Guntur	4. Archaeological Museum, Nagarjunakonda
Assam	District Golpara	5. Archaeological Museum, Sri Surya Pahar
Bihar	District Bhagalpur	6. Archaeological Museum, Vikramshila, Antichak
	District Gaya	7. Archaeological Museum, Bodhgaya
	District Nalanda	8. Archaeological Museum, Nalanda
	District Vaishali	9. Archaeological Museum, Vaishali
Delhi	Delhi	10. Archaeological Museum, Red Fort, Delhi
	Delhi	11. Indian War Memorial Museum, Red Fort, Delhi
	New Delhi	12. Archaeological Museum, Purana Qila, New Delhi
	Delhi	13. Swatantrata Sangram Sangrahalaya, Red Fort, Delhi
Gujarat	Delhi	14. Swatantrata Sangram Senani Smarak, Salimgarh, Red Fort, Delhi
	Distt. Ahmedabad	15. Archaeological Museum, Lothal
Goa	North Goa	16. Archaeological Velha Goa Museum, Old Goa
Haryana	District Kurukshetra	17. Archaeological Museum, Sheikh Chillli's Tomb, Thaneswar
Himachal Pradesh	District Kangra	18. Archaeological Museum, Kangra Fort, Kangra
Karnataka	District Bagalkot	19. Archaeological Museum, Aihole
	Bijapur	20. Archaeological Museum, Bijapur
	District Bagalkot	21. Archaeological Museum, Badami
	District Hassan	22. Archaeological Museum, Halebidu
	District Hospet	23. Archaeological Museum, Hampi, Kamalapur
	Distt. Mandya	24. Archaeological Museum, Tipu Sultan Palace

1	2	3
Kerala	District Kochi	25. Archaeological Museum, Mattanchery Palace, Ernakulam
Madhya Pradesh	District Raisen	26. Archaeological Museum, Sanchi
	District Ashok Nagar	27. Archaeological Museum, Chanderi
	District Gwalior	28. Archaeological Museum, Gwalior
	District Chhattarpur	29. Archaeological Museum, Khajuraho
Orissa	District Puri	30. Archaeological Museum Konark
	District Jajpur	31. Archaeological Museum, Ratnagiri
Punjab	District Roop Nagar	32. Archaeological Museum, Ropar
Rajasthan	District Hanumangarh	33. Archaeological Museum, Kalibangan
Tamil Nadu	District Chennai	34. Archaeological Museum, Fort St. George, Chennai
Uttar Pradesh	District Varanasi	35. Archaeological Museum Sarnath
	District Lucknow	36. Archaeological Museum, Residency, Lucknow
	District Agra	37. Archaeological Museum, Taj Mahal, Agra
Uttaranchal	District Almora	38. Archaeological Museum Jageshwar
West Bengal	District Murshidabad	39. Archaeological Museum, Hazardurai Palace, Murshidabad
	District Kooch Behar	40. Archaeological Museum, Kooch Behar Palace
	District East Midnapore	41. Archaeological Museum, Tamluk.

Indo-South Korea Ties

3249. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and South Korea have reached agreements on cooperation in various sectors;

(b) whether South Korea has also signed pacts on visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders and also to have trade between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details of all the signed agreements; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to implement these agreements?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the visit of the President of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Mr. Roh Moo-hyun to India from October 4 to 6, 2004, a Treaty on Extradition and a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters were signed. Other important agreements signed recently include an Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders in August 2005, in MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics in September 2005 and an MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Oil and Natural Gas in November 2005.

The Treaty on Extradition provides for the extradition of a person to the other country, who is wanted for

prosecution/trial, or imposition or enforcement of punishment for an extraditable offence in that country.

The Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters provides for mutual cooperation to combat crime, including taking evidence, providing information, documents, records and articles of evidence, executing requests for search and seizure, serving documents and making persons in custody and others to give testimony or assist in investigations.

The Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders provides for nationals of India and ROK, holding valid diplomatic or official passports to be exempt from the necessity of obtaining the relevant visa.

The objective of the MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics is to promote cooperation between India and ROK in Defence Industry, production, research and development and procurement defence material.

The MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Oil and Natural Gas is an umbrella agreement to establish the basis for cooperative institutional relationship and encourage and promote bilateral cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector.

Trade between India and ROK is conducted under the Agreement on Trade Promotion, Economic and Technical Co-operation signed in 1974, under which the two countries, *inter alia*, provide for the Most Favoured Nation status to each other.

(d) The Treaty of Extradition and the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters have come into effect from June 8, 2005. The Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders has been implemented with effect from October 3, 2005. The MoU on Defence Industry and Logistics and the MoU on Cooperation in field of Oil and Natural Gas have come into force immediately after the signing and are in the process of implementation.

[Translation]

Reservation Quota In Vardhaman Medical College

3250. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students both boys and girls separately getting medical education in the Vardhman Medical College (Safdarjung Hospital), New Delhi as on date;

(b) the number of students belonging to SC/ST out of them separately;

(c) whether this number is commensurate with the prescribed reservation quota;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to fulfill the prescribed reservation quota for the girl students/boy students getting medical education in the said medical college; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Boys 238 and girls 130.

(b) SC-40 and ST-19.

(c) to (f) This number is less than the prescribed reservation quota. However, as per the information given by the Additional Medical Superintendent, Vardhman Medical College (Safdarjung Hospital), New Delhi, the students to the College are selected by Guru Govind Singh University Delhi and admissions are made based on the list supplied by that University.

[English]

Increase in Passport Fees

3251. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase passport fees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been any noticeable improvement in the issuance of passport procedure;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to further simplify the passport procedure; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A system of process re-engineering has been started in all passport offices, resulting in quicker processing of the application forms. The time slabs for issuing passports under Tatkaal Scheme have been revised to 1 to 10 days and 11 to 20 days. Passport Offices are now issuing full validity passport for 10 years under Tatkaal scheme and in cases of duplicate passports or passport booklets due to change in appearance, name, date of birth, place of birth, signatures or when pages are exhausted, irrespective of the validity of the existing passports.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken steps to further simplify the passport issuance procedure. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also been requested to direct State Police authorities to complete Police Verification procedures within a period of two weeks.

Central Health Schemes

3252. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central Health Scheme implemented in Gujarat during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of new CGHS dispensaries opened in the State;

(c) whether Gujarat has demanded for higher fund allocation for the better implementation and extension of the health schemes in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken in this regard; and

(e) the details of expenditure incurred by the Union Government on different health schemes in Gujarat during the last three years, location-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) No CGHS dispensary has been opened in Gujarat during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(e) Details of the expenditure incurred by Union Government on major Health Schemes during last 3 years as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Name of scheme	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
TB	536.22	506.28	551.38
AIDS	1295.19	1477.62	1997.30
NVBDCP	882.21	771.41	655.72
Blindness	231.45	377.45	477.75
Leprosy	99.65	88.21	139.77
CGHS	34.91	44.67	40.42

World Economic Forum Report

3253. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Economic Forum in a recently released report has assessed the capacity of 75 countries to exploit opportunities offered by the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector;

(b) if so, the rank of India in the said report;

(c) the criteria laid down for fixing the rank;

(d) whether the report has identified some bottlenecks with regard to use of ICT in India; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve India's position in ICT sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) World Economic

Forum had released a Global Information Technology Report 2004-05 ranking 104 countries. The network readiness index rank of India is 39 in the report.

(c) E-readiness index is based on following three broad categories:

- Environment for ICT offered by a given country or community-market, political/regulatory, infrastructure;
- Readiness' of the community's key stakeholders to use ICT-individual readiness, business readiness, government readiness;
- Usage of ICT among these stakeholders-individual usage, business usage and government usage;

(d) and (e) India has been ranked low in the infrastructure environment and the individual usage category. However, the various steps taken to improve the position include:

1. Liberalization of broadband policies, National Internet Exchange setup by Government of India making registration and administration of .IN domain faster and easier.
2. DIT under the National E-Governance Plan (NeGP) has the following core infrastructure projects aimed at improving the e-Readiness of the states.
 - (i) Common Service Centre (CSC)
 - (ii) State Wide Area Network (SWAN)
 - (iii) State Data Centre (SDC)
3. DIT has also initiated Capacity building program at the state level to improve the Human Resources skills and to have the necessary structure in place for faster implementation of e-Governance projects.

[Translation]

Phase-III Programme against AIDS

3254. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start National AIDS Control Programme, Phase-III to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which need to be focused during the Phase-III programme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have initiated the planning process for Phase-III of the National AIDS Control Programme. The process has following in inclusive and consultative approach with the participation of all development partners, government departments and civil society representatives, including people living with HIV/AIDS.

A national strategic framework for NACP-III has been developed based on inputs received from 14 thematic working groups, development partners, civil society and networks of people living with HIV/AIDS. Currently, the States and UTs are preparing their programme implementation plans based on the national strategic framework. The national programme implementation plan will be finalized based on the State plans.

The phase-II of NACP comes to an end on 31st March 2006. It is expected that Phase-III of the NACP will be implemented w.e.f. 1st July, 2006.

(c) during Phase-III of the programme focus will be increased both in high prevalence states as well as in highly vulnerable states.

(d) The steps being taken in this regard are as under:

- At the national level, National Council on AIDS has been formed under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister & 31 Union Ministers and 7 Chief Ministers are the members.
- Convergence of the HIV/AIDS services being done with National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) programme below district level.
- Mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS with general health care & other ministries/department will be one of the major component of NACP-III.
- State specific project implementation plan is being developed by NACP-III team.

- The prevention, care support and treatment facilities are being scaled up and funds for the programme has been increased from 2004-05. Further scaling up of facilities & allocation of fund is planned under NACP-III.
- State level Legislative forum on HIV/AIDS is being formed in the States.

[English]

Telephone Facilities in Karnataka

3255. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) The present status with regard to telephone facilities and the number of villages in Karnataka where telephone facilities are yet to be provided till date;
- (b) whether the target fixed for the year 2004-05 has been achieved;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;

- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Gulbarga district and their exchange-wise capacity as on date;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to increase the present capacity of the existing telephone exchanges;
- (g) if so, the details thereof;
- (h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear the wait-listed applicants in Gulbarga; and
- (i) the number of telephone exchanges converted into electronic telephone exchanges during the last three years in Gulbarga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, all the 27066 villages as per Census, 1991 have already been provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility during 2003-04 itself. Details of telephone facilities available in Karnataka are given below:—

Sl.No.	Parameter	Rural
1.	Wireline connections (Urban)	1816241
2.	Wireline connections (Rural)	842068
3.	Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections (Urban)	38732
4.	Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections (Rural)	69967
5.	Cellular Mobile connections	878919
6.	Internet connections	55643
7.	PCOs (as on 30.9.2005)	246223
8.	Trunk Automatic Exchange Ckts.	419500
9.	Village Public Telephones (VPTs)	27066

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

(e) Details are given in the enclosed statements.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. Wait listed applicants in new areas are planned to be met through Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections.

(h) At present Cor DECT/CDMA WLL is already working in Gulbarga SSA. Further expansion by CDMA WLL is planned to clear the waiting list.

(i) All the exchanges in Gulbarga SSA have been converted into electronic telephone exchanges.

*Statement**List of Exchanges in Gulbarga District*

Sl.No.	Name of the Exchange	Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Abbetumkur	256
2.	Adityanagar	616
3.	Adki	256
4.	Afzalpur	1520
5.	Ainoli	184
6.	Alahalli	256
7.	Aland	2024
8.	Alur	248
9.	Ambalga	248
10.	Andola	248
11.	Ankalga	248
12.	Atanoor	248
13.	Aurad (B)	256
14.	B. Gudi	744
15.	Badadal	248
16.	Bagodi	256
17.	Balichakra	256
18.	Andarwad	248
19.	Bhimalli	256
20.	Bhopal-Tegnoor	256
21.	Bhusnoor	496
22.	Chamnal	256
23.	Chandankera	152
24.	Chigarhalli Cross	248
25.	Chimmanchod	152
26.	Chinchansur	248

1	2	3
27.	Chincholi	968
28.	Chitapur	896
29.	Chowdapur	248
30.	Dandoti	256
31.	Devapur	256
32.	Doranahalli	256
33.	Fartabad	512
34.	Ferozabad	256
35.	Gadikeshwar	248
36.	Ganagapur (T)	872
37.	Ganagapur-RS	488
38.	GGA A.S. RLU	2900
38a.	GGA A.S. RLU	2500
39.	GGA Aland Road	2050
40.	GGA HBN RSU	2000
41.	GGA Main E-10B	8750
41a.	GGA Main OCB	7250
42.	GGA P & T RSU	2000
43.	GGA RLU B. Stand	4000
43a.	GGA RSU B. Stand	4750
44.	GGA RLU Gunj	3900
44a.	GGA RSU Gunj	2750
45.	GGA RSU S. Road	6500
46.	Gharampalli	152
47.	Gobbur (B)	248
48.	Gogi	488
49.	Gundagurti	256
50.	Gunjanoor	256
51.	Gurmitkal	744

1	2	3	1	2	3
52.	Hadgil-Haruti	256	81.	Karajagi & Mash	496
53.	Hafisalgar	248	82.	Kembavi	862
54.	Handarki	256	83.	Khajuri	496
55.	Harsoor	256	84.	Khandal	256
56.	Harwal	248	85.	Khanapur	384
57.	Hattigudur	256	86.	Kiranagi	256
58.	Hattikuni	256	87.	Kodadur	256
59.	Havanur	248	88.	Kodekal	256
60.	Hayyal	256	89.	Kodla	256
61.	Hebbal	256	90.	Kodli	184
62.	Hebbal (B)	248	91.	Kolkunda	256
63.	Hipparaga (B)	248	92.	Kollur	152
64.	Hirenandur	256	93.	Konchur	152
65.	Hiroli	248	94.	Konkal	256
66.	Honagunta	256	95.	Krishnapur	256
67.	Hunasgi	616	96.	Kukunda	256
68.	Ibrahimpur	256	97.	Kurkunda	256
69.	Ijeri	248	98.	Kurkunta	256
70.	Jambaga-J	248	99.	Mhipparga	248
71.	Jeevangi	256	100.	Maddaraki	256
72.	Jewargi	1384	101.	Madiyal	496
73.	Jewargi (B)	248	102.	Mahadwar	256
74.	Kadaganchi	496	103.	Mahagaon	512
75.	Kakkera	248	104.	Malgatti	256
76.	Kalahangarga	256	105.	Malkhed	384
77.	Kalgi	496	106.	Malla (B)	256
78.	Kallurd	248	107.	Malli	248
79.	Karnalanagar	248	108.	Mandewal	248
80.	Kamalapur	1028	109.	Mannur	248

1	2	3
110.	Margutti	256
111.	Martur	256
112.	Miriyan	152
113.	Motakkapalli	256
114.	Mudbool	256
115.	Mudhol	384
116.	Mudnoor	256
117.	Mugalanagaon	256
118.	Nagnur	256
119.	Nalwar	336
120.	Narayanapur	304
121.	Naribole	248
122.	Narona	496
123.	Nelogi	248
124.	Nidagunda	184
125.	Nimbal	248
126.	Nimbarga	360
127.	Padasavali	248
128.	Petha-Ammapur	256
129.	Pethsiroor	256
130.	Rajankollur	248
131.	Ramasamura	256
132.	Ratkal	184
133.	Revoor (B)	248
134.	Rudrawadi	496
135.	S. Saradgi	256
136.	Sagar	512
137.	Saidapur	512
138.	Sale-Barenhalli	152
139.	Sarsamba	248

1	2	3
140.	Savaigi	256
141.	Sedam	2500
142.	Shahabad	2656
143.	Shahapur	2000
144.	Shirwal	256
145.	Shorapur	1888
146.	Sonth	256
147.	Sulepeth	496
148.	Tadkal	496
149.	Tajsultanpur	512
150.	Tengli	256
151.	Udchan	248
152.	V.K. Salgar	248
153.	Wadagera	256
154.	Wadi	2000
155.	Wanadurga	256
156.	Yadagiri	3548
157.	Yadrami	384
158.	Yalgi	248
159.	Yelheri	256
160.	Yergol	256
Total		114088

Foreign Exchange Earned from Monuments

3256. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign exchange earned from monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) during each of the last three years; and

(b) the expenditure incurred on their maintenance during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Foreign tourists can tender the entry charges at the ASI protected monuments either in rupees or in dollars. The details of foreign exchange (in dollars) earned from the centrally protected monuments/sites under the jurisdiction

of Archaeological Survey of India during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of expenditure incurred on the upkeep and structural maintenance of centrally protected ticketed monuments/sites during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

The details of foreign exchanges earned from the Centrally protected ticketed monuments/sites under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India during the last three years

(In US \$)

Name of the Circle	Number of Ticketed Monuments (Centrally Protected Monuments)	Foreign Exchange earned on ticketed monuments/sites		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
Agra	8	533524	1452885	2357515
Aurangabad	6	88382	173568	204684
Mumbai	10	—	w.e.f. 1.12.04	44840
Bangalore	7	49088	14670	40992
Bhopal	10	117625	232298	345771
Bhubaneswar	6	4844	9706	12498
Chandigarh	2	4	4	26
Chennai	8	17032	28116	62346
Dharwad	6	7605	11769	16388
Delhi	10	147379	546467	1021346
Guwahati	5	2	13	—
Hyderabad	8	966	1604	2056
Jaipur	3	1554	3936	7276
Kolkatta	2	20	40	50
Lucknow	4	15826	22022	27780
Patna	9	54004	131037	179962

1	2	3	4	5
Srinagar	4	138	650	636
Shimla	2	8	54	34
Thrissur	2	—	—	—
Vadodara	6	130	164	996
Total	118	1038131	2629003	4325196

Statement II*Details of Expenditure incurred for upkeep and structural maintenance of Centrally protected ticketed monuments*

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Name of the Circle	Number of Ticketed Monuments (Centrally Protected Monuments)	Expenditure incurred on ticketed monuments during last 3 years		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
Agra	8	218.58	240.00	489.58
Aurangabad*	16	185.97	484.77	212.12
Bangalore	7	9.97	11.78	15.09
Bhopal	10	238.42	42.84	33.87
Bhubaneswar	6	25.62	36.35	105.45
Chandigarh	4	48.09	28.21	14.41
Chennai	8	30.87	54.61	72.11
Dharwad	6	11.72	13.58	13.45
Delhi	10	207.24	277.23	271.25
Guwahati	5	19.01	13.91	15.64
Hyderabad	8	77.30	89.73	146.59
Jaipur	3	28.07	78.91	59.60
Kolkatta	2	24.03	26.94	38.89
Lucknow	4	47.61	70.09	92.67

1	2	3	4	5
Patna	9	79.63	108.39	152.82
Srinagar	4	23.60	52.83	46.62
Thrissur	2	01.25	09.07	10.09
Vadodara	6	122.19	31.09	31.48
Total	118	1399.16	1670.33	1821.73

*Includes Mumbai Circle.

Violation of Orders by DDA

3257. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) places advertisements through its own empanelled agencies rather than through DAVP;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expenditure incurred by the DDA thereon during the last three years;

(d) whether the DDA had violated the orders of the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of the orders issued by the Government during October 2001 to February 2002 in regard to placement of advertisements; and

(f) the action taken against the officials for violating orders of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that its advertisements required display in major national dailies. DAVP expressed its inability to publish DDA's advertisements in major national dailies, at DAVP rates. DDA places its advertisements in major dailies through its empanelled agencies which does not involve any additional expenditure and DDA also gets the benefit of better designing free of cost and assistance in timely publication/changes etc. DDA advertises in the alternative media at the DAVP rates.

(c) DDA has reported the following expenditure on advertisements, during the last three years:—

Year	Expenditure on Advertisement (Rs.)
2002-03	7,92,78,780/-
2003-04	7,18,30,110/-
2004-05	4,48,46,353/-

(d) to (f) A circular received from DAVP, suggesting that publicity requirements of all departments/public sector undertakings/autonomous bodies may be routed through them, was forwarded to DDA by this Ministry on 22nd October, 2001. However, as reported by DDA, DAVP expressed its inability to publish advertisements of DDA in major national dailies at DAVP rates. Hence, the question of taking action against officials for violation of Government orders does not arise.

Opening of Post Offices in Rural Areas

3258. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI JIVABHAI B. PATEL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) the number of post offices opened in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and proposed to be opened during the current year, location-wise;

(b) the number of villages in these States where no post offices have been opened so far and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to open more post offices in these States;

(d) the number of post offices computerised during the last three years in these States; and

(e) the impact of computerisation on employment in these post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of post offices opened in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 and proposed to be opened in the current year are given in enclosed Statement-I, II and III respectively.

(b) and (c) The number of villages which do not have post offices in these states are given below:

Name of States	No. of villages which do not have Post Offices
Tamil Nadu	6551
Gujarat	9574
Uttar Pradesh	83821

Post offices are opened subject to fulfillment of population, distance and financial norms laid down by the department and availability of resources under plan. This is an ongoing process. However, the postal facilities in terms of daily delivery of dak and sale of stamps and stationery through postman are available in all villages.

(d) The number of post offices computerized during the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as under:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Tamil Nadu	Nil	Nil	225
Gujarat	Nil	Nil	131
Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	114

(e) The work in the post offices in these states is being managed by the existing staff.

Statement I

Location-wise details of Post Offices opened during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and proposed to be opened during the year 2005-06 in rural areas in Tamil Nadu

Sl.No.	Name of Post Office	Type of Post Office	Name of District
2002-2003			
1.	Sennavaram	EDBO	Tiruvannamalai
2.	Pruthicheri	EDBO	Thanjavur
3.	Pottapalayam	EDBO	Sivaganga
4.	Kamaraj Nagar	EDBO	Salem
5.	Kannapadi	EDBO	Salem
6.	Friday Market	DSO	Kanniyakumari
2003-2004			
1.	Pathampatti	EDBO	Pudukkottai
2.	Arampoondi	EDBO	Villupuram
3.	Keerathur	EDBO	Pudukkottai
4.	Sri Ranganathapuram	EDBO	Tirunelveli
5.	Vathalmalai	EDBO	Dharmapuri
6.	Sangupuram	EDBO	Tirunelveli
7.	Mullukurichi	DSO	Salem
2004-05			
Nil			
Proposed to be Opened in 2005-06			
Nil			

EDBO—Extra Departmental Branch Post Office
DSO—Departmental Sub Post Office.

Statement II

Location-wise details of Post Offices opened during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and proposed to be opened during the year 2005-06 in Rural Areas of Gujarat

Sl.No.	Name of Post Offices	Type of Post Office	Name of District
1	2	3	4
2002-2003			
1.	Babada	EDBO	Bharuch
2.	Nandapor	EDBO	Surat
3.	Miyapur	EDBO	Surat
4.	Umarkai	EDBO	Surat
5.	Fulpura	EDBO	Panchmahal
6.	Jafarpura	EDBO	Panchmahal
7.	Singhpur	EDBO	Panchmahal
8.	Pipodra	EDBO	Panchmahal
9.	Jaban	EDBO	Panchmahal
10.	Fatepur	EDBO	Vadodara
11.	Khandali	EDBO	Valsad
12.	Nani Vankal	EDBO	Valsad
13.	Panchh	EDBO	Banaskantha
14.	Vasana	EDBO	Sabarkantha
15.	Vankada	EDBO	Sabarkantha
2003-2004			
1.	Dhingalwada	EDBO	Panchmahal
2.	Tarvadia Vaja	EDBO	Panchmahal
3.	Divsi	EDBO	Valsad
4.	Samarvaruj	EDBO	Valsad
5.	Ghodavani	EDBO	Navsari
6.	Pansar	EDBO	Bharuch
7.	Segvasimil	EDBO	Vadodara
8.	Sadadvel	EDBO	Surat

1	2	3	4
9.	Balundra	EDBO	Banaskantha
10.	Dadra	EDBO	Valsad
2004-05			
1.	Sachin GIDC	Sub Post Office	Surat
2.	GIPCL Township	Sub Post Office	Surat
3.	Dantia	EDBO	Panchmahal
4.	Ganeshnagar	Sub Post Office	Kutchh
5.	Nandgram	EDBO	Kutchh
6.	Ultra tech Cemeo Ltd. GCW	Sub Post Office	Amreli
Proposed to be opened in 2005-06			
Nil			

Statement III

Location-wise details of Post Offices opened during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and proposed to be opened during the year 2005-06 in Rural Areas of Uttar Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of post offices	Type of Post Office	Name of District
1	2	3	4
2002-2003			
1.	Sab Diakala	EDBO	Basti
2.	Maharajpur	EDBO	Gorakhpur
3.	Umari	EDBO	Bahraich
4.	Muhajalkar	EDBO	Gorakhpur
5.	Utrejhar	EDBO	Maw
6.	Zewara	EDBO	Varanasi
7.	Ametha	EDBO	Ghazipur
8.	Sultanpur Ghughuri	EDBO	Jaunpur
9.	Ismailpur Tahapur	EDBO	Ambedkarnagar
10.	Pallakisa	EDBO	Sitapur
11.	Sonik	EDBO	Kanpur (M)
12.	Padarathpur	EDBO	Kanpur (M)

1	2	3	4
13.	Mazirpura Deoli	EDBO	Saharanpur
14.	Karnapur	EDBO	Pilibhit
15.	Vichitrnagar	EDBO	Kheri
16.	Jahanikhera	EDBO	Hardoi
17.	Bijouli	EDBO	Etawah
18.	Palipahari (dely)	EDBO	Jhansi
2003-2004			
1.	Jalilpur	EDBO	Allahabad
2.	A Dey's Medical Tiraha	EDBO	Allahabad
3.	Mohabatganj Uparhar	EDBO	Allahabad
4.	Koni	EDBO	Basti
5.	Deokali	EDBO	Basti
6.	Barsaina	EDBO	Kushinagar
7.	Rawatpur	EDBO	Gorakhpur
8.	Bahhnaull	EDBO	Ballia
9.	Birup	EDBO	Ballia
10.	Hardoi	EDBO	Chitrakoot
11.	Deviur	EDBO	Kanpur (W)
12.	Roopnagar	EDBO	Fatehgarh
13.	Bahrojpur	EDBO	Etah
14.	Takipur	EDBO	Aligarh
15.	Gajaura	EDBO	Agra
16.	Mathnazapti	EDBO	Bareilly
17.	Bansi	EDBO	Kheri
18.	Baqroodapur	EDBO	Saharanpur
19.	Sulemabad	EDBO	Barabanki
20.	Karanipur	EDBO	Sultanpur
2004-05			
	Nil		
	Proposed to be opened in 2005-06		
	Nil		

EDBO—Extra Departmental Branch Post Office

DSO—Departmental Sub Post Office

*[Translation]***Category-wise Staff in Safdarjung Hospital**

3259. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the break-up of the number of senior doctors, specialists, head of departments, additional medical superintendent also class-IV and class-III staff working in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi as on date, separately;

(b) the category-wise break-up of staff belonging to SCs/STs among them, separately;

(c) whether the existing staff strength conforms to reservation norms;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure filling up of the reserved posts in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) A statement showing the category-wise number of sanctioned posts; number of filled up posts and representation of the persons belonging to Scheduled castes/Scheduled Tribes amongst the filled posts is enclosed. So far as the posts of Doctors are concerned, the posts are included in the Central Health Service and recruitment is done through the Union Public Service Commission (U.P.S.C.). While sending requisitions to the U.P.S.C., instructions relating to reservation are strictly followed. In case of Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' category staff, the recruitment is made by the Hospital themselves and while conducting any recruitment instructions relating to reservation are strictly followed.

Statement*Statement showing position of category-wise staff in Safdarjung Hospital*

Sl.No.	Category	Sanctioned posts	Filled posts	No. of officers belonging to:	
				SC	ST
1.	Group A	410	303	31	11
2.	Group B	35	13	5	1
3.	Group C	978	792	166	117
4.	Group D	1436	1155	654	50

*[English]***Assistance to Regional Cancer Centres**

3260. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Cancer Centres are receiving any financial assistance from the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the assistance received during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to open more Cancer Institutes in the country during the X plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from different Regional Cancer Centers. Subsequently it will be tabled on the Floor of the House.

*[Translation]***Spread of HIV/AIDS through Sex Workers**

3261. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sex workers are coming from abroad to our country on tourist visa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of sex workers from abroad caught so far in the year 2005;

(d) whether fatal diseases like HIV/AIDS are being transmitted to this country by the foreign sex workers; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken on to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government of India do not maintain any such information.

(d) and (e) No case of transmitting HIV infection by the foreign sex workers has been reported so far.

[English]

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka

3262. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the latest technology based telephone exchanges set up in Karnataka, location-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more such telephone exchanges during the year 2005-06;

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

(d) the number of telephone exchanges in Karnataka which has not been converted into electronic telephone exchanges so far, location-wise;

(e) the number of applications pending with the Government for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths under the Physically Handicapped Category in the State of Karnataka, location-wise and the date from which such applications are pending; and

(f) the time by which these pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number and details of new Telephone exchanges set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. BSNL has planned to commission such telephone exchange at Targaka in Kolar district during 2005-06.

(d) All the exchanges working in Karnataka are electronic exchanges.

(e) and (f) 14 applications are pending in Bangalore district for allotment under physically handicapped quota of STD/ISD/PCO and they are pending from 11.7.2005 onwards. The target for clearing these cases is 31.3.2006. There is no pendency of applications for STD/ISD PCOs under physically handicapped category in any other district of Karnataka.

Statement

Details of New Telephone Exchanges Set up in Karnataka during last three years

Year	District	No. of Exchanges	Location
1	2	3	4
2002-03		66	
1.	Karwar	11	Mudalgera, Hiriyal, Hunshettikoppa, Balur, Nanikatta, Kelaginasasi, Yana, Devenahalli, Kadgod, Kanchikai, Ramabylu
2.	Mangalore	7	Korady, Savanal, Koyyur, Mogru, Kadya Konaje, Ichilampady, Muchur
3.	Gulbarga	10	Garampally, Chinchansur, Kamalnagar, Gulbarga, Handarki, Kolakunda, Motakapallu, Ankalga, Pethammaṣur, Madhwar

1	2	3	4
4.	Chikmagalur	7	Kanive, Hanthuvani, Halehalli, Kattinamane, Bukdibyle, Nommalapura, Masige
5.	Tumkur	1	Dombaranhalli
6.	Belgaum	4	Kabbur, Basapur, Halga, Vadagon
7.	Bellary	1	Bandri
8.	Bidar	2	Changler, Kheniranjol
9.	Shimoga	4	Gubbiga, Shakunavalli, Udri, Kadasur
10.	Bangalore	5	M. Kenchanahalli, Holagoundanalli, Bagur, Ragihalli, Horalagallu
11.	Mysore	3	Haradanahalu, Dadadahalli, Madapura
12.	Chamrajnagar	2	Somanahalli, Talamari
13.	Raichur	2	Yeggasanahalli, Telemari
14.	Koppal	1	Sanapur
15.	Bijapur	1	Jambgi
16.	Bagalkot	1	Anwal
17.	Kolar	1	Pulugurukote
18.	Davangere	2	Toranaghatta, Medikere
19.	Haveri	1	Hangal
2003-04		5	
1.	Belgaum	1	Handigund
2.	Chikmagalur	1	Jagara
3.	Shimoga	1	Sidur
4.	Mangalore	1	Patrame
5.	Belgaum	1	Auradi
2004-05		2	
	Udupi	1	Kerady
	Chikmagalur	1	Kadavanthi

Surrender of Landline Connections

3263. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of landline telephone users have surrendered their phones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of landline telephones surrendered during the last three years and the current year till date, year-wise;

(d) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

(MTNL) propose to provide more inbuilt facilities in the landline instruments in view of the stiff competition from the private operators; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The net growth in landline telephony has been affected due to reasons such as preference of customers towards wireless services due to which surrenders in landline phones are being observed over the last few years.

(c) The number of landline telephones surrendered during the last three years and current year till 31.10.2005 are given as under:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 upto 31.10.2005
BSNL	1793536	3260125	3417052	2302324
MTNL	171238	377242	292438	157530

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) BSNL is modernising its network to provide SMS facility on landline instruments. BSNL and MTNL have started providing Broadband services like Voice and Internet on landline. MTNL has also planned to add video to it. Other value added service like call waiting, call forwarding, CLIP are also being provided on landline in both BSNL and MTNL.

Establishing Telegraph Offices in M.P.

3264. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to establish new Telegraph Offices as well to modernise the existing Telegraph Offices in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, no new telegraph office is proposed in Madhya Pradesh and modernization of existing telegraph services has already been completed.

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

[Translation]

Employment to Land Oustees

3265. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to provide employment to one member of the family and also provide compensation in lieu of acquisition of families' land for coal mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the aforesaid policy has been followed strictly; and

(d) if not, the action taken against the guilty officers during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No Sir. Coal India Ltd. has a well defined Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (R&R Policy) where, among other things, there is provision of employment in exceptional circumstances only to fill up vacancies subject to suitability of land oustees. Under the Rehabilitation Policy of concerned State Governments either employment or cash compensation in lieu of employment is given as per following criteria:

(i) Rs. 1 lakh only for first acres of land on prorata basis subject to minimum of Rs. 25,000 only.

(ii) Rs. 75,000 only on prorata basis for second and third acre of land.

(iii) Rs. 50,000 only on prorata basis for land beyond three acres.

The compensation for the Land acquired under Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 is given as per following criteria:

- (i) Market value on the date of notification under section 4(1) of the Act;
- (ii) Solatium in addition to market value of land @ 30%.
- (iii) An escalation @ 12% per annum of the market value of the land for the period commencing on the date of notification under section 4(1) till date of notification under section 9(1) of the Act or a maximum period of 3 years, whichever is earlier.
- (iv) Interest @ 9% per annum for the first year after the date of notification under section 9(1) and @ 15% per annum thereafter on the amount of compensation including solatium till the payment is made. In case where compensation is determined on the basis of negotiation, as per provision of section 14(1) of CBA Act, 1957, allowing 30% solatium over and above the fair market price, no payment towards escalation or interest is paid as the price being paid is not the market price on the date of notification section 4(1) but the market price on the date of negotiation.

Compensation for land acquired under Land Acquisition Act, 1894 is assessed by Land Acquisition Department of the State Government in accordance with the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

(c) Yes, Sir. Coal India Ltd. has reported that they are now following the policy strictly.

(d) Information is being collected.

Performance of ISRO

3266. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has not been successful from commercial point of view;

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

(c) the details of commercial utilisation of satellites launched by the ISRO;

(d) the satellite-wise details of transponder made available by the ISRO;

(e) whether countries like Argentina, Turkey and Malaysia, which have launched only one satellite are doing more business as satellite service providers in comparison to ISRO;

(f) whether the Government proposes to take effective measures to improve commercial utility of ISRO; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The data from Indian Remote Sensing Satellites are sold in USA, Europe, China, Russia, Taiwan, Myanmar, Kazakhstan and the Middle East. The total value of Remote Sensing satellite data and related sales revenues during 2004-05 was Rs. 66.83 crores, which represents about 15% of the total value of global market in this segment. In the field of satellite communication, capacity of INSAT satellites, after meeting the societal/government needs, is effectively used commercially. The loading factor for transponders on INSAT is 91% as compared to the average of 70% for other commercial satellites in the region.

(d) Following are the satellite-wise transponders made available by ISRO:

Name of the Satellite	No. of transponders made available
INSAT-3A	24
INSAT-3B	15
INSAT-3C	33
INSAT-2E	17
GSAT-2	7
INSAT-3E	36
GSAT-3	12

(e) No, Sir. The revenues from Antrix Corporation Limited, which is commercial arm of Department of Space, during 2004-05 are equivalent to US\$ 83.59 million as compared to revenues of Nahuelsat of Argentina

US\$ 18.2 million, Turksat of Turkey US\$ 21 million and Measat of Malaysia US\$ 34.2 million, in the year 2004.

(f) and (g) Government has taken measures to offer its capacity for international business through Antrix Corporation Limited after meeting priority national needs for societal development and through appropriate marketing alliances between Antrix Corporation Limited and global space industry leaders.

[English]

Spread of Plague

3267. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the reports that changing climate can spread plague; and

(b) if so, the details of the preparations being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Plague is an acute communicable disease caused by bacteria *Yersinia Pestis* and transmitted to man by the bite of the infected rat flea. It is a zoonosis being a disease of rodents and man is affected incidentally. Geographical, Meteorological and climatic factors etc. have an indirect influence on qualitative and quantitative distribution of rodents and insects that act as potential reservoir and carriers of the *Y. Pestis*.

A multi-pronged approach is adopted to prevent occurrence of plague involving improvement of environmental sanitation, rodent and vector control by using insecticides, increasing public awareness etc. The continuous surveillance of plague has helped in preventing its occurrence. Integrated Diseases Surveillance Project has been launched in November 2004 to strengthen the surveillance activities of various diseases, including plague.

Financial Assistance to Guru Gopinath Natana Gramin Society

3268. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Guru Gopinath Natana Graman Society, Kerala for financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala had earlier recommended a proposal from Guru Gopinath Natana Graman Society for construction of Open Air Theatre, National Dance Museum and Art Gallery, Library of Indian Culture and Documentation Centre. The proposal was not recommended for the grant as this Ministry has already provided Rs. 2.00 crores for construction of Multipurpose Cultural Complex in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Based on another proposal received from Guru Gopinath Natana Graman Society under the scheme of "Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums" an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been sanctioned in the year 2003-04 and an amount of Rs. 3.75 lakhs has been released as 1st instalment.

The South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC) has also allotted an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh for Natyolsav 2005 to be conducted by Guru Gopinath Natana Graman Society. The funds will be released as soon as SZCC received details of programmes etc. from the Society.

Exploration in Elephanta A & N Islands

3269. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Underwater Archaeology Wing of the Archaeological Survey of India had carried out explorations in the Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea in 2003-2005;

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

(c) whether there are any proposals to conduct any such study in and around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Underwater Archaeology Wing of

the Archaeological Survey of India has carried out explorations in Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea in 2003-2005. Pottery found during the explorations include red wares, some black and grey sherds, and amphorae pieces in good quantity. Some of the sherds of amphora can be identified with Late Roman Amphora, suggesting maritime trade contacts from this site.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal to conduct any such study in and around Andaman and Nicobar Islands, at present.

Task Force for Development of Bihar

3270. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Task Force under PMO Cell for overall development of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of this Task Force;

(d) whether Members of this Task Force have visited Bihar and held any discussions with officials of Bihar Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Task Force is yet to be constituted.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Programme to make Urban Bodies Hi-Tech

3271. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has identified local urban bodies having population of more than one lakh in the country with a view to implement a programme to make them hi-tech as reported in the Hindi daily the 'Dainik Jagran' dated November 27, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise number of such urban areas identified for the purpose;

(d) the total amount likely to be incurred on the said programme;

(e) whether the Municipal Corporations have been identified for the current year;

(f) whether the Union Government has informed the State Governments about the conditions laid down for providing funds under the said programme;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (h) A 'National Mission Mode Project on e-Governance in Municipalities' is being formulated by the Ministry of Urban Development. Details of the project are yet to be finalized.

[English]

Agreements on Commercial Space Launches

3272. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether US is reviewing space entities still under sanctions as reported in the 'Times of India' dated December 02, 2005;

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

(c) whether India and US are also working out landmark bilateral agreements on commercial space launches; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Government have taken up the review of the Entity List with the US Government during the High Technology Cooperation Group meeting held on December 1, 2005, with a view to deleting Indian organizations including those related to the space sector. The US have agreed to examine this matter.

(c) and (d) No Sir. However, to facilitate such agreements, the draft of a technology safeguards agreement has been received from USA.

Uranium Reserves

3273. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether detailed field/laboratory investigations were carried out to delineate the subsurface configuration of ore body and evaluate the ore characteristics of the uranium occurrence in Rohil Ghatashwar area of district Sikar in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether any feasibility report has been prepared for commercial/economic use of these uranium reserves; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), Hyderabad, a constituent Unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, has located Uranium occurrence in Rohil-Ghatashwar Area, Sikar District, Rajasthan. Detailed field/laboratory investigations are in progress to delineate the subsurface configuration of ore body and evaluate the ore characteristics. No feasibility report has so far been prepared.

Coal Mines Provident Fund/Welfare Organisation in Assam

3274. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation is being operating in the coal fields of Assam;

(b) if so, the number of employees registered under it;

(c) whether the Coal Mines Welfare Organisation is also operating in the coal fields of Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the numbers of employees registered under it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation is operating in the coal fields of Assam. As on 31.10.2005, the number of employees registered under it is 3684.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The erstwhile Coal Mines Labour Welfare Organisation has been merged with Coal India Ltd. in 1986.

World Bank Assistance for Health Projects

3275. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank is assisting some health projects in the country;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has sought the assistance particularly for Uttar Pradesh where a large number of persons have died from Japanese Encephalitis; and

(d) if so, the extent to which World Bank is extending its help to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the World Bank assisted health projects are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Uttar Pradesh is in the process of preparing a Project Implementation Plan for the Integrated Diseases Surveillance Project supported by the World Bank which would be initiated in April, 2006. To ensure that the diagnosis of Japanese Encephalitis is made in a timely manner, a provision for procurement of diagnostic kits under the Integrated Diseases Surveillance Project has been made.

(d) The extent of World Bank support is detailed in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Date of Signing/ effectiveness	Date of closing	Area of implementation	Loan amount in US\$ million	Disbursement upto 31.10.2005 in US\$ million
Central Sector						
1.	Tuberculosis Control Project	14.3.97 8.5.97	30.9.05 31.3.06	Nation-wide	129.36	110.75
2.	Malaria Control Programme	30.7.97 30.9.97	31.12.05	7 states Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan	128.30	96.44
3.	HIV/AIDS-II	14.9.99 9.11.99	31.3.06	Nation-wide	191.00	178.78
4.	Food & Capacity Building Project	29.9.03 17.10.03	31.7.08	Nation-wide	54.03	4.75
5.	Immunisation Strengthening Project	19.5.00 18.8.00	31.12.05	Nation-wide	230.80	230.80
6.	Integrated Disease Surveillance Project	23.9.04 28.10.04	30.9.09	Nation-wide	68.00	6.80
State Sector						
7.	Maharashtra Health System Development Proj.	14.1.99 24.2.99	30.11.05	Maharashtra	116.90	83.92
8.	Uttar Pradesh Health System Development Project	19.5.00 26.7.00	31.12.05	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	110.00	45.63
9.	Orissa Health System Development Project	13.8.98 8.9.98	31.3.06	Orissa	76.40	66.70
10.	Rajasthan Health System Development Project	3.6.04 21.7.04	30.9.09	Rajasthan	89.00	4.87
11.	Tamil Nadu Health System Development Project	5.1.05 27.1.05	31.3.2010	Tamil Nadu	110.83	7.51

[Translation]

Celebration of 150th Anniversary of India's First War of Independence

3276. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee of Ministers to draw up the programme for commemoration of 150th Anniversary of India's First War of Independence;

(b) if so, whether any programme has been chalked out for the said celebration;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers which is considering the matter.

Per Capita Expenditure

3277. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita expenditure of a farmer family in the year 2003 was Rs. 503 as per 59th round of the National Sample Survey Organisation which was higher by Rs. 75.00 than BPL norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said per capita expenditure differs from State to State in the country;

(d) if so, the State-wise details of the per capita expenditure; and

(e) the percentage of population in each State having income lower than the BPL norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH

AND AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey (NSS) 59th round (January-December 2003) conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) the average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) for farmer households at all-India level during the year 2003 was Rs. 502.83. The rural poverty line at the national level estimated from the latest available data of NSS 55th Round, 1999-2000 is Rs. 327.56. The average monthly total consumption expenditure of farmers *i.e.* Rs. 502.83 deflated to 1999-2000 prices works out to Rs. 487.97. Therefore, the difference between the two is Rs. 160.41 at 1999-2000 prices.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The per capita monthly expenditure (MPCE) differs from state to state in the country. Statement-I containing 'MPCE in each State and all-India in respect of farmer population' based on NSS-59th round (January-December 2003) conducted by NSSO is enclosed.

(e) Statement-II containing 'Percentage of population Below Poverty Line by States-1999-2000' for rural areas is enclosed.

Statement I

Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) in each State and all-India in respect of Farmer Population-2003

State/UT	Average MPCE (Rs.)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	512.56
Arunachal Pradesh	582.65
Assam	479.42
Bihar	403.60
Chhattisgarh	378.89
Gujarat	562.86
Haryana	741.10
Himachal Pradesh	708.47
Jammu and Kashmir	711.82
Jharkhand	352.85

1	2
Karnataka	491.19
Kerala	900.59
Madhya Pradesh	406.30
Maharashtra	524.12
Manipur	592.27
Meghalaya	592.73
Mizoram	656.60
Nagaland	882.93
Orissa	341.75
Punjab	828.01
Rajasthan	557.45
Sikkim	548.02
Tamil Nadu	572.81
Tripura	561.89
Uttar Pradesh	474.89
Uttaranchal	566.60
West Bengal	507.74
Group of UT's	658.50
All India	502.83

Statement II*Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States [for rural areas]—1999-2000*

Sl.No.	State/U.T.'s	% of persons
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40.04
3.	Assam	40.04
4.	Bihar	44.30
5.	Goa	1.35
6.	Gujarat	13.17

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	8.27
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7.94
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.97
10.	Karnataka	17.38
11.	Kerala	9.38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	37.06
13.	Maharashtra	23.72
14.	Manipur	40.04
15.	Meghalaya	40.04
16.	Mizoram	40.04
17.	Nagaland	40.04
18.	Orissa	48.01
19.	Punjab	6.35
20.	Rajasthan	13.74
21.	Sikkim	40.04
22.	Tamil Nadu	20.55
23.	Tripura	40.04
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31.22
25.	West Bengal	31.85
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	20.55
27.	Chandigarh	5.75
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	17.57
29.	Daman and Diu	1.35
30.	Delhi	0.40
31.	Lakshadweep	9.38
32.	Pondicherry	20.55
	All India	27.09

- Poverty ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
- Poverty line of Maharashtra and Expenditure Distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
- Poverty line of Himachal Pradesh and Exp. Distribution of Jammu and Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Poverty ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab is used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
- Poverty line of Maharashtra and Expenditure Distribution of Dadra and Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
- Poverty ratio of Goa is used for Daman and Diu.
- Poverty ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Installation of BTS

3278. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to install Basic Telephone System (BTS) or sophisticated equipments in each State specially in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of BTS and sophisticated equipments installed during the last three years and the current year till date, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received any complaints in regard to network jam and unsatisfactory mobile service in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any effective steps have been taken by the Government to improve the quality of mobile service; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is installing latest technology telecommunication equipment including in the State of Jharkhand with a view to meet customers satisfaction and compete with other telecom operators.

(c) Since the roll out of BSNL's countrywide mobile services on 19th October, 2002, number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) which are in operation are 12,756 including 214 in the State of Jharkhand. Additional 18,095 base stations including 290 stations in Jharkhand State have been proposed to be added. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) to (g) Some complaints of Mobile network congestion have been received pertaining to some parts of Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Deoghar, Dumka, Pakur and Bokaro. In this reference, action has already been taken by BSNL for augmentation of Mobile network capacity in Jharkhand by 2.5 lakh lines during the current financial year to remove the congestion, improve the quality of

mobile service and to provide new mobile connections. Further, Mobile network is optimized for its performance continuously and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the Quality of Service parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Statement**State-wise Details of Status and Plan of Mobile BTS of BSNL**

Sl.No.	State	No. of existing BTS	Additional BTS planned in 2005 (Approx.)
1	2	3	4
East Zone			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	17	33
2.	Assam	695	330
3.	Bihar	398	534
4.	Jharkhand	214	290
5.	North East	190	264
6.	Orissa	319	505
7.	West Bengal	529	1576
Total		2362	3532
South Zone			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	910	1180
2.	Karnataka	1003	1059
3.	Kerala	908	1292
4.	Tamil Nadu	1402	1696
Total		4223	5229
West Zone			
1.	Gujarat	796	1612
2.	Madhya Pradesh	393	760
3.	Chhattisgarh	111	224
4.	Maharashtra	1028	2016
Total		2328	4612

1	2	3	4
North Zone			
1.	Haryana	511	517
2.	Himachal Pradesh	259	270
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	322	284
4.	Punjab	415	1076
5.	Rajasthan	387	955
6.	Uttaranchal	189	214
7.	Uttar Pradesh	1760	1406
Total		3843	4722
Grand Total		12756	18095

[*English*]

Protecting Classical/Tribal Artifacts

3279. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many classical, folk and tribal artifacts are in a state of neglect; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Government has drawn up various schemes to take care of and promote the classical, folk and tribal artifacts.

The Scheme for promotion and dissemination of Tribal/Folk art and culture provides grants and subsidies for undertaking projects for (i) documentation, research, survey and photographic record of artistic manifestations of tribal art; (ii) identify systems of formal and non-formal education to disseminate awareness of the richness of the tribal culture and life; and (iii) preservation and propagation of tribal art, crafts, oral traditions and other facets of tribal and rural culture.

Zonal Cultural Centers (ZCCs) were set up by the Government with the objective to preserve and promote various art forms particularly folk art forms including

artifacts. These centres have been taking effective steps to preserve and promote folk/tribal artifacts through Shilp Meela and workshop-cum-exhibitions. Besides this, ZCCs operate two schemes: Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms and Guru Shishya Parampara to preserve and promote folk/tribal art.

The Scheme for financial assistance for 'Promotion and Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums' provides, *inter-alia*, grant for the professional development of museums for the promotion and preservation of artifacts including antiquities, numismatics, paintings, ethnological collections, folk art etc. The National Museum, New Delhi has an Anthropological Section with a rich collection of about 4500 Tribal art objects and there is a permanent gallery depicting the tribal life style of the North-East.

Under the Cultural Talent Search Scholarships Scheme, the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training was taken steps to revive tribal craft and artifacts. Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati organizes workshops on various streams of art forms of North East.

Anthropological Survey of India and Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya are responsible for researching, documenting and preserving folk and tribal artifacts as well as generating awareness about folk and tribal lifestyle.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides grants to the State Governments for Tribal Research Institutes for research, evaluation studies, seminars/workshops, training programmes and museums, which includes the exhibition and preservation/conservation of tribal artifacts.

Apart from these schemes, the major museums also ensure the preservation and conservation of artifacts in their possession.

[*Translation*]

Comprehensive Malaria Control Programme

3280. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) whether comprehensive Malaria Control Programme is being launched in several parts of the country including Madhya Pradesh with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Malaria has not been eradicated from tribal dominated Districts in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to run the second phase of the programme in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said programme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government of India is implementing National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for prevention and control of Malaria, Filaria, Kala-azar, Dengue and Japanese Encephalitis in all states & UTs in the country including Madhya Pradesh. The objective of the malaria control programme is to reduce malaria associated deaths and effective containment of malaria morbidity.

(b) The Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank support is being implemented in 1045 tribal blocks (Primary Health Centres) of 100 districts in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan since September 1997.

(c) In 90 tribal blocks of Madhya Pradesh, Enhanced Malaria Control Project is being implemented since September 1997. Malaria cases have declined in the tribal blocks from 10.04 cases per one thousand during 1998 to 5.25 cases per thousand during 2004.

(d) and (e) The World Bank assisted Vector Borne Disease Control Programme is under active consideration of Government of India for high endemic states including Madhya Pradesh. Approval would be accorded after receiving formal acceptance by the World Bank.

[English]

Trauma Centre in AIIMS

3281. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trauma Centre has been set up in the All India Institute of medical Sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including the date on which the above centre had been set up;

(c) the expenditure incurred on its construction;

(d) whether the above Centre has been equipped with essential equipments like MRI, C.T. Scan and PAT Scan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Jaiprakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre at AIIMS with an outlay of Rs. 138.53 Crores is envisaged to provide comprehensive Trauma Care to the patients. The Centre is expected to start functioning once the civil works are completed and equipments are installed.

(c) A sum of Rs. 46.00 crores has been incurred so far.

(d) to (f) The Centre is planned to provide services with all essential equipment like MRI & CT Scan. No separate PET Scan is proposed for Trauma Centre as the PET Scan at the Institute can be used.

Production of Coking Coal

3282. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to increase the production of coking coal;

(b) if so, the achievements made in the this regard during the last three years;

(c) the target set for production of coking coal in 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to increase the production and remove the shortage of coking coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, due to scarcity of high grade coking reserves in the command area of Coal India Limited, the production is not increasing to the desired level. The production of the coking coal during the last three years in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited is as under:

(Figures in million tonnes)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
23.83	22.64	22.81

(c) The target set for production of coking coal by CIL during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 are 20.51 million tonnes and 19.49 million tonnes respectively.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the CIL to increase the production of coking coal:

- Scheme drawn up to exploit locked up coal reserves in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), by re-locating inhabitants of Jharia and nearby areas.
- Topa RO project of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) containing coking coal reserves started.
- CCL has planned to enhance coking coal production by diversion of railway line as well as River Damodar.
- Production of coking coal under Dhanbad-Patherdih railway line in BCCL started as a short term measure.

- Extraction of high grade coking coal at Kapuria Block in BCCL is planned as a long term measure.

Outstanding Amount against State Electricity Boards

3283. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large sum of various coal companies is outstanding against the State Electricity Boards in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total sum outstanding at present against SEBs;

(c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to settle the dispute between coal companies and SEBs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the cases resolved so far under securitization scheme; and

(f) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that payment is made to coal companies in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Total sum outstanding of Coal India Limited as on 30.11.2005 amount to Rs. 1655.80 crores (Provisional). Details of total outstanding as on 30.11.2005 from SEBs are as under:

(Rupees in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the SEBs	Outstanding Dues as on 30.11.2005
1	2	3
1.	Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB)	196.26
2.	Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB)	72.20
3.	Uttar Pradesh Rajya Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (UPRVUNL)	35.35
4.	Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB)	235.62
5.	Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board (TNEB)	163.70
6.	Rajasthan Rajya Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL)	25.76

1	2	3
7.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB)	78.36
8.	Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Board (MPEB)	604.43
9.	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB)	48.72
10.	Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GEB)	27.07
11.	West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB)	2.69
12.	West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDC)	150.17
13.	Andhra Pradesh Power Gen. Corporation Co. (APGENCO)	2.44
14.	Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)	11.02
15.	Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB)	2.01
Total		1655.80

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Power jointly appoint Umpires to settle the disputes between SEBs and the coal companies of Coal India Limited. All the disputes dues of the respective SEBs upto 31.3.1995 were referred to Umpires for settlement of dues. Umpires have already pronounced awards in case of DVB/TNEB/RSEB/KPCL/APGENCO/MSEB/MPEB/CSEB/UPSEB and BTPS. The total amount of award in favour of coal companies in these cases amount to Rs. 1189.61 crores.

(e) Bonds amounting to Rs. 2244.52 crores have been issued by the State Governments in favour of Coal companies against the coal sale dues upto 30.9.2003.

(f) Regulation and coal supplies is made by the Coal companies if the SEBs do not make payment of coal. Provision of Securitization Scheme has also been insisted for opening of irrevocable letter of credit by the SEBs for payment of coal sale dues.

Upkeep of Government Quarters

3284. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Urban Development in their report No. 7 (2004-05) had stated that the upkeep of the residential accommodation and maintenance thereof has not been upto the satisfaction of the residents and the roads are not being kept in good condition and the electrical and telephone poles

are not being shifted to make room for wider service lanes;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether white washing is not being carried out in the quarters, the number of which has been given by the inquiry clerk to the contractors;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the action taken against the contractors in this regard;

(e) whether the Government is also not carrying out works on 10 percent basis in the Government quarters; and

(f) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken to ensure the same?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Standing Committee of Urban Development in their report No. 7 of 2004-05 have expressed their "concern over the lackadaisical manner of working of the CPWD in maintenance of the CPWD built residential accommodation in Delhi".

Following steps have been taken by the CPWD to improve satisfaction level of the resident with respect to maintenance of residential accommodation:

- (i) A computerized complaint receiving and monitoring system has been introduced in new Delhi to facilitate receipt of complaints on telephone/internet.
- (ii) Annual maintenance plans are prepared to use the available budget completely.
- (iii) Frequent meetings with Residents Welfare Association are held to obtain feedback and take steps for redressal of complaints.

(c) and (d) All attempts are made to get white washing done on agreed dates. However, sometime there is a time lag between the date on which a quarter no. is given to contractors and the actual white washing is due, due to various reasons such as non-availability of labour/material or delay in completing previous works, etc.

(e) and (f) Works of addition/alteration, on cost sharing basis by the allottees, are carried out subject to availability of funds.

Allocation of Funds to DMRC

3285. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Urban Development in their report No. 5 (2004-05) had recommended for providing adequate and timely allocation to DMRC to ensure timely implementation of the project;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether due to influx of population from other cities to Delhi it has become necessary to take DMRC to neighbouring cities like Panipat, Rewari, Palwal and Meerut etc.; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Adequate funds are being provided for Delhi Metro Rail project in a timely manner.

(c) and (d) The decision for extension of Mass Rapid Transit Systems is taken on the basis of various

considerations like ridership, cost, impact on congestion, air quality etc. At present there is no proposal for extension of the Delhi Metro to Panipat, Rewari, Palwal, Meerut, etc.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3201/2005]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (4) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3202/2005]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Museum, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Museum, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3203/2005]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3204/2005]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Central Zone Culture Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2003-2004.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3205/2005]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 2003-2004.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3206/2005]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3207/2005]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.
- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3208/2005]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 2003-2004.

- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3209/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table;

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3210/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption for Consultation) Second Amendment Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 349 in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2005 under article 320(5) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3211/2005]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:

- (i) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 2(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2005.

- (ii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Sixth Amendment Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 3(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2005.

- (iii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 253 in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2005.

- (iv) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 222 in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2005.

- (v) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 254 in Gazette of India dated the 30th July, 2005.

- (vi) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 224 in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2005.

- (vii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 225 in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2005.

- (viii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 223 in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2005.

- (ix) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 428 in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2004.

- (x) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 425 in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2004.

- (xi) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 426 in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2004.

(xii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 427 in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2004.

(xiii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 845 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2005.

(xiv) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 846(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2004.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay laying the papers mentioned at item No. (xiii) of (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3212/2005]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Bhandar, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kendriya Bhandar, new Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3213/2005]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Civil Services Officers Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Civil Services Officers Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3214/2005]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3215/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3216/2005]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3217/2005]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3218/2005]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3219/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3220/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Construction Industry development Council, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3221/2005]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Sixteenth Report

[*English*]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

Seventh and Eighth Reports

[*English*]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:

- (1) Seventh Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Fifth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants—2005-06 of the Ministry of Labour and Employment; and
- (2) Eighth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Sixth Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Labour on the Demands for Grants—2005-06 of the Ministry of Textiles.

12.04 hrs.

RE: CONDUCT OF MEMBERS IN THE HOUSE

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhansi): Mr. Speaker Sir, yesterday a few members of my party

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

who showed misdemeanour towards the chair, had no intention to show disregard towards the chair but they were anguished over a specific incident that happened in the Bihar. We feel that you have been deeply shocked by the misconduct of the hon'ble Members. I therefore convey the regret of the hon'ble Members of my party and also apologize. The chair is supreme. You are also the custodian of the rights of the hon'ble Members. We respect you as well as the chair and will have same sense of respect in the future also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is extremely gracious of you Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. See, as a person, I am not so much concerned. This House, the Lok Sabha, is a great House. We all belong to it with great pride and responsibility. Therefore, please keep the respect and dignity of this House. I appeal to all of you. The way you have responded today, I am greatly touched by it. I am sure we all shall be able to work together for the glory of this Institution and the glory of our Republic.

I am thankful to each and every Member of this House. I have the highest respect for all of you. Please take it from me. Therefore, we can work together for this great country, for the people who have sent us here with great expectations and hope.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of increase in incidents of trafficking in women in the country which is threatening the social fabric of the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that she may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of increase in incidents of trafficking in women in the country which is threatening the social fabric of the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the trafficking in Human especially in women, child girls and children is a matter of grave concern for the country. The commercial exploitation of helpless women and children is a large scale organized crime which has turned into a million dollar trade. The international community has organized many conferences to combat this large scale problem. In India also through legal, executive, judiciary and social actions, the efforts are being made to root out this problem. According to United Nations Convention, 2000 on International organized crime, the trafficking has been defined as under:

"the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

The Ministry of Human Resource Development condemns the whole practice of trafficking of human beings which is done for all the purposes enumerated above and which exploit the vulnerabilities of people at risk. The first problem which trafficking leads to is the inevitable spread of HIV/AIDs among trafficked women and girls. Research shows a co-relation between HIV/AIDS and trafficking and other sexually transmitted diseases. Because of this group's vulnerability to those diseases, their entire life and the lives of their families is affected because of the high cost of the treatment and difficulty in obtaining medicines. The problem is compounded by the increase in the number of children orphaned due to this pandemic. Society discriminates against such children and their rights are often violated. This also leads to the break down of the family system in society.

Research shows the spread of trafficking to newer areas and an increase in the number of persons trafficked. Trafficked women and children not only face health hazards but are also denied the opportunities for education

*Also placed in Library. See No. LT 3222/2005.

and they lead miserable lives, devoid of dignity and self esteem.

Trafficking is due to a number of reasons both on the supply and demand side. On the demand side trafficking is due to increasing tourism and industrialization, rural urban migration, expanding demand for commercial sex workers promoted by organized criminal networks, demand for exploitation for cheap labour and male dominated value system. On the supply side, the reason for trafficking is first and foremost poverty, erosion of traditional family systems and values, gender disparity and the feminization of poverty among others.

The Constitution of India (Article 23) prohibits the trafficking of human beings and forces labour, while guaranteeing the right against exploitation. The Indian Penal Code contains 25 provisions relevant to trafficking, and the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 deals exclusively with the issue of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has framed a national Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking of Women & Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation, and has constituted a Central Advisory Committee to monitor the implementation of this plan of action.

The Department has also very recently published a Protocol on Pre-rescue, rescue and Post Rescue Operations of Child Victims of Trafficking. The Department is also trying to raise awareness in society about this evil and is running a number of schemes, like Short Stay Homes, Swadhar and Pilot project on Combating Trafficking for the rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked women and children. The department of Women & Child Development runs a number of schemes like, Kishori Shakti Yojana, Swa Shakti, Swayamsidha, Swavlamban and STEP for economic empowerment of the women. However, the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of rescued victims of trafficking is a long arduous process because society often does not accept such victims into its fold leading to double victimization of such women and children. To tackle this problem a combined effort of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, State Governments and civil society is essential.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me a chance to initiate a most important,

serious and touchy discussion on the subject "women trafficking." You know Sir, that trafficking in women is a global problem. But I shall keep my views within the limit of India.

The hon. Minister, in her statement, clarified the definition of trafficking according to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, 2000. Let me take the help of two reports from overseas first. The United States, in their report titled "Trafficking in Persons" classified all countries in three different tiers and India has been placed in Tier-II Watch List. But the United Nations, in their recent report, has said "India is a major centre of human trafficking. 20,000 women are forced into flesh trade every year." In the *Hindustan Times*, dated 25th October, 2005, it was reported that 61 per cent of the victims are below the age of 18 years and 45 per cent of the victims are below the age of 16 years. Those involved in human trafficking make over Rs. 1.5 crore a year and thus it becomes the second big organised crime after drugs and arms.

Another report, published in a national daily, says that girls are brought into Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore from Nepal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Northwest and West Bengal. We become shocked when we further go through a recent study on trafficking in women and children made by the National Human Rights Commission. The report says that 39.6 per cent of the victims held family members responsible for their predicament. It is horrifying. The study establishes that 41.35 per cent of the victims had lost their puberty between the age of 7 to 15 years.

I agree with the hon. Minister that the Prevention of Immoral Traffic Act was enacted in 1956. The Central Advisory Report, a national plan for action of the Department of Women and Child Development are there. Studies have been made. I also know that the Government of India has signed and ratified the SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.

Sir, I wonder what are the net outcomes? How many girls and children could be saved from the clutches of the traffickers? On 26th April, 2005, the Union Minister for Human Resource Development in his reply against Starred Question No. 426 informed this House that "An action Research on Trafficking in Women and Children in India" has been undertaken by the National Human Rights

[Shrimati Minati Sen]

Commission. The main recommendations of the study made so far are:

- (1) The main cause of vulnerability of trafficking are economic and gender disparity that limits women's access to development process.
- (2) The community and the family should sensitise to issue of gender, women's right and child rights.
- (3) There is need for minimum standards of care and attention in rescue and post rescue activities conforming to human rights.

Sir, may I know from the Government how far we have succeeded in making the women economically independent? Except in West Bengal and Tripura, where women's access to development process have been ensured through reservation of 33 per cent seats in Panchayat, is there any access of women to development process? Is not the present state of affairs of Women Reservation Bill in Parliament and Assembly a glaring example of how serious we are to end gender disparity that limits women's access to development process?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): In Orissa also we have 33 per cent reservation for women in Panchayats.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Sir, taking the advantage of the poverty-ridden conditions of local people, touts of so called placement agencies are luring women and children in particular to a luxurious life with hefty pay in metros, namely, Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Bangalore and so on. A chunk of the recruits are virtually sold to brothel owners. The rest are forced to work as domestic helps. These poor children are to work for 16-18 hours a day, eat the leftovers of their masters sleep in open space, kept under lock and key, and physically and sexually assaulted. Sir, strangely the Government has no control over these placement agencies. Nobody does know where these poor girls are working and what are the conditions of their service. In many cases, if the girl manages to get rid out of the slavery, she hardly gets any money from the masters for services rendered by her.

MR. SPEAKER: What are your questions?

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister through you that during the last ten years how many traffickers have been put behind the bars?

Secondly, how many women and girls have gone back to their families? Thirdly, what actions the Government has so far taken to re-establish the poor girls, living in the dark rooms of brothels, into the main stream of life? Fourthly, what actions are being taken by the Government to stop female foeticide in India?

Trafficking leads to spread of HIV/AIDS and health hazards amongst trafficked women and girls. Sir, what actions are being taken by the Government to address and eradicate this socio-economic problem in our society?

MR. SPEAKER: Well, hon. Members, I have announced yesterday that those hon. Members whose names are not there, are not permitted because that is the rule. But I make an exception because of the subject and because of the request that I have got from Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan. I call Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan to put her questions.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though this is a subject of wider discussion but I would like to ask only two three pointed questions to the hon. Minister.

This Ministry has been performing various jobs for so many years but this job is of such a nature that it is very difficult to have total control over it. National Commission for Women had also given some suggestions and one of them was worth mentioning that at the exist points of small villages wherefrom such girls are lured and entry points of big cities like Railway Stations, bus terminals wherefrom these girls spread in cities, something should be done with the help of social organisations and anti-trafficking messages should be flashed there. What are the views of the Ministry in this regard?

Second question is that what you think of in terms of the Victim Rehabilitation Board? The third question which is linked with it, is that how active are the Rescue Officers who have been mentioned in the Immoral Trafficking Act? What is the number of such girls who have been rescued by these Rescue Officers till date and the efforts made by them for their rehabilitation?

Sir, I know that we cannot give recognition to prostitution at any cost but this is being done. Minor girls are brought here from Bangladesh and it has a different kind of effect on the society. Home Ministry is requested

time and again to carry out checking on borders and now even border fencing is also being done there. Hon. Minister should tell us about the suggestion given for formulation of a special scheme, if any, in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard.

Sir, while participating in discussion on the Domestic Violence Bill, I had said that little girls particularly from the tribal dominated States are sent to cities in search of jobs. Recently, around 200 such girls have been rescued from the railway station and bus stand in Jharkhand and efforts have been made for their rehabilitation. Is the Union Government consider to formulate a scheme in consultation with State Government? There is a need to adopt a comprehensive approach in this regard because this job cannot be done all alone by this small Ministry.

I would like to add one more thing. Social organisations have observed that kids usually lay underneath the cots while women are indulging in such activities and they suffer its ill-effects. Education of their children also get affected from it. There had been some suggestion in this regard that creche for such children should be there during the night time. Whether your Ministry is evolving any comprehensive scheme alongwith the Ministry of Home Affairs for the education and development of those children?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today trafficking is a serious problem; whether it is of boys or girls. It is a very sensitive issue. We often come to know about their plight through newspapers and other quarters. Earlier also, I had said in the House about its prevention. Hon. Member Minati Sen has mentioned about foeticide. PNMT Act is there for this purpose. This Act is propogaged to make people aware of it in district headquarters and everywhere. We have introduced a scheme of providing Rs. 500 in many villages on birth of second girl child under the Balika Samridhi Yojana so that female foeticide could be avoided. Schemes are introduced from time to time to give monetary benefit for the education of girl child.

We have continued our efforts to get the Balika Samridhi Yojana implemented through the State Governments, since the State Governments are the implementing authorities. Besides, I will send the details to the hon. Member about the number of cases filed, number of persons rescued later on since this issue also concerns the Home Department. I will also send the details about the number of persons arrested and convicted.

We are going to make many amendments in ITPA Act as well. Cabinet's approval is awaited and our efforts are also on in this regard. We will bring it to the House for discussion after Cabinet's approval. As I have told there are many rehabilitation scheme for women which are being implemented. Swadhar Scheme is there which is meant for providing shelters to rescued and deserted women. Then we have one programme called Awashakti, where a self help group of these women is formed and they are provided funds from the National Women Fund to make these women financially empowered and arrangements have been made by the State Governments for their financial empowerment by linking them with banks. There is an arrangement for imparting training to make them independent under the Swayam Siddha Scheme.

Hon. former Minister knows about it as she had been looking after this portfolio, she knows that it does not concern only one department but many departments such as Health, Home etc. The department is running by coordinating all the departments. Therefore, we cannot do this work alone. We try to take cooperation of every department for running this department.

The hon. Member has mentioned about such type of arrangement at the Railway Stations. We have not made such types of arrangements, but we do the work of propagation through the radio and television media. For this, we seek the cooperation of voluntary organisation and society. We have to change the mindset of the society, then only we can succeed in this objective. It is a fact that economic crisis is a big reason behind this. The people are forced to adopt this profession due to poverty. The people get trapped in trafficking against their wishes and so many schemes are being run to take them out from this profession. The Government try its best to coordinate with the States.

The Government get some of the work done through NGO's and it asks the States that those NGO's who want to undertake this work be assigned this work. Only on the basis of their report, the Government provide the schemes to states. The Government do not provide schemes separately because monitoring is not possible and it do not receive complete information. The Government are sure that what the amendments will be made by bringing ITPA Bill, it will definitely help the Government to get success. If there is anything special, then the Government will organise meetings of females and male groups because success can be achieved only through coordination of both ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: I have not mentioned only females.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are right, in this male dominated world, men have to be treated properly. Some brainwashing of men is also needed.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: The Government hope for the cooperation from the males also. Apart from this, I want to mention that the Home Minister himself meet DGs and call meetings of Chief Ministers. He is more concerned about checking the trafficking.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it is a very very important issue. I am glad that it has come up. I am sure, the entire House agrees that this is a serious menace and a serious situation. We should all endeavour, each one of us should endeavour, to see that our country's fair name is not spoiled and women are protected as they are entitled to be.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker Sir, my subject is also there.

MR. SPEAKER: About which topic.

[English]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: About the same topic.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, your name is not listed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please accept it.

Now, we come to special mentions.

[English]

SHRI GAURISHANKAR CHATURBHUIJ BISEN (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

has been launched three years ago in backward, Naxal and terrorism infested or geographically big districts. The three years of the 1st phase are going to be completed but these districts have not been developed completely. Still these districts are Naxal affected areas. Such incidents occur there daily. The roads have not been constructed there so far. The dwellings of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or those who live in the forest areas have not reached at par in terms of infrastructure required for development of the country. I through this House, urge that the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana should be extended in those districts for further three years, which have been taken in the 1st Phase.

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main objective of the National Health Policy, 2002 is to achieve the aim of good health for common people of the country. But this is only on the papers so far. On the basis of the official figures, I would like to tell that in year 2003 there were 943 deaths due to malaria and approximately 16.50 lakh patients of malaria were only in Jharkhand. These were 3000 patients of Kalazar and 5 persons had died due to it. Similarly 4.25 lakh deaths occurred due to TB every year. The figures shows that the States, which are tribals and dalits dominated e.g. Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, are severely affected by malaria. In the year 2000, there were more than 5 lakh malaria patient in Orissa, 1.50 lakh in Jharkhand and 3.60 lakh in Chhattisgarh.

Sir, we conducted a survey through a NGOs in our area in Jharkhand and we came to know that there were 43 percent patient of Falacy Ferum i.e. brain fever of the figures of Kalazar and T.B. added to that then 92 per cent of the people of the remote areas of Jharkhand are suffering from these diseases. Thus, the death rate is very high there.

Sir, since the malaria directorate has not been created in Jharkhand. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to send a team to check the diseases like Kalazar, T.B. and Filaria and arrangements are to be made for creation of Malaria Directorate in Jharkhand while taking effective steps to control this disease in poor and dalit dominated areas including Jharkhand.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Recently there was a Conference in Montreal. The object of the Conference was to take preventive steps in the

matter of greenhouse emissions. We all know that the United States of America is the leading country in the world creating atmospheric pollution and also it is a menace to the future generation. It may be pointed out that in spite of world persuasion, Americans did not agree to do a cut, at least 10 per cent cut, in the greenhouse emission.

We all know that recently there was flood in Tamil Nadu. Even in Delhi the climatic conditions are changing.

We all know that in Uttar Pradesh also, there are reports that due to the cold wave people have died. It may be pointed out that there are several earthquakes taking place all over the world. All over the world, the oceans are getting two per cent warmth. If things go on like this, the existence of the future generation will be in jeopardy. So, my humble submission is that the Government of India should take a positive stand on these matters pressurising the United States to cut their green house emission. But they say they want to progress because it will adversely affect the industrial development of the United States. But we cannot tolerate such a situation. So, all the nations, including India, should take a positive step so that these occurrences because of the change in the climatic conditions due to green house emission may not take place. I do not know whether the Government of India had taken a serious note of this decision taken at Montreal. If not, I request the Central Government to take immediate steps so that flood in Tamil Nadu and other climatic variations in India can be prevented. This is a future menace to the human race and the globe as a whole.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Sir, the topic that we have raised is very serious. In Delhi, thousands of litres of adulterated milk is being sold in which hazardous chemicals are being mixed and it is not good for health of children and adults also. This business is being run for the last several years. The fats, acids and soda are being mixed in milk, which are dangerous to health. Such type of milk is being sold in Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and in other States. This business is flourishing without any check and lakhs of litres of milk is being sold. There are two reasons behind that. One is that the punishment for this is just prison for six months or the penalty of one thousand rupees. This type of business is never going to stop.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge you to direct the Government to take action against those persons, who are mixing such hazardous things in the milk and the persons apprehended for such offence should be awarded at least ten years imprisonment.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I hope the Government would have taken note of this very serious matter. Please see to it that whoever is the concerned Minister should try to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, thank you for raising this issue.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important issue. Sir, cashew industry in Kerala plays a very important role in the State's economy as well as having a significant contribution to the Forex earnings of the nation. This industry is primarily located in the three districts of Kerala, that is, Quilon, Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram. More than three lakh workers are engaged in the processing of cashew. Approximately 98 per cent of the total workforce is women who come from the BPL families.

The present production of cashew in the State is only one lakh tonne whereas the requirement is about five lakh tonnes. The requirement gap is bridged by imports. The import of cashew has to continue for providing employment to the poor workers at least 200 days in a year till the indigenous production increased to the required level. But severe financial constraint is posing a serious threat to the future of this industry, and hence the Centre should provide financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 200 crore urgently to tide over the present crisis.

The Centre should take urgent measures to set up a Cashew Development Board which should be centered in Kerala to promote the production of cashew and development of this industry in the State. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: What about your Hindi?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the newly created state.

Five Years have passed since the formation of Chhattisgarh. However, there are poor people in a rich land because so long we were in Madhya Pradesh, our state was badly exploited and even today there is no let up in exploitation after the formation of new state either. Sponge iron industries in Chhattisgarh are on the verge of closure. Those industries are closing down for an indefinite period w.e.f. 20.12.2005.

There are two reasons for that. The BJP Government in Chhattisgarh was getting 298 MW power from Central pool which has been stopped; that is affecting our plants. NDMC set up in Chhattisgarh is supplying iron ore to Japan at cheaper rates while the same at higher rates to us and not in adequate quantity either. We are being made available only two thousand tonnes iron ore. Iron ore reserve is going to last only for 52 more years in Chhattisgarh. If we continue to supply iron ore to Japan like this, the poor people on this rich land will continue to be poor forever.

I want to draw the attention of UPA Government, through you, requesting not to do injustice with Chhattisgarh. We should get our share of power, the coal which is available in plenty in Chhattisgarh should be supplied to us in adequate quantity and the iron ore being supplied to Japan and being dumped in sea as steel, the same will be exported to us. Our minerals should not be misused like that and the discrimination against Chhattisgarh may please be stopped.

Thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important subject. We have arrangement in our Constitution that whenever any inter State irrigation projects are being undertaken by one State, the consent of the neighbouring States is very much required. But this provision is being violated now. I am sorry to state this much that recently the State of Andhra Pradesh have started irrigation projects which will harm the interests of the other State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Since you have asked for it, I have allowed. But what is the Central Government's role in it?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, the arrangement is that whenever any inter-State project is being undertaken by any particular Government, that particular State has to take the consent of the neighbouring States. Recently, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have undertaken Polavaram Project. They have already executed and implemented the Vamsadhara Project which will submerge a vast track of area in the State of Orissa, specially Koraput and Malkangiri districts of Orissa where a large number of tribal people live in. I do not object of undertaking this particular project. But they have to take the consent of the neighbouring States specially Chhattisgarh and also Orissa. Our Chief Minister has written a letter to the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh but no response has been received. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What can the Central Government do in it?

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I request you to please direct the hon. Minister of Water Resources that he should make a statement on this particular subject because this very much concerns our State of Orissa. Earlier also, when my esteemed friend, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni was the Minister of Water Resources, we have already approached him and we met him in a delegation. But nothing has been achieved. He assured that there will be a meeting of Members of Parliament of these two States but nothing has happened. I request you to please direct the Minister concerned to make a statement on the floor of the House so that the Constitutional provision should not be violated. The consent of the neighbouring States should be undertaken before taking up any particular project which will harm the interest of any neighbouring State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be no mutual recrimination. If an hon. Member from one State feels aggrieved, let us do it; try to resolve the matter in a proper way. If the Central Government has any role, I am sure they will look into it. Let us not fight amongst ourselves.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not fight amongst ourselves.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Giridhari Lal Bhargava to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is an ideal Member. I always give him a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon'ble Minister, through you, towards an important and serious problem. The Kharif crop in Rajasthan has been destroyed due to delayed rain and State Government has declared 15878 villages of 22 districts as drought-hit. Besides, at many places wrong assessment report has been submitted. I would like to state that second assessment may be done there. There are 6877 such villages in the state where 75 to 100 per cent crop has been damaged and there is 50 to 74 per cent damage in remaining 8901 villages. Most damage has taken place in Jaipur, Ajmer, Banswada, Barmer, Bhilwara, Dungarpur and Jaisalmer areas.

I would like to demand the Central Government that an assistance to the tune of Rs. 2323 crore should be provided to the State Government for famine relief work to provide employment to the people, for providing potable water and fodder to the cattle etc. Those who are rendered unemployed are on the verge of starvation, so I would like to request that those people should also be helped by Central Government.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a serious matter. Recently, the authorities of the SBI have taken a decision to partially shift the foreign exchange department from Kolkata to Mumbai and Delhi. This decision is very unjust, unwise and unwarranted. Earlier, the name of the State Bank of India was the Imperial Bank. The head office of the Imperial Bank was situated at Calcutta. Thereafter, the name was changed to State Bank of India and the head office was shifted to Mumbai. Since then the foreign exchange department of the State Bank of India is functioning at Kolkata very efficiently and effectively and till this date the foreign exchange department has been earning more and more profits from Kolkata.

Earlier, the NDA Government took a decision to shift this foreign exchange department to Mumbai. Due to your intervention, the intervention of other MPs and the intervention of the employees' union it was stopped. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now I am totally powerless!

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Now you cannot do anything. I know.

Sir, due to the intervention of the employees' union that decision was abandoned and stopped by the earlier Government. The sorry state of affairs is that during the regime of the UPA Government the SBI authorities have taken a decision to partially shift this foreign exchange department to other places. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance is here. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the foreign exchange department is functioning very effectively and efficiently at Kolkata. Through you, Sir, I demand the Government of India to immediately withdraw and revoke this decision and restore the earlier position so that the foreign exchange department can function from Kolkata only. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That will be recorded. I have found the hon. Minister of Finance very closely listening to it.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I want to know the reaction of the hon. Minister. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, we would like to know his reaction. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want his instant reaction.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, through you we request the hon. Minister to respond.

MR. SPEAKER: That has gone to his ears. He was very attentively listening.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, he can answer it.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, two days before he delivered a speech in Kolkata where he praised it so much saying that it led to a better economy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, he is nodding his head. I want to know whether it is in agreement or disagreement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel him to answer. Then every hon. Member will ask for immediate responses. No. Chaudhary Lal Singh to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission. I would like to say about one channel of J&K. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to inform the House that Government of India has launched a channel 'Kashir' for the state of Jammu and Kashmir with a purpose to show the culture of Jammu & Kashmir to the people to check the misleading news and provocation being aired by Pakistani TV and to encourage tourism etc. Government of India had allocated crores of rupees for this purpose. I am very sorry to say that the producer of the state of Jammu and Kashmir who was in turmoil since two decades, who had lost his employment, was to be handed over this job but he was not assigned to him. Whether the culture of Jammu and Kashmir will be shown by an outsider, say a Maharashtrian? Whether the Dogra culture will be shown by a producer from Pune? There is a conspiracy to bring an outsider. I want to submit that it is quite unfair to bring an outsider; it is an injustice to

Jammu and Kashmir, to its culture to the producer. I make a request to you that the entire amount sanctioned by Government of India should be handed over to local producer to produce a programme so that they should start their work and show the real picture of Jammu and Kashmir.

MR. SPEAKER: That is also there, national integration also matters.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Other matters will be taken at the end of the day.

12.51 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Postponement of Introduction of the Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2005

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 11. There is a request from the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development requesting that the introduction of the Constitution (One Hundred and Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2005 be postponed. I have acceded to his request.

The House will now take up the next item.

12.52 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House. From next week, I shall allow them to be read.

- (1) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh with a view to solve irrigation problem in Varanasi Parliamentary Constituency**

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to three constituencies of

*Treated as laid on the Table.

legislative assemblies namely Kalyala, Gangapur and Carrt legislative assembly and the problems being faced by the farmers of these rural areas. Land is not getting irrigated due to lack of irrigation facilities, so sowing could not take place. With the limited number of tube wells farmers are not getting power supply regularly either and as a result of which those tube wells are also not working. Due to lesser number of tube wells and irregular power supply farmers of this area are badly affected. I demand from the Central Government to make an arrangement to dig up new tube wells in those three legislative assemblies and alongwith it, regular power supply may please be made to the farmers so that they can sow the crop timely.

I request the Central Government to provide adequate financial assistance to achieve the said objective.

- (ii) **Need to clear the proposals of the Government of Karnataka regarding extension of EDUSAT Pilot Project and upgradation of CTE Gulbarga as a IASE**

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): I would like to bring to the notice to Hon'ble Minister through you Sir, that the Government of Karnataka has forwarded two proposals in my Parliamentary Constituency, Gulbarga regarding:

- (1) Extension of EDISAT Pilot Project to Primary School in Gulbarga District under SSA; and
- (2) Upgradation of CTE, Gulbarga as IASE in the State of Karnataka.

Government of Karnataka has sent a Project Report covering 2477 Government and private aided Primary Schools in Gulbarga Distt., under DUSAT Project at a cost of Rs. 2234 lacs.

Upgradation of CTE, Gulbarga as IASE is pending with Ministry of HRD and the State Government has sent the clarifications sought by the Ministry.

In view of the above facts, I urge the Hon'ble Minister to accord approval for the above two proposals of the Government of Karnataka at the earliest.

- (iii) **Need to address problems of the Anglo-Indian community**

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated): Sir, the 42nd Report of the National Commissioner Linguistic

Minorities does not include any reference to the concerns and problems of the Anglo-India community—a linguistic minority community defined in the Constitution.

In the reports from the various states the following concerns of this community have not been addressed:

1. Certain states reply to representations only in the states official language which puts the minority community at considerable disadvantage.
2. The schools established and administered by the states do not provide for curriculum transaction in the language of the minorities.
3. There is no registration of language preference of linguistic minority pupils.
4. There is no notified machinery to examine and address the concerns of the Anglo-Indian community.

Consequently, the Anglo-Indian community is at considerable disadvantage in the states.

I request the Government to look into the matter.

- (iv) **Need to declare minimum support price of cotton at Rs. 2250 per quintal and open purchasing centres of C.C.I. in Amrell Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amrell): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a bumper cotton crop this year and most of the farmers of my constituency Amrell and Saurashtra depend mostly on cotton crop only. After good crop yield more and more produce is arriving in the market since 15 days. Due to glut of cotton yield, the price of cotton has come down to Rs. 1800 per quintal whereas its cost of production is Rs. 2200 per quintal. Farmers are at the receiving and due to fall in prices. This will burden him with debt and the cotton farmer will be forced to commit suicide. So, the support price of cotton should be at least Rs. 2250 per quintal. Along with that the purchase centre of cotton corporation of India should be opened up at Rajula, Sabarkudla, Babra and Amrell in my constituency.

I make a request to the central government, through this House to declare the minimum support price of cotton at the rate of Rs. 2250 per quintal and CCI should open

[Shri V.K. Thummar]

purchase centers at Amrell, Rajula, Sabarkudla, Babra and Bagsara in my constituency and the import of cotton should be totally banned.

(v) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh with a view to solve drinking water problem in Mathura Parliamentary Constituency

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mathura Parliamentary constituency in U.P. is facing acute shortage of drinking water. The drinking water supplied here by U.P. Jal Nigam is saline and unsafe for drinking.

Mathura is a tourist place and many pilgrims visit it everyday for Govardhan Parvat Parikrama and 25 see other tourist spots but there is no arrangement of drinking water en-route the Parikrama and in rural areas particularly, this problem has assumed ominous proportion. Villagers have to carry pots of drinking water from far way places. U.P. Jal Nigam has completely failed to supply proper drinking water in Mathura and is facing financial crisis.

Therefore, I request the government to arrange for pure supply of drinking water considering the heavy rush of international tourists in Mathura and provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for this purpose.

[English]

(vi) Need for effective implementation of 'The Persons with Disabilities Act of 1996' for the benefit of disabled persons

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): India is growing into a dominant global economy and is gaining international recognition as a services economy. For a Nation in growth it is equally important to remember that the true measure of a civilized nation is what it does for deprived citizens, especially those underprivileged ones and those with special needs, those we refer to as the disabled or the 'handicapped'. India today has 70 Million disabled people.

The Persons with Disabilities Act of 1996 mandates non-discrimination in access to public buildings and transportation. The real question is whether as a nation

we have done enough or are doing enough to incorporate in our planning process the needs of these special people. I think the answer is obvious for all to see and it is important that a resurgent India reflects these needs.

It took the famous British Physicist Stephan Hawking (who is wheelchair bound) visit to India in 2001 before we had even thought of making arrangements for wheelchair ramps at historic monuments in India.

On my recent visits to a developed nation like Japan and developing economy like China, I was pleasantly surprised to see special pavements all along the public pathways, in public buildings and in the Metro a lane that enabled the blind to walk without any assistance. I think we have to as a nation act fast in implementing India's law on disabled rights, which also calls for steps to be taken to ensure a barrier-free environment in workplaces and schools and requires for 3 percentage of lower level Government jobs to be reserved for the disabled.

I request the Central Government to look into the matter.

(vii) Need to lay a new railway line between Ongole and Donakonda in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY (Ongole): I would like to bring to the notice of this House about the urgent need for construction of Ongole-Donakonda new BG rail line in South Central Railway of Andhra Pradesh. Ongole town is an a very backward Prakasam district not having communication system to reach all corners of the district. It is in the east coastal border of Prakasam district. Donakonda Railway Station is situated in the western part of the Prakasam district in the midst of thick forest area. Dry and garden crops are grown abundantly in this area and the agriculturists find it very difficult to transport their produce to the marketing centres due to lack of proper transport facility. Further, ever since Galaxy granite stone, a rare mineral deposits was unearthed recently at a place called Cheemakurthi this area has gained international importance and the mineral is being exported in abundant quantity. As there is no proper transport facility, transport of this mineral and other agricultural products has become very expensive.

I, request the Government to sanction laying of a new railway line between Ongole and Donakonda in Andhra Pradesh without further delay.

(viii) Need to amend guidelines issued by Twelfth Finance Commission with a view to provide permanent infrastructure in villages

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the guidelines issued by the Centre under 12th Finance Commission provide for very meagre amount to be allotted to the village Panchayats on the basis of their population. This amount is too little for development and construction of a permanent asset in a village because the limit of this amount to be allocated for a village on the basis of its population stands between Rs. 15,000-Rs. 40,000 only which is too less for the development of that village. The Central Government should revise these guidelines and disburse funds on the lines of 11th Finance Commission and formulate a 5-year plan to include each and every Panchayat on 15%-contribution basis. A list of development works on priority basis should be prepared so that construction work of permanent assets in that village, like Community Centre, Swaraj Bhavan' drainage may be taken up.

(ix) Need to set up a Coach Depot/Scrap Depot of Railways at Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bareilly holds a significant place in our rail-network. We have there the Divisional Office of N-E Railway and factories of N-E Rail Coach Repairing and manufacturing of rail-cranes. Bareilly was considered the most appropriate place to establish a rail-coach factory in the past. I urge the Government to issue necessary instructions to establish a major factory and coach-depot a large scrap depot in Bareilly keeping in view the availability of rail land and proper infrastructure here.

(x) Need to expedite construction of a bridge on river Chambal at Sevar Ghat linking Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Mr. Speaker, Sir, work of construction of a bridge on river Chambal at Sevar Ghat linking Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan was taken up and it is 50% complete at present. But the work has been left incomplete on the site where my constituency Morena is situated.

I urge upon the Central Government to inquire into the fact as to why the work of this bridge has been left incomplete even after the sanction to it while the people

have not got benefited from this construction. Recently 13 people lost their lives due to capsizing of a boat in Chambal river near this very bridge.

I urge upon the Government to look into this and get the work of this bridge completed without delay.

(xi) Need to include Godia Caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a need to include Bhoi, Kahar, Kewat, Mallah, Dheewar and Nishad sub-castes into the list of STs as they are synonymous castes of Majhi and Majhwar Tribes of Madhya Pradesh. The Government of MP have sent this recommendation letters in this regard to the Central Government on 15.10.03 and again on 17.2.2004. But there is no action from the Centre in this regard as yet. The Godia Community feels as if they here being discriminated against. Sir, through you, I would urge upon the Central Government, that proper action may be taken to include Godia caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

(xi) Need to extend Gwalior-Jaipur Inter-city Express upto Ajmer in Rajasthan

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Speaker, Sir, city of Ajmer is the heart of Rajasthan. This city is of significant importance from point of history, tourism, education & religion due to which this city was directly under British rule during British period and it was a Union territory of category 'C' till 1956. Mausoleum of famous Sufi Saint Khawaja Muinuddin Chisty is also located here where lacs of people from across the country and overseas come to offer their prayers. Pushkar, a famous pilgrim and tourist centre is also situated near Ajmer, where lacs of people come for pilgrimage each year. Ajmer is also of crucial importance in view of railways and CRPF.

Earlier when there was meter gauge, a train used to run between Agra Fort and Ahmedabad via Jaipur and Ajmer, which was very popular and useful for passengers. After gauge conversion, a train Agra Fort, Jaipur Intercity was introduced. This train was extended upto Gwalior on public demand. The way this train has been extended upto Gwalior keeping in mind the public interest, similarly it should be extended upto Ajmer as well in view of the heavy demand of the general public. The train will prove to be useful if it is extended upto Ajmer.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Therefore, it is requested that Gwalior-Jaipur Intercity Express should be extended upto Ajmer in view of the importance of Ajmer.

(xiii) Need for Implementation of certain National Highways and waterways projects in West Bengal

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Growth of economy depends on improvement of road, waterways and air connectivity. West Bengal is lagging behind in all spheres. Potentiality of industrialization of trade, commerce and tourism in West Bengal are not being exploited due to lack of connectivity.

Therefore, I would urge upon Hon'ble Ministers of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation to take steps for implementation of the following projects at an early date:

1. Extension of NH-41 upto NH-117 including construction of bridge over Hoogly river between Kukarahati Highway.
2. Declaration of Road stretching from NH-41 at Nandakumar to Digha, an important tourist site as National Highway.
3. Declaration of Road stretching from Morgram to NH-41 at Radhamani via Bardhaman, Arambag, Ghatal, Daspur and Mechogram, Panskura as National Highway.
4. Declaration of East Coast Canal along river Bahamani, Mahananda, Delta, Rupnarayan at Geonkhali as National Waterway.
5. Inclusion of Ashuganj as port of call under Indo-Bangladesh protocol on ITW and Trade.
6. Setting up of Inland Waterways terminal at Haldia.
7. Dredging of Navigational Channel from Haldia to Allahabad.
8. De-siltation of River Haldia and Rupnarayan estuaries of river Hoogly.
9. Deep Water Port between Haldia and Digha cargo and passenger.
10. Cargo and passenger airport at Haldia.

(xiv) Need to pass a comprehensive legislation for the benefit of the workers in unorganised sectors

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): The policies of economic liberalization have resulted in crisis in the unorganized sector industries and placed unbearable burden and miseries on the workers. The WTO related policies, implemented by the Government, of de-reservation of items of production earmarked for the small-scale sector and deprivation of institutional credit to this sector, have led to large-scale closures and non-employment of thousands of workers. The agrarian distress in rural areas, is leading to overcrowding of labour market. The employers have taken full advantage of this situation. The successive governments at the Centre have not enacted separate legislations for the agricultural and the unorganized sector worker.

Sir, while the present government in its Common Minimum Programme had assured to pass a comprehensive legislation for the benefit of the unorganized sector workers, it has only been circulating various of the draft bill without making any substantial changes in the original draft of the previous regime.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to fulfil its assurance to pass a comprehensive legislation for the benefit of the workers in unorganized sectors.

(xv) Need to provide stoppage of important trains at Bharwari railway station in Kaushambi district, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon. Speaker, Sir, newly created district Kaushambi (UP) which is part of my parliamentary constituency is a place of religious and historical importance. Lacs of Indian and foreign tourists visit this place each year. Gautam Buddha had spent 12 years of his life here. A Jain pilgrim centre is also situated here. Thousands of pilgrims from Japan, Korea, China, Tibet and Indonesia visit here. G.T. Road and Railways are prime means of transport but there is lack of communication facilities. Bharwari railway station is near to the aforesaid district. There is a need for the beautification of the aforesaid railway station, providing computer reservation facility and two minutes stoppage of express trains e.g. Mahananda (Katihar Express) 4084 down at 5.20, 4083 UP at 7.30, Kalka Mail 2312 Down at 5.30, 2311 UP at 10.30 Delhi Riwan Express 2428 Down at 8.45 & 2427 UP at 4.00.

I urge the Ministry of Railways for the stoppage of the aforesaid trains as it will result in a lot of convenience for Government officials and tourists besides an increase in the revenue of railway.

(xvi) Need to include Dalit Muslims in the list of Scheduled Castes.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Bihar Assembly had urged the Union Government on 31.12.2000 to include Dalit Muslims in the list of Scheduled Castes. The request of the Assembly is pending with the Union Govt.

I urge the Hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to take concrete steps to include Dalit Muslims in the list of Scheduled Castes so that they could get the benefits of reservation and join the mainstream of the society. I request that the Dalit Muslims should also be included in the Scheduled Caste list on the same lines on which Dalit Sikhs in 1956 and dalit neo Buddhists in 1990 were included in the said list, so that Dalits of all religion could avail the benefits of reservation as per the provisions of the Constitution.

I urge the Union Government to take action in this regard.

(xvii) Need to start work on laying of a new railway line between Gola and Shahjahanpur via Mohammadi in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. former minister late Shri Balgovind Varma had demanded long back to lay a new rail line from Gola Gokaran Nath to Shahjahanpur via Mohammadi.

I fought for getting this demand fulfilled during 11th Lok Sabha and the then Minister of Railways in his budget speech, announced for carrying out the survey of the said rail lines.

The survey for 67 km long rail line involving a cost of rupees 138 crores has been pending for long. The present minister for railways started this in the written reply of a question. But it is not known as to what is the present status of the aforesaid project and also why it is pending.

I urge the Hon. Minister for Railways and the Government of India to initiate the aforesaid project without delay in view of the dense population of Gola

Shahjahanpur Merg and make the provision to start the work on the project in the budget for 2006-07.

(xviii) Need to start 'budget airline services' from Chennai to U.A.E. for the benefit of NRIs from Tamil Nadu

[English]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): NRIs from Tamil Nadu working in UAE get meagre salary amounting to Dhs. 350 to Dhs. 800. When they visit their homeland Tamil Nadu, they have to spend 4 to 6 months salary for only purchasing their air tickets.

NRIs from Kerala and Maharashtra States have been given the privilege of having budget airline service i.e. Abu Dhabi-Mumbai-Abu Dhabi and Abu Dhabi-Trivendrum/ Cochin/Calicut-Abu Dhabi Sectors at the cost of Dhs. 600 or INR Rs. 7000/-.

Similarly the budget airline services from Chennai-Abu Dhabi-Dubai/Sharjah. Chennai/Tiruchy-Abu Dhabi/Dubai/Sharjah-Chennai/Tiruchy sector should be started for the benefit of NRIs of Tamil Nadu.

(xix) Need to release adequate funds for expeditious completion of Chhapra-Kaptanganj via Thave-Siwan rail line

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rail line from Chhapra to Kaptanganj via Thave and Siwan is one of the approved rail projects for Bihar. The work related to gauge conversion has been taken up. But the progress of the work is so slow that if it carries on with same pace, it is difficult to say as to how much time, it will take to get it completed.

Lacs of people of thousands of villages would benefit after the laying of the aforesaid rail line. Besides, railways would also earn huge revenue from this rail line.

I demand the Government to allocate funds to complete the work related to the rail line from Chhapra to Kaptanganj via Thave, Siwan and complete the project as soon as possible.

(xx) Need to expedite the doubling work of railway line between Sonarpur and Canning besides providing adequate facilities at Canning Railway Station in West Bengal

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): I wish to mention the matter regarding expediting the work of doubling of railway line between Sonarpur and Canning and the proposed development works at Canning Railway Station besides extending the railway line from Canning to Sonakhali, under Sealdah Division (West Bengal).

In the absence of double line, a lot of hardships are being experienced in the transportation of huge volumes of sea food, vegetables and dairy products produced there. The first phase of the project (Sonarpur to Ghotiarisheriff) is nearing completion. Ghotiarisheriff is a pilgrimage place being religious functions. Therefore, expeditious execution of the doubling work of Phase-I and taking up the second phase (Ghotiarisheriff to Canning) immediately would ease the transportation of these goods which in turn will fetch more revenues to the Railways. Also the work for extending the line from Canning to Sonakhali is to be taken up.

Canning is the gateway of Sundarbans, which is being visited by thousands of inland as well as foreign tourist from October every year. However, there are no waiting rooms, catering facilities in the Station and the approach road is in a very dilapidated condition causing lot of inconvenience to the tourists. Therefore, the developmental works proposed for Canning station should be done on a war footing.

I urge upon the Government to expedite the above mentioned works in the public interest.

12.53 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
DISAPPROVAL OF TAXATION LAWS
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE
AND
TAXATION LAWS (SECOND
AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item nos. 13 and 14. Shri Ramji Lal Suman—not present.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005 (No. 4 of 2005) promulgated by the President on 31 October, 2005."

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the Finance Act, 2005 be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005 brought before the House through the route of an ordinance on the ground that India is the largest democracy of the world and the current session as commenced from 23rd November and this could have been passed at the conclusion of the Monsoon session if it was so urgent to pass this Bill. But, all of a sudden this amendment is proposed to be passed by promulgating an ordinance since the Budget has already been passed. There was ample time in between, yet the manner in which this Bill has been presented in the House through an ordinance is not a welcome step notwithstanding the fact that this may be beneficial in so far as tax regulation of various companies and that of the power sector is concerned.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission that you and your predecessors have constituted a plethora of departmentally related Standing Committees in order to promote the country's democratic system. Any Bill brought before the Parliament should be routed through the departmentally related Standing Committee and not directly through an ordinance as has been done in this place. The provision of Standing Committee has not been adhered to and this can not be justified. If there was so much urgency, the Bill could have been referred to this Standing Committee for incorporating the desired amendments, be it the Income Tax Amendment for the Taxation law amendment and after threadbare deliberations in the Committee could have been brought before the House in a proper manner after complying with the proper procedure.

Sir, I seek your protection and request you to direct the Government to refer the Bill to the Standing

Committee. I am saying so because the Taxation Tribunal Pension authority and Regulatory Bill was also routed through an ordinance and the Government had to refer that to this Standing Committee under pressure from its allies. I seek your protection and justice because the manner in which the proper procedure has been surpassed and the Bill has been directly presented in the House in the name of the hon'ble President is not justified. Therefore, I request you to direct the Government to refer it to the Standing Committee where a cross section of hon'ble Members belonging to different political parties can put forth their points of view and reach a consensus on the issue because this Bill is going to have large scale repercussions in so far as generating revenue for the Government is concerned. I do agree that this Bill can be helpful in carrying the country forward on the path of progress, earning revenue for the Government, augmenting tax revenue collection, including income tax, however, there are areas where there is need to grant certain tax relief in order to encourage the entrepreneurs. We do not want to put obstacles in this effort of the Government, but, the procedure adopted for bringing this Bill cannot, to my mind, be justified from many angle. That is why, I request you to intervene and give directions to the Government.

The manner in which the Government has brought this Bill is akin to adding a drop of venom to a pot full of milk after which the milk becomes useless to drink. I have no grudge against the different clauses inserted in the Bill denoting provision of tax holiday for aviation companies operating on lease, income tax relief to Dabhol company as also Indian power sector companies or relief on revenues earned by conducting international sports competitions in India, but a paragraph has been added in the Bill which was, probably, not been discussed properly or has not been referred to the Supreme Court for adjudication or still the Supreme Court has not delivered its verdict. The hon'ble Minister may give a clarification in this regard but the last clause added to the Bill with regard to giving relief to the small scale industries is most likely to ruin the country's small scale industries sector because a ceiling of Rs. 10 crore has been imposed and that too with retrospective effect since 1998. Had the small scale industrial entrepreneurs been knowing that a ceiling of Rs. 10 crore would be imposed, they could have devised ways and means of accounting their taxation needs but, paying tax from retrospective effect is going to divest them from any tax rebate. The ceiling of Rs. 10 crore imposed on the export companies

belonging to the powerloom sector, the handloom sector, the readymade garments sector, the cottage industries sector or this mass scale industries sector which manufacture their products and export to foreign countries the finished goods is too meagre. If it had been increased to Rs. 25-30 crore of Rs. 35-50 crore, it could have boosted the small scale industries sector. The ceiling of Rs. 10 crore will not work since the cost of machineries comes to a couple of crore rupees and the infrastructure costs them Rs. 4-5 crore. Therefore, given the fact that there is need to grant them income tax relief on the balance income, the limit thus imposed needs to be increased.

13.00 hrs.

Therefore, my submission is that while appreciating the other provisions of the Bill, I differ with the last clause inserted about which no clarification has been issued by the Government. Though, this Bill was scheduled to be presented tomorrow and the hon'ble Finance Minister had invited some hon'ble members and tried to persuade them, yet I think, that all they garments and crafts manufacturing and exporting companies would oppose this clause be they located in Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan or Tamilnadu. This clause will prove to be destructive for the small scale industries. So, through you, I would urged upon the Government to issue a clarification in this regard. With regard to taxation, as I have already said that the less the amount of tax, the more people tend to pay taxes. The hon'ble finance minister is a very smart and clever person. he gives the plea that the exemption limit has been increased and many other provisions have been made. But, the result is that a class IV employee, who earns a very meagre income, has also come under the tax net. There is no provision of giving relief in standard deduction and the finance ministry's jugglery of words has brought a class IV employee under the preview of Income Tax Act. As if this was not enough, a plethora of taxes including service tax etc. have been levied which has caused consternation among the people. This will encourage inspector Raj and create difficulties for the traders and the income tax payees. The rules have been made more complex in the name of simplifying them to the extent that they have to run from pillar to post in order to get their forms filled. The Inspectors will get a free hand and can make surprise visits to the factories pinpointing lacunae at will. This will encourage corruption and a major chunk of the tax revenue which should have gone to the Government

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

coffers will get diverted and the Government will be divested of its due share.

I welcome the provisions of giving tax rebate and other concessions to the power generation and transmission companies and also on the revenues earned by conducting international sports events in India but I do not agree with the said clause which does not find any mention in the ordinance thus promulgated. The ordinance speaks only about levying taxes on the bank transactions and inter banking cash transactions.

When it is said that the political parties would also have to pay taxes if this ordinance was not promulgated, it seems to be a good pretext of bringing this ordinance. The registered political parties and companies registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 or under Section 12(A) of Income Tax Act, 1961 would have to pay tax on dividend but it was not the intent of the Central Government. This was simply a pretext of bringing this Bill and mobilizing the support of political parties on it. However, I would like to go into the principle problem involved in it and if the Government endeavours to mitigate the problem, this Bill can be passed unanimously, otherwise, we might be constrained to registered our opposition to it.

[English]

The Bill seeks to amend Section 28 and Section 80HHC of the Income Tax Act so as to provide relief to the exporters who have been hit on account of levy of Income Tax on sale/transfer of DEPB.

The Bill gives relief to the exporters who have used Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB)/Duty Replenishment Certificate Scheme (DFRC) provided they have an export turnover not exceeding Rs. 10 crore.

This amendment is inserted with effect from 1st of April, 1998. While the amendment will bring partial relief to the exporting community, a fairly large number of exporters would be adversely affected on account of levying of income-tax on them.

Since DEPB and DFRC are Duty Fund Schemes like Drawback, the latter being not subject to income-tax, DEPB should also not be subject to income-tax.

Moreover, the limit of Rs. 10 crore would affect a large number of small and medium industry who have

tried their level best to increase their exports in the past few years.

[Translation]

They have made best efforts to augment exports but its benefit will not accrue to them.

[English]

The tax will affect the employment in the export sector as large number of units may be closed down as they may not find it possible to continue in manufacturing after subjected to heavy taxation from assessment year 1998-99 to assessment year 2004-05.

[Translation]

One can well imagine that how would be taxation when the assessment from 1998 to 2004-2005 would be made. The officers making assessment behave in an arbitrary manner and harass the exporters. Mr. Speaker Sir, I need your protection. It is a technical subject. There are certain objections so I would like to read these out.

MR. SPEAKER: Now many pages are there?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I will take approximately five minutes.

[English]

Sir, they are of technical nature. Hence, I would like to read, with your kind permission.

The threshold limit of Rs. 10 crores would also led to a number of litigations and exporters would be devoting a lot of their time in avoidable litigation rather than in production and marketing of the products.

[Translation]

There is no need to explain, hon. Minister is quite learned. A little attention is required to be paid that instead of doing supervision, enhancing production, the exporters will have to run from pillar to post or be at the mercy of income tax officers.

[English]

A number of exporters having exports of more than Rs. 10 crores have already submitted their returns which

have been accepted by the tax authorities and in a few cases after due scrutiny.

[Translation]

Only a few cases would have been left unsettled, most of them have already paid taxes. If they would pay on the basis of 1998, it will cause lot of harassment, which one can understand.

[English]

The limit of Rs. 10 crores proposed under the draft Bill for exporters who have exported under DEPB or Duty Replenishment Certificate Scheme (DFRC) would reopen all such cases resulting in harassment of the exporters. It will also be a big problem.

The limit of Rs. 10 crore should not be introduced retrospectively from 1998. Otherwise, exporters above this limit who have done their costing taking benefit under DEPB Scheme would be adversely affected and shall be subjected to huge liability.

[Translation]

When Shri Narsimharao ji was the Prime Minister and Dr. Manmohan Singh ji was the Finance Minister in 1991, the series of reforms began.

[English]

Since the first series of economic reforms started in 1991 the growth rate was fixed for exports.

[Translation]

The growth rate for exports was fixed.

[English]

A large number of exporters with their entrepreneur skills who have achieved the goal set by the Government and cross the exports threshold limit of Rs. 10 crore would be penalised. It would send wrong signal as those performing well and providing numerous employment opportunities would be affected.

[Translation]

Consequently they will have to pay increased taxes. It will cause a lot of problem to the exporters and will have

adverse affect on employment generation as they'd be compelled to cut down production and stop work.

[English]

The Exim Policy provided recognition as status holders to exporters achieving certain threshold limit of exports. The Star Exporters who have left no stone unturned to achieve more exports are likely to penalize, if the limit of Rs. 10 crore is applied as proposed in the Bill.

[Translation]

If it happens as has been proposed, it would mean that they made futile efforts and were even penalised.

[English]

For DFRC, the Government has not yet decided how the rate of credit will be calculated, and therefore put an explanation that the same may be in the manner as may be notified by the Central Government. Such an explanation would put exporters to uncertainty which may be a source of litigation and delay at a future stage.

Since the whole problem has started as the provisions were not clear both to the exporters as well as to the income-tax authorities, Government should take a liberal view. That is why, through you, I would request the hon. Minister that. The Government should take a liberal view in the matter so as to provide relief to all exporters who have exported under DEPB or DFRC without any threshold limit of exports. Such a decision will be equitable and would help the exporters to devote their efforts for meeting the twin objectives of doubling our share of merchandise exports and providing additional employment opportunity.

[Translation]

The hon. Prime Minister had also stated in a conference 'No I-T on old DEPB gains'. The Hon. Prime Minister's statement has been published in the newspapers that is why there is no need to repeat it. The problem would be solved if it would be sent to the Standing Committee. It is my humble request to take sympathetic view of the matter and provide some relief by generating maximum opportunities of employment.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I wish to say that although our Constitution does provide for an ordinance in certain cases of eventuality, yet I am sure, the Government—whichever Government is there on the day—should seriously consider it. Unless extremely urgent, ordinance should not be made specially when the House has been summoned.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no such thing. Why should you do that? In this case, I find certain exemptions were intended to be given including to sports persons and others which may be needed for the encouragement of different types of activities. I have not insisted on this. Otherwise, it would have meant a fresh Ordinance to be issued, which would not serve the purpose. I am sure, all Governments are concerned to see that Ordinances are issued unless it is unavoidable. I am sure, the hon. Minister is fully conscious of that. I do not think, in this case, there has been any misuse. Since you have raised the point of principle, I am making my observation.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am deeply grateful to you for your observation. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by Hon. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat ji.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I have given a notice on this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is not entitled to speak. Only one or two Members are allowed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to speak, I will call you to speak. At that time, you can mention about it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I bow down to your observation that ordinance in taxation matters should not be resorted to easily and freely. But here, there are

circumstances which compelled us, which obliged us to resort to the ordinance-making power. Firstly, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. House, the Dabhol situation. In Dabhol, after tortuous negotiations, we have arrived at a settlement. That settlement had to be given legal basis. It is only after we gave a legal basis to that settlement, the disputing parties were inclined to withdraw the numerous cases in arbitration that they had filed in various international fora. As you know, we had negotiated the Dabhol settlement virtually on a day-to-day basis over several months. There was a grave danger that if we did not give it a legal basis, that settlement might have fallen through and the arbitrations would proceed before various arbitration tribunals.

Therefore, it was absolutely necessary for us to promulgate the Ordinance. As the hon. Speaker has mentioned, there was a pressing request that before a particular day, we had to give a legal basis to our assurance that when an international sporting event is held in India, that would not be taxed. The Prime Minister had already given the assurance to the International Cricket Council; and if that assurance was not being carried out by a law—they were not threatening—they were inclined to hand over the World Cup to some other country. But these were the two very pressing matters.

Then, I had requests from the political parties saying that by a curious interpretation—which I do not think was a right interpretation, but anyway that was an interpretation—the political parties were being subjected to fringe benefit tax. I do not think anybody wants the political parties to be subjected to fringe benefit tax. Therefore, I said that 'all right; let us clarify that political parties are not subjected to fringe benefit tax'. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You are bringing an ordinance for that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. He is explaining it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Otherwise, if the political parties were obliged to pay the fringe benefit tax, the political parties would then have to deduct the fringe benefit tax since they had to pay the fringe benefit tax.

The fourth reason was the provision regarding lease of aircraft, as the House has approved, was coming to an end on September 30. Now, we have done this

extension twice. But then, Air India and Indian Airlines came back and said: "We have not completed our lease agreements; we have still got several more aircraft to lease."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Without interruption, I would say...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You are interrupting me.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: In the statement by the hon. Minister, it was mentioned 31st March, 2006. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have made my observations. I have given my views that in this case, it has not been misused. Please do not question that.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: He should admit that he had said it was unto 31st March, 2006. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You have made the point.

The Constitution contemplates issuance of ordinance. The only thing is justification as to the necessity.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Leases have been entered into. Some lease agreements could not be signed before September 30, and some were being signed later. Therefore, there was a nebulous situation. The lessor was not sure; the lessee was not sure whether the benefit would be made available. Therefore, it was necessary to amend the law to make it clear.

All right. We are extending it now by further six months so that the lease agreements, which had not been signed, could be signed in the months of October, November and December. These are the only five items on which we have made the Ordinance.

The last item was the banking cash transaction tax. Again, by a peculiar interpretation, people felt that if one bank withdrew money from another bank, it was subjected to a BCCT. According to me, the section was quite clear. But I cannot take the risk of a section being interpreted differently by an Assessing Officer. There are many Assessing Officers all over the country. Banks were pressing me to clarify that if a bank had put money in another bank, and is withdrawing that in cash, especially a co-operative bank, it was not subjected to the banking cash transaction tax.

Sir, these are the five items on which the Ordinance was promulgated. I submit with great request, much as I dislike ordinances especially in tax matters, in this case, I respectfully submit each one of these five cases and in the totality, all the five causes compelled me to resort to an Ordinance. The one about DEPB is not by Ordinance. That is coming by way of the Bill. While moving the Bill and while replying to the debate, I would explain the position with regard to DEPB.

Therefore, I submit with great respect that the Statutory Resolution need not be pressed. The Ordinance was compelled by five circumstances, and I have given the reasons for these. I would humbly request the House to accept the reasons that I have given.

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005 (No. 4 of 2005) promulgated by the President on 31 October, 2005."

"That the Bill further to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the Finance Act, 2005 be taken into consideration."

Thank you. We can enjoy our lunch better; India has won the Cricket Test.

13.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eighteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:
DISAPPROVAL OF TAXATION LAWS
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2005
AND
TAXATION LAWS (SECOND AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2005—*contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall continue the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, Shri Aruna Kumar.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry):
Sir, I want to speak in Telugu, but you cannot understand because there is no Telugu Interpreter. On the last day of the Budget Session I spoke and on the same day, the Telugu Interpreter had retired. ...*(Interruptions)* That is what I am telling. There is no Telugu Interpreter since he had retired. ...*(Interruptions)* I think, you are able to hear me now. Thank you.

Before I start my speech, I request you to kindly appoint some Telugu Interpreter at least by the next Session so that the hon. Members from Andhra Pradesh can express themselves better in their own mother-tongue.

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no Punjabi interpreter even.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: I think Punjabi Interpreter in there. Telegu Interpreter was there but he has retired. He retired the day I spoke in Telegu.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: I am coming to the point.

After globalisation, the prices of cars, air-conditioners, computers, flight tickets, which are being used by the rich class have come down; and the prices of vegetables, rice, pulses, bus and train tickets, which are used by the poorest of the poor or the middle class have increased. Life is becoming easier for the rich and more difficult for the poor. In such a situation, we should somehow improve our tax incentives and spend it for the benefit of the poor and middle-class.

[Translation]

Despite hundred crore population only two crore people are paying tax. Whereas we find high rise building erected along the roads, people travelling in big cars and staying in five star hotels. As per the World Bank Figures, twenty percent people have become rich and India has become a very big market. Despite that the tax payers are less than two crores most of whom are salaried employees who are compelled to pay income tax. Why this is taking place? `

[English]

We are politicians. A number of people keep asking us. Once there is income tax raid, they immediately come to us and say,

[Translation]

Income Tax raid is going on please do something. We tell them not to worry, let the raid go on if their accounts are in order nothing will happen. But they tell us that it is not a question of accounts. If once they are caught they will be ruined. Please do something.

[English]

This impression should be immediately removed from the minds of the common people and businessmen. No businessman is prepared to pay the tax because he is afraid that once he enters into this trap, he will be trapped forever. I suggest to the hon. Minister that some incentive should be announced in this regard. The Government should create such a situation where taxpayer is respected by the society. When the tax-payers go to the railway station, just like we have first-class waiting halls at the railway stations, there should be a separate waiting hall for them. A separate queue should be there at the Railway Station for those people who pay tax so that they can easily buy a ticket. Similarly, at the airport also a separate queue should be there for the tax-payers. The highest tax payer's name should also be declared. As the Government is giving Padmashri and Padma Vibhushan at the national, State or district level, in the same way some sort of an award may be given to the highest tax payer so as to make them feel proud. I feel in such a way the Government can strengthen the network. So, instead of squeezing the small and medium fishers, the Government can catch the big fishes also who will themselves come up and pay tax.

Tax laws are so complicated that if even a graduate or post-graduate wants to submit the assessment, even though it is said to be made easier and easier, unless he consults a tax consultant, auditor or Chartered Accountant he cannot go and approach the income tax department directly. Recently, in my own home town, Rajahmundry, income tax people came and organised a meeting with the Chambers of Commerce. I was also invited in that meeting. I went there and tried to explain to the businessmen that they could directly go to the income tax office with their accounts. The officials are

there to help them. All of them appreciated me on the spot but after the tax officials had left, they said who would go to the income tax office. They think that it is very difficult to go there. Moreover, by mere going there an impression is created that the person has enough money to pay tax. So, nobody would like to go there.

I would request the hon. Minister to see that an impression is created in the public that by paying tax not only the nation is going to progress but also the one who pays tax is going to be considered as one of the outstanding personalities of the country. He is a patriot who is shelling out funds for the poor people of the country. We must have this realisation. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take such steps which will definitely help improve our tax system as also tax collection.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I shall confine my speech to two aspects and first is the issuance of Ordinance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already replied so you please speak on the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, yesterday, I had an opportunity to oppose an Ordinance on educational matter relating to Manipur University Bill. There, the issue was that the Ordinance was issued after Parliament was seized of the matter. It was not only seized but it had gone to the extent of referring it to a Standing Committee. The Committee had taken evidence and the Report came before the House. But the Government did not care to replace the Ordinance in the proper way and the Bill was brought. Not only that, in the statement itself it was mentioned that the case was ending for long about the issuance of an ordinance on Manipur University Bill. It has become a practice now-a-days. Why I oppose this? There are valid and sufficient grounds. An Ordinance in the general sense is a committed legislation. It is committed in the sense that the Members on this side are bound. Whenever a legislation is being discussed in the House, all Parties will get opportunity of freely taking part in the discussion including the people who are supporting the Government. Now here in this particular case, it is a Financial Bill and collections have already been made or exemptions have been granted and the time is over.

For example, take my case. It is a multi-Party Government. Can I oppose it now? Even though it is

wrong democratically, I cannot get the opportunity of opposing a wrong thing because I am bound by the ordinance. The Ordinance. The Ordinance had come into effect and collections have been made or exemptions have been granted. Now going back is impossible. That is why, I said that it is a committed legislation. With due respect, I would submit that I am conversant with the functioning of the Constitution. I was a Municipal Chairman and for three decades I was a legislator. This is the first time in my life that I have come across an Ordinance to amend a Financial Bill. It is quite unheard of in Parliamentary practice. But unfortunately, the UPA Government took that decision. Why I submit this? As per the provisions of the Constitution, it is mandatory that the Government accounts should be placed before the House. A Budget should be placed before the House. The Government cannot escape from this. It is a constitutionally mandatory provision. The Annual Statement of Accounts of the Government will have to be placed before the House along with a Financial Bill is also introduced incorporating the tax suggestions contained in the Budget proposals. When a Budget is presented to the House along with that a finance Bill is also submitted. Sometimes it will take some time for the Budget to get finally passed because demands for each Ministry will have to be placed and all these proposals will have to go before the respective Standing Committee. It is a time consuming process. After presenting a Budget, suppose a situation arises, as enunciated by the hon. Finance Minister, that the Prime Minister comes into some terms with a foreign nation, then what will happen? It so happens that the House is for scrutiny of the Budget proposals for a month, they have to issue an Ordinance.

If this is allowed, then they can promulgate an ordinance for the Finance Bill itself. That means, this House is made a rubber stamp. It tantamounts to making the House a clear rubber stamp of the Executive. Am I not correct? Is it parliamentary democracy? Is it a healthy practice to convert Parliament into a rubber stamp because the majority party is ruling? So, whatever they do, they can get it passed through the House. Even unjustified laws can be passed. This is my humble submission. Who can justify such a situation? So, if things like these go on and if Shri P. Chidambaram is the Finance Minister, then I expect that he will issue an Ordinance replacing even the Finance Bill. Nobody can say on this point because it is a time consuming factor. There should be a general discussion on the Budget and then, it will be referred to the Standing Committees. Those

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Standing Committees will at least take three or four weeks time. Then each Demand will be placed before the House and discussed with the Reports of the Committees. So, it is a time consuming affair. In the meanwhile, the Central Cabinet takes some policy decisions and those policy decisions will have to be implemented forthwith. What will they do then? They will promulgate an ordinance. In the instant case also, Shri Chidambaram claims that the Government has taken some policy decisions. I will read that particular portion. The Central Government, with reference to the Finance Act, 2005, has taken certain policy decisions regarding the Income Tax Act and banking transactions. So, the policy decision of the Government is being implemented through an ordinance and that too, in financial matters. Then what is the meaning of financial accountability to the House? The Constitution is very particular that tax proposals and financial matters should be placed only before this House.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already replied to the issue of Ordinance. Please speak on the Bill now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The ground that he is claiming is also very fantastic.

The issue of aircraft lease is there for months together and even in the previous year, we were discussing that matter. Is it an urgent matter? Purchasing of aircraft is before the House! Leasing of foreign aircraft is before the House! There is no urgency in that matter. Of course, it may be said that there must be some agreement between the foreign agency and the Government of India. Then it is all right. For this purpose, Ordinance is not required. Without an Ordinance, such a situation can be met. There are provisions in the Constitution for this. We need not encroach upon the right of this House.

Moreover, the most important thing is about concession to political parties. Is it an urgency? For concessions to political parties, he is bringing an ordinance. Is it an emergency situation? Where is it provided that it is an emergency? Political parties can wait. Whatever be the consequence, the political parties are governing the country. Then why should they be given the predominance? Why should they be given a concession through an Ordinance?

This exemption could have been given through the House. That is the proper procedure. Exemptions to

political parties can be discussed by the representatives of political parties here and then they can decide what action to be taken. It is not for the Finance Minister to do that through an Ordinance. Is it proper? Is it a healthy practice? Can it be adopted in future? No. So, it is a bad precedent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not going into the details as you are urging me to conclude. If I take one by one, then it will take a long time.

The next item is power generation. It is there for years. We discussed about power generation in the last Lok Sabha also. This is a matter on which the Government took a policy decision and immediately issued an Ordinance! There are regulatory authorities, both national as well as State. They will look into the matter. Why is our Finance Minister so anxious to issue an Ordinance in respect of power generation when there are other mechanisms provided under the Constitution? There is an Electricity Act, there are regulatory authorities, and even the electricity boards have been divided. In such a situation, is it necessary to promulgate an ordinance for power generation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already mentioned that the hon. Minister has replied to this point on Ordinance. If you want to say anything on the Bill, then I can allow it. Otherwise, please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Even according to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the date given is 1st of April, 2006. That is the date within which some action will have to be taken.

Let me read out that portion:

"...operation of an aircraft under an agreement entered into before the 1st day of April, 2006..."

This is with regard to leasing of aircraft. The date given is 1st of April, 2006. We are bound by the Constitution to have a Budget Session in February. In February we will be meeting and discussing Annual Statement of Accounts, that is the Budget and the Finance Bill. It would be discussed in the months of February and March. Here, the date given is 1st April, 2006. What is the urgency of issuing an Ordinance when we will have an opportunity of having a Session during the months of February and March? With regard to power generation, the date given is 31st December, 2005. So, there is sufficient time at least with regard to two items. The Government could have waited and brought a normal legislation till the tax proposals are accepted by the House. The Government's policy of issuing Ordinances is quite unhealthy and unheard of.

Now, let me come to exemptions. The assesses who have Rs. 10 crore of assessment amount are exempted. This is the tax proposal to extend benefit to the people. Whatever it may be, I am not going into the details of the tax proposals. But the way it is brought, the way the Minister is making an attempt to pass this legislation is quite deplorable and cannot be justified on any ground. No, I do not understand. Today, we have been asked that a Constitution Amendment Bill will be brought in. Today, they have withdrawn. I think, they will be issuing an Ordinance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That will serve their purpose and things go on like this. Now, about this Constitution Amendment Bill, they will bring an ordinance making reservation in private colleges. There also, a reservation is possible, then why not an Ordinance?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not concerned with this Bill. Now, you come to the point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I strongly object to the way in which this ordinance is brought before the House. Also, about the contents of such proposals, we have very conflicting or contradicting opinions. But I cannot say that I oppose it. In some way, I happened to be with them. That is why, I am bound. At the outset, I have told that this is a 'committed' legislation. It is 'committed' in the sense that people like me having different opinions are bound by this committed legislation.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, there is practice to have a discussion on the ordinance and bill simultaneously and at last the hon'ble Minister gives his reply to all the debates. But the Chair has directed and the hon. Minister has also replied and the Chair further clarified that there is no violation of practices and laws in the promulgation of ordinance and therefore I don't want to comment anything on this issue. I definitely wanted to say something as mine was the statutory resolution. But once the Chair has given his direction and observation, I have no right to comment over that. Therefore, I will conclude my speech by giving my opinion on the original bill.

There are many important points in this Bill which should be welcomed. Particularly sub-section 39 (A) of the section (2) of chapter II is approved by international body which regulates international sports in which two or more countries have participated. It means there should be an international controlling body for any of the games and if two or more teams participate in that games, no tax should be levied on the prizes participants receive. We welcome this provision. But this provision should be extended to the national level sports as well because there are two such sports i.e. cricket and tennis; where in players are getting benefit. But the Gymnasts and other players should also be benefited. They are facing problems of proper diet. Especially the Kabbadi players and wrestlers, who win prizes for our country, must be given tax rebates in the national games. Tennis and Cricket players earn huge amounts in addition to the earnings from games. They become ambassadors in a multinational company. They sign contracts for advertisement in about Rs. 150 crores. They earn a healthy amount outside the Game and I advise that such huge earning should never be exempted from tax.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in addition to this, I want to say that there is a dire need to upgrade the production, transmission and distribution system of the electricity companies. Our country is facing acute shortage of electricity and it is the foundation of the advancement of our country. If we are unable to upkeep the production and distribution system of electricity, we can not fulfil our resolve to develop India and promote it as a superpower in the world. Therefore, you have taken a good step by giving exemption to the power companies. But it is given for a limited period and it is said that such companies must be registered by 5th November, 2005 and the registration must be published by 31st December, 2005 and start their production by the year 2007. I think it is a short term arrangement. If I am getting this point completely, then, I presume that the intention of the Government behind such short term arrangement is to revive Dabhol electricity project. The limited period exemption being given to the power generation sector should be extended. Other facilities should be given to the Indian companies to promote them in the field of production, distribution and transmission. I want to request the hon. Finance Minister to accede to the above advice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this august House, the union council of ministers and all of us feel that aircrafts are an important part of our infrastructure and air

[Shri Mohan Singh]

transportation in our country is becoming weaker day by day. Therefore, the shortcomings of its infrastructure should be removed. With a view to doing this the Cabinet allowed Indian Airlines and Air India to purchase planes from foreign countries and to take them on lease basis from outside. For that purpose the funds and aid have been given and the companies were promoted so that these companies may stand themselves up in the face of competition with other companies. It is good that you allowed income tax exemption for the said purpose. I think we should welcome it.

Sir, alongwith it I want to submit that some important points have been incorporated in section 3-4 of this ordinance which, I think, are unnecessary and have been incorporated while formulating it into a Bill. Its direct affect would be felt in the export promotion schemes of the country. Three export promotion concessions were given in India. First was the Drawback scheme, second, DPEB and the third was DEPP and the purpose of all these three scheme was to promote export from the country. There is a feeling in our country that we have to maintain balance to payment by making our country export oriented as well as import oriented. If we promote export the employment opportunity in our country will automatically increases. Foreign exchange of our country also increases. India is proud to have a record collection of foreign exchange today. Export promotions schemes have greatly contributed in this regard. Now, the hon. Finance Minister, suppose the companies opted other relief schemes except the drawback schemes a limit has been made for such companies that the taxation of companies having business within the limit of 10 crores would be done afresh but the taxation renewal since 1998 would be done for the export companies having business of more than Rs. 10 crore.

I think that this is the excuse to put such companies in trouble. The Government of Indian repeatedly contends that we will bring appropriate bill regarding provisions of income tax. Arrangements will be made for tax payers so that they could pay the tax easily. I think that after giving such assurances the making of such a provision is meant to create problems for exporters who are the big tax payers. Hence, I want to request the hon'ble Minister of Finance that if it is in his heart and mind to increase the net of tax collection as we hear about it in his speeches, imposing new problems on the people who are paying the taxes will not serve the purpose. Therefore, if the export companies having income of more than

Rs. 10 crores have to be brought within the limit of taxation afresh in case they have adopted other release routes instead of draw back scheme, then it has to be done from today itself. There is no sense of implementing it from 1998, if it not done from today because we are not the scholars of income tax laws or the expert in it. But being a political worker, I understand that a file of income tax paid three years back could not be reopened a fresh. By starting this system, you will open the accounts of all the exporter having income of more than Rs. 10 crore afresh from 1998 and then they will have to go to the courts and to income tax officers and it will lead to corruption in the income tax department. Therefore, we want to state that it should be implemented from today itself, from the date of presentation of the Bill. If it is not implemented from this date, then the limit of Rs. 10 crore should be increased. With this request, I otherwise welcome most of the provisions of this Bill and suggest a few amendments in it. I conclude my speech thanking you for the opportunity you gave to me to speak.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to express my views on the Bill, which introduced by the hon. Minister of Finance. Though the hon. Minister had held some discussions and given clarifications during discussion on the Resolution, I would like to say that the way this Bill has been introduced on the basis of an ordinance, is tantamount to setting up an unhealthy precedence. The provisions of Clause 3 and clause 4 of the Bill did not exist in the Ordinance; yet they have become part of the Bill. This is not a good precedence. As far as the Government's view regarding exports is concerned, it is quite wrong. I would like to insist on hon. Finance Minister not to set this wrong precedence. They should introduce separate Bill. We shall discuss separately on both Bills and if passed by the House, they will be implemented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many good provisions in this Bill. I shall not dwell on them, but I shall make comments at clause 3 and clause 4.

[English]

Yesterday, I met our hon. Finance Minister and we discussed the matter.

[Translation]

The Government of India intends to increase exports from the country and has formulated a number of schemes to encourage export. But the provisions of this

Bill will send a wrong message to the export community as these are likely to arouse such apprehensions in their mind that, in future, the Government could through fresh legislation, bring under tax net even those exports which they have made five, seven or ten years before. Exactly, this wrong message has been disseminated among the exporters by this bill, which will do no good for our exports. This will discourage our exporters and will coax them to discontinue their business. Therefore, the Government of India and the hon. Finance Minister, who have the best interests of our country's trade, business and exports in their minds, will do well by desisting from conveying such a wrong message which could jeopardize our exports.

Therefore, I would like to support what Shri Mohan Singh ji has recently articulated that why did the Government allow the exporters tax incentives through various schemes like DPEB when it seeks to revisit the earlier provision of withdrawing those tax incentives with retrospective effect.

It is a long standing policy of the Government of India to increase exports whenever any exim policy is formulated by the Government it takes a number of policy decisions, given concessions, makes grading and brandings to augment exports. Now this Bill says that all big exporters, who made exports under DEPB licensee, will have to pay tax retrospective from the year 1998. I would like to request that the Government should not discriminate against any section of the export community on the basis of their size and should withdraw this tax.

I would also like to add that DEPB is a baby of our Finance Minister. He had introduced this scheme when he was Finance Minister. I shall thank him for it. But at the time, neither he, nor CBDT, nor Ministry of Finance had clarified that in future this scheme will be subjected to tax. Now they say all big exporters under DEPB will be charged tax and the small exporters, whose exports worth is less than Rs. 10 crore will be exempted from this tax. Why? Is there any litigation in the courts? Of course, neither High Court nor Tax Department solved this case satisfactorily. All were in confusion. Everyone tried to shift responsibility on to others. And finally this Bill was introduced. But this Bill has been shaped in a way so as to punish exporters with tax.

As far as exports are concerned, I through you, would like to draw the attention of hon. Finance Minister to the fact that thousands of factories are lying closed in the country due to this matter.

15.00 hrs.

Thousands of our workers are sitting idle because of the Government's move to make tax recoveries retrospectively from 1998. When the exporters took to the streets in Delhi and met the Prime Minister, they were given assurance of finding any solution. Had our Finance Minister met with exporters, this provision would not have found its place in the Bill. But I would like to ask how did they reach this limit of Rs. 10 crore? What were its basis? How this limit is determined in exports? What is the logic behind it? Do we aim to restrict the exports? Of late, big companies e.g. GATT or Mark Spencer give orders worth Rs. 2 or 5 million. And these orders have to be met. So long our exporters do not export in bulk, they can't stay in world market. So I want to know that why this limit of Rs. 10 crore.

So, I would like to request hon. Finance Minister to desist from making such provisions. Instead the exporters must be given incentives to perform better.

Yesterday, I had a discussion with hon. Finance Minister. I know that if there would be any limit, it would be with retrospective effect. So it is better if this limit is done away with. The Ministry of Textiles has resolved to export worth \$ 50 billion by 2010. Now, it is around \$ 12-13 billion. How will we manage to realize our dreams of this provision follows through.

I, through you, would like to urge the Finance Minister that this limit of Rs. 10 crore is a totally illogical, irrational limit of the DEPB licence. It should be removed. If this cannot be done, then a way should be devised so that limit remains but all exporters gets benefit and they feel that justice has been done to them. If our export increases with the Government's policy then we will be encouraged to improve further. We need to create such an export friendly environment in the country because doing so would increase the exports of this country. Reference about China is made as to how much progress it has made. Moreover, in this context, I would say that there is a need to apprise the House as what kind of incentives is given in China to give a boost to its exports. While in our country restrictions are put upon export. I would request hon'ble Finance Minister to waive off the Rs. 10 crore limits. If that can not be waived then it should be so increased that the exporters should feel that the Government is with them.

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

I believe that whether it be DFRC or DEPB it is their right to get benefit of those but it is not appropriate to levy taxes by encroaching upon their rights. I want to say that this will send a wrong message because our exporters are already facing lot of problems. The Government adopted a middle path and put a stay on that but there was so much of recovery to be made that the Bank officials attached their houses. Alongwith this they also seized everything else like car or any bank balance they had. This caused a lot of problems to people. I hope that through this Bill Hon'ble Finance Minister has all the intentions to help the exporters. I would like to say that the way he has given exemption some items he should also give exemption some other 3-4 items also.

With these words I would like to conclude.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government had, subsequent to the enactment of the Finance Act, 2005 taken certain policy decisions relating to the income tax, and banking cash transaction tax. These decisions require immediate legislative action by way of amendments. I welcome and support these amendments.

If we consider the competition in the airlines, we find that outside airlines are coming here in our country. If we encourage our own airlines by exempting from tax any payment received by them by leasing aircraft to an outside company, I think it is perfect, and it is the need of the day.

Secondly, any person or organisation may be organising the sporting events in our country, which are approved by a recognised international body, and thereby generating income. If we give exemption in respect of those incomes, which are notified by the Government, it will definitely be a welcome step.

Thirdly, we all face power shortage in our country. If whatever income is earned by our own companies by way of generation, transmission, and distribution, is be exempted, it will be welcomed. It is also the need of the day.

Another thing is that if the political parties, and companies registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, are exempted from liability for payment of fringe benefit tax, it will be a welcome step.

Lastly, our Finance Minister introduced a new Cash Transaction Tax in Finance Act in the Budget of 2005-06 which intends to curb black money. Unfortunately, the Reserve Bank of India had levied the tax on the cash transaction in between the bank transactions. It was definitely unfortunate. The Reserve Bank had not applied its mind and it had not taken into consideration the concept given by the Finance Ministry. I took the lead. I collected the representation of the Associations and Federation, and along with my letter, I had submitted it to the hon. Finance Minister.

Fortunately, he has taken cognisance of this and organised a meeting. Immediately they are exempted from that tax. I thank the hon. Finance Minister.

Once again, I welcome this Amendment which is necessary. It was promulgated by way of an Ordinance. Now, we are amending it.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak upon this subject. I rise to speak in favour of the 'Taxation Law Amendment Bill, 2005, that has been brought by hon'ble Finance Minister.

The intentions of Government and Finance Minister are very clearly to provide exemption in income tax by making amendment in different sections of Income Tax and Financial bill sectors, which seeks to provide exemption in various areas like business, sports activities and power generation in order to provide a fillip to the said activities. I believe that this Bill is worth welcoming. Section 10 of Income Tax has been mainly amended and some new sections have been added to it. Exemption which very clearly it seeks to provide tax exemption to the Indian Companies in aviation industry on the payments received by them on leasing their air craft to an outside company. Secondly exemption has also sought to be given to those engaged in power generation, power distribution or setting up of power generation plants.

Thirdly, tax exemption has been sought to be provided for encouraging sports activities under which the income generated in the form of prize money for the sports persons belonging to foreign countries would be exempt from income tax. Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister has done a commendable job by giving such exemptions through this Bill. Therefore I support this Bill.

MOHD. SHAHID (Meerut): Deputy Speaker, Sir, as was pointed out by hon'ble Member speaking prior to me that this Bill brought by hon'ble Finance Minister is worth welcoming in some respect and we also welcome the exemptions sought to be provided in it.

But alongwith this, there are some serious issues also in this Bill, as our Member was telling us just now that the purpose behind giving DEPB facility earlier in 1998 was to promote exports. The exporters of our country have worked hard and enhanced their business; they have generated employment for the people of the country and have also earned foreign exchange through it. If this bill is passed then it will directly affected the exporters. The DEPB rebate they got in 1998 helped them sell their products in foreign countries, otherwise due to competition it is very difficult to sell their local products in the international market. Consequently they submitted the DEPB profit in the 1998 balance sheet taking it as profits and which was appreciated by the officials throughout the country and they took it to as export income. But now, if Rs. 10 crore limit is set, it will result in attachment of exporters factories as well as homes and will ruin the exporters who have worked hard for days and nights together with the noble intentions to bring foreign exchange to the country and to provide employment to thousands of people. Such gross injustice has never been done before. If this limit of Rs. 10 crore is fixed then it will be injustice to those exporters who have promoted exports with their hard work and have been able to scale above Rs. 10 crores. All these exporters will come under this category and will have to reopen all the cases of the year 1998 and onwards and the exporters will be forced to sell off their factories and to make rounds of courts and the income tax offices. Therefore, it is my humble submission as well as those of all the other parties that this issue should be revisited seriously. This is a serious issue before the country. In these days a lot of foreign exchange is coming to the country through exports and if this is stopped then it will lead to closure of people's export industries. It will deal a severe blow to the country's economy. If hon'ble Finance Minister does not find it wrong then why is it that rebate is being given to exporters earning below Rs. 10 crores? This means that somewhere in this conscious he is aware that this would lead to reopening of all the cases of year 1998 onwards. All the exporters taking advantage of DEPB exemption have enhanced their business on the premise that the Government has given them the aforesaid exemption. If it is made taxable today

then it will cause huge national loss and both the people and the country would reach on the verge of destruction. No less number of people will fall under this limit because there are lakhs of exporters who fall under this category and will get affected by it. There were many other schemes besides DEPV like DERC etc. Why they are not being brought under the taxable category? Why only DEPV is being brought in the taxable category? The exemptions given in this Bill by the Minister is a welcome step, but this limit of Rs. 10 crore is required to be reconsidered Thousands of people and their livelihood are attached with a trader or an exporter. A large section of people would get affected by it. Therefore, by supporting the words expressed by previous speakers I request the Finance Minister that by showing sympathy towards these people no double standards should be adopted. In the same category one section is being given exemption and the other section is not given any exemption. I am unable to understand as to why this ceiling of Rupees 10 crore is being put, if it is wrong then it is wrong for everyone and if it is right then it is right for everyone. In the last 10 years most of the exporters considered it as export income and also showed it as income in their balance sheet. Now, after 10 years, the Government is realising that it is not export income. If it was to happen then it should have happened in the year 1998 itself.

A same case was there of the textile people where they have sold their export quotas to others. A notification is issued in that case and it has been clarified in the notification by the Government that it is export income, whereas their sale was also a local sale like the licence of DEPV. The hon. Prime Minister himself had announced that there would be no tax levied on the DEPV and despite ignoring all these things, this provisions has been made. Whereas some people are happy with this provision at the same time some people are hoping to get some exemptions. If their expectations are denied then it will not be a matter of an individual exporter, lakhs of exporters of this country and many poor and unemployed people attached with them will get affected whose earnings come from these factories. I think after making this provision there would be no way left besides closing and selling factories. Today not a single exporter is in a position to pay this amount of tax. So, I request not to impose this ceiling of rupees 10 crore because there is no value of rupees 10 crore in the export market. Even a petty exporter does the work of round 50 to 100 crores. Since everyone works for the country and exports in the

[Mohd. Shahid]

national interest, this ceiling should be removed and everyone should be provided the exemptions. The people of the country or the exporters are facing some problems which I am expressing here and I will request the Government to give exemptions in it.

With these words, I conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member should not to speak without my permission.

Shri B. Mahtab to speak.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I am on my legs today to discuss about the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005. The Government says that subsequent to the enactment of the Finance Act, 2005 certain policy decisions relating to income-tax and banking cash transaction tax were taken and as all these require immediate legislation, an ordinance was promulgated. But I am sorry, we cannot support this view nor would we ever subscribe to that view. There are two aspects in this Bill, as it has been discussed here in this House. One aspect is that there are five instances where exemptions will be given and there are two clauses where some amendments are being done, where certain provisions are being made for taxation.

I will come to the five major issues that are supposed to be tackled through this Bill by giving exemption. The objective of this Bill is firstly to exempt from income-tax any payments received in receipt of lease of an aircraft of a foreign State or a foreign enterprise from an Indian company engaged in the business of operation of an airline. In order to enable the Indian airline companies to continue with all the processes relating to acquisition of aircraft on lease, it is said that it was essential to extend the date. With the exemption on withholding tax for aircraft leasing charges being made available, Indian carriers are expected to save—I have calculated this with some friends here—around Rs. 200 crore over the next one year.

The hon. Minister of Finance had assured us of a friendly tax administration. We know taxes are a part of life. We also know it is also a part of business. But the burden to raise tax revenue need not fall heavily on the entire middle class. Certain tax sops being handed out by the hon. Minister of Finance today are around one-

seventh of total tax collection. Recently, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, a Delhi-based institution, has estimated that Rs. 54,560 crore of tax sops are being given. This works out to around 1.6 per cent of the GDP which is higher than the 1.2 per cent hike on collections that the Twelfth Finance Commission wanted the tax department to achieve in 2009-2010.

The issue here is whether tax sops are yielding the desired results. The House would like to know this, I would like to know this. Are we not aware of the distortions they cause? The two clauses of the Bill, Clause no. 3 and Clause no. 4 are new additions, additions relating to the ordinance. The amendment of Sections 28 and Section 80 HHC of Income-tax Act will definitely hamper exports. A wrong message has already been conveyed. I am against tax on export. But nothing should be done retrospectively as it has been mentioned—Since 1st April, 1998. That is not only improper but illegal also.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to an aspect here, other than finished products of garments, which is tax on marine products. Most of the coastal States export marine products.

They are also in a dilemma today that this Bill is going to hamper their trade. The second issue is this. It is a welcome step to exempt specified income of the persons notified by the Government, arising from any international sporting event conducted in India which is approved by the recognised international body. I am of the opinion that this should have been done much earlier. We, as Members of this House, had deliberated on this, I think, in the previous Lok Sabha, the 13th Lok Sabha and some attempt was being made, but it is in the right directions which has been taken by this Government through this Bill. It is a good attempt made in the interest of the sports activities and in the interest of the sportspersons.

Thirdly, this Bill deals with Dabhol power project and it has been rightly stated by a Member from Shiv Sena that Ratnagiri Gas and Power will now get the benefit under section 80 (1A) of the Income Tax Act and has to commence sale of electricity from Dabhol by the end of March, 2007.

Fourthly, the fringe benefit tax introduced in the last Budget will not have a bearing on the political parties. Political parties would have ended up paying huge amount of FBT on account of their campaign expenditure. I would

like to understand when the income of the political parties is already exempted from taxation, why was FBT imposed on political parties? That is the question. FBT was payable by the employer and here, I do not know how this idea came in. How did the Government or somebody from the Direct Taxes Department thought that political parties can be brought in? Who is the employer there and who is the employee? That has been clarified. It needed a little bit of clarification.

Fifthly, the banking cash transaction tax introduced by the Finance Act, 2005 became applicable to the inter-bank transactions also. How was this not foreseen by the Ministry? A little clarification during the Budget preparation would have solved the problem. Today, the tax law has become more complicated and difficult for implementation. Any attempt to simplify it has made it more difficult.

'Exemptions' is a magnet in the hands of the powerful which attracts and also subtracts. My opinion is to remove the maze of tax concessions. It will do three things. First, it will increase collections. Second, it will raise efficiency. Third, it will reduce corruption. It will out-balance specific lobbies. Will the Minister consider this? Will the Minister take steps to increase tax honesty, both from the officers' side and also from the tax-payers' side?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call Shri Naveen Jindal, I would also like to make one submission that there are so many States in our country which economically mainly depend on small-scale industries. I would like to request hon. Finance Minister to think of exempting small-scale industries which have the turnover of more than Rs. 10 crore. I think, you would also think about it.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 2005, a Bill of great national importance.

Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister for bringing these amendments. I wholeheartedly support all the provisions of this amendment Bill.

I, being a sportsperson, would like to specially thank the hon. Finance Minister for the exemptions brought about for specified income of persons notified by the Central Government arising from any international sporting event conducted in India that is approved by the recognised international body responsible for regulating the relevant sports, and having multi-national participation.

I welcome this step, but I would like to ask this from the hon. Minister. Why are these exemptions not there for events organised abroad? Why is it specifically mentioned only for the events held in India? If an Indian sportsman goes abroad to play and wins some prize money, then that income should be exempt from income tax when the sportsman comes back to India. I am saying this because as of now this would only help cricket, as cricketers are mostly found in this kind of a situation. All the cricketers are also known to make the most amount of money. Actually, they make much more money than anybody else in this country.

I feel that other sports also need to be encouraged, especially, Olympic sports. Olympic sports are played by more than 200 countries in the world, whereas cricket is played by less than 20 countries in the world. But all our policies are lopsided in favour of cricket. I feel that it is very important that we give a lot of encouragement to Olympic sports also.

I had a chance to witness the Olympic Games with the late Shri Sunil Dutt, who was the Sports Minister at that time. I was in Athens, and I saw millions of people from all over the world watching and cheering Indian athletes. Especially when our lady athletes were running, the whole stadium was cheering them. It is very difficult to explain how proud one feels to see the Indian athletes doing so well. I saw Major Rajyavardhan Rathore win the silver medal at that time. Do you know what it means, and what it feel to win a medal in the international community? Everyday, I must have got up at least ten times hearing the Chinese National Anthem being played, because the Chinese athletes were doing so well in the Olympic Games.

What were we doing for the Indians athletes, especially, the Olympic athletes who had done well at that time? It was all because of their own merit. As such, the system in India does not motivate us to win any medals. Therefore, I want to request the Hon. Minister that some kind of tax exemption be given to them. The last Government had given 100 per cent tax exemption on Olympic sports, but I would request the hon. Minister that 150 per cent tax exemption should be given to companies that sponsor Olympic sports, or help in organising Olympic sports, or help in sponsoring sportsmen involved in Olympic sports. I feel that it would go a long way in encouraging Olympic sports.

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

I am also specifically making it clear that this should not be done for cricket. It should be done only for Olympic sports because we really need to encourage Olympic sports. We may not feel about it while we are sitting over here, but it really hurts when we actually go to see the Olympics or other such events, and see India doing so badly. The same thing is going to happen in 2008 Beijing Olympics, and the same thing is going to happen in the 2012 Olympics. I am saying this because even now we have not taken any concrete steps to improve sports in our country.

Sports are really neglected in India. If we want Indians to take pride in being Indians, then it is very important that we encourage sportspersons. We should encourage the level of sports. This should not only be done for those people who have made some achievement, or who have already excelled in sports or who have already won a medal at Olympics. We have to spend a lot of money, and make a lot of effort to encourage all sportspersons. There can be hundreds of Jaspal Rana and hundreds of Rajyavardhan Rathores in this country, who can win lots and lots of medals for our country.

Sir, it is very shameful for a country of more than one billion population to win only one silver Olympic medal or one bronze Olympic medal. Unfortunately, even now we are not on the right path. I feel that if the hon. Minister gives 150 per cent tax exemption to any company encouraging Olympic sports by sponsoring the athletes who are engaged in Olympic sport, then the whole country would be grateful to him. This would also go a long way in encouraging sports.

Secondly, I welcome the steps taken by the Hon. Finance Minister for encouraging power generation. Any company that is going to receive money for revival and reconstruction should be exempt from any tax. It is a very welcome steps because there is great scarcity of power in this country.

I think this step would go a long way in encouraging power generation. There is a provision that any power plant which commences power generation before the 31st of March, 2006 would be exempt from income tax for a period of 10 years. Every year, for the last five or six years, I have been seeing that this exemption is extended by one year. So, it still leaves a lot of companies which are starting generation now, especially the mega power projects. To set up a mega power project, which is more than 1,000 MW, it does take four to six years. So, it is

very important that if this demand is acceded to. I believe this demand is made by the Power Ministry also that any power plant which commences operations in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, which is by 2011, should be exempt from income-tax. This would bring about a lot of clarity in these issues so that people know about it very clearly. It is not that every year they work on getting this extended but they know very clearly that if they start generating power by 2011, they would be given this exemption. I also feel the same as the other Hon. Members, who spoke about the DEPB benefits and not taxing export income which is above Rs. 10 crores. Because I think that it would be discriminatory to treat two incomes separately—below Rs. 10 crores and above Rs. 10 crores. I think, it would be highly discriminatory, even for those companies which have been exporting. In fact, we should be encouraging and we should be feeling happy if instead of Rs. 10 crores, it is Rs. 100 crores. And if instead of Rs. 100 crore, it is Rs. 1,000 crores, we should be even happier. The same kind of treatment should be given to everybody.

Once again, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would request the hon. Minister to do especially something for the sports.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important Bill, I will share a few words with the hon. Finance Minister. Today tax payers have a confusion. Last time when he was the Finance Minister, he had introduced a VDS Scheme. People paid so much of tax under the voluntary disclosure scheme that the Government thought it as good step. The government earned too much tax from this scheme. Many people of Amritsar complained to me that the Income Tax officers have started enquiring against the people who paid tax and are asking from where the money and gold came? I also wrote a letter regarding this but he did not gave me any clear reply. The second confusion appeared when VAT was imposed. Before imposing VAT it was said that we will reduce tax in a phased manner, we will reduce central tax and impose common tax in all the States. A large number of people were against it but VAT was imposed, some States imposed some did not. The recovery of tax from my State is lower than the neighbouring State. The reason is that there is difference in tax. People in Punjab have migrated to other States leaving their business.

There are good things in this Bill but all the Members are repeatedly saying that there is a black spot on the moon and this Bill has also become like that. I want that effort should be made to remove that spot. Three incentives were given to promote exports. The first incentive was DEPB, DFRC and DRS. In the last 5-6 years exporters did hard work, provided employment and in turn foreign exchange came. Because of tax incentives people did hard work and brought fame to the country. But around 2000 bureaucrats through that as so much money is being collected why not impose tax on it. When this thought got momentum then tribunals or courts of the income tax department said that tax should be paid. People met with the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singhji also, he assured to resolve this issue by constituting a committee. Perhaps one committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Rangrajan and thereafter an ordinance came. But the things that were not present in the ordinance are present in the Bill. Under Section 80 HHC imposing tax on the two incentives and not imposing it on one incentive differentiate this. This is against the natural justice. If those people were knowing that they will have to pay tax on DEPB and DFRC, they would have adopted the third option. This is like that once a person is being acquitted by court and after five years he is being called and asked that he has to be punished. Whereas the person after his acquittal started looking after his children, his work, his business, his farming, and after this he is being asked to undergo punishment then one can imagine this condition? In the same way the people who enjoyed these incentives and exemptions are again asked that they will have to pay tax from the year 1998. This is gross injustice.

I will request the hon. Minister that he should call them and hear them. All the Members of this House who are sitting behind him have said the same thing, he must think over it. I think that when he will give his reply he will provide some relief to the small scale industry by raising its limit or it may be said that it is provided in this Bill to recover it with retrospective effect but he may drop this and make a provision it will be recovered from the day when it will become applicable. I think, it will provide great relief to the small scale industry. I think, those exporters who have taken incentives or exemptions in two schemes, and one has taken it in drawback and there is no tax on it and the person who has taken the first two there is tax on it. Why this discrimination? I am unable to understand this. There is big confusion among the people. Today in the industry exporters are in

confusion. He must keep an eye on it. While doing some good work, a few such things happen which may shake the confidence of the people in the Government. Hon'ble Deputy Speaker has also given a hint to him. People meet us and share their agony. I think that he will also understand their agony and take a good decision in this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq. You will get only two minutes because Members of your party have already spoken.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Some of the points in the Bill introduced by hon'ble Minister of Finance are worth appreciating. But some of the Members have pointed out two things—first, the rebate provided on drawback is not applicable in case of DEPB and DFRC. I fail to understand the reason behind it, but if same kind of injustice goes on what shall be the fate of exports? My Parliamentary Constituency Moradabad has bronze industry. Small Scale industry has a lot of work here. Thousands of exporters are on the verge of getting ruined. If a ceiling of Rs. 10 crore is imposed and no rebate is granted they will be ruined and forced to sell their houses. I know that today they are not in a position to do anything. I would like hon'ble Minister of Finance to do away with said dual policy and assure the House that ceiling of Rs. 10 crore will be withdrawn. It is all right that the country can not do without taxes but then what shall be the fate of thousands of workers who are associated in one or the other form with exporters. The industry and the exporters will be ruined. It will result in great loss to the country. Enactment of said Bill will adversely affect lakhs of people in the country. Thus, if the ceiling of Rs. 10 crore is not withdrawn and DEPB and DFRC are not treated at par with drawback duty there will be chaos all over the country, people will be perplexed. Therefore, I urge hon'ble Minister of Finance to announce its withdrawal in his reply.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I emphasizing on disapproval of promulgation of Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance would like to say that hon'ble Members from several parties have expressed apprehensions about clauses (3) and (4) of said Bill. I think these are not baseless, but well founded. Hon'ble Speaker, had given ruling in the morning that since said Ordinance was promulgated on 31st October, so said Bill was brought, out of compulsions, to replace old Ordinance and hence it can not be sent to the Standing Committee. Its all right, but if we go

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

through the Bill, we find that FRO with the Bill is not a part of it. It has been objected to from all the quarters. Not only Shri Mohan Singh, even Members from the ruling party have expressed apprehensions about it. Since there is a Standing Committee, so it is not apt to bypass it. There was no need to club it with Ordinance and what was the need to get all the matters reationalised from 1998 onwards. It is a very serious and important issue. The entire House will support if hon'ble Minister brings in another Bill to negate both these clauses. A threshold limit of Rs. 10 crore has been specified in the Bill, but, I do not know whether it would be effective from prospective date or not? People all over are concerned about it. Will hon'ble Minister find a solution to it?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under said Bill, provisions of income tax, under Sec-10, clause 2-7 of Income Tax Act are mentioned in it. An explanatory note is attached to it wherein it has been stated that it had to be brought under some compulsions and support from all the Members was solicited. One of our Hon'ble Member Shri Sharad Pawar, is the chairman of BCCI but it has been Stated by the Government that international bodies will participate in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir still I have to speak on 2-3 points. Everybody is supporting it, including me, but, a provision of expunction has been made for BCCI, whose assets are worth Rs. 300 crore. Whole affair has been highlighted by the newspapers. A litigation is pending in the court in this regard. The likely amount of royalty is hotly being debated. Tax rebate should be given to other bodies and not BCCI.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have adopted dual policy for transmission, distribution and generation of power. One is for Dabhol Project and second for other projects to be effective prospectively. In a time bound manner, the company should be registered by November, 2005, get authorization by December, 2005 and it should start power generation by 31 March, 2007. But there are various types of power generating companies. Say, for example, Nuclear power, thermal power and hydro-electric. Those involve civil and mechanical engineering work. Our other companies, like Metro rail, construction companies and other civil engineering companies should also provide such facilities. All the companies should specifically be given tax relief.

Granting of relief to a chosen few companies creates suspicion in the mind of hon'ble Members. So far as national interest is concerned, we should adopt safeguards. And there should be some upper limit and quantum of relief and the period of relief should also be clearly specified. Though I had several other points to raise, yet, since I am the last speaker, so I have to cut it short. The whole House is aware that our small scale sector, which is backbone of our economy, employs at least five-and-a-half-crore people. The Government should give it special relief. I hope hon'ble Minister of Finance would definitely consider it and bring a Bill to this effect in future. I conclude with these words.

(English)

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, firstly the hon. Minister wants to ensure that the successor company to Dhabhol Power Company start generating power before 31st March, 2007. That is why, probably, he is trying to put a condition to qualify the benefit that are given to them by saying that they must start generating by 31st March, 2007. But the wording is such that either they may generate, transmit or distribute. Probably to qualify for the exemption under this new clause what a company has to do is to start distributing power somewhere without even generating electricity. So, the very purpose for which this particular condition has been put will get defeated unless it is very specifically stated because that company does not have a distribution licence. That company does not have a transmission licence. So, that company might generate and not distribute or transmit. So, that is what it should be.

Secondly, what is stipulated in the clause before that is that the company has to either transmit, generate or distribute. In electricity complete sequence of logical events what is also required is the sub-transmission. That word is probably missing. So, if you want to really give this benefit to all the companies, they must mention transmission, distribution and sub-transmission which is really required.

For the sports, what the Minister has said is that if the event is conducted for more than two countries then the exemption can be availed of. Probably, what is really required to be done is that it should not be just two countries because then probably we will call Bangladesh, India and Nepal and can have an event and we will qualify for the exemption. So, probably what is really required is that international event of two countries. So, that is what is really missing.

As regards Fringe Benefit Tax, the political parties are now being exempted. Probably, the Finance Minister must have realised that Finance Benefit Tax is something which the political party should not pay. Then what is the logic when he thinks that they should not be paying it but the corporates should be paying it? So, probably on the same logic he would also consider exempting even the other than political parties. In any case, political parties are not indulging into business promotion because if they are engaged into some business promotion, then probably they are also doing some business which is now sought to be exempted. So, I would request the Finance Minister to consider this.

Last point is on aircraft. We have been seeing over a period of time that every time an aircraft leasing takes place, the Finance Minister gives one more year of exemption. So probably my request would be that either you exempt the activity totally from payment of withholding tax or do it in a manner that it is not extended from time to time.

As regards exports, it is again the same thing. The exports have been tinkered with a lot. Some benefits have been given and some benefits have been withdrawn. Now a retrospective amendment is sought to be introduced. So, rather than doing that, let there be a ten year clear path saying that by 2015 what would be the tax benefits available to the export sector. That should be very clearly specified.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have fully supported the Bill and those who have supported the Bill with qualifications. There are six provisions in this Bill. Five provisions are provisions to replace the provisions in the Ordinance and one is dealing with DPEB and DRFC benefit.

Let me quickly run through the five provisions which are mentioned in the Ordinance. The first one is on exempting the lease amount of leased aircraft. It is true that I announced very early in the life of this Government that we must tax the lease amount by imposing the withholding tax because if we do not impose the withholding tax, the benefit goes to the taxing authority of the lessor company and we lose the revenue. But as Mr. Suresh Prabhu rightly said, from time to time, the Airline Companies, particularly the Air India and the Indian Airlines, plead that their leasing programme is not yet complete and, therefore, we must extend it from time to

time. It only shows that we are also vulnerable to persuasion! The last date expired on 30th September, 2005 and we have been persuaded to extend it upto 31st March, 2006. Let us hope that the leasing programme will come to an end and then we may not have to extend it. But I cannot speak for the future.

The second is about the international sporting events. It is a complete misconception that this has been extended only for cricket. Please see the provision. The provision is very clear. It says about the income arising from any international sporting event held in India. Such an international sporting event must be approved by the international body of that event and has participation of more than two countries. Therefore it must be multicountry event, and is notified by the Central Government. One day, I want to see the World Cup Football being held in India. If World Cup Football comes to India, then this will apply. Suppose we get Winter Olympics to India, then this will apply. It will apply to Commonwealth Games. Therefore, I think, it applies to all sport events and not only to cricket.

The third is the bunch of amendments dealing with Dabhol Power Project. It is no longer called by that word. We now call it as Ratnagiri Gas and Power Company. This Government must be complimented, and I hope Members will, for resolving this problem. This problem began, if I remember right, on some date in 1996 and it has taken seven years to resolve it. Once we have resolved that problem, it is absolutely necessary to quickly give it a legal base so that all international arbitrations and all suits filed in various courts are withdrawn. They are now beginning to withdraw then one by one. We should not waste time now. Therefore, a bunch of amendments are there. We are inserting clause 40 in Section 10 and clause 41 in Section 10, and amending Section 80(A). These have been introduced only to ensure that Ratnagiri Gas and Power Company begins to generate and distribute power. Of course, if there is any other case which fits into this description, that will also get the benefit. But there is no other case now. The Section is worded generally but is really intended to deal with Dabhol Power Project.

16.00 hrs.

Next point is about exemption to political parties. I agree that on a straight forward interpretation of the FBT provision, if an entity is not liable to pay income tax, it is not liable to pay the FBT. But there are assessing

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

officers in this country who may take a different view. I am not the assessing officer. A particular assessing officer may take a different view. Therefore, in order to put the matter beyond controversy, we said that political parties will not be liable to pay the FBT. I agree that another interpretation is possible. But, why leave room for controversy? So, we have made it very clear that since a political party, which satisfies the conditions of the Income Tax Act, namely submission of accounts, does not pay income tax, so it does not also have to pay the FBT. I know of no political party which is opposing it. So, I assume that this is a good provision.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): There is no transparency at all in the accounts of political parties. There is no transparency as to how much money they are getting, how they are spending etc.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If there is no transparency, there is a separate section in the Act to deal with that. I will tell you that section in a moment. It is Section 13(A).

If there is no transparency, if accounts are not filed under that section, then that political party is not exempt from the income tax. Therefore, you have to comply with the conditions under that section. So, only when political parties comply with that section, then they are exempt from the income tax. I am assuming, for the sake of argument, that all political parties are complying with the law. If they comply with the law and do not pay income tax, logically there is no reason why they should be asked to pay Fringe Benefit Tax. That is the reason why I am bringing this amendment. I invite hon. Member's attention to Section 13(A).

The fifth amendment in the Ordinance was about the Banking Cash Transaction Tax. It was nobody's intention that if a cooperative bank deposits money in a nationalised bank and then withdraws cash, it should pay the BCTT. But somebody has interpreted it that way. I cannot blame the interpreter. Somebody thought that unless there is a specific exemption, that may also attract the BCTT. It is not the intention to tax a bank when it withdraws cash from another bank. Most small banks do not have vaults. Therefore, they have to keep their cash in the account of larger banks and then they withdraw it. Therefore, we thought that we should clarify that. I think Shri Adsul brought it to my notice and he said that it should not be liable to tax. All these provisions are beyond controversy. I think everyone, who spoke, agreed with

that. Therefore, these five provisions are non-controversial. They were urgent. I am sorry that I had to promulgate an Ordinance. But Ordinances are not promulgated on the whims and fancies of the Finance Minister. It has to go to the Cabinet; it has to go to the President. We had good reasons to promulgate the Ordinance. Therefore, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have broadly supported these five amendments.

Now, I come to the sixth amendment. It is the one dealing with DEPB. This is not in the Ordinance. We did not bring it by way of an Ordinance. We are bringing it by way of a Bill and hon. Members are debating this provision. Now, this is rather a complicated question of law. I would take three or four minutes to explain this in as simple a language as possible. But please try to understand that it is a complicated question of law. You heard an hon. Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, saying that we should not have these Sections 3 and 4 because exporters do not deserve this benefit. You also heard other Members, like Shri Kashiram Rana saying that Sections 3 and 4 are necessary because exporters deserve the benefits, but we are denying the benefits to one section and giving the benefits to another section. So, there are two points of view. In fact, my notes here say that Shri Mohan Singh said that this provision is unnecessary for one reason and Shri Kashiram Rana said that this provision is unnecessary for another reason. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan said that this provision is unnecessary because you are giving too many benefits to exporters.

Therefore, it is not that I am giving benefit to some or not giving benefit to some. Let us look at the objective facts. DEPB came into force in the financial year 1997-98.

The first assessment year in respect of a return, in which a DEPB credit sale is claimed, is assessment year 1998-99 beginning on the 1 April, 1998. So, prior to 1 April, 1998, this question did not arise. Section 80-HHC is a section which deals with deductible profits. If you come under section 80-HHC, the profits are not taxable. That section was phased out by the previous Government and the last date for operation of that section was 31.3.2005. Therefore, this situation does not arise after 1.4.2005. I hope, I am making myself clear to the hon. Members. We are now dealing with only the period 1.4.1998 to 31.3.2005. That is a period of about seven years. This problem did not arise before 1.4.1998. This problem does not arise after 1.4.2005. In this period of

seven years, the relevant sections—I am not getting into an exposition of the law—are section 28 and section 80-HHC. These are the two sections which are relevant. Now, the Department's interpretation is that DEPB credit sale—I will explain what it is—is not export profit. What is a DEPB credit sale? A DEPB credit sale is, that on your DEPB Passbook, if you have certain credits in your favour, you can import items against the credit without paying duty. But you can also sell the credit to another importer. If you actually import, it is part of export-import. If you sell it to another importer and make a profit on that—the premium, it is not export profit. It is a simple business profit because the income you earn is not in foreign exchange; it is in Indian rupees. It does not arise out of export activity or import activity. It arises because you are trading in a "Licence", which has a premium in the market. So, the Department took the view that it does not fall under section 28 read with section 80-HHC. I am not going into the sub-sections. Therefore, this is not to be counted as exempted export profit. This must be added back as taxable profit. The assessee took a different view. Please remember, the first assessment in respect of this was filed only in the assessment year 1998-99. Some exporters paid; some exporters did not pay. Some exporters paid but disputed. Some assessing officers assessed it as taxable profit. Some assessing officers exempted it as exempted profit. That is bound to happen. When so many assessments take place all over the country, there is bound to be different assessments— income tax or sales tax or whatever. Ultimately, one case went up to the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal. The assessing officer took the view that this is not exempted profit; this is taxable profit. The assessee went in appeal. In appeal, the ITAT observed that the case falls under section 28 (iv), not under section 28-(iii) (a), (iii) (b) or (iii)(c). It falls under section 28(iv). Then, the Tribunal gave a judgement, which I find as a lawyer difficult to understand. But, with great respect of the Tribunal which is entitled to take a view, the Tribunal gave a judgement that although it falls under section 28(iv), it does not fall under section 80-HHC 'Explanation' (*baa*).

Therefore, it ruled on a new interpretation of the law in favour of the assessee and the Department has gone up in appeal to the Delhi High Court. Now, there are two courses open to me. I could have said: "Let us wait for the Delhi High Court's judgement. One of them will win and one of them will lose. They are bound to go to the Supreme Court. So, let us wait for the Supreme Court's judgement." It would have taken a minimum of ten years to settle this issue which arises—please remember—only

between 1.4.1998 and 31.3.2005. It is today an academic issue. We are only dealing with seven assessment years. I could have waited for ten years. Thousands of rupees would have been spent by everybody fighting litigation at every level—before the Assessing Officer, before the Appellate Commissioner, before the ITAT, before the High Court and before the Supreme Court. So, we said: "All right. We will look into this matter. We will try to find a solution which does not affect the revenue and which tries to give some relief to the exporter."

Exporters, of course, have only argued what Shri Kashiram Rana argued today very articulately saying "give exemption to all the exporters." Naturally, the Department says: "Do not give exemption to any exporter. We must collect the revenue." Therefore, we decided that this is not a matter where we are give up revenues completely. At the same time, we must be sympathetic to small exporters. Anyway, we did not take a view. We referred it to Dr. Rangarajan's Economic Advisory Council. The Economic Advisory Council heard exporters, heard everyone and gave a report to the Prime Minister.

What did the Economic Advisory Council recommend?
 I am reading only the recommendations.

- (1) If the export turn-over was Rs. 10 crore or less, the DEPB Credit transfer income may be exempted.
- (2) If the export turn-over was more than Rs. 10 crore, the corresponding income may be exempt provided two conditions are satisfied: one, if an exporter had claimed DEPB credit and also tax exemption for such DEPB credit, the income should be brought to tax without the benefit of exemption. The income should be exempt if the exporter had a choice between draw-back and DEPB and the customs component of the draw back rate was higher than the DEPB rate;
- (3) No penalty by way of interest or penal interest should be levied; and
- (4) The arrears of tax, if any, may be collected over a period of two years.

I have accepted all the four recommendations with the improvement that the arrears, if any, will be collected not over two years but over five years. What more can I do? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Is it with penalty or with interest?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There will be no penalty and no interest. I read it. I am going to collect the basic arrears over five years.

Shri Kashiram Rana asked me two questions. One, he asked: What is the basis of this Rs. 10 crore? The basis of this Rs. 10 crore is in the Economic Advisory Council's Report. They have gone into the data. They have looked at the frequency distribution of the exporters. They found that out of the 65,000 exporters—of course, not all will be covered under the DEPB credit scheme—if you keep a limit of Rs. 10 crore, 60,000 exporters are out. So, all the small exporters are exempted. I am giving the exemption today. It is not there in the law as we interpret it. But we are now amending the law to give the exemption to about 60,000 exporters according to the Report of Dr. Rangarajan's Committee. This is the basis of the Rs. 10 crore.

He has asked me the next question. I suppose this is the last question. Why did you give retrospective effective from 1.4.1998? My Department's officers are sitting in the gallery. If I do not give retrospective effect, they will be the happiest people because everybody has to pay tax then. We have to give retrospective effect because the period is from 1.4.1998 to 31.3.2005. What is the use of making a law today when the period is over on 31.3.2005? Therefore, we are giving retrospective effect to cover the period from 1.4.1998 to 31.3.2005.

The basis of Rs. 10 crore is a reasonable basis. It is based on a thorough analysis. It is based on Ministry of Law's opinion. The Ministry of Law's opinion is that the Department's interpretation is correct. Yet, the Economic Advisory Council said the legal position may be in favour of the Department but let us give the benefit to the small exporter and we have accepted that recommendation. The Prime Minister only said, "I will refer it to a Committee." The Committee was Dr. Rangarajan's Committee. Here is the report and I have accepted the report. I have, in fact, improved upon the report by saying 'arrears will be collected not in two years, it will be collected in five years.' So, we think only a small number of big exporters will have to pay some tax if, at all, because if they can show that the DEPB benefit and the Drawback benefit, one was higher than the other, they can still come under the exemption. But, I think what we have done is a balance. We have to protect the interest

of the revenue. I agree, I understand the concern of the Members for exporters but I appeal, to you to please show some concern for the revenue also. Therefore, balancing the interest of revenue and the small exporter, we have given the benefit to the small exporter. We have denied it in a limited way to the large exporter. If the large exporter satisfies both conditions he will also get the exemption. But, if he is not able to satisfy both conditions, he would have to pay some tax. There is no interest, no penalty and payment is over a period of five years. I think, Sir, we have struck a balance. Of course, we can always disagree whether the balance is correctly struck or the balance is not correctly struck but that is a judgement which the Government has made. I submit we have come to a reasonable solution to the problem. ...*(Interruptions)* I have explained. I have to protect the interest of the revenue also. I cannot give up revenues. When there is such large expenditure, such large claims for *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, Mid-Day Meal Scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): There are so many sources for revenue.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have explained my point of view. They can disagree on this but I have explained my point of view. We have struck a balance. We are giving benefit to small exporters. I am sorry I am not able to give blanket benefit to the large exporter. We are going to collect it over a period of five years. Therefore, I would respectfully submit, Sir, that this provision is based upon a thorough study of the matter, both legal and economic implications and we have struck a balance. I would humbly appeal to all hon. Members to support this Bill.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Rawatji, would you withdraw?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to speak a few points. Despite all the complaint, no results accrue. Through you, I would again like to submit to the Government that the double approach of the Government will not be fruitful. On the one hand, the Government say that they want to promote exports and they want to provide exemptions from taxes to promote exports in a big way. On the other hand, thousands of exporters from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Tamil Nadu,

Uttar Pradesh and several other states assembled here and held huge demonstration. At that time they had also called on you and had submitted a memorandum. At that time you had assured them of some action in this regard. Now, after ten years you are submitting in the Supreme Court taking recourse to the judgement of the tribunal and quoting the name of EAC and Rangrajanji. It appears that the UPA Government is hell bent on destroying the exports and small scale industries of the country and taking away the employment opportunities. As such, I think that in view of the obduracy of the Government, it is not possible for us to sit here and opposing this we would like to walk out from the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

16.19 hrs.

(Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and some other hon. Members then left the House)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Statutory Resolution moved by Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005 (No. 4 of 2005) promulgated by the President on 31 October, 2005."

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Motion for consideration of the Bill to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the Finance Act, 2005 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The questions is:

"That clauses 2 to 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 9 were added to the Bill.

Clause I

Short Title and
Commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 4,—

for "Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2005"

substitute "Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2005"
(1)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.22 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 2005-06

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 15.

Motion moved:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of

the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the

second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1, 5, 7, 8, 10 to 12, 18, 20, 23 to 25, 29 to 32, 34, 36, 41, 44, 47, 48, 50, 51, 54, 56 to 60, 63, 65, 67, 70 to 72, 75, 79, 80, 82, 83, 92, 100, 101 and 103 to 105."

LOK SABHA

Demands for Supplementary Grants Second Batch (General) for 2005-2006 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

No. & Title of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants to be submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue	Capital
1	2	3
	Rs.	Rs.
1 Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	3,00,000	2,00,000
5 Atomic Energy	1,00,000	1,00,000
7 Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals	10,17,00,000	1,00,000
8 Department of Fertilisers	1000,00,00,000	
10 Ministry of Coal	100,00,00,000	...
11 Ministry of Mines	1,00,000	1,00,000
12 Department of Commerce	103,50,00,000	...
18 Department of Consumer Affairs		1,00,000
20 Ministry of Culture	1,00,000	...
23 Defence Services, Army	1,00,000	...
24 Defence Services, Navy	1,00,000	...
25 Defence Services, Air Force	1,00,000	...
29 Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region		22,33,00,000
30 Ministry of Environment and Forests	3,00,000	10,40,00,000
31 Ministry of External Affairs	40,00,00,000	42,00,00,000
32 Department of Economic Affairs	2,00,000	1,00,000
34 Payments to Financial Institutions	250,02,00,000	243,02,00,000
36 Transfer to State and Union Territory Governments	200,00,00,000	
41 Indian Audit and Accounts Department	1,00,000	
44 Indirect Taxes	1,01,00,000	...

	1	2	3
47	Department of Health	2,00,000	
48	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	1,00,000	49,00,000
50	Department of Heavy Industry	82,64,00,000	210,02,00,000
51	Department of Public Enterprises	15,00,000	
54	Police	1,00,000	
56	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	...	1,00,000
57	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy	2,00,000	
58	Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education	3,00,000	...
59	Department of Women and Child Development	3,00,000	...
60	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	...	1,00,000
63	Law and Justice	1,00,000	...
65	Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources	...	5,00,00,000
67	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	1,00,000	...
70	Ministry of personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	...	1,48,00,000
71	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	5750,00,00,000	
72	Ministry of Planning	1,00,000	
75	Lok Sabha	19,44,00,000	
79	Department of Rural Development	3,00,000	...
80	Department of Land Resources	1,00,000	
82	Department of Science and Technology	1,00,000	...
83	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	1,00,000	...
92	Ministry of Textiles	290,89,00,000	...
100	Department of Urban Development	2,00,000	695,01,00,000
101	Public Works	...	1,00,000
103	Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	1,00,000	...
104	Ministry of Water Resources	1,00,000	...
105	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	2,00,000	...
	Grand Total	7848,24,00,000	1229,85,00,000

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH JOSHI (Bhopal): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the hon'ble Finance Minister has introduced the second supplementary demands for grants for this year. These supplementary demands for grants are for a total sum of Rs. 9079 crores out of which Rs. 1965 crores of cash amount will be spent. The Hon'ble Minister has submitted that the remaining amount *i.e.* Rs. 7114 crores will be made out of savings. I have perused the same. Out of these demands, several are meant for ancillary grants, to provide compensation and to defray the surplus expenditure of some of the departments. But I think that some of the demands are worth considering and need to be seriously considered.

16.23 hrs.

[SHRI GIRDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Demand No. 1 is related with agriculture. Various types of demands have been made under it but mainly the amount for which demand has been made is meant for getting rural godowns constructed. The work related with the construction of village godowns has started from the last few years, but the farmers of the rural areas are not getting benefit of it firstly, because of the meagre amount allocated for it and secondly, due to lack of their timely completion.

Several times such demands have been raised in the House also. The farmer faces several types of problems. To get a good price of their crops, they need to have facilities to keep them in the godowns. They have not got these facilities even after so many years.

I would request the hon'ble Minister of Finance to issue directions to the concerned department to ensure timely completion of the construction of godowns.

I have observed myself that even after the sanction of funds, construction works are not completed in time. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Finance Minister towards the ambitious points about agriculture said during his last budget speech. We had hoped that the Government would urgently take action to improve the condition of the farmers on the basis of whatever the Finance Minister contended in his budget speech. But that did not turn into reality in the entire year. Now, this year is going to be over in three months time. Farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their products,

they are not getting good seeds and also fertilizers on time. If such a situation continues to prevail, I apprehend that the cases of suicide by the farmers, about which we have heard several times in the recent past may recur. I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Finance Minister towards this fact.

Demand number 4 is the second one which is related with the gas tragedy. Under this, the Finance Minister has made a demand for funds to urgently settle the cases of gas victims and to pay the concerned employees their due salary. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Finance Minister that thousands of cases are still lying pending even after the completion of 21 years of the Bhopal Gas tragedy. The gas victims are running from pillar to post and they are not getting the benefits meant for them. The big hospital set up in Bhopal for them and being run by a trust is witnessing a strike by the doctors and nurses from the last 6 months and is closed down for the last two months. As such, has gas victims being treated in the hospital has been discharged which means they have been deprived of proper treatment. Even after so much time has gone by, the Union Government have not properly fulfilled their responsibility to improve the condition of the gas victims. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Finance Minister towards this fact as well.

Thereafter demand No. 8 is there. The hon'ble Finance Minister has made a demand of fund from the House with a view to providing subsidy to the companies manufacturing chemical fertilizers. Government will provide subsidy and the company will receive it. But several times in this House, this matter has been discussed and several hon'ble Members have raised the demand that the benefit of subsidy should go to the farmers for whom the Government give. As such, I would urge upon the hon'ble Finance Minister to ensure that the benefit of subsidy accrues to the farmers. The farmers are still paying a higher cost and the subsidy is going to the fertilizer manufacturing companies. The farmers have been demanding for the benefit all along. They have held a number of demonstrations in Delhi during the last 4 months for this purpose. Hence, the hon'ble Finance Minister may kindly give attention towards this fact. We would support the subsidy for which you are making a demand but at least ensure that the benefit of subsidy meant for the farmers actually accrues to them.

Hereafter, I come on demand No. 18. I am surprised that under it the hon'ble Finance Minister is making a demand because he wants fund to pay the outstanding

salaries and wages of the low paid staff of the Super Bazaar. Hon'ble Finance Minister should be aware that the Super Bazaar is running in losses and it would not be an exaggeration of say that it is going to become insolvent. At least, you direct the department to get it investigated. Some times back, I had heard that the Super Bazaar is going to be revamped after proper investigations or is to be wound up. But the Department of Consumer Affairs has not settled it. As such, I urge upon the Government to direct the department to pay attention towards the continuing losses being incurred by the Super Bazaar and deliberate upon the measures to wipe out its losses.

Now I would like to draw his attention to Demand No. 32. In the said Demand, he has envisaged raising of funds through National Defence Gold Bond Scheme of RBI which was launched in 1980. I don't understand why after so many years funds have been sought under a scheme launched in 1980? Said scheme was launched in 1980. Now, hon. Finance Minister says additional quantity of 494.50 gram gold deposited in the exchequer by mistake. I would like to know the reasons for the said inordinate delay, since 1980 to 2005 almost a gap of 25 years. Did anybody not trace the said lapse during these years? Why don't Department of Finance and RBI pay any attention to it? When did the RBI ask the Ministry to compensate the price? Said delay is not pardonable. I failed to understand the reasons behind it, thus I urge hon. Minister to make it clear in his reply.

After it, I would draw his attention to Demand No. 41. Under the said demand funds has been sought for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Five years are about to be completed since the inception of the said scheme and almost all the projects undertaken during first four year have been completed in all the states. I have got its report from the Ministry of Rural Development. After four years, the Government seems to have realized that there is a need to revive the programe of work under said scheme. Meanwhile, many a complaints were received. The quality of material used for construction of roads is very poor. Though, there is a provision for monitoring, but it is hardly done. I had made a complaint about 2-3 roads of my constituency to concerned Chief Engineer. He had not reply four months, then after 7-8 months he wrote that said road has been repaired. Therefore, I am of the opinion that there has been inordinate delay in it. Therefore, my submission is that the system, if it exists, should be streamlined so that the work goes on smoothly and the beneficiaries could avail

its benefits. Hon. Minister should pay attention to the quality of roads as the Government have made a commitment in this regard. It has been stated in the said demand that funds are being sought for conducting survey with regards to services being provided under Consumer Protection Act and Central Road Research Institute. A survey has been conducted and hon. Minister has sought an amount of Rs. 2 crore 34 lakhs for it. I demand an immediate action in this regard. Complaints regarding roads should be looked into on time. I hope the Government would ensure that the roads under said scheme are of good quality.

I would like to say something about Demand No. 48, which relates to 'Ayush'. Ayush covers Ayurvedic, Unani, Yoga, Sidha and Homeopathic system of medicine. New departments comprising all these systems have been named as 'Ayush'. Though, I don't oppose the funds sought under said demand, yet I would like to say politely that our system of medicines, be it Ayurveda, Yoga or Unani are being adopted across the world. Recently I had been to Germany, I saw a large 250 bedded Ayurvedic hospital there. Many more Ayurvedic hospitals are functioning in Europe. They call our doctors and pay handsome salaries, whereas we spent adequate time just praising Ayurveda but take no pains for its promotion. Similarly no efforts are being made for promotion of other Indian system of medicine.

I have been a sufferer of it. I would like to quote an example. I had met a *Sadhu* some 20 years ago. He mentioned names of 5 useful herbs, which can easily be found even in village and can be used as medicine. I wrote to a senior officer working in a Delhi based Ayurveda Department. Said doctor asked me to furnish Ayurvedic or Sanskrit names of said herbs. I took pains and met Ayurvedic doctors in the State and provide him Sanskrit and Unani equivalents of said herbs. 20 year have elapsed since then but I have not heard anything from him so far. The said *Sadhu* made a mention of a herbal medicine and told that if a woman, during her menstrual period took that medicine for three days she will not conceive. And further in future if she desires to have a baby, he would prescribe another medicine. We know that our Indian doctors are teaching Yoga and naturapathy in America, France and several other countries, but, here, in India we are fully depending upon allopathy.

I met an officer, who told me that what to do when no one listen to us. He advised me to meet Union Health

[Shri Kailash Joshi]

Minister and told that he only can do something. The department can't do anything. It is so because large allopathic manufacturing companies bribe senior officers of the department who create hurdles in promotions of indigenous systems of medicines.

Therefore, I would like to urge hon. Minister of Finance to pay attention to the promotion of Indian system of medicine, though we would not only approve the amount of funds sought in said demand but would also supports further demand, if need arises.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as other members of my party would also like to speak on Supplementary Demand for Grants, therefore, I conclude my speech with the hope that hon. Minister would surely reply to the points raised by me.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grant presented in the House by the Minister of Finance. In my view, this years budget has been one of the most debated budget and has aroused a lot of curiosity among people because after a gap of almost 7-8 years, the Government has paid this much attention towards the rural areas and the farmers. No attention was paid towards the farmers during the last 7-8 years and their demands were neglected and they continued to suffer. This year's budget has made a serious efforts to address the problem of the farmers. I don't want to blame the previous Government for not paying enough attention towards the farmers and agriculture sector because they were under the illusion of India shining and feel good factor. Its regime was marked by a lot of pomp and show and great deal of publicity and efforts were made to misguide the people of the country. It is not that the previous Government deliberately tried to neglect the agriculture sector and the farmers, I am of the opinion that the village or the poors nowhere existed in the broader scheme of the things of the Government. It is not an act of Commission; it is an act of omission. There are 638000 villages in the country and 2/3 of our population still depends on the agriculture for its livelihood. Today, we, whether those in the house or outside, need to ponder over as to how many farmers are there who would like their wards to follow their occupation despite we being predominantly an agriculture based country. And all political parties and the Governments talk about the farmers. On one hand while the economic condition of the farmer is pathetic on the other, he is losing this social status also. This year the Government has made

an effort to uplift the farmers and make their condition better through the Budget. The Government has launched some unprecedented programmes under the Budget and the funds allocated it for the agriculture sector are maximum during decades and these steps have been lauded by all including all the political parties. It is really paradoxical that the political party which lost the power due to its own mistakes, its raising objections when the present Government has made greater allocation for the rural sector to build the nation. It is really unfortunate.

Sir, I would like to cite a few examples with the help of figures as to what has been the condition of the farmers and the agriculture sector during the last six years.

The price of urea was Rs. 3680 per tonne in the year 1998. In the year 2004 it increased by 31% to reach Rs. 4830 per tonne. I am mentioning about those things which fall in the category of agriculture inputs and the cost of which the farmers has to bear. The cost of the DAP was 8300 per tonne in the year 1998 which increased to Rs. 9350 in the years 2001. I would like to cite one more example. ...*(Interruptions)* I am only mentioning the figures. I am not criticizing them. Sir, the farmer who work hard, plough the land and use the tractor and feed we people by tearing through the bosom of the earth, need money to buy things like tractor. I would like to cite a specific example before the House. The number of tractors sold in the country in the year 1999 was 276181 while in the year 2002 this number came down to 225280. The farmers could not afford to purchase tractor because they felt that it would not be possible for them to survive with the agriculture. The farmer was in the need of assistance and cooperation and I think that this Government has genuinely tried to help the farmers since its coming into the power and it has been fulfilling the promise of helping the farmer it made alongwith its allied parties.

I would like to give you a few more examples. Though everybody talks about agriculture credit but it is really unfortunate to know that, once energetic and dignified farmer of the country, has been pushed to the brink of committing suicide. The Government have taken several steps to make available agriculture credit on larger scale in those states which are suffering from starvation and unemployment and also in those which have been historically quite prosperous like Punjab and the agriculture credit has witnessed a growth of 44% *i.e.* from Rs. 80,000 crore in 2004-05 it has increased to Rs. 1,15,242 crore.

The allocation under the market intervention scheme which was only 458 crore during the regime of NDA Government has grown eight fold to reach 3612 crore during the regime of present Government. The hon'ble Minister of Finance has been demanding larger funds because the Government is committed towards the villages and the poor farmer and this increased allocation is required for implementing the programmes and policies formulated for their welfare. The target in regard to providing credit to the agriculture and rural sector by banks was fifty lac new people. In this context, it is worth while to remember that the bureaucratic set up remains unchanged despite the change of Government had the same set up. We had fixed a target to cover 50 lac new farmers under the institutional credit but going beyond the target we have been able to provide loans to eighty lac new farmer.

The Government has sanctioned an amount of 2300 crore for the National Horticulture Mission. The procurement of wheat and rice have registered an increase of 20 metric tonnes vis-a-vis previous year while the consumption of urea and DAP has registered an increase of five and ten percent respectively. However, the prices of food products have remained unchanged and have been at par with the prices of 2002-03. I am of the opinion that we need to do a lot more for the agriculture sector in the years to come. What we have achieved till now is also worthy of appreciation. The entire country and the world accept the fact that the Government is committed towards taking steps for the welfare of the farmers but when we go by the figures, we find that though paddy is sown in the largest area in our country as compared to rest of the world but our per hectare yield is amongst the lowest in the world and we are rank 52 even though we are the second largest producer of paddy in the world. Therefore, we need to develop scientific temperament in the field of agriculture and modernize it. Similarly, the area on which wheat is sown is the largest in the world in our country and we are the second largest producers of the wheat in the world but we are ranked 38 as far per hectare yield of wheat is concerned. We need to deploy more funds to increase the level of research and development in agriculture so that the farmers could be made well equipped to use the modern technology and be benefited. The Government has tried to make the farmers aware and there is a need to encourage this move. Merely formulating programmes and ensuring passage of budgets cannot benefit the masses. In my opinion there is a need to bring a systemic change. Ever since the arrival in power of this Government hon'ble Manmohan Singh ji and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi,

the Chairperson of UPA Government are committed to send this message across the entire country that this Government will never take a step backward extending their farmers, poor labourers and all those sections of society which need its helping hand.

Sir, the insurance sector is very important. Presently, only 11 percent farmers are getting the benefit of crop insurance policy. The Government has worked very hard and has started many programmes to popularize the scheme. During the floods and famine, both the union as well as the State Governments provide assistance. If the localized instructions are issued at the tehsil, block, panchayat level the small and poor farmers cannot reap its benefit.

There was hailstorm in my parliamentary constituency of Dausa, Rajasthan. There were 90 such villages where wheat crop was totally destroyed. Among them, there were very few people who could make use of the crop insurance scheme. It is my request that certain measures should be taken for small farmers who are not so aware, who have less land and are apprehensive of taking any risk, who have little knowledge of insurance. We are paying attention to the farmers and their families and who have committed suicide and the Government have made efforts to help them out but there are many who have not committed suicide but are on the verge of doing so. They do not come to our notice because such a tragedy has not befallen them. We should also pay special attention towards them.

The National Sample Survey Organisation has stated that out of all the farmer households 48 per cent are such as have taken loans from somewhere or the other and are under the burden of debt. When the farmer goes to a local money lender for loan he is charged some forty fifty or even upto sixty percent interest. The Government and the hon. Finance Minister have made efforts to put an end to this practice by opening Government institutions in each and every village but it can be seen that merely 36 per cent people take loans through the banks. Even today, the informal set up of private money lenders who exploit people constitutes twenty per cent. We will have to reduce this share of 20 per cent. The cooperative department is in existence in this country for the last hundred years which has set up a wide network even in the remotest village. It has made its access to each and every village. However, today the cooperative institutions do not have so much access, we should also increase it. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Loan in the cooperative department. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak first, you may speak later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: I am trying to help him. The rate of interest is very high on the loan taken from the cooperatives. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are interrupting.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: I am not interrupting. The interest is very high. It should be reduced. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: I agree with him. When people in urban areas have to take loan for purchasing car or a house, the rate of interest varies from six to eight per cent. Whereas the poor farmer has to pay twelve to fourteen per cent interest on loan. The Government are aware of it. I would like to give this assurance that if a Government is interested in reducing the loan burden of farmers it is only the present Government. This much assurance I can give to the Members.

As far as the question of irrigation is concerned only forty per cent agricultural area of our country is irrigated. There is a need to bring more area under irrigation. The Government gives its contribution in the macro irrigation projects and medium sized irrigation projects. The Government is not able to extend much contribution in the Micro projects. If micro irrigation projects are promoted through the private sector or through the public-private partnership, it will prove to be highly useful.

Lastly, I would like to submit that the Government, Parliament and we all will have to provide market access to the farmers. A chain of cold storage is required today to prevent fresh fruits from purification. The Government shall provide for more and more cold storage facilities. I hope that even, the opposition will affirm and support the demands placed by the hon. Minister of Finance. I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

(English)

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY (Asansol): Sir, I may be permitted to speak from this seat.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has placed the Supplementary Demands for Grants in this House. I believe that to run the Government, sometimes—and probably all the times—it is necessary to place Supplementary Demands for Grants. First of all, I want to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants which the hon. Finance Minister has placed here.

I want to make some observations in this august House while supporting the Supplementary Grants. Initially, we have to see the Budget of 2005-2006. What was the indication of this Budget, and what was placed in the House by the hon. Finance Minister? The Budget for 2005-2006 initiated measures to achieve the social and economic objectives set out in the National Common Minimum Programme including reduction in poverty, unemployment and sustained economic growth of 7-8 per cent per annum.

The direction or strategy of the Government remained focused on greater investment for agriculture, and infrastructure development. The Government is also keen to maintain a supportive environment policy for the industry and service sectors for overall growth of the economy.

First of all, we have to discuss the Mid-Term Appraisal of the 10th Plan. What is the situation in the country with regard to agriculture? First of all, we have to discuss this issue. Un-utilised capacity and large-scale involuntary unemployment co-exist in our economy. All of us in this House know that we have some unemployment problems in the agriculture sector. This is disguised unemployment, and in the face of low-levels of Government investment, the unemployment situation continues to remain grim. Why is this so?

What is the problem in the present scenario for the economy? I can tell the exact figures that have been placed in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the 10th Plan, that is, 3.64 crore unemployed are there in 2004-2005. It further states that only 47.6 per cent of the total 10th Plan outlay could be spent in a key sector like agriculture, which is the main sector of our economy. So far as our knowledge goes, we know that this is the most important and vital sector of our economy. What was happening in this important social sector in the first two years? I must say that the low growth rate in agriculture also reflects the dwindling domestic demand. Even food articles are demanded less in the domestic market supply. It is only because of lack of purchasing power of a large section of our population, which is due to widespread

unemployment and poverty. If we see the Mid-Term Appraisal, only 47.6 per cent investment could be made for agriculture during the first three years of the 10th Plan. I hope that the hon. Finance Minister will take care of this issue also. I must say, before supporting this Supplementary Budget, that this should be a key factor for the economy of our country.

Secondly, distribution of income has left a large section of the population with inadequate purchasing capacity. Why is this happening? I feel that this should be taken into account. This should be seen from the point of view to develop the Indian economy, from the point of our Budget, and from the point of view of the hon. Finance Minister's demand for this Supplementary Grant.

What does the 55th round of the National Sample Survey say? It says that only 2.8 crore workforce—out of the total workforce of 39.7 crore—were in the organised sector, that is, only 7 per cent of the total workforce.

17.00 hrs.

Out of the total workforce, only seven per cent workforce is in the organised sector. Reduction of manpower in the public sector and in the organised sector is now in question. How can we match the situation when our total workforce in the organised sector is only seven per cent?

More than 55 per cent of our total workforce is still dependent on agriculture, and more than 64 per cent of the total unorganised workforce also belongs to agriculture and mining. Probably, you have heard in this august House that the security of the unorganised workforce is equally important. This matter has been discussed. A Bill has already been demanded in the House for taking proper action. Proper action is necessary to provide security to the unorganised sector workforce. This issue was discussed in this august House in the last week, as far as I can remember. This House has also expressed its desire to combat the extremist forces. Discussion on the naxalite forces was held and the hon. Minister for Home Affairs replied to the debate. Without the development of the economy, without changing the economic scenario, how can we combat the naxalites forces and the separatist forces? This is posing a serious threat to the country. Without the improvement in the *per capita* income of the people of our country, without the development of the younger generations, and without the

development of the unemployed youth, we cannot think of development of this country. We cannot combat the separatist and naxalite forces.

I want to discuss another issue, which is very important. And that is the basic issue of investment in the important sectors, namely, the social sector—education and health. The utilization of the first two years of the Tenth Plan was only 31 per cent and 29.5 per cent. We want mass literacy in the country. In the villages, the question of literacy is existing. I believe, the hon. Finance Minister is taking care of it. He has brought this issue in the Budget, and has expressed his desire for the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. He has also placed the demand in the Supplementary Budget to take care of all these problems. So, I believe that the Government should be very careful during this year to combat the problem of illiteracy and the problem in social sector in the fields of education and health.

Our main problem lies in the villages and in the rural areas, where the primary health care is needed. Poor people in the villages are demanding primary health care. In this regard, I want to mention the report which has been placed in the Mid-Year Review at Page 35—the Government has given the status of implementation of Budget proposals. The summary statement of some of the major Budget announcements and their implementation status till date its indicated. In the 10th Item, it has been indicated that all the drinking water schemes have now been brought under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. I think, it is a good Mission. During 2005-06, the emphasis will be on covering more habitations and on tackling water quality in about 2.16 lakh habitations. The outlay for the Mission is enhanced. What is the implementation status? Action Plan has been drawn up and necessary sources of finances are being tied up. Sir, from the State of West Bengal, my view is that there are so many villages that is within the Arsenic problem. The main problem of the village people in the West Bengal is the Arsenic problem. This Arsenic problem has been brought to the notice of the Central Government.

The Government of India should take care of this. It is not for my State only. I am not talking about my State only. I am not talking about the State of West Bengal only. It is true also for other States. It is also true for other States which have similar type of problem. That should be taken care of.

[Shri Bansagopal Chaudhury]

I want to mention here about the question of infrastructure development. The Government is now talking about the industries. We are also very much concerned about it in our State of West Bengal. We are now developing many projects; new industries are coming up in our State. We know the situation. The Government is trying to give more impetus to the urban Development projects under the National Urban Renewal Mission. These projects are being implemented. This should be taken into consideration for the infrastructure development of the State. Industries can be developed when the road infrastructure, the railway network, water supply projects and other networks can be completed. Such projects will help the industries.

There are some projects for the development of National Highway. The Government should take care of the pending projects of the National Highways. I have gone through the Supplementary Budget. The Surface Transport Department is taking care of the projects of the National Highways Authority of India. I shall request the hon. Finance Minister to complete the projects of the National Highways Authority of India in our State and also in other States. I believe, this is the question of the whole country. The National Highways Authority of India should be more careful to complete the projects within the time frame for which the project is being implemented.

I want to mention here about another problem of the development of small-scale industries, which is very much important in our country. The question of marketing and the question of credit link are very much for the small-scale industry. This is the sector where more employment can be generated. This is the sector where so many unemployed youth can go in for earning their own income. This is very unfortunate on the part of our country that the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India are not being followed by the commercial banks. Hon. Finance Minister has desired to link up these commercial banks for the purpose of loan. He is trying also for the linkage of SIDBI for the development of small-scale industries. But, what is happening at the grassroot level? The tiny sector is facing the problem. Those who are going to the commercial banks for the purpose of credit, those commercial banks are not following the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. There should be a minimum guidelines issued from the Finance Ministry to the commercial banks about giving some impetus to the unemployed youths, to help the tiny sector, to help the small-scale industries in the country. I believe, there

should be a policy to eradicate the regional imbalance. Why should there be a regional imbalance? The hon. Prime Minister has stated in his speech that we should try to eradicate the regional imbalance to develop our country. In fact, in some States, we have been facing that problem for the last 30 to 40 years.

Some days back, I was hearing about the problem of the Tamil Nadu people. They were trying to raise the issue about the natural calamity. They are very much worried about the natural calamity that has hit Tamil Nadu. We all, from this august House, are also very much worried about it.

One thing I have to mention here in the presence of the hon. Finance Minister. For the last 30-40 years, in the coal mining area of our State, particularly in my Constituency, lakhs of people who are living in the villages, are not getting proper attention to combat the problem of subsidence; they are under threat.

Coal is the major national mineral of our country. It is giving more revenues and it helps in the total economy. Coal helps in the development of the economy. But in lieu of that, what are those people getting? They are under the threat of subsidence for so many years. So, my humble submission to the hon. Finance Minister is that there should be a provision to combat the problem of subsidence and earthquake in those areas. There should be some provision in the Budget—in the Budget of the Coal Department—which will mention that it is for combating the problem of subsidence.

I would request the Finance Minister to please look into the matter. This is a national issue. I believe that he will give some impetus to combat this problem and that the poor villagers who are giving their land for coal mining will be provided some money. I believe that he will open this chapter which is not being taken care of.

Lastly, I want to mention one thing for the whole country; expeditious development work is needed. I believe that after the passage of the Supplementary Demands for Grants in this House, speedy development in the economy will take place in our country.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made a very good maiden speech!

[*Translation*]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in support of the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I would bring my submission by referring to farmers and agriculture. Several hon. Members have given their suggestions. Farmer is the backbone of this country. I feel that the provisions made for the farmers in this budget are not sufficient. With regard to the farmers, I would like to submit that although we have maximum representation of farmers in the Parliament and we hold discussions on their problems, yet we have not been able to do much for their welfare and to ameliorate their condition in view of their population and their condition. The UPA Government has made several commendable efforts. The Hon. Minister of Finance has established a good system. However, I would like to state about the farmers that the cost and expenditure at which they produce their yield for that they are not able to get the supporting price. They get lower price for their yield and it is unfortunate that the crops are produced by the farmer but its value is determined by the Government or the capitalist sitting in the market.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present scenario is such that even a small shopkeeper here, even a beetleshop owner (Panwallah) would increase the price of his beetle by calling a meeting of ten people from the same business and the same rates are made effective in the market. But today the condition of farmer in the country is such that he cannot do so. Today, the farmer is not only feeding the country but he is producing so much quantum, which is also being exported. But, ironically, the price of that produce is not fixed in collaboration with the farmers and his opinion is not taken. The big traders in the market and the Government fix the price. I wish to submit that the Government should pay particular attention towards it and the agricultural policy should be formulated in the interest of the farmers so that his condition could be improved and better provisions should be made in the budget in the interest of the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is alright that the Government has a policy of providing subsidy to farmers on manure and seeds, but one should go and find out what is taking place in villages. When the farmer buys manure, it becomes clear that no subsidy is provided by the Government thereon. No relief is provided to the farmer as per the decision of the Government. The benefit of subsidy is accruing to the big manure factories. No benefit

of the policy of grants is accruing to the farmer. That is why it is my request to the Government to make it clear that in case of their being interested in providing grant-in-aid to the farmers, it should be provided direct to the farmers. The farmer should get the benefit of subsidy directly and not through any intermediary. I would like to tell the Government and the hon. Minister of Finance that a clear cut decision should be taken in this regard.

Sir, today, the farmers are not getting proper fertilizers and seeds. The Government is eager to extend power supply to villages but farmers are a worried lot. They are not getting any power. In some states farmers are getting electricity for an hour and in others electricity is available only for half an hour for irrigation whereas in yet other states they get no electricity at all. If the farmers resort to the use of diesel pump sets then you know, the price of diesel and the rate of pump sets are very high. Small and medium farmers cannot bear this expenditure. Even if a farmer musters courage and gets his land irrigated with the help of a diesel pump set, does cultivation and grows foodgrains or vegetables yet he does not get remunerative prices in the market and has to sell it at throw away prices.

Sir, we always have discussions in the House aimed to provide assistance to the farmers and work for their property but the farmers do not get benefited from it. Their crops get damaged and they do not get anything. The most regrettable thing is that in case of big disasters—cyclones, floods, heavy rains, hailstorms—those persons who have suffered losses get compensation but farmers are such a lot who get no compensation. I say that if the Government do not want to give compensation to farmers in case of damage to their crops by natural calamities, then do not give it but it should at least provide credit to them so that they can sow their crops.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Finance towards credit facilities available to the farmers. I do not know about other States of the country but I can recount the system prevailing in Bihar which I have seen from close quarters. Industrialists, shop owners and others get loan in Bihar, only farmers do not get loan. Strict action is taken for recovery of loans from farmers whereas no strictness in action for recovery of loan amount is seen in case of others. Industrialists are not imprisoned despite being defaulters of crores of rupees but if a farmer has borrowed even Rs. 5000 and could not repay in time then he is sent to prison and

[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

expenditure on his stay in jail is also added against his name. Observing such things I want to know what are their policies, how do they want to extend assistance to the farmers? Please explain that.

Sir, as far as bank credit to farmers from the nationalised banks is concerned, I want to say that in Bihar Commercial banks do not give loan to farmers. Cooperative banks and rural banks are playing with farmers in the name of providing them loans. They are being exploited in the name of credit. They directly control them and complaints of farmers are not redressed and it can be said that farmers in Bihar do not get loans from banks at any cost. The Government made efforts to assist farmers through cooperatives, issued credit cards to farmers all over the country. Cards were issued in Bihar also but farmers are not getting credit from banks in Bihar. I do not know about other States but in Bihar, the way the cooperative banks are functioning, they are as good as non-existent banks. They are not giving a single penny to the poor farmers. Through supplementary demands for grants, the Government has put forth a demand for construction of godowns in villages which is a good decision. They are constructing godowns too.

We want to know about the arrangements as to which things are they going to keep in those godowns and under what system these will be kept there. Godowns are lying unused. Nothing is kept there. It is locked, a person from the village has the keys and he is staying there but he has nothing to do with the godown. They have done a good thing but there is need to put a system in place, streamline its maintenance so that farmers can reap its benefits. They should carry on to work in this direction with the same intention.

Everyday discussions are taking place on rural roads. They have made arrangements and a discussion on Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana has taken place. You want that better roads should be constructed in villages through Panchayats. Whatever they say is right but I want to know under which system they want to do it. They have no regard for time limit, the roads which they wanted to construct in a year have not been constructed even after three years. When asked per comes the reply, survey is being done there, DPR is being prepared, there is shortage of funds. This system is totally wrong. The objectives they have in mind, the arrangements they are making, the funds they are collecting, the funds they are passing in the budget, if

they do not place it in a time frame then all their decisions taken here are in vain. Common man is not getting its benefit. I want to give them a suggestion in this regard that whatever money they are giving, they may construct even a kilometer long road in one parliamentary constituency but construct it within a time frame and make it operational so that people can get benefited. The Government should depute its agency and officers to control and monitor this system. They should seek reports from them so that the amount meant for villages and the poor should reach them properly. They should make arrangement for this.

Sir, it is pertinent for me to speak on NH issue. I want to say about Bihar, you can see for yourself there, all the roads of NH are not in good condition. What is being done for damaged roads there, repair work is being done for damaged roads but nothing has been done for two years. I want to tell that in my parliamentary constituency, NH no. 104 is being constructed, tender was given for a stretch of 22 kms and it is under construction since three years but so far hardly a stretch of 16 km has been constructed and rest is still unfinished. The NH which goes further is not metalled from 26 km to 35 km length and is not motorable. The Government does not pay attention to it. Muzaffarpur town of Bihar is a very important city. NH-77 goes upto Sitamarhi but it is also lying damaged for years now. The Minister of Surface Transport himself had visited the place and seen the progress there. One and a half year has elapsed but that road has not been opened till date. That road gets closed for four months, and the road becomes non-motorable. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to your party has been exhausted.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude soon. I want to say that the approach of the Government in regard to NH is not correct. My request is that the NH they have constructed or are going to construct, first construct them properly and do not take new assignments in hand. Whatever job they have in hand, keep them maintained and motorable. My suggestion is that first of all they should complete those works which they have already taken up.

The whole area in the North of Bihar is flood affected. All the infrastructure and properties, which are constructed, collapse due to the flood every year. I think that the situation has remained the same since Independence.

So many Governments have come and left, but no permanent solution could be worked out to get relief from the flood. The issue was discussed in the House so many times and all the members including several Ministers from Bihar requested the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Some efforts, indeed, have been made but we want to say that when the property of the states is getting destructed and destroyed every year, why the Government of India is not taking concrete steps to provide a permanent solution to check the floods? If the Government of India takes steps in this direction by talking to Nepal, I think some solution could be arrived at. After the bifurcation of the State of Bihar, the State of Jharkhand was formed. Now only agriculture is the mainstay of Bihar and nothing else is left there. The half of our crops are ruined in the floods every year, and the remaining half due to drought. On the one hand, there is the problem of floods and I want a permanent solution to it. On the other, our situation is such that the half of our Bihar remains under the spell of drought. Irrigation is a state subject, but this task cannot be completed without the supply of resources by the Government of India. In this respect, I want to urge that the issue of special package was discussed continuously, and on the day of bifurcation of Bihar, all of us had unanimously sent a proposal from the Bihar Legislative Assembly and the then Prime Minister had stated in the parliament to give a special package to us, but no single penny has been received. Today, we indeed have framed our UPA Government and some amount has been received, but I do not consider it a package. However, whatever small amount we have received so far, has not been adequate. I would like to request you that a special package should be given to Bihar for giving relief from flood and drought. In future, there should be the cooperation of Government in providing the irrigation facility.

On the question of electricity, I would like to say just one line that there is also the problem of electricity in Bihar. At the national level, I would like to say that the electricity has to be provided to the villages and all the places and the Government has the proposal to connect lakhs of villages with electricity. This year, ten thousand villages have to be connected. In this regard, I am of the firm opinion that the country needs to generate electricity in adequate quantity and then provide connectivity to the villages and rural areas. I would like to make it clear to have the proposal of generating the electricity in the first place, and there after getting the villages connected with it. ...(*Interruptions*)

I would conclude in just a minute. I would like to say that earlier the Government used to provide regular grants under the head of health to the states under various provisions, this practice has been stopped during the past few years, and now the Government of India is neither giving funds for the Referral Hospital nor any assistance is being provided by it for the Primary Health Centres. The states do not have adequate resources, some states might be having the same but the states like Bihar do not have them at all. I would like to urge to make provision from the budget in this regard. I would like to urge upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the Government of India should consider opening Primary Health Centres and Referral Hospital in order to streamline the health sector in the State of Bihar. A special package should be given to Bihar for the purpose.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, two months from now, we will be considering the Budget for the full year when we will be again looking at the financial situation of the country. The Fiscal Responsibility Act which was passed by the Parliament obliges the Finance Minister to place before the House, I think once a quarter, the fiscal situation as it exists at the end of that against what was projected in the Budget and whether the fiscal deficit as projected is going to remain at a level at which it was projected or it is going to be more or less than that. He should also report the position of the public debt of the Government. I think, alongwith the Supplementary Demands for Grants, it is really necessary that we should also discuss all these issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhu, you may continue later. We are now going to take up Half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, are we going to take up this debate again today or this is the end of it?

Sir, after Half-an-Hour discussion, will you take up 'Zero Hour' or the debate will continue?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No 'Zero Hour'. After Half-an-Hour discussion, the debate on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) will continue.

17.30 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Discussion regarding Train Accidents

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, in reply to an Unstarred Question No. 483 on 24.11.05, the hon. Minister of Railways has given a statement in this House. The statement is with regard to the number of accidents in the Railways during the period from 1.7.05 to 31.10.05. It means only three months' duration.

17.31 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

But when we go to the details of this statement, we get really shocking reports. Within these three months, there were 78 accidents. Two of them were collisions; 48 were derailments; 22 were level crossing accidents; four were due to fire and two were due to other reasons. In these accidents 176 innocent people were killed; 271 people were injured. It is reported that no compensation has been paid to them till now. Though an Inquiry has been ordered, no report has come yet. When we go back and recollect the number of accidents that had occurred in the Indian Railways over the years, we just cannot imagine the number of people who had lost their lives and the number of people who were injured. We cannot imagine their sufferings. The nation and the Railways have lost crores of rupees. So, I think, it is high time to think of how to prevent the accidents and their real causes.

It is stated that safety is the prime concern of the Indian railways. It should not be a mere statement because the Railways charge a special fee from the passengers as Railways Safety Fund. All the passengers, whether they are second class passengers or First Class passengers or AC passengers, have to pay a special fee. It is assumed that this Special Fund is used for the safety of the Railways.

When we go through the details of the nature of the accidents, we see that within these three months, 22 accidents were in connection with the unmanned level crossings.

During the discussions on the Railway Budget and the Supplementary Demands for Grants, we have been pointing out about the construction of ROBs and FOBs, manned and unmanned level crossings. No doubt Indian Railway has a very big network. Maybe one of the best in the world also. In the last five or six years the number of trains have increased; the frequency of trains has increased and new routes have also increased. In accordance with the increase in new rail lines and trains, the Government should make it clear whether it is able to make infrastructure facilities available. That is one of the main reasons for the consistent accidents that we are seeing in our country.

So, according to an estimation, every week, six accidents take place in the Indian Railways. It means, every day, there is an accident. We do not know whether it is due to derailing or due to manned or unmanned gates or due to the negligence of the railway staff. There are a number of Committees that the Government has appointed for the inquiry. Sometimes, some actions are taken. But again, we see in this year itself, there have been accidents in Andhra and in other States also. We had the accidents in Kerala 2 or 3 years back. We have witnessed the experience of these accidents in almost all the States. Though we collect the Railway Safety Fund, we are unable to use it for the purpose it is meant. What is the use of it when we are not able to take use of it? In Railways, a very big public undertaking, lakhs of people are working. A majority of people is using it for transport facility. But, we are failing. I do not think in the whole world or anywhere, there is such an accident in the Railways. When we have modern technology or when we can use modern equipment and sophisticated instruments, why are the Railways unable to prevent such accidents? Almost all the year, we have seen these things.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many posts are vacant in the Indian Railways. I think, thousands of posts are vacant. Sometimes, we talk about the negligence of the drivers or the Station Masters or of any other person. A new policy of privatization is going on in the Railways also. We see the staff work continuously for 18 hours or 24 hours. How can they work? It is not possible for the drivers or any other person to work such long hours. May I know from the hon. Minister the present situation of the staff strength in the Railways in all the Divisions? What is really the shortage of staff in the Railways? If there is a shortage, why are we not able to fulfil these vacancies?

As I am a Member of IT Committee, I have experienced that in almost all the Departments like the Department of Posts & Telegraph, the Railways, or any public undertaking, there are a number of posts vacant because we have decided a cut of 10 per cent. We have taken a decision in regard to almost all the Departments. But, this is with regard to the question of life of the passengers and the people. So, this issue is very important. What is the total staff strength percentage-wise? What is the total shortage of staff now in the Railways?

One of the most important issues is about the doubling work. It is true that we demand more trains and more routes but without completing the doubling work of the routes, it is not possible to have a better railway system in our country. So, the Railways has to take up a time-bound programme in these case. This is a very important issue.

The other is about the construction of ROB's and FOB's. In the last Budget, a number of ROB's were included not only in my State but also in almost all the States. But we see that no work has started in many cases. As a result of this, there were some 22 accidents within three months due to manned or unmanned gates. There are provisions for the construction of ROB's and FOB's. But, it has not been done. I do not think it is due to lack of funds because the Railway Minister, in the last Session, proudly declared that the Railways is running in profit, a profit of Rs. 10,000 crore. If that is so, then why is the delay? What is the reason for delay in the construction of these ROB's and FOB's? The Ministry has to make it clear and should draw a time-bound programme to complete these ROB's. That is true in the case of the railway station, the FOB's and also other signals systems. In many railway stations, old systems are prevailing. In many railway stations, we have no adequate staff and other amenities. So, when we say about the accidents, firstly, we think about negligence of the railway staff. It is true that laziness is there on the part of many of the railway staff. They are not coming in time and they are not present in the place. That is also one of the reasons. What is the action that the Railways have taken especially in three months? I do not go into the past history. I have the records in my hands obtained from the Library. They are about the history of the accidents of the railway from 1960 onwards. It is a big bundle of a book that we can collect. But we cannot go into it because this is the question of the lives of the people. They are paying while

travelling. When the passengers are travelling in a train, they are spending money and also they are losing their lives! This is what has happened. So, I want to get a clarification from the hon. Minister. How can we prevent the accidents? What are the measures that the Railways have taken for immediate action with regard to this issue?

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I fully endorse the views expressed by the hon. Member Shri Karunakaran. But I must point out that the railway accidents are on the increase due to various reasons. The hon. Railway Minister will admit that it is due to human failure. Whatever might be the reason, the reality is that the accidents are on the increase. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps to prevent such occurrence of accidents in future. But it is on the increase. For that, as pointed out by the hon. Member Shri Karunakaran, the doubling process will have to be expedited. But it is still going on in a slow pace. The single-line is excessively used causing derailments every now and then. So, this can be prevented if we expedite the process of doubling the railway line in many places including Kerala.

If I put it at this juncture, the Mangalore-Shoranur line for doubling is taking years together. So, I would request my friend Shri Velu, who is conversant with the subject, to expedite it. I must also congratulate him for getting the Salem Division. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a long-standing aspiration of our Tamil brethren. It is all right. At the same time, I would request him to see that nothing happened to the Palakkad Division. It must be maintained as it is, at any rate. The doubling process should continue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): No accident will happen in respect of the Palakkad Division! ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I hope the emergence of the Salem Division will prevent occurrence of accidents in future because it is a decentralisation process. So also, the Palakkad Division must be maintained. It should be the same it is now.

With these words, I would request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps to prevent the railway accidents in future.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, as the initiator of the discussion told, we all know that at least in the State of Kerala, all the major accidents of recent period took place on weak railway bridges. For example, there was an accident in Quilon. Now, I am not speaking of any recent accidents. I am speaking of the Kadalundi and Peruman accidents.

The point is that the weak bridge collapses and the train goes down the river. There are a number of weak bridges in Kerala according to the statement made then by the Government. But hardly any step has so far been taken to strengthen those weak bridges in Kerala. If you remember again, the major accidents, in which many people died, took place in Kerala when marriage parties or students going on picnic. While passing through level crossings accidents took place. Sir, 30-40 people died at one incident. Then the demand grows for ROBs. Now, the ROBs situation in Kerala is pretty miserable. I think, the Minister will understand a Malayalam proverb which is there. The Finance Minister will also understand it.

"Rameshwarthe Kshawaram Pole"

It is like the barbering at Rameshwsaram because a large number of devotees will come to cut their hair. The barber will cut one portion of a man's hair and leave him there and move and cut the same way other person's hair. Hundreds of people would remain there with little hair cut, but it is never completed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: That happens only in Tirupati. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Let us not quarrel on that. I agree it is in Tirupati.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, you know the rule. Kindly ask the question.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I know the rule. I am only saying that the ROBs should not be constructed in that fashion. Finish all the ROBs in Kerala which have to be completed by constructing the spans over the rail lines. Across the Railways in many cases the spans are not completed by the Railways and the ROBs are pending for completion. If they are constructed one after another, dozens of ROBs in Kerala can be completed. Will you take action so that such accidents can be prevented and many ROBs completed?

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, one strange thing about the accidents are. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Let us come out of Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the rule. There is system of balloting.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, we do not find any disciplinary action taken by the Railways against those officers who are concerned for dereliction of duty. I would like to know in all these accidents what disciplinary action has been taken by the Railways against these officers?

I would also like to know from the Minister that is it a fact that this loco-running staff is forced to overwork. Recently, there is a report from Kolkata. Sir, two engine drivers were forced to work for some 14 to 15 hours. After that they said: "We are not able to continue work, so we are going out." For that disciplinary action has been taken against these engine drivers. So I would like to know whether there is a shortage of loco-running staff. Whether there is a shortage of maintenance staff which is one of the basic causes of these accidents?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: How do the problems of overshooting the red light signals, specifically, during the foggy nights is to be resolved? It is because this is one of the causes for accidents. In the Konkan Railway, land sliding is a common phenomenon which leads to accidents. What has the Railway done to sort out this problem? How to strengthen these bridges which get washed away during the time of the flood causing severe accidents? The hot axle, the fractured rails are also the technical reasons for causing accidents. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken in this regard. Most of the accidents do take place, just like the hon. Members from Kerala said, at the level crossings, specifically, the unmanned level crossings. So what steps are being taken by the Railways in this regard? How has the Government utilised the Accidents Reserve Fund? During the time of the NDA Government, the fund was created. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shailendra Kumar.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I have one last point, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put straight question please.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Yes, Sir, I am asking straight question. Two solutions are there for this. One is

this route relay interlocking and the anti-collision device. Those are to be introduced in the railway engines, in the trains. What are the steps that the Government has taken in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chall): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the Half-and Hour discussion relating to the starred question by Shri P. Karunakaran in respect of Rail accidents. All the Hon'ble Members taking part in the discussion have put forth their views and stated that most of the accidents occur on the unmanned level crossings. However, there are several level crossings which are automatic and where the Jam takes place from twenty minutes to half an hours. Sometimes cyclists, scooterists and motorists try cross the level crossings from underneath and this results in accidents sometimes in which the people are also killed. Therefore, a provision of constructing flyover bridges at such places has been made. Participating in the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants for Railways, I had stated that such flyovers should be constructed at the earliest with the funds under Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojana or some other scheme or the funds sanctioned by the State Government in order to check the occurrence of such type of accidents.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was pointed out that lack of staff is a major issue in the Railways. There are cases where even bare minimum staff is not there in some railway stations. I have an example to quote here. There is one small railway station in a place called Kanjiramattom in Ernakulam district of Kerala. Three persons were working there earlier. Now, two are not there and there is only one person left. He is overloaded with work. He is working for 16 hours in a day. He says that he does not want to work there and he is also going. Instead of appointing new staff, the Railway is planning to close down the station as such so that the problem of staff shortage can be overcome. The station should not be closed because it will increase the number of accidents and likewise, all the small stations may be closed down one day. I talked to the Railway officials and they assured me that that station would not be closed and they are planning to give to private people. That also should not be done because it is a question of safety of passengers. If proper

staff is not there, if the minimum number of people required to show the signal etc. are not there, I think, it will not only affect the small stations, but it will affect the Indian Railways as a whole.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this will be attended to immediately.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the concerns expressed by other hon. Members regarding the question of safety of the Railways.

Sir, as pointed out by some hon. Members here, there is acute shortage of operating staff in the Indian Railways. So, I would like to know whether the Government have made any proper study to standardise the ratio of development along with the growth of adequate staff in the Indian Railways. This is a very pertinent question. Again, in the development area, some other hon. Members have pointed out here about construction of ROBs and doubling of new railway lines. This is also very important.

Then, I would also like to congratulate the hon. Minister, especially Mr. Velu because Tamil Nadu is getting a new Railway Division at Salem. We are also very happy because a new Railway Division is being created in the Southern Railway and it will give scope for employment more people. There is a news item that is coming up these days stating that the existing Palghat Railway Division is going to be closed down. This is also connected with the safety to railways. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether that news report is true or not.

These are the two pertinent questions that I would like to ask from the hon. Minister.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Thank you Sir. I share my concern with my hon. colleagues who have expressed their views about the Railways safety. Only last month, unfortunately, there was a big accident in Nalgonda parliamentary constituency in which 160 people died.

Of course, there are several reasons that very outdated bridges are there, and culverts are very old, etc. But here in this case, because of the unprecedented rains, several tanks got breached in, a very big flow of water came and the whole culverts along with the

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

Railways line were washed away and many people died. But I would like to point out here that for the last two days before the accident, there was a big flow of water on the national highway between Hyderabad and Vijayawada and the entire traffic was stopped. It has come in all the media. The incident happened only ten kilometres from the national highway. I would like to know why the Railways did not foresee that such a disaster could be possible. I would also like to know that if they had known this, what preventive measures they had taken.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to state that the Members of Parliament provide funds from their grant to increase the size of the small bridges within the municipality, however, the grant of MPLAD remain unutilized due to un-speedy disposal of work on the part of Railways and the certificate is not received here from the state due to which the extra funds required to be released do not get released. The construction work of a bridge on the Bawlia city of district Ahmedabad in Gujarat has been going on for the last 3 years. Rupees 15 lakh has been allocated for the task. I am ready to provide amount of another 15 lakh rupees. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the construction work of this bridge would be completed at the earliest or could be started soon?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to say that there are two such sites in my Parliamentary Constituency where the accidents are taking place regularly. Many a times, I have drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Minister through this House as well as writing the letters. There is a Punpun Parswa Station in a place there called Kwatpur where 4-5 accidents have occurred in succession, so there is a need to construct a level crossing there. There are villages on both the sides, but there is no level crossing there. The people normally have to make to and fro movements there because they are living there. What action you would take to get a level crossing constructed there? That place is station Hitwapur.

Secondly, I would like to talk about the overbridge in Meethapur, which is an important place in the Patna city, where the Railway work is going on. The construction of bridge there has not been completed so far, due to which the people are facing a lot of inconvenience. Under

compulsion, the people have to cross the railway line, which results in the accidents taking place frequently. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to take necessary action to complete the pending work of construction of overbridge in Meethapur and ensure the construction of a level crossing at the Ethmadhpur crossing.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, I am happy that the hon. Members in the House are having keen interest in the Railways, more specially on the safety so that the accidents are minimised, if not totally removed from the scene.

Shri Karunakaran raised very valid points regarding compensation. Sir, compensation is totally different from *ex-gratia*. He said, 'no amount has been paid and no succour has reached the people'. For the kind information of the hon. Member, Shri Karunakaran, I may say that out of the 176 people killed, 30 relate to the unmanned level crossings, who are not at all eligible for this amount because this is not the responsibility of the Railways because they were the road users and got themselves killed there. So, it is not our responsibility.

On the other hand, we have 146 people who are eligible for *ex-gratia*.

18.00 hrs.

We have paid 133 people to the extent of Rs. 1,21,95,000. It is not true that no help or no assistance was given. Compensation is totally different. Compensation would mean that you have to necessarily file a claim before the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) where one year is allowed to the claimant. On the other hand, the Railways do extend their arm to them to see that their applications are given to them; they get those particulars and pass them on to the Railway Claims Tribunal. Once they file it, within a period of one month, the Railways do give the statements to them, and we do not have any control in the sense that it is a quasi-judicial body. Later on, when the decree is passed, within 15 days' time, without going to the Associate Finance we pay the money. It should mean that we have got great concern for the people who are either killed or injured. It is a matter for information to the hon. Member, Shri P. Karunakaran.

In the same way, out of 271 people injured, 31 relate to the unmanned level crossing and the balance of 240 were eligible. We have given to the 223 people Rs. 16,34,000 which mean that we have disbursed Rs. 1,38,29,000 in all these cases. In fact the balance of cases 10 persons (deaths) have not been identified; 3 (deaths) were not admissible cases out of remaining injured persons 11 have not claimed, 2 persons could not be paid due to incomplete address and other four were not admissible cases. These are all few cases which are left out.

Coming to the point that in these cases only 50 people have filed claims in the cases of death, and 22 people have filed the claims in the cases of injury before the RCT. You have also raised the point to say why accidents are on increase. For your kind information I can tell you that the number of accidents has drastically come down from 351 in 2002-03 to 234 during the year 2004-05. It would mean that it has not at all increased because accidents are again fortuitious. We have no control over them except where it is a human failure. But, I would like to mention that we have taken all necessary steps. In fact there is a non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund to the extent of Rs. 17,000 crore. We are going to spend it for two more years. We have already spent more than Rs. 12,000 crore. We have upgraded the tracks, we have repaired and reconditioned the bridges because one of the hon. Members mentioned that in Kerala most of the accidents do occur in the bridges. We have taken into consideration the condition of bridges and re-evaluated each of them and done these kinds of repairs and renewals. So, this Fund has come as a God-sent amount for all of us to see that the rolling stock and infrastructure got upgraded and so the accidents come down.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is looking at that side and not looking towards the Chair. He should address the Chair.

SHRI R. VELU: I am thankful to the hon. Member. It is so because most of the questions gravitated towards that side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is right. You should address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. VELU: From now onwards. I will only look at you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. VELU: Even in the developed countries safety index is between 0.4 and 1. Where do we stand in India? We stand really on 0.4 in terms of the safety index. It would mean that we are no less. If we compare the conditions and parameters, we find that we are 0.4 only in safety index. It would mean that—it is not that I am boasting—we have brought down the number of accidents so that we cannot rest assured or be complacent about that.

Even one accident or one death is a concern. It is an invaluable life. Is it not? So, I want to drive at the point that ours is better when we compare the world standards in terms of safety index.

Coming to the other point, which was mentioned by our friends, regarding the negligence of the driver, more than 50 per cent of the accidents do occur on account of the failure of the railway staff. I agree but then we have 300 training institutions today in the country. We have got two lakhs of people trained in them mostly of the safety staff to see that they work with the kind of motivation and ensure the kind of works to be done when they are at the operation. All this is taken into consideration so that the drivers are properly trained to see that they do not contribute to this kind of accident in future.

He also mentioned about private participation. Well, we have opened the gate of the railways for the first time for public-private participation. In fact, I need not dilate on the subject. However, I would very briefly say that this has helped a great deal in our freight loading today because we have said, you own your own wagon system, own your own sidings, own your own warehousing and own whatever you want out of the items announced in the railways. Even we have given the BOT facility so that the private participation not only enhances our capacity but also helps to see that better management is also brought into the railway system.

Coming to the staff strength, there was a question raised by all of them. It is because our friends said that in the case of two staff members, one staff is being given. After that, the station is being closed. I do not subscribe to this view. We have never closed any station for that matter. Perhaps, we would have made that station

[Shri R. Velu]

as a halting station still giving the facility of a railway station there. Therefore, I will assure the hon. Member that we will never close the stations like that.

Coming to the ROBs, there was a mention about this. This is also a very important thing. On the ROB, there are certain pre-conditions, that is, the state Government should agree to close the LC as soon as the ROB is completed. The State Government should agree to provide 50 per cent of the project cost. The State Government should agree to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: The State Government has fully completed the work but at the same time on the side of the railway, the portion above the railway line is not completed in many places. I know it at Bekkal in Kasaragod. Six months back, the PWD has completed its work. It is not only there but it is there in other places also. Though the State Government has completed the work, the portion of the railway is also to be completed.

SHRI R. VELU: I will look into these special cases.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: In total, 20 ROBs have completed the work on both the sides of the approach roads and the railway portion is only awaiting completion. That is due to some technical problem from the railway side only. In total there are 20 ROBs. You can look into them.

SHRI R. VELU: I will look into this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the proper way. No, he is replying.

SHRI R. VELU: I will reply to any number of questions from you. I will reply to the point why the State Government should participate. There are reasons for it because the Government of India, out of the diesel cess, is passing on certain percentage of them. This is my first point. Then it is given to all the rural roads. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Let him complete.

SHRI R. VELU: They are required to contribute their 50 per cent share whereas we are adding 50 per cent. I may also say it here but the Finance Minister may axe it later on when we send the proposal. I have today Rs. 1099 crore, which is the amount available for the ROB construction. Plus, I will have Rs. 711 crore this year. This would mean I would have nearly Rs. 1800 crore. But where does the problem lie today? Where is the problem? The State Government will have to necessarily do comply with these six or seven items. One is, as I said, they have to provide 50 per cent. Then, as I said, they have to agree to close the level crossing. The third is about acquiring land on both the sides and also evicting the people from encroachment. Then again they have to provide in the Annual Budget that amount required for that construction. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, you are not to reply to those questions.

SHRI R. VELU: They have also to approve the General Arrangement Drawing (GAD). They have to necessarily give that. These are the things that are now inhibiting the progress of these ROBs. It is not only in a particular State but also throughout the country. In over 13 years, I could complete 208 ROBs. This year, I have got 443 ROBs under construction. I have already identified 1,233 level crossings where we have got TVUs, more than one lakh namely, the number of trains multiplied by the number of vehicles passing there in 24 hours. That would be sanctioned. There is no problem on the Railway side to sanction or to finance such projects. All that is required is the State Government's participation. I would request the hon. Members that to get back to their States and tell the State Governments to kindly cooperate with the Railways to execute these projects.

Similarly, it is rightly said that most of the people die at the unmanned crossings. In the country, now we have about 18,497 unmanned level crossings. Out of them, I have identified 1,018 where I could provide men to man them. This year, I have allotted 365 unmanned level crossings to be manned.

In the last ten years, we have converted 1087 unmanned level crossings to be manned. All unmanned level crossings cannot be manned. I cannot do it because

*Not recorded.

to provide one man at the level crossing, I have to invest Rs. 12 lakh as capital cost and on that the recurring cost would be Rs. 3 lakh per year because it will be done in two or three shifts. It is not an easy job to convert all of them. There is a persistent demand from many quarters on this.

Another point raised was that if there are a number of accidents then what are we doing? In this regard, we have laid down some norms to man the level crossings. In these cases, we have also stated that if there are more than three accidents at an unmanned level crossing in three years then definitely we will consider that case. We cannot leave those unmanned level crossings high and dry. We will definitely take into consideration these cases and those unmanned level crossings would be brought under manned.

Another point raised was about shortage of staff. An hon. Member asked as to whether any study has been conducted in this regard or not. Many committees have gone into this aspect. They have been insisting that there is over-staffing. We were having more than 20 lakh employees. It has been brought down to 14 lakh. Still we have to downsize because we are increasing mechanization of our Railway system. We are looking at it even from the angles of computerization of Railway reservation system, good maintenance, safety norms, etc. so that there will be more throughput enhancement. Because of this, the time taken for the maintenance will be reduced.

Now, I will mention about the number of staff, the staff that is required for maintenance. The total number of running staff required from safety point of view is 94,574 and the number of vacancies are 13,299. This would mean that there are 14 per cent vacancies. This 14 per cent vacancies in the running staff will be taken care of from the overall of 30 per cent reserve available. This will take care of leave vacancies, resignation, or for that matter, the retirement vacancies, etc. All these are included in the 30 per cent as I said. The buffer is built in. These 14 per cent vacancies in the running staff, on the face of it, would look on very high side. But it is definitely taken care of. On that score, we never stopped or detained any train.

An hon. Member has said about the shortage of staff at the railway stations. That may be marginal. But on the safety aspect we do not compromise in terms of staff members who are required for this purpose. An

hon. Member asked about the total number of vacancies in the entire Railways. We have only 1,86,000 vacancies out of the sanctioned strength of 14,11,000 as I mentioned earlier. Out of these, the total strength for safety is 6,46,000 and of these 87,000 vacancies are there. I mentioned about the details of shortage of staff in the running staff etc. So, this is how we are managing. The manpower planning in the Railways is really on a sound footing and on that ground we need not worry about it.

Our friend, hon. Member, Shri Kharabela Swain was making very valid points. He asked what are we doing about the foggy situation in view of the point that a couple of major accidents occurred due to the foggy situation. We are trying to work it out. The RDSO is working on that. I may mention that so far no technology is available to deal with such situations. They have not found an answer as to how to get over this foggy situation. The R&D work is going on in this respect. We have got many methods one is of having more line protected by use of detonators etc. All these things are being taken care of.

A mention was also made about the accidents in KRCL. When one of the accidents happened there, the hon. Minister of Railways, me and my colleague here—we all visited the accident spot. After visiting the spot of the last accident, we have made very concrete arrangement to see that there would be no falling of boulders or there will be loose soil etc. We have taken care of all these things unmindful of the cost involved there. We hope that in future at least this will not happen.

A mention was also made about the bridges being washed away. You know what has happened in Nalgonda recently. Our friend said about it. Even in the month of August there was a inspection of the place by the Irrigation staff of the area. In that case, we are now strengthening the patrolling of the lines in vulnerable locations in heavy rains. I am writing to some of the State specially as to how to coordinate with our staff in cases of joint inspections so that such type of things do not happen.

A mention was also made about the accidents at the level-crossings. I said about the measures taken. About the human failure, and disciplining etc. I do not have the figures right now. I can tell you very emphatically no staff member is spared in that sense. We know that more than 50 per cent of the accidents are because of the failure of the railway staff. Action has been taken in

[Shri R. Velu]

many cases, many of them have been removed from service or dismissed from service or demoted etc. This type of action is happening in the Railways. I can assure the hon. Member that I will communicate the exact figures which he wanted to know.

There was a mention about overtime and the working hours of the drivers. Normally the rule is that the running time is only 12 hours out of which ten hours are real running time and two hours are for preparatory and complementary works. Whenever it exceeds that, 13 hours or more, we give a notice to them. If it exceeds 13 hours of duty, then it is only because of the question of breakdown etc. But 93 per cent of the duty hours of the running staff is covered less than 13 hours. I am assuring you that much. In 93 per cent of the trips the duty hours are less than 13 hours. To that extent we will not allow them to do more work because we know of the human fatigue which may result in failures.

Sir, a point was made about the anti-collision device. We have already taken care of this. In the North-East we have taken about 1,700 kilometres for this ACD and it has been fine-tuned by June. But some more problems are there. In KCRL now they are doing it. In the same way in Southern Railway, South Western Railway, South Central Railway and Northern Railway, in the four zones, they are also going to implement the similar route kilometres. This would mean that we are taking every step to see that ACD is implemented fully so that the number of accidents is further reduced. We have taken the safety norms as I mentioned and we have taken steps on a grand scale about it.

I think, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and others mentioned about doubling. These are all ongoing projects. We will definitely do whatever we can.

Then, the example of Tirupati was cited. I have got 240 proposals on my shelf which are all sanctioned projects with cost of about Rs. 47,000 crore, but what I get as my budgetary support or non-budgetary support is very minimal. So, either I should distribute evenly to all the projects or I concentrate on a few projects is a matter of policy which we have to decide. So, I can assure that wherever it is the priority and where it is the last mile project, I will definitely help it.

I think, I have answered most of the questions.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I am not allowing.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing. This is not going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I will answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a Half-an-Hour Discussion. We have taken more than 50 minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. VELU: The Government has the money. I will definitely see what exactly is there because.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kurup, I am not allowing. This is a Half-an-Hour Discussion. We have taken more than 50 minutes.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I am not allowing.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI R. VELU: I answer the question of my friend from Bihar has asked. If the line is more than ten years old and you want a new level-crossing, it cannot be done because the policy is that if the line is less than ten years old, I can consider to put in a new level-crossing. If it is more than ten years old and you want to have it, then you have to bear the entire cost and also the technical feasibility is to be evaluated. To that extent, I will say that if it is more than ten years old route, the new level crossing cannot be done. If you are going in for cent per cent deposit, I will definitely consider it.

The second thing he has asked is that there is slow progress of ROB work. I will get it reviewed and see that is possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: What about Palghat Division? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may go to the Chamber of the hon. Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know the rules. Nothing more will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI R. VELU: The hon. Minister had announced yesterday while replying to the debate on Supplementary Demands (Railways) that Salem Division would be created. He did not say that Palghat Division would be closed. It is only a question of reorganisation of the Divisions. The Palghat Division will remain.

18.23 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 2005-06—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we are again taking Discussion and Voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). The discussion is to be completed today and the reply of the hon. Minister will be tomorrow.

Shri Suresh Prabhu was on his legs.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): We have been awaiting Zero Hour since morning. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take it after this discussion is over.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Speaker, Sir had decided to take the Zero Hour at Six O' clock. ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are continuing discussion on the Demands for Grants (General).

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: We have been awaiting Zero Hour since morning. If we were told earlier, we would have left. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, what about 'Zero Hour'? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want, you can raise it after this discussion is over.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, as I was saying, these Supplementary Demands for Grants should be considered along with the statement that the Finance Minister has made to the Parliament on the implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act because under the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the Government is obliged to reduce the revenue deficit to zero in a stipulated period of time. So, when we are considering Supplementary Demands for Grants and additional expenditure is going to be voted, I would like to know how it is going to affect the revenue deficit of the Government, which is supposed to be controlled under the Act which was passed by this very Parliament.

In fact, the first thing he did when he was presenting the maiden Budget of this Government was that he notified the implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act. So, I would like to know the impact these Supplementary Demands for Grants will have on the overall fiscal deficit as well as revenue deficit.

Sir, the quality of expenditure is extremely important. Normally, we keep voting for additional expenditure in this Parliament. It is always incremental expenditure, which is voted along with total expenditure, and the sanction for it is given in the last Session of Parliament itself.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister and the Government to come before the Parliament and tell whether there is a possibility of saving any expenditure

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

for the schemes that are on for several years together. Either the previous Government had started it or the Government before it had started it. Such schemes are going on, and every time there is a temptation for the Government to start a new scheme. Therefore, the old schemes continue, and the new schemes also continue, which result in growing expenditure. Is there a possibility of the Government making a statement about the quality of expenditure that is incurred by the Government? This would really help us to know more about this issue.

The Finance Minister had made a very interesting statement that he is interested in outcome rather than outlays. Who is going to estimate the outcome of the outlays that we are going to vote upon? Therefore, he should come out with a White Paper on this too. He has also come out with a White Paper on subsidy once upon a time. I think there is a need for a White Paper on how the outcome and the outlay are really going to work. Perhaps, you could take the Parliament into confidence, and this would really allow us to know how it is really going to perform.

The growth rate in the last quarter was about 8 per cent. We are happy that the Indian economy has now entered a new trajectory of growth. We are probably growing at 8 per cent, but we should really target to grow at 10 per cent. The factor that is not going to allow us to grow from 8 per cent to 10 per cent is our poor State of infrastructure. As regards infrastructure, we are really not performing as well as we should be performing. In fact, people come to India despite availability of infrastructure. Now, imagine the amount of growth we could achieve if we had infrastructure in place.

In my opinion, there are a few areas in infrastructure on which the Government should really focus. Firstly, there is the issue of policy. I think there are some grey areas about policy. The policy is not very clear and stable. I am saying this because when the new Government came to power, it said that they wanted to review the Electricity Act. As a result of this, there were so many investors who were taken off-guard. Otherwise, they would have invested there, but now they were thinking whether they should really make investments or not. Therefore, policy is an extremely important factor in it.

The second point that I would like to mention is regulation. In fact, the hon. Prime Minister in one of his first public statements as the Prime Minister of India had said that: "Infrastructure is very critical, and in that the

regulation is very critical." Therefore, he had said that: "He is nominating the Planning Commission to do the job." I really do not know what has happened after it. What type of work did the Planning Commission do? What type of new statement have they made? I am sure that the Finance Minister would like to enlighten us about the progress that has been made on regulation in infrastructure, which has been correctly identified as a weak area in implementation.

Thirdly, I would like to talk about implementation of projects. We see that there is a huge cost and time overrun in all the projects that are implemented. There is a Standing Committee to fix responsibility under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary. But so far they have not been able to fix any responsibility to decide on the reasons for overruns that are taking place. We should either abolish this Committee or come out with a new structure wherein implementation of infrastructure projects take place in a stipulated timeframe without any cost overruns. I think this is a very weak area. I am mentioning this because it will have an impact on our State Public Financing.

Financing of infrastructure is another very interesting area. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission had come out with a note saying that: "A part of the FOREX reserves of India should be utilised by creating a special purpose vehicle to finance it." I would like to know about the implementation of this idea too from the hon. Finance Minister. I am asking this because this idea was, in theory, opposed by some of the economists. I would rather support such an idea to find out whether infrastructure can be financed from such an idea. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether any new developments have taken place in this aspect also.

Another area that is very critical to infrastructure project implementation is Public-Private Partnership. There is no policy in place for Public-Private Partnership in sectors like power, ports, airports, telecommunications, etc. How is it going to work? How is the model going to work? We would really like to know about this also from the hon. Finance Minister.

Lastly, I would like to talk about the quality of infrastructure itself. It is not enough to assure supply of a particular service because the quality of service is also very critical. For example, electricity comes to the house of people, but quality of electricity is more important than just getting electricity. Therefore, in my opinion, quality of service is very important.

There is an important point which the Prime Minister had also raised in his first days as the Prime Minister and that is reform of bureaucracy. It is extremely important because any expenditure that we are now going to vote in is finally going to be spent on ideas that are going to be implemented through the same bureaucracy which the Prime Minister wanted to reform. What are the changes that are really taking place on that count? I would certainly like to know about that from the hon. Finance Minister.

One of the schemes that are mentioned in the Supplementary Demands for Grants is called the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. It is a laudable programme. We are now voting Rs. 300 crore for that. However, it is not mentioned on how many Districts this money of Rs. 300 crore is going to be spent. How many Districts are going to have this scheme? How many man-days are going to be created in that? While supporting the passage of this Bill, some Members expressed a view that the final expenditure that would be incurred on this programme should result in the creation of concrete tangible assets. The Minister then assured us that he would take all steps that were necessary before implementing this programme.

During the days of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, it was stated that only 22 *paise* is finally spent out of one rupee that goes out from here. I do not know how many *paise* are really going to be spent now. We are voting in Rs. 300 crore now. Unless we take precautionary measures, unless we take all the steps that are required to be taken, the Finance Minister's desire that the outcome of this outlay of Rs. 300 crore should be matching, will not come true. I would like to know how this particular amount of Rs. 300 is going to be spent.

We recently passed another Bill, the Right to Information Bill, in Parliament. I was curious to see that in the Supplementary Demands for Grants under the head of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting no extra provision is made for implementing that. I am happy about it. If the Government can implement the idea without incurring any additional expenditure, it is a very good thing. However, while passing the Bill we had already stipulated a financial implication and said that such and such money would be required. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is really confident that that law would be implemented without incurring any additional expenditure.

A similar scheme for water was launched. It was said that about a million water bodies would be revitalised under that scheme. There are small water bodies which you need to revitalise because they will then become the storages from which water can be used for irrigation, drinking and other purposes. I would like to know as to how many of these one million wells which were going to be revitalised have already been revitalised, and how much money has been spent on that task. That will also help us in determining the quality of expenditure that we really need to incur.

Another important point is, the Central Government has now a limited role to play in bringing about reforms in the entire country. There are many States which are refusing to move ahead as is required. Unless they also go hand in hand with the programmes of the Central Government, the real results of the change will not be seen by the common men and by the poor people who are really suffering because of lack of such an exercise. I would like to know as to what are the steps the Government is contemplating to make sure that all the States move in the manner in which the Central Government is thinking.

There is the National Development Council which approves the Five-Year Plans. After approving the Five-Year Plan, there is a Standing Committee of Chief Minister which actually goes through the implementation of that. Therefore, the States are onboard while Five-Year Plan is already approved. Unless we actually take them onboard, it would really not happen. Therefore, I would really be interested to know about it from the Minister.

In India, the number of people living below the poverty line may be something like 23 per cent. The definition is arrived at on the basis of those who earn less than a dollar a day. If you take those who earn less than two dollars a day to be below the poverty line, probably the number of such people could be as high as 50 per cent.

18.34 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

So, there is a large number of people who need to be uplifted from poverty. For this, structural changes are required. Without addressing that if we tinker with changes here and there, it is not going to help.

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

Therefore, while I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants, I would like to be assured that the Government will make sure the expenditure would be incurred on the line of what the Finance Minister has been rightly saying, that the outlays and the outcomes should match. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to enlighten us on all those points that I raised.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Supplementary Grants before this House for which I am grateful to you. The Hon. Minister has presented this Supplementary Budget. ...*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Discussion is on Demands for Supplementary Grants. The matter pertaining to Ordinance should be deleted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Sir, the Demands for Supplementary Budget have been presented here in view of the questions as to how to develop our resources, our infrastructure and the national earnings. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the better the financial discipline and management, the easier the implementation of national plans and programmes and the lesser burden on the people. We often see in our country that our projects suffer overcosting in respect of infrastructure like roads, power and other resources due to non-completion within the fixed timeframe. The States running into financial loss are not asked to be financially disciplined. Consequently the States pass their losses on to the shoulders of the Union Government which is compelled to constantly mobilize the requisite finance to meet those losses. Our total national income stands at 8%. The main source of our income is agriculture but it gives only 2% earning and the rest comes from industries and various other sectors. Industry and Agriculture are like the two wheels of the cart of our progress. The balance between these two is essential to augment the economic development of our country and thereby the financial resources of the country parented by our natural resources also need to be balanced. We know that water is an

essential commodity but the water-level in the country is constantly receding. There is no proper plan for rain water-harvesting and ground water-recharge. It results in the increased expenditure on water front—be its agricultural use or elsewhere. Such are some basic questions as affect other areas of production and income of the country and to which we do not pay adequate attention. Power is needed for a country's development as blood for human body. Demand-Supply imbalance of it adversely affects every area of our production, be it industrial, agricultural of any other developmental activity. All kinds of production suffer due to our indifference to power production which results in less income and financial losses. Hon. Minister is a learned scholar of financial management. He has been Financial Minister in more than one Government and achieved a lot in promotion of India's economy. But we will have to apply certain restrictions to under proper rules and regulations if we want such a big country as ours to progress through a strengthened economy.

Unemployment is rising fast in the country and unless some substantial financial arrangement is done for it a large number of people in the country will be rendered jobless who otherwise could have done a lot for the country's development. We need raw material and labour to run our industries. Though there are labourers in abundance yet the industries are closing down due to unavailability of raw material, somewhere it is due to power shortage. To say, there is no proper balance between what is available and what is not. In short, imbalance of resources, lack of proper usage of available resources, incompetent management and financial indiscipline are the obstructing factors in the way of income-enhancement. ...(*Interruptions*), The hon. Minister should give a comprehensive thought to this side as the sources of income of different States are very different now each other. For example, if we look at the sources of income of U.P., Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana and Punjab we find a lot of difference between them. We have to give a serious thought to turn this imbalance into a state of balance. You have started rural schemes and Employment Guarantee Scheme to alleviate the increasing poverty and unemployment in the country but these schemes would not solve these problems. We will have to turn to our industrial potential with a eye on our economy. I would like to urge the Government to reconstruct our financial infrastructure amalgamating all our economic sources so that it could absorb the shocks generated to meet our basic necessities *i.e.* health, water, power, industry or agriculture. A new and balanced approach is required to create ways for an increased national income out of these resources.

*Not recorded.

I would support this Supplementary Budget presented by the Hon'ble Minister with a suggestion that he may implement his idea of financial system with all his capabilities and experience and in such a manner that the financial loss of States may be curbed and the problems in the way of income enhancement may be solved.

With these suggestions, I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have got a very big list. Please give your suggestions in brief.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have given me an opportunity to participate in the discussions on the Demands of Supplementary Grants for the year 2005-2006, thank you very much. Demands for 48 grants totaling a sum of Rs. 9079.8 crore have been put forth here. Many important Ministries are there wanting these grants, one of them is Rural Development Ministry which implements the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna and the National Employment Guarantee Scheme. In my view the "Swajaldhara" Yojana should also be included in this list. There are only a few districts which are covered under the National Employment Guarantee Scheme as yet. I request you to implement this scheme in each and every district of the country, albeit on a small level for now.

As far as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is concerned, small hamlets populating 500 people should be taken up for this project. I would like to suggest the hon. Minister for renovation of a number of power-plants which have grown old. The Home Ministry should increase the number of CISF and other security force personnel and provide them with more state-of-the-art gadgets and equipments. As 'Tsunami' has been given attention to, earthquake should also have been covered. The Health Ministry here mentions more arrangements for Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturoapthy, Yunani and Homoeopathy. I would like to urge you to make a budgetary provision so that the increased charges in AIIMS could be withdrawn and the common people may be relieved.

I would like to suggest the hon. Petroleum Minister in regard to the need of Kerosene that it should be made available on a more than adequate basis to such

areas which are tribal dominated and which are forest areas, as they are in dire need of this commodity.

The Education Department talks of 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' but I do not see any ground benefits as the budgetary provisions in this regard are hefty and no work is done on the ground in that proportion, this we see in our constituencies. Such wastage of money and budgeting should be controlled.

The Minister has taken KSY Scheme as a Women and Child Development Project. Yesterday or the day before a question in this regard was asked and many hon'ble members made their submissions. The volunteers, assistants and nurses are compelled to sell of the nutritional food distributed under the scheme, as they are given very meagre honorarium. So, there is a need that they should be treated as group 'C' or 'D' employees and their salaries be at par with them only then this system could be strengthened.

Regarding Panchayati Raj System, it has been stated that empowerment should be done at village level. Mention has also been made to promote Rashtriya Gram Sawraj Yojna. The development of villages can only be ensured if Panchayati Raj System is strengthened since it is the basis of democracy. I think once our villages are developed the country will prosperous.

Provisions have been made under Urban Employment Scheme. The provisions for employment, sanitation, road, drainage and other civic amenities should be made for the slums of the urban areas by identifying slam areas where at least 20000 to 25000 poor people belonging to the scheduled castes are living so that they may feel that they are also associated with mainstream of the society.

Provisions have also been made regarding sports. Earlier several sports events were held at university, colleges, district or zonal level, today due to insufficient budget provisions those sports events are not being held.

I urge upon the government to increase the budget provisions in this regard to promote new talents in the country so that this country can earn name and fame.

With these words I conclude and thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): The Fiscal indicators are good now. There is a boom in the Sensex. The hon. Finance Minister in his Mid-Year Review has said that the growth rate in the first half of the fiscal year is 8.1 per cent. So was the case in 2002 when I remember, *India Today* magazine published a cover story mentioning, "Feel-Good Factor-How long will it last?" In the same magazine, on last November 28 a story was published saying: "Indian economy—will the Party last?" What I wish to say is, whatever good economic indicators this Government is projecting, they are the legacy of the earlier NDA Government and whatever achievement this Government is projecting has been bequeathed from the good financial measures taken up by the earlier Government. I am saying so by comparing India with China. China is an investment-based economy but India is a consumer-based economy and that is why I have some of my apprehensions, fears, which I will just express before the hon. Finance Minister.

For the fourth consecutive year the GDP growth has been seven per cent. I must say it is a phenomenal growth rate for the fourth consecutive year. The Mid-Year Review published by the hon. Minister says that there is a disappointment in the performance of mining, that is, 1.3 per cent; electricity sector, 4.8 per cent and though growth in manufacturing sector has not reduced, it has plateaued. This has been the another cause of concern. Good industrial growth has to maintain its momentum because otherwise it will ultimately affect the overall GDP growth. Take the example of fiscal deficit.

Some of the Members have mentioned that in this Mid Year Review the hon. Minister has admitted that fiscal deficit has exceeded that 5 per cent limit set by the FRBM Act and the Government expenditure is still growing gradually. Now, the Government is saying that it is going to introduce the Employment Guarantee Scheme. You require money for that. Similarly, Bharat Nirman Scheme also requires money. The fiscal deficit is already more than what was anticipated and if you include all these additional expenditure, it will put further pressure on the fiscal front. It is also a matter of concern that the fiscal deficit might be beyond the limitations of this Government.

There is rising inflation, of course, because of rise in petrol prices. The interest rates are also forming up, not only here but globally also. In USA the interest rate has

gone from one per cent to four per cent. It may go up further. The same thing may happen in India also, which is not a good indicator for the booming economy. This is already an area of concern, which has already been mentioned by the Reserve Bank of India in its Mid-Year Review. It has mentioned that we may have to face such an eventuality.

In the Mid-Year Review the hon. Minister has said that the growth projection for the first six month is 8 per cent. This year the Rabi Crop is more than last year. Last year it was 71 million tonnes and this year it has come to be 76 million tonnes. Even though in the first six months, the GDP growth has been projected at 8.1 per cent, the hon. Minister predicts the overall GDP growth in this year to be 7 per cent.

So I think he himself indicates that there is going to be a slow down. Actually, it is in the second half of the fiscal when the economy gathers momentum. Whereas, the hon. Minister indicates that it is going to be slowed down. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is his prediction about the growth in the industrial sector and the service sector.

Take the example of infrastructure. Not a single new major infrastructure project has been taken up. The work on the Golden Quadrilateral Four-Lane National Highway Project has slowed down considerably everywhere, even then the Minister says that it is progressing rapidly. Everybody knows that it has slowed down considerably.

Secondly, in 1997 when the hon. Minister was the Finance Minister, he had set up an Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation. Now again this year, he is going to set up another non-banking finance corporation. So my point is this. What is the necessity of multiplying the financial institutions when there is no new infrastructure project coming up? No new projects like airports, roads, etc. are coming up. So, what is the need of multiplying the financial institutions?

Take the example of Bharat Nirman. We heard that the allocation for the Bharat Nirman for this year is going to be raised to Rs. 6000 crore. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the actual allocation. The moot point is that there must not be any self-congratulatory posture by this Government because actually there is a lot of fear. The moot point is that they require very rapid economic reforms if they want to attain eight per cent annual GDP growth. But the economic reform record of

this Government is totally dismal. It is the international view that the momentum of economic reforms in India has slowed down. It is happening only because of the pressure from the Left. Such is the vice-like grip of the Left on this Congress-led Government that they are even incapable of taking very small decisions like divesting 10 per cent share of BHEL. Now they compromised to bring it down to five per cent still they did not agree. The hon. Minister is here. You take the example of Pension Fund Regulatory Authority Bill. I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance. The hon. Minister sent the message that it should be cleared as quickly as possible. The Committee sat day-in and day-out before the Monsoon Session and it cleared it. But till now they are unable to table it in Parliament. It is only because the Left is opposing it. It is an insult to this House that only two-three Members of the Left Parties have objected to this and all other people supported it, still the Government is incapable of bringing it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. When your turn will come, you can reply.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: On many occasions dissenting notes have been given by many people but that does not mean that the Bill will not be tabled in this House. Out of fear of the Left, the hon. Minister or the Congress-led Government is not tabling it. They know pretty well that they will only bark and will not bite but still they are afraid of them. I would just give the example of *India Today* and tell what impression this Government has given. The *India Today* had an Economic Convention in which great economists of India like Shankar Acharia, Ajit Rana De, Subir Gokarn, Vivek Oberoi, who is associated with the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and Sidharth Rai participated.

19.00 hrs.

What is their conclusion? Their conclusion is that Government is a non-performing asset. That means, reforms are not taking place. If no progress is taking place, then Government is the main bottleneck in India. This is what they have said. They have also said that Government has been the only disappointment. Everything else has been appreciated except this Government. Nothing is moving in the main economic Ministries in Delhi. The momentum is frustratingly slow. That is what is said by the largest circulated magazine of the country.

Consider the Electricity Act of 2003. It was supposed to bring a new era in power reforms. The Finance Minister should see to it there are danger signals to economics in power sector in Orissa and Delhi. It is because these are the two leading States which took up electricity reforms and they are not showing very good results. I would appeal to the hon. Minister to see to it.

Take the example of the labour sector reforms and the labour laws. The hon. Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and others want that there should be huge inflow of FDI to India. But that is not coming because not every labour law deals with retrenchment. The labour laws do not necessarily say that people will be retrenched. While the issue of lay-offs can await political consensus, other inimical provisions of law can be taken up. Sir, they are so scared of the Left that they are not even touching them. They should know pretty well that unless you have labour laws or labour reforms, you are not going to attract Foreign Direct Investment in India which is very much required for 8 per cent growth. If the Government really takes quick steps in the direction of economic reforms, there could not only be 8 per cent growth, there will also be double digit growth in India. This is my concern which I am expressing.

Sir, as I am a Member of the Standing Committee on Finance, I will give some suggestions. As regards RIDF, the banks are not very interested to lend their money through the RIDF. They say that they are getting only 3 per cent interest out of it and if they lend it outside in the retail sector like for houses and cars, they would get nine per cent interest. So, they are not very much interested in lending through RIDF. The hon. Minister should see as to what can be done about it.

Coming to priority sector lending, it should be redefined. Now, 18 per cent to the total lending should go to the agricultural sector. But there is hardly any bank which is lending at 18 per cent. They say that the intake of the corporate sector is much more and so, they are unable to give 18 per cent credit to the agriculture sector. Let me tell you that the percentage of recovery in the agriculture sector is much more. The hon. Minister knows it. It is much more than the recovery in the corporate sector lending. Even the bankers told us that the rural areas are gold mines for them. I would appeal to the Minister that he should redefine the priority sector lending and see to it as to why, in some areas, specifically the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is not working. In this

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

case, the selection of beneficiaries is the most important thing. Training should be given to people. Bankers say that training is the most important thing and only then beneficiaries should be selected. Otherwise, people are being selected, but bankers do not disburse the money. Even if they disburse the money, the rate of return is only 18 per cent of that money. So, I would request the hon. Minister to look into this.

My next point is about Self Help Groups, where ladies form groups. Here, sometimes the rate of return is even 90 per cent. The most important thing is training. They do not know what to do with the money. In some cases in Orissa—I do not know about other States—ladies from the Self Help Groups take money from the banks and re-lend the money at a higher rate of interest to other people. They become the second moneylenders in the villages. They are not interested in doing that. I would request the hon. Minister to see how they can be trained. They should be trained as to what they should produce, how to produce them, how to market them and how to package them. It is a very good idea and scheme. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this.

As far as micro financing is concerned, I would request the hon. Minister to reduce the interest rates. The rate of interest in micro financing, in giving loans to the Self Help Groups, is much higher. The industrialists take loan at five per cent rate of interest. But in the case of micro financing, it is nine per cent or sometimes it is more than nine per cent. The hon. Minister should see to it as to how it can be reduced.

In Kolkata Income Tax office, the staff strength is more, but the collection is less. But in other areas the staff strength is less, but the collection is more. I would request the hon. Minister to think over as to why in Kolkata Income Tax office they have deployed so much staff unnecessarily.

In the case of customs duty cases, in the Appellate Court, if a judge is transferred and when a new judge comes, the hearing on the cases start from the beginning. They do not start the case from where the previous judge has left. A complete re-tribal takes place. It is a very surprising thing. A complete re-hearing starts. This is very surprising. I would request the hon. Minister to look into it.

As far as the Customs Departments is concerned, there are only 10 CESTAT benches. Out of which, three are laying vacant. So, a lot of customs cases are pending.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to look into it.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2005-06 along with a few comments on some of the sectors which I still feel need to be addressed adequately.

India today is an economy that is on the rise and is the fastest growing economy in the world, after China. Our services sector now contributes the maximum percentage to our GDP. So, rightly it is one sector that can be taxed but only to the extent that we do not kill the golden goose. I feel that the Ministry of Finance's strategy to gradually bring in more services under the tax net is a move in the right direction. I would like to however caution that while we chase the big fish and identify the high volume centres, please allow breathing space to the smaller operators, especially those operating in some of the smaller towns and major panchayats.

While we create the environment conducive to the growth of the services sector, I feel that as a nation we cannot ignore the competencies that we possess in the manufacturing sector also. While we have more than adequately proven our capabilities in the automobile sector, I think the time has come for us to prove our manufacturing capabilities in the high tech sector too. Specifically, I would like to plead for the cause of semiconductor fab. The country needs several such fabs. While our engineers are contributing to the value addition of hardware, which is inevitably the IP of some foreign company, through the creation of high-end software which is eventually ported into this piece of hardware, I think the country is missing out of the true value addition that can be made to the national economy if we can manufacture these basic building blocks of high value electronics. I urge the Finance Minister to please accord priority to this sector which we have consistently neglected due to various factors over time. I also feel that as a nation we are not doing enough to add to the talent pool of high-end skills, so necessary in the IT marketplace today. The rate at which the salaries are increasing in the high-end skills market, I am afraid, that we may be out-pricing ourselves as a destination of choice leading to the diversion of business to other attractive destinations worldwide. A conscious thrust to create the environment to encourage the creation of this high-end skilled IT manpower is absolutely necessary if we are to sustain this pace of growth in our IT services sector. Rapid

application of our inherent skills for development and application of IT in our Governance and its increasing usage in general will also increase our competence in the Global economy. We have to create the conditions for its increased usage.

Commenting on the implementation of our social welfare schemes, I would like to urge you to make sure that there is enough grant for individual benefit schemes such as old age pensions, other disability schemes and housing schemes, etc., as otherwise, a shortage in such funds leads to corruption at the implementation level which this Government is trying to avoid. We have to increase manifold the budget especially for schemes for the aged and the disabled. India has 70 million disabled people today.

Finally, I would also like to comment on the most important activity of the country which is the lifeline of this country, that is, agriculture. Let us not forget that agriculture is the lifeline of the nation. It is the main bloodstream which has to be protected, sustained for quality output so that the health of the nation is reflected in the genuine happiness of our rural population. Agriculture is one activity that leads to the joyful sustenance of villages and the life around it which is reflected in the local culture, the festivals and the entire atmosphere of a satisfied community.

Bapuji rightly said that India lives in its villages. The lifeline of all villages, and hence the nation, is agriculture. Let us not forget that the resilience of the Indian economy lies in the health of its villages. Let us assess the conditions of our villages today. I remember growing up as a child in my mother's village that although the yield was not as much then, the people of the village, the farmers and the village community in particular, was one happy family. Today, the situation is very different in spite of much greater yields, better living conditions and far greater money in the pocket. Why is it so different now? The answer partly lies in the fact that there are greater expectations and a far greater disparity in the living conditions, the lack of access of opportunity and lifestyle including the factor of the digital divide in our villages.

The hon. Prime Minister has outlined his vision of improving the conditions of our villages, the infrastructure, the connectivity, the reliability of power, etc., by the year 2009. This will definitely lead to a far greater improvement in the general conditions of rural India but I still feel, falls short of the root cause of the fundamental problem. I still think that the soul of village-life will still remain un-addressed. What then is the issue that I am talking about?

Today, India is a nation on the rise, a country on the move having earned its recognition as a 'Services' economy, a nation which is to be the world's knowledge centre and the laboratory of the world. India is a nation that is truly basking in the sun, a nation whose time has come, a nation which has the youngest workforce and which is going to work for the sustenance of the world's economic health.

Now, the real question is: "How does such a country, a civilization in resurgence, treat its farming community which is the backbone of its economic resilience?" Do they not deserve to enjoy the fruits of consumerism and globalization? Does this nation not share the responsibility of ensuring a decent living standards for its millions who are dependent on agriculture? The answer is obvious for everybody to see when we look in shame at the suicide figures of our farmers and the statistics which say that 50 per cent of our farming community is convinced that agriculture is no longer viable and thinking of an alternative livelihood. I must thank the Finance Minister for easing the farm credit resources for our farmers in the last Budget but a lot more needs to be done. ...*(Interruptions)* I am finishing, Sir. I think, that this nation has to give a fresh look at its agriculture sector. It has to look at it in pride, with a sense of ownership and with a renewed commitment to its healthful sustenance. Let us remember that the soul of this nation lives in its villages and only when the villages smile does the sun truly shine on the nation. Let us be sensitive to the fact that the farming community and those dependent on it are not a happy community. What are the reasons for it?

The reality of the situation is that the input costs of the farmers have gone up several times while the compensation he receives has not kept pace! I think mainly the MSP has not kept pace. It is important that the MSP for all crops be maintained at a level that makes the activity sustainable. It is imperative to the healthful sustenance of agriculture.

I am not arguing for a situation that subsidises agriculture but makes it an activity which sustains and supports the minimum lifestyle of farmers and those dependent on it. The farming community already suffers from numerous ills, the uncertainty of the crop yield, the vagaries of the weather and the numerous unforeseen incidents. So, the only thing that I feel that a responsible Government can do is to increase the MSP level to a degree that makes Agriculture worthwhile for our farmers.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tathagata Satpathy to speak now. You have only five minutes. You are the only Member and your party has only five minutes.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for whatever little time you desired to give me to speak.

We have, today, before us the Supplementary Demands for Grants of about Rs. 9079 crore. As we see it, we have been watching for more than half a century plan after plan, Supplementary Demands after Supplementary Demands. Money is being spent. Thousands and thousands of crores of rupees have gone away. God knows where! But, if we see the country-side of this nation, we realise that actually what one of the former Prime Minister's said is very true that not much of the resources trickle down to the people.

Sir, you come from primarily a agricultural State. I also come from Orissa which is an agricultural State. We see that today one thing. I am not talking about the UPA Government or the NDA Government or any political 'isms' or thoughts. But today a scenario exists in India where the bureaucracy rules the roost. These Ministers, these political bigwigs only get bashed in the media taking a little bit of money here or a little bit of money there but the big bucks are made somewhere else. They decide what the Budget will be. They decide whether it is the Bombay Stock Exchange which will be pleased or some other foreign money investors who shall be taken care of.

Here, sitting in this House, we notice many amendments to laws coming up which limit themselves to "and" or "or" or to certain dates. Most of us do not realise the import of those few words. But if we go deep down, we could see one thing. I have seen in certain cases how these are specifically designed to help certain quarters, certain companies, certain interests only. Very limited, very directed benefits go to certain people. This happened in the previous Government. This is happening now also. So, it just proves one thing that the plan provisions in India have always been defective. Political thought has not played much of a role. It has constantly been a bureaucratic bungling which has created our Budgets so far.

For instance, most of the Plan allocations make the States put in high percentage of money as their share. Many States like Orissa, in projects of the Rural Development Ministry, have to put in their share which is far beyond their reach. This eventually culminates in those projects not being completed. So, we have before us a paradoxical situation where the Centre sends money and expects the States to share with their own funds and they are incapable of doing it. So, things do not actually reach the people. I wish to cite a few examples very briefly because you have already curtailed the timing. This is just to highlight how our planning and budgeting has been consistently warped in this country. Take Orissa for example. With a little more than 10 per cent of natural national water resources, mostly flow water resources, we have only a meagre 30 per cent of our land which is perennially irrigated. So, Sir, what happens is that we have no investment for irrigation and all our water resources go into the sea and the State is not benefited. In this light, I would like to compare another State. I am not trying to run down any other State but it is a comparative image which will clarify to you how we stand in the Eastern part of the country. With half the population of Orissa, half the landmass of Orissa, in the annual plan allocation of 2005-06, Jharkhand has been blessed with Rs. 5000 crore whereas in the same period Orissa has got only Rs. 300 crore. Orissa has mines and minerals. You exploit it. You say in the Mineral Act that the land belongs to the State but the mineral that is in the land belongs to the Union. Therefore, we do not get any benefit from that what you get under the earth. We are only possessing the land but the State does not get benefit. If the State Government levies any cess, any tax for the development on the mining activities, the courts reject that. It has recently happened in Orissa also.

The power is one subject which I would like to mention here. Sir, Orissa is rich in coal. NTPC and many private companies produce power within the State of Orissa using the coal from the State, polluting the rivers and causing immense collateral damage but the power is transferred to the States like Karnataka and many other States by specially made systems. They collect power duty there, they get benefit. As consumers they are consuming the power, they are benefiting from the money but we are only deprived of. We have the collateral damage. We are polluted, our State is polluted. We do not benefit from anything that is found on our soil except a paltry royalty. We are also deprived of institutes like National Institute of Science (NIS) or whatever they have

renamed it IISCR or AIIMS also because of certain political machinations. In a minute I would finish, Sir.

At 4.15 p.m. the Finance Minister said something very interesting. I am just quoting him very loosely. He said: "The concern of Members for exporters is understandable but please show some concern for revenue also." Sir, I would just like to highlight. There are many such examples but I will just give one little example of how a warped system we have which is functioning in the Finance Ministry. This refers to no particular Government. It was there in the last Government for a short time. This Government has again brought it in. It is something called Counterveiling Duty (CVD). It is levied in place of excise duty on items that are imported from abroad. Sir, on a simple thing like printing machines for newspapers, you have CVD exempted from printing machines which can print 70,000 copies impressions per hour (iph). On 70,000 and above, there is no Counterveiling Duty on that but who benefits from those big machines? It is only a select few newspapers. Whereas you are talking about higher literacy in the State, you are talking about encouraging Indian languages. Now, all Indian language newspapers need or they buy Indian made printing machines. There, they have to pay a 16 per cent excise duty for no reason at all. So, what happens is that you encourage the big players to get CVD-free machines, second hand machines or any kind of machines from abroad, if they are registered as producing 70,000 impressions per hour but you are harming the smaller players within India.

But you are harming the smaller players within India. Like one of my colleagues said earlier, if you are catching a big fish, it is a welcome move, but you should also give some breathing space for the smaller players which we do not see in this country, because this country's plans and programmes are dictated by unknown, unseen powers that sit in the corridors of power in the North Block and South Block.

Sir, I belong to the State of Orissa. It is sad to note that nearly eight States are getting Special Economic Packages, but the Government has deprived Orissa. This Government and previous Governments have deprived Orissa from that list for far too long. It is because of lack of vision. As we have seen and as you have seen, Sir, in your State, how the previous Congress Governments' lack of vision made Punjab a very disturbed State in the 1980s and 1990s and you know how much political efforts

you had to make, how much humane efforts you had to make to bring that State on to an even keel. But let me also give a warning to this Government that people of Orissa are getting restless. Their anger is getting bottled up. It is not good to take people for granted and that is what is happening with Orissa. You are depriving us. Although you are looting our resources, you are depriving us of all the benefits. So, if their anger is bottled up, do not be surprised if, in the near future, Orissa also comes to a stage of boiling point where the fall out will be disastrous for this nation. Let us remember the Oriyas are meek, but if you remember the Bible, the Lord had said: "The meek shall inherit the earth." When the meek become violent and when they become upset, god help this nation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, those who would like to lay their speeches on the Table of the House can do so now. Their speeches will form part of the proceedings.

Secondly, four hours are allotted to this discussion.

[Translation]

We have decided to discuss this issue till 8.20, so I request hon'ble Members to be brief Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will try to be as brief as possible.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am helpless.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I understand your problem. Please understand my problem also.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I hope you understand my problem also.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Minister is going to reply tomorrow, it is better that you adjourn the House now and give opportunity to everybody tomorrow. Everyday, we are sitting up to 9 o'clock, but we are not getting opportunity to speak. Everyday, the Chair is calling the Members according to the strength of the parties. our strength is five. We are waiting for our chance since

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

6 o'clock and this is happening in every debate. This is not correct. That is why, my humble submission is that it is better to adjourn the House now and continue this discussion tomorrow so that everybody who wants to participate can get the chance.

*SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj):
Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to participate in this debate on Demand for Supplementary Grants for 2005-06 placed by Hon'ble Finance Minister.

Sir, As all of us know that our country is mainly dependent on agriculture—that is why the maximum thrust has been given on rural development and agriculture. Agriculture is no longer lagging behind the industry now—agriculture has become an equal partner of the industry. With new innovation in agriculture technique and machinery as well as storage arrangements an agriculture enterprise—could become highly profitable. As 80% of our people depend on agriculture this benefit will accrue to them.

India is very famous for its huge manpower and for improvement of quality of manpower special emphasis is given on education including expansion of Technicians Education. For their employment expansion of IT Sector development of new technology for small and traditional industries etc. and various schemes of self-employment under Rural Development are made. These justify the huge investment in this sector.

The main realistic effort the government has made is the provision of 100 days guaranteed employment which will improve the condition of the people living under BPL. And their joining in productive process will contribute to the growth GDP.

In fact the picture of the economy seemed to be rosy in the first quarter of 2005-06.

Despite global oil price hike and natural calamities, the GDP growth in the first quarter accelerated 8.1 from 7.6 per cent from the corresponding period of previous year. Industrial activities gather further momentum and accelerated to 8.8 per cent by the manufacturing sector.

Sir, prosperity of any country depends on its exports. The merchandise export growth reported as 20.5%—were higher than the target of 16%. There was modest decline

*Speech was laid on the Table.

in the external debt and on the other hand foreign reserve increased about \$ 2 billion.

The inflation rate declined from 5.1 per cent to 4.6 per cent.

The electricity generation posted a lower 5.5 per cent growth in the first quarter is now increased and grew by 10.2 per cent in June.

As the budget proposals are translated into reality there is also development in transport, communication, and health and other sectors.

India, as a whole, we are getting more prosperity and this is evident from the facts I have pointed out.

But, Sir, we belong to the North East of the India which is lagging behind the rest of India.

Our projects like Bogibeel, Tipaimukh could be taken up. Our Rivers which create havoc during summer could be tamed.

If the potentials of our hydel power could be harnessed;

If our communication system could be modernized.

If our waterways to Kolkata could be reopened—

We could also develop ourselves substantially.

I thank the Government for making a special provision for North East but the schemes for development are yet to be implemented properly.

Sir, North East is lagging behind the rest of India in all respect. I hope the Government would contribute in more projects in the next year for the faster growth of NE region and keep vigilance for their proper implementation.

However, I wish to say something about North East States, particularly in Assam and my constituency in Bark Valley Karimganj district. Till recent past our Tea was very famous in the world and it was earning huge revenue but now our gardens become sick and striving hard for survival. We requested for special package for the tea industry in Assam, and my humble request is to implement such package for the tea industry which can regain their previous glory. Our agriculture is very backward as the

implements are not modernized—we use traditional equipment only, people used to carry on one time agriculture in these area for the absence of infrastructure of electricity and irrigation.

Even e-fertilizer supply also do not reach to the actual farmer. And farmers, fishermen are required to be educated in modern techniques of production which could improve their economic condition as well as the national productivity.

One more point which I wish to point out, which I have done earlier also regarding a four thousands of teachers working without any salary. Some of them are retired doing the same jobs as their counterparts in government schools. Due to paucity of funds of the Government of Assam could not take over the services of these teachers. Only recently a very small number of them were granted a fixed pay. My request was that the Government of India should provide a fund so that these people who are rendering the services in the field of education since long could be remunerated.

Lastly, while supporting the Supplementary Demand placed by the Hon. Finance Minister I thank the government for taking over Badarpur-Lumding Komarghat railway as National project. I hope the Government would take all the action as needed to complete the project by the 2009 as declared which could contribute significantly towards the development of Barak Valley, Tripura and Mizoram.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while speaking on the Supplementary Demands for Grants, my friend Mr. Swain tried to depict a very dark image about the influence of the Left on the ruling United Progressive Alliance. His speech was quite alluring. But I must say what was the promise made by the UPA Government. The promise was that reforms would be carried out with a human face. But what was it that they were doing when they were in power? There was no left to murmur, plead or do anything. They had done it to the hilt and said India was shining. The people rejected it. It is better that you take that lesson from that. Of course, to that side also, I would say, if reforms are not done with what is promised, with the human ace, we will oppose it. That is understandable.

It is not that we are against everything that Government, like inviting foreign investment, etc. We are for that. But it should be invited to sectors where it will

generate more employment because unemployment is the biggest problem in the country. If it is invited to sectors where agriculture will flourish, we will support it because our agriculture needs more money. If it is invited to infrastructure, the promotion of which would enhance the economy of our country, we will support it. It is not that we blindly oppose it. I would like to inform the hon. Member, Shri Swain. We are not blindly opposing it. There are certain different approaches to it.

Everybody said that agriculture is one sector of our economy that should be supported. I also feel that way. It is our hon. Prime Minister, who is an economist and who was the Finance Minister of this country before, who in a recent speech said that there is deceleration in the growth in the agrarian sector. It is very alarming. He also said that if we have to achieve the goal that we are attaining seven or eight or nine per cent of the growth in the GDP, then take care of agriculture where at least four per cent growth is ensured. We are far away from that. It is in that sector if you invite foreign investment and promote it in the interest of the country.

In his Budget Speech, the Finance Minister or for that matter in all the statements of the Finance Minister in the State Budgets, it is stated that the public spending, that is investment on agriculture is steadily coming down. We have to enhance investment in agriculture is steadily coming down. We have to enhance investment in agriculture and agriculture, again, Sir, you know it very well, is one sector that provides maximum employment in this country. This country's number one problem is unemployment and that too rural unemployment. If these realities are approached, we have no quarrel. To find a solution to that if you bring foreign investment, it is very good, you try that.

Coming to another aspect of the problem, I want to tell you how people are facing it. We had a very unfortunate tsunami. Fortunately, the western coast was not so badly affected, through affected quite badly. In Kerala, that was the biggest disaster in the recent past. There are certain new problems that we are facing. A new type of fish, which in our common parlance we say, that is, sea frog is found in plenty. The fishermen go to the sea, catch fish and that is sea frog. It is not that sea frog is edible or not. The problem is different. The net is all destroyed by that. A net in a boat costs Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 lakh. It provides employment to a minimum of 40 people and if the net is destroyed by the sea frog, to repair that it will take another 30 days—30 days of starvation, 30 days of hunger and 30 days of unemployment.

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

I would like to know whether there is any scheme with the Government to help those people. The insurance companies are refusing to insure the net because they know that it is not a lucrative offer. I have seen the plight of the people on the western coast from Kanyakumari to Kasargod. I do not know whether beyond that it is there. You see, these people are affected. Something should be done about it. Here, I must had there been a Ministry for Fisheries at the Centre, we would have cried. Do something to that Ministry. We do not have a Ministry for Fisheries. It is under the Ministry of Agriculture. So, I would like to request the Finance Minister to look into this problem and do something. It is because this is a problem being faced by marginalised population who are all the time unemployed and most of the time they are starving. They are now thrown to complete starvation and complete unemployment. Will that problem be solved? That is the thing they are asking. You could make the proposal for a grant. Something should be done about it.

Now, coming to Shri Swain again, to foreign investment, on the Western Coast if we develop the Port Vizanjam, which is in Trivandrum, that will be one of the best Ports in this country where mother ships can safely come to the shore. We do not have that facility anywhere in the country. It does not require constant removal of the sand. The land is such, the terrain is such that there is no problem. It is one of the nearest ports in the international shipping line. If that Port is developed—it is not a problem of Kerala; we have only mother ships coming to Colombo, to Dubai or to Singapore—all the containers will have to permit transit to India. If a mother ship comes to India, that will save a lot of foreign exchange that we are losing. Our country will be immensely benefited.

Shri Swain, we will support you if we can make that Port with sufficient foreign investment and technology. If it is developed as a Port, it will help tourism, and it will help to find a solution to unemployment. Now our Minister was good enough to offer Sethusamudram to Tamil Nadu. Sethusamudram was given to Tamil Nadu. It is good but this Port, if developed, will do much more good to this country than Sethusamudram.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Vallarpadam is also given.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Vallarpadam is a transshipment Port where medium ships will come. No mother ship will come to Vallarpadam. I am speaking to

go ahead—in your language if I use 'graduate'—to a mother Port where bigger ships will come and the country will be benefited.

Thank you for giving us Vallarpadam. We will be very thankful if Vizanjam project is taken and is presented as a gift to the nation in the next Budget, at least.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister has proposed in the house made the proposal for Rs. 9079.81 crore rupees in the house for 48 demands. During his budget speech it seemed that he will resolve all the problems of the country. A very rosy picture was presented before the country. The real intention of the government are exposed. When demands for grants are made in the House which shows the direction the country is heading towards.

I consider Shri Chidambaram a very efficient Minister. He single handedly facing the opposition his all the colleagues have left but he is still sitting here. I express my gratitude to him.

Deputy Speaker Sir, when I read the first page of demand it was demand No. 12 of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. In that, it has been mentioned that Rs. 103 crores are to be paid to compensate the loss of State Trading Corporation entered into the loss making joint ventures. I have an example in this regard. Shri Rangnath ji had addressed unstarred question in the house on 10th May in this regard. The question was whether the STC had sanctioned an amount of Rs. Three crores for aqua culture project despite the members of its Technical Advisory Boards were not in the favour of releasing the money. But the money was released and it gone waste since the promoters did not invest any money. They misappropriated the entire money. There have many such scams in STC. This scam is one of them. The hard earned money of Rs. 103 crores of the people of this country is being invested just to cover such scams. I am very disappointed to see that.

Now, I come to Demand No. 34. The provision of rupees 250 Crore has been made for Stressed Assets Stabilisation Fund. An amount of Rs. 9 thousand crore have been released to IDBI in the budget. The people borrowed the money from IDBI and did not return. Hon'ble Finance Minister has termed it as 'Stickey Fund' 'stickey' means affixed and 'fund' means the money. The money

which was withdrawn from the bank and it got affixed outside, means it did not come back to bank, this is called the stricky fund. In the simple term the Finance Minister is calling it an embezzlement. Just a cover up such embezzlement the Government is releasing Rs. 250 crore to Stressed Assets Stabilization Fund, hence the Government is helping them. The IDBI has been merged with IDBI Bank. You are an expert, you must have an idea that what is correct. I will not call the name of person who is responsible for this loss to IDBI, moreover that person has been appointed as Chairman of IDBI, why this has been done? With your permission I read an article written by Shri Jagannath Ji published in 'The Hindu' in which it has been mentioned:

[English]

"The Government should not be offering him a public sector bank on a platter till he has actually proved himself at IDBI. His KRAs (key result areas) must include superior performance in recovering the NPAs that have been happily transferred to the Stressed Assets Stabilisation Fund (SASF)."

He writes, "the IDBI bailout—a thoroughly undeserved one—is the worst possible way of lending a helping hand to any financial institution."

This is what he says. Please look into it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The Bill was passed by your Government. The Bill was passed by the NDA Government.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I have said that I am not a finance expert. You may mention this in your reply.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will reply.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Now, I come to demand No. 36. The Government has allocated just an amount of Rs. Two hundred crores to the States for 'Natural Calamity Fund' while the demand from the States are much higher. And the Government has imposed a condition that 25 percent of the amount shall be contributed by the

States and 75 percent will be met by the Central Government, this is unjust. How can you expect 25 percent contribution from the State which has struck by flood or earthquake? Therefore, the contribution of States, especially those, which have been affected by such calamities be reduced. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa and your State Tamil Nadu came to Delhi and demanded that States be allowed to contribute only ten percent. But ignoring their demand, three-four selected officers were consulted and it was decided that States are to contribute 25 percent of the amount and 75 percent of the amount shall be contributed by the Centre, this is unjustified there is, need to pay due consideration to this.

Now I came to demand No. 92. Sir, after allocating an amount of Rs. 103 crores and whatever other amount to IDBI, how the hon'ble Finance Minister has drawn his attention towards Handloom development sector.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, the Finance Minister has allocated just Rs. 35 crore for the weavers who have become unemployed due to non-availability of work. Crores of handloom weavers of this country have become labourer due to non-availability of work. Crores of handloom weavers of this country have become labourer due to existence of power loom industry in this sector which has resulted into the unemployment among handloom weavers. For them the hon. Finance Minister has given only Rs. 35 crore. It is not right. It is my submission that this is a quite meagre amount. More funds are required to be provided to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance has all praise for China and every now and then he makes a mention of the achievements of that country. I would like to inform that in order to promote export of its carpets China withdrew the duty thereon. At present our carpet industry is passing through a very difficult phase. I would like to ask him as to why does not he exempt the carpet industry from paying the duty? Today, there are 20 lakh weavers in the carpet industry and more than half of them are without jobs. Their handlooms have been closed down. They are now working as labourers. In Uttar Pradesh and wherever there is the carpet industry, people have been demanding that carpet industry should be given the status of Cottage industry and it should be exempted from the duty. He did not consider their justified demand. He has not given the status of cottage industry to the carpet industry. Consequently carpet weavers are jobless.

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Demand No. 105 relates to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. For this the Minister has allocated Rs. 3 crore and out of which Rs. 2 crore have been provided for laying a synthetic surface at a very large stadium in a big city. We have no objection to that. There is no problem with laying the synthetic surface but we request to provide more funds to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs. If stadia are constructed in small towns it will yield good results. It can be seen how excellent players have emerged from the small cities.

Shri Mahendra Singh Dhoni who hails from Jharkhand, Ifran Pathan and Limba Ram who hails from a tribal area in Banswara district of Rajasthan. He has won an Asian Medal in Archery. How could he win the medal? He won the medal because he could get the opportunity to participate in the Asian Games. If we want to search talent, we will have to come out of the big cities and search in the small towns where there are plenty of talented players. This will provide them opportunity to participate thereby increasing the medal tally of our country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the most important demand relates to Agriculture. I shall wind up after speaking on that. There is so much to speak but you are reminding me about shortage of time. All members of the House have expressed their concern on this demand. This demand relates to Department of Agriculture and Cooperatives. Shri Sharad Pawar ji is our Minister of Agriculture. I would like to quote what he has stated.

[English]

"Forward Contract Regulation Act, 1952 needs to be amended as total volume of Commodity. Future Trade increased from Rs. 1.29 lakh crore to Rs. 5.71 lakh crore in 2004-05. It stood at 20% of GDP."

[Translation]

That is very good. When he became the Minister of Agriculture the country had great expectations from him that development would take place in agriculture, export of agricultural products would increase and processing industries in agricultural sector would be set up. Whole of the country had great expectations from him but I am sorry to say that the attention of the Agriculture Minister has been diverted to cricket from agriculture. His concern

now is whether Yuvraj Singh or Sourav Ganguli will play in tomorrow's Test Match. While it is so, how the department and the Ministry of Agriculture will be run?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are well aware of the situation of agriculture prevailing in your state of Punjab. There, small and marginal farmers are compelled to sell their lands and have reached on the verge of starvation. The people are committing suicide there. They are not able to repay their debt. But the Minister of Agriculture is not worried at this. Since we are running short of time, I am therefore, not speaking too much and would just like to remind the Minister of Finance that he had assured "Mein Hoon Na" in his budget speech wherein he tried to convey that he was there to take care. Now I would like to add the hon'ble Minister deviates from the right path, we are here to show him the right direction. I have to say only this much.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first and foremost I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in the House on such an important subject. I rise to support other Supplementary Demands for Grants for the expenditure of the Central Government.

Sir, our country is taking strides on the path of development day-by-day under the able guidance of the UPA President Hon'ble Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji and the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji. The mainstay of a country's development is sound economy of that country alongwith the character of its citizens. The economy of our country under the Competent economic leadership of the Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram is scaling new heights.

Sir, 48 Grants are contained in the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2005-06. Parliamentary approval has been sought for authorizing a gross additional expenditure of Rs. 9079.81 crore. Out of which the total amount of the proposals of net cash expenditure in Rs. 1965.13 crore and the amount of the gross expenditure met through the savings of the Ministries and the departments or through increased receipts and recoveries is Rs. 7114.08 crore. Besides a token provision of Rs. 60 lakh has been sought which provides for an amount of Rs. One lakh each for every head of expenditure so as to reappropriate the savings for the new service or the new cases of services.

Sir, I have been elected from the Mandi Parliamentary Constituency of Himachal Pradesh. Through you, drawing

the attention of the House to Himachal Pradesh, I would, therefore, like to make a submission that Himachal Pradesh is a special category state and as far as the development of the state is concerned, it is consistently making the desired progress in proportion to the available resources. However, people belonging to different castes, creeds and categories are living in the state but unlike other states no discrimination on the lines of castes and that of high and low is perceptible anywhere in the state of Himachal Pradesh. People belonging to all castes and creeds live there in harmony.

Sir, Himachal Pradesh will always be indebted to the former Prime Minister Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi by whose inspiration the State could get the status of full statehood on January 25, 1971. The Union Government has always been cooperative by placing it in the special category in view of its hilly terrain, cold deserts, forest cover and the negligible commercial and agricultural activities. The State has always been investing the income it can generate from traditional sources in the development of the state as a result of which the State is now making tremendous progress. But the State is endowed with difficult terrain and a peculiar climate. The borders of the State touch Tibet on one side and Jammu and Kashmir on the other. On the third side it borders Uttar Pradesh and on the fourth Punjab. The Tribal districts of the State—Kinnaur, Lahoul-Spiti and Pangi and Bharmor divisions of Chamba remain disconnected for six months a year with other parts of the country due to heavy snowfall. The people on the upper reaches of mountains in Himachal Pradesh are troubled by snowfall while the people living in plains of the state remain comfortless due to heat. Such is the unique climatic condition of Himachal Pradesh.

Sir, the State Government is committed to undertake progressive works equally and evenly in all areas of that the state, but keeping in view the strange and difficult geographical conditions in the state, I would like to request the Union Government to pay attention towards the announcements made by the hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during his visit to the state in May, 2005 for special development of the state and converting it into an ideal hilly state of the country. Some of the main announcements made are to connect all the Panchayat Headquarters of the State to the roads, to provide clean drinking water to 6000 deprived population of the state to provide irrigation facility to one lac hectare and to allocate more funds for ongoing railway projects and to take up new railway projects for which surveys

have been conducted. The State Government has been in contact with the various Ministries of the Union Government from time to time with regard to all these works and he has been requesting them to complete all them within fixed time schedule. But the desired results have not been achieved so far. Therefore, I would request the Union Government to provide full assistance to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh as per the announcements made by the hon'ble Prime Minister.

Besides, the State Governments of Himachal Pradesh hopes to get special budgetary support and policy support and assistance from the Union Government for some areas in the State. These areas are: Need to urgently sanction an additional amount of atleast 20 crore rupees for the extension of air strips of Gaggal airport in Kangra and Bhuntar airport Kullu and the Civil Aviation for which the National Airport Authority has earlier sanctioned 30 crore rupees, so that the ATR 50 aeroplanes could land over these strips.

On the lines of Jammu-Kashmir and north-eastern states, excise concession is required to be continued for Himachal Pradesh even beyond the year 2007 in view of its industrial backwardness. The survey of Baddi-Chandigarh railway line has been completed, hence the work is required to be started, so that this railway line can be completed by the year 2008.

Financial assistance of Rs. 400 crore was announced by the Prime Minister in May during his stay. The same is required to be increased to Rs. 500 crore as this state is undergoing a financial crisis due to the announcement of the merger of 50 per cent dearness allowance of the state employees into their basic pay.

While concluding I, on behalf of the state government am laying on the table a brief statement of the actions taken by the state government regarding the work required to be done by ministries concerned with railways, drinking water supply, road connectivity, civil aviation, finance, human resources, tourism and culture, planning, information and technology, water resources, etc. as desired by the PMO. My request is that required actions should be taken by different union ministries at the earliest, so that this region may flourish. This may kindly be treated as a part of speech.

I tender my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak and conclude my speech with these words.

[Shrimati Pratibha Singh]

*Sir, the State Government has requested to declare Bhanupati-Vilaspur railway line, to be a project of national importance and said that the entire expenditure incurred on the project should be borne by the Union Government. This project is incorporated in the special development initiative of the Prime Minister and a sum of Rs. 1200 crores has been estimated to be spent at the rate of current price. The honourable Governor raised this matter even during the Shimla tour of the Minister of State for Railways and a special purpose vehicle was requested to be constituted before the commissioning of this project. To expedite the construction of Nangal-Talwara railway line, State Government has issued notification for all the thirteen villages under section 4 by expediting the land acquisition from Churad Takrala to Amb Andaura and a notification for eleven villages out of the total thirteen villages has also been issued under section 6/7. The hon'ble Governor of the State requested to grant sanction in lumpsum for the remaining section between Amb and Talwada in a meeting held on 22 October 2005 with the Union Minister of State for Railways, R. Velu with a view to reduce the cost of land acquisition. The Minister of State for Railways had given an inkling that the railway would grant lumpsum sanction to expedite the process of land acquisition.

According to the manifesto of Congress Party, drinking water facilities would be provided to 6030 partially covered villages in the next two years and for this State Government should be provided additional fund. At present, the Government machinery and administrative set up is able to provide drinking water to 1800 villages per annum and the administrative set up is to be streamlined with this additional budget.

As per the declaration made by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. The State Government has submitted a detailed project report of Rs. 366 crore to the Union Government to provide road connectivity to 257 Panchayats. They are such Panchayats that have been covered neither under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana nor any other rural development schemes.

The Government has changed the direction of the road and other difficulties have also been obviated to increase the run-way of Kangara airport to 400 feet so that ATR aircraft of 45 seat capacity may land there. Approximately Rs. 100 crore have been assessed to be spent on the extension of the runway of Bhuntar airport

*This part of the speech was laid on the table.

and scientific research work in this regard has also been completed. A scheme is also being formulated to start helicopter service for promoting tourism in the state and the same will be sent to the respective ministry.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has assured that Central assistance will be provided to tide over the financial deficit of the state and the planning commission has approved the formulation of a detailed scheme for this in principle. The State Government has sent a detailed project to the Ministry of Human Resource Development for enhancing the infrastructure of three universities of the state and the same has also been sent to the Ministry of Human Resource Development of Himachal Government. A scheme of Rs. 13.23 crore has been prepared for Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and forestry, Solan and a scheme of Rs. 13.18 crore for Chaudhary Charan Singh Agricultural University.

The State Government has sent 9 projects worth Rs. 97 crore to the Union Government for promoting tourism in the state and out of them three projects have been approved by the Union Government.

The Union Government has approved in-principle the demand of the State Government to increase the share of State Government to 30 per cent in Satluj Hydro Power Corporation and 30 per cent share of the state has been approved even in all the future project.

The State Government has got the approval of the Union to provide 20,000 DTH set boxes to the tribal concentrated districts Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnore for the television facilities*.

©SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, I support the supplementary demands for the year 2005-06. Honourable Minister and the Prime Minister of our country want to do away with corruption and black money from the country. My submission is that the grants, whatever it may be, we want to provide to the poor people of the country through agriculture and kerosene; 80 per cent of which metamorphosed into black money through the government officers. If we really want to help the poor people of the country, we should give them that money as poverty allowance and unemployment allowance direct through the bank which will check the metamorphosis of our money into black money and all these will come into circulation as the poor people will spend that money. They will not deposit it in the banks.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Rs. 1000 crore has been proposed for grants to the farmers in this supplementary demands. If we want to make the farmers stronger, we must provide loans to them at the minimum rate of interest. On account of the non-availability of electricity, which is used to save the crop, farmers purchase diesel at Rs. 35 per litre to save their crops. The amount outstanding against the Department of Heavy Industries and reconstruction loan and penalty interest lying outstanding against Bridge & Roof India Ltd., are being waived off the total amount is to the tune of Rs. 62.64 crore. Similarly you have made provision of Rs. 10 crore for granting loan to B.B.J. Construction Corporation Ltd. at zero per cent rate of interest. Why is this so?

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has proposed Rs. 5750 crore of grants for Kerosene which is used for adulteration and 80 per cent of which happens to be the part of black marketing and black money. A provision for providing interest free loan to North-Eastern Region Development Finance Corporation Ltd. has been made. Why has this scheme not been launched for the entire country. Again I support this supplementary demands.

*DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): While we are discussing Supplementary Demands for Grants, the condition in the country is not so good. Priorities for fund allocation have not been decided rightly. Therefore the consequences of these misplaced priorities could be summed up poetically in the following manner:

Aavaam Mehengai se pareshaan hai,
 Kisan apni loot se hairaan hai,
 Naujawano par berozgari meherbaan hai
 Vyapari par kanoon ki talwar latakhti hai aur
 Aapaki arthvyavastha dalalon ki chaukhat par sir
 patakti hai
 Charo aur brashtachaar ka bol bala hai
 Aur imandaar ka muh kala hai
 Bataeye Chidambaram ji, inka kon rakhwala hai
 Jinhe roti ki zarurat hai, roti na mili,
 Jinhe boti ki zarurat hai, boti na mili
 Tumhari siyasi takdiro ko chaante,

Nange ko langoti na mili
 Jor aur zhulm ke shuru hone se hoti hai,
 Kisi gareeb ke rone se shuru hoti hai,
 Bhasm hote takhte taaus,
 Jab aag kisi kone se shuru hoti hai.

For crop insurance, the holding of the farmer where the loss has occurred should be considered as a unit. Attention has not been paid towards tourism. There is no flight operating from Khajuraho. Even the condition of roads is not good. Bundelkhand is a very backward and drought affected area. There is a need to give special package to Bundelkhand. There is a need to make arrangement of providing remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. Subsidy should be provided directly to the farmers instead of fertilizer companies and the rate of interest should be reduced for co-operatives and the national banks should be revived. In the 12th Finance Commission, funds should be allocated similar to that of 11th Finance Commission so that important works could be undertaken.

(English)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am supporting the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2005-06. I am giving suggestions on two or three areas. The first area is agriculture. Seventy per cent of the farming community depend on agriculture. It contributes 25 per cent to the GDP. Thirty per cent of the people depend upon the industry and service sectors and contribute 70 per cent to the GDP. So, agriculture sector needs more subsidy and also more budget. So, it constitutes 65 per cent of the work force. For the last two or three years, you will observe that everywhere in the country—even in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa—thousands of farmers are committing suicide. The farmers have no respect in the village. They have no savings. There is no development in the villages. There is no infrastructure in the villages. Whenever a major occasion like education or marriage of their children takes place or a major disease occurs in their families, they have to sell their lands. This is the situation prevailing in our country. That is why, agricultural growth for the last three years is below 1.3 per cent. You can see that from the years 1980 to 1996, the growth rate of agriculture is 3.2 per cent. In the Ninth Plan, it declined to two per cent.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

20.00 hrs.

In the 10th Plan our target was 4 per cent, but in the last three years we have not even achieved more than 1.5 per cent. This is a very alarming situation. The hon. Prime Minister has also expressed his dissatisfaction about this agricultural growth. How can we achieve this growth without proper funding or without providing subsidies to the agricultural farmers? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister.

Secondly, I would like to talk about the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The Government of India is fixing MSP for the agricultural commodities. Therefore, who is responsible if they are not getting the MPS? Is it not the responsibility of the State Government or the Central Government that the farmers are committing suicide? In Andhra Pradesh, in the last one year, the chili farmers, cotton farmers, tobacco farmers are not getting the MSP. We are giving representation on this issue to the hon. Commerce Minister, to the hon. Prime Minister, and to all the concerned Ministers, but still the farmers are not getting support from the Government of India. There is no MSP for the chili farmers too. There is the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and the Government of India can intervene in this issue, but that is also not happening in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Till yesterday, nearly 3,000 farmers have committed suicide.

Thirdly, I would like to talk about an aspect that I have raised on many occasions earlier also. Since last year, the hon. Finance Minister is increasing the credit at 30 per cent every year. This is a good step, but more than 20 banks have not followed the Reserve Bank guidelines to implement 18 per cent of the credit, and the Finance Ministry has not taken any action against those bankers. We have to initiate action on any bank that unscrupulously violates those guidelines. This would make them implement it out of fear, but that also is not happening in this case. If we see the Standing Committee Reports on Agriculture or other Financial Standing Committee Reports, then we would observe that they have also clearly given bank-wise list of the banks who have not followed the guidelines of the Reserve Bank.

Fourthly, I would like to talk about the OBCs. In our country, OBC population constitutes more than 50 per cent of the population. What is the allocation in the National Backward Finance Corporation for their development, and for their financial support? It is below Rs. 100 crore only. This Government, and even the

previous Government increased only Rs. 5 crore or Rs. 10 crore for it, that is, the budget allocation is only Rs. 100 crore for more than 50 crore population. How is it possible to develop the OBCs in this country like this? I am asking this because most of the people in the OBC community are below poverty line, and their educational level is also very poor. Therefore, the allocation for the National Backward Finance Corporation for OBCs should be increased to more than Rs. 1,000 crore, and it should be at par with SCs and STs. The allocation given for SCs and STs—a Constitutional status—is also according to their population, but for OBCs, it is not even according to their population. Even if Rs. 1,000 crore is given to them in the beginning itself, then it would mean that each State and Union Territory would not get more than Rs. 50 crore or Rs. 60 crore. Every year we are fighting to achieve this objective, but there is not much improvement in this regard.

We are constructing beautiful roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) or the Golden Quadrilateral project, but since the last two years there is not much progress in the rural areas. In my district, and even in my neighbouring districts many road works have been stopped. Therefore, special attention should be given to the Golden Quadrilateral project and also to the PMGSY as these are good programmes. After independence, the NDA Government, for the first time, has launched this programme, and everybody is happy with it. The target was that they would implement it in villages where the population is more than 1,000 and in its second phase the villages that are having a population of more than 500 would be covered. This is a good scheme, and we have to provide more money for better rural infrastructure.

In this Budget, our hon. Finance Minister has brought all the drinking water schemes under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, but that scheme has not been launched till date, and we are already in the month of December. The Government of India introduces a lot of schemes, but due to various procedural glitches the schemes are not taking off as expected. For example, in agriculture 10 schemes have been approved in the 10th Plan, but only three schemes are being implemented.

Operationalisation of a new scheme involves preparation of detailed project report, approval from the Planning Commission, preparation and approval of EFC, approval of the competent authority before it goes to the Cabinet. Almost three years of the Tenth Plan are already

over. We have only two years left. Out of ten schemes in the Ministry of Agriculture, only three schemes have been approved. It is happening in every Ministry. Schemes are being announced by the Government on the floor of the House, but they are not being launched and the money is not being spent. This is happening in every Ministry. The hon. Minister has to concentrate on simplification of procedure instead of the schemes having to go to EFC, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and so on. When you subject the schemes to go to so many Committees for approval, it naturally gets delayed and the ultimate objective of the scheme is forfeited.

In every Ministry, the Minister himself has to involve in the entire scheme of things and see as to why schemes are not taking off. Once a scheme is announced on the floor of the House, the Government has to ensure that they are implemented properly.

With these words, I conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants moved by the hon. Finance Minister for the simple reason that these grants are required for giving a new momentum to the development of Indian economy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu has taken five minutes. You are also requested to take not more than five minutes.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: We are very disciplined Members, Sir.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Many of the Hon. Members, including Mr. Swain, have raised a number of long-term issues and lamented that they have not been adequately addressed by the Supplementary Budget. Among the various questions Shri Swain raised, I am perplexed by one statement which he quoted from the magazine *India Today*. He said that five or six great economists of this country have said something and he reeled out the names. I am also a Professor of Economics but I have never heard the names of the persons he has mentioned.

They are quoted to have said that there is nothing happening in the Government. I do not know how a national magazine says that in the UPA Government nothing is happening when the Government is spending Rs. 5,14,344 crores through the Budget. How can a

Government remain idle after incurring this expenditure without taking up any activities? As he himself has agreed, the Indian economy in the first half of 2005-06 has grown at the rate of 8.1 per cent. Is it possible without any of these activities taking place?

The second point that he made was the economic reforms were carried out by the previous Government and they are not carried out by the present Government. Governments may come and Governments may go but economic policies and reforms will have to continue forever. There is only one difference. During the NDA regime, we had economic reforms without a human face. A growthless process was initiated and it was only a nihilistic development that was brought by the NDA Government. But here is a Government which has not only completed the first generation reforms but it has also taken up the second generations reforms with a human face.

That is why the Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh has brought a number of social policies. The most important among them are the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill; the Bharat Nirman Mission, the National Rural Health Scheme. These and so many other schemes were launched to bring about tangible benefits to the poor people. Therefore, the Government is taking a compromise between economic reforms and human face of the people.

Another Member said that the budgetary process in this Government is a bureaucratic process.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The reply to the debate will be given by the hon. Minister. You are not expected to give reply to the hon. Members. You have to speak on your own behalf.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Yes, Sir.

With regard to the budgetary reform he said that it is merely a bureaucratic exercise. I do not know how it is a mere bureaucratic exercise. Maybe during the NDA Government we had an IAS officer who was the Finance Minister who did it. But here is a Finance Minister who is excellent in professional management of finance. That is why he has brought a number of innovations in budgeting.

Have you heard of a Finance Minister in the history of India who talks in terms of outcome Budget and not

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

outlay Budget? Have you seen a Finance Minister who has given a comparison between what has been announced in the previous year's Budget and what has been achieved? In the last Budget, he has made 64 announcements, out of which 28 have been implemented; on 24 action has been taken; and only in the case of 10, action is being taken. Many more achievements will come.

Here is the Finance Minister who has presented a Mid-Term Economic Survey. Normally, we get an Economic Survey when the full-fledged Budget is presented. But here we have a Mid-term Economic Survey also. Therefore, what I wish to say is that the Supplementary Demands for Grants is not meant to discuss long-term measures. Supplementary Demands for Grants comes only for seeking additional funds for incurring some of the expenditure or carrying out some of the activities which could not be anticipated at the time of budgeting. That is the main purpose of it. Viewed from this angle, the Supplementary Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister deserves to be complimented because out of the total amount of Rs. 9,079 crores, only Rs. 1,965 crores will go in the form of cash flow, and the remaining amount will be matched by the savings by the Ministry itself, which shows that the Ministry of Finance is incurring more expenditure out of its own funds generated and deploying the funds and resources for various schemes. Therefore, we should accept and appreciate this.

At the same time, I would like to submit to the hon. Finance Minister only two or three points which he should keep in mind. Firstly, out of the total Supplementary Budget, 90 per cent goes for Non-Plan expenditure unlike the previous year Supplementary Budget, where 60 per cent went for Plan expenditure and 40 per cent for Non-Plan expenditure. This is not a desirable trend. Out of Rs. 9,080 crores, total subsidies and support constitute 81.5 per cent, which is Rs. 7,403 crores, I do not know whether this will be consistent with the economic reforms which we are talking about. LPG and Kerosene alone will take Rs. 5,750 crores; fertilizers—Rs. 1,000 crores; PSUs revival and restructuring Rs. 293 crores; State Trading Corporation—Rs. 104 crores; and Cotton Corporation of India—Rs. 256 crores. Altogether, Rs. 7,403 crores, that is, 81.5 per cent goes in the form of subsidies and support. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation takes Rs. 685 crores; IDBI for SASF—Rs. 250 crores, and IMF valuation adjustments—Rs. 243 crores. Therefore,

the structure of the expenditure appears not to be consistent with the economic reforms which we are making.

Therefore, the first issue is that subsidy on Kerosene this year will be around Rs. 15,182 crores. While the increase is likely owing to higher global oil prices, is the Government planning any steps to lower the total subsidy bill for future years in the case of global oil prices being hiked?

Secondly, with this Supplementary Demands of Rs. 293 crores towards revival, restructuring, accounting adjustments and waiver in convention interests, outstandings of public sector enterprises, the total support to these enterprises for the year is Rs. 1,231 crore. Is there a specific time-frame, out of which the Government expects these enterprises to break even? What steps the Government would be taking to achieve these objectives?

Thirdly, the Government proposes to transfer Rs. 200 crores to State Governments from the National Calamity Contingency Fund for calamities of severe nature. I do not think that this amount is sufficient. Tamil Nadu has recently been affected by unprecedented rainfall, storm and other things. Same is the case with Pondicherry. But how this Rs. 200 crores transfer from the Fund will be able to meet it? What is the State-wise break-up of this?

Lastly, there is an additional amount of Rs. 694 crores being demanded for providing additional equity and meeting additional expenditure of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. What has changed since February that these requirements could not be envisaged at the time of original Budget? These are my reflections on the Supplementary Budget. With these words, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Shri Siddharta Ray, Chief Economists, Tata Group, Shri Vivek Debroy from Rajiv Gandhi Institute, Shri Sunil Gokarna, Chief Economists, CRISIL. I am surprised that he does not know them!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran, I would like to inform you that though no time is left of your party, I would like to accommodate, you only with the condition to speak for only two minutes.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I really congratulate our Finance Minister for his patience to hear the discussion. We have got the Mid-Term Economic Review and also the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth

Five Year Plan. I do not want to go into the details. In the Report given by the Finance Minister, the growth rate of this year is 8.1 per cent. It is really a progressive figure. But at the same time, when we go into the details of the different sectors, we see that performance of many of the sectors is not satisfactory and not up to the mark.

In the Budget of 2005-06, we are aiming at a sustained growth rate of seven to eight per cent. We discussed these issues—Eradication of poverty, education of unemployment, industrial and agricultural growth—in detail. I agree that the export has increased to such an extent and also it is said that the inflation rate has declined. In some sectors, we have made a remarkable progress. When we say that the inflation rate is under control, it does not really reflect in the day-to-day life of the common people. The Finance Minister has said that the inflation rate has declined from 5.7 per cent to 3.7 per cent. At the same time, the price of petroleum products has resulted in an upward trend in retail and wholesale prices. The total outcome of the schemes or projects and the administrative steps taken by the Government has not really translated as per the expectations and experiences of the positive programmes of the people.

We spoke much about agriculture. I think, almost all the Members have spoken about it. The rice production has decreased to 85.31 million tonnes from 88.28 million tonnes. This is a decrease. The same is the case of wheat also and in other agricultural products also.

In Kerala and in many other States, this year we have witnessed the suicides of a large number of farmers. I do not think that it is merely because of the bad weather. The main reason is the import policy that we have adopted. I myself have placed before the House the position of farmers in Kerala who are engaged in the production of pepper, cardamum, rubber, tea and arecanut. Kerala alone has got about 1,300 farmers who have committed suicide. In Andhra, it comes to about 7000. It is true that in many of the States. This is the time to review the Government's policy, how they have inflicted. What is the result of these policies in the day-to-day lives of the people?

One more thing is with regard to industrial side. I do not want to go into the details. In Kerala, the traditional industries are the main thing. The day-to-day lives of the people of Kerala are connected with the traditional industries. About 40 lakh people are working in these

industries, like coir, cashew, handloom, Beedi and fisheries sectors. It is true that the State Government has to do much. But, at the same time, the incentives that have come and also the working capital the Centre has to take more appropriate steps. It is stated that there is much progress in the textile sector. It is true that there is progress in the export. But at the same time, hundreds of mills are closed in our country. Thousands are out of the mills. The policy that we have taken is to see how it affects the lives of the common people, that is, agricultural workers.

One more point is that we have not taken up FDI in all the sectors. It should be in the selected sectors. We have to see that with regard to civil aviation, banking sector and insurance sector and also other core sectors that are there for the safety of the nation. I would like to say that the Government has to reconsider this issue. I would like to conclude with only two points.

As far as the national survey is concerned, it is reported that the poverty line in Kerala is only 7 per cent. It is a very wrong assessment. But we see a number of other surveys in Kerala which states that it is 37 per cent. As a result of the national survey, Kerala is neglected and denied many of the schemes that other States get. For example, PURA scheme is not included in Kerala, National Rural Programme is not there in Kerala, PRY's fund is very limited for Kerala. I request the Finance Minister to see the real situation in Kerala.

In the last Budget speech, our Finance Minister said that no student in our country would be denied higher education because the nationalised banks and other banks are ready to give loans. I have my own experience. In my own constituency, even with the letter of the Chief Minister, written through the District Collector, banks deny loans to poor students, for one reason or the other. As a result of that, Rejny in Trivandrum, Faseela in Calicut and Mamamta in Karnataka and other students committed suicide.

It is true in the case of agriculture sector. I appreciate the approach taken by the Finance Minister to give loans to the farmers. At the same time, when we approach the banks, the result is that they are not getting loans, for one reason for another.

I have only two points to make.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please conclude your speech.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Okay; I will make only the last point. It is with regard to some legislation. As far as Kerala is concerned—this concerns not only Kerala, but all over the country—people go outside as NRIs. The Government should think of bringing forward a legislation to give voting power to these people. I request the Government to come up with a comprehensive legislation because they are contributing much to the nation. They should have the voice here. Our people go there because of acute unemployment. It is really an unfortunate and a sad story. They go there, even the women go there; and are compelled to go there for some livelihood. They go there even as housemaids. What is reported in the media is that these women workers were ill treated. I would like to reserve uttering words like 'their modesty itself is questioned and challenged'.

In this context, I would like to say that Philippines has made model legislation; it is the only nation that has given such legislation to their people staying outside. They have that sort of legislation; Sri Lanka has done it. I request the Government also—though not directly—to have such legislation so that the sponsor registers their names in the Embassies, and that the details of workers are available with them so that we could save our workers who are going outside. It is our duty; it is the duty of the Government to do it. I place this issue also before the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General Budget). Here several hon'ble Members have expressed their views. Hon'ble Finance Minister is present here. Last year while presenting the budget he very confidently and cleverly tried to convey this message that the condition of country will improve within a year. 'Bharat Nirman' is a high sounding word and it was selectively crafted to apparently imply that it is going to change the face of rural India. I am unable to understand how the officers present such a picture of country by sitting in comforts. However, the ground reality is in sharp contrast to it. It is true that large population of our country lives in villages, Our economy depend on villages. 80% people live in villages in which farmers, labourers and artisans are also included. I would like to

know as to whether their condition, particularly economic condition, has improved? Whether the hon'ble Minister is aware of the prices which they have been getting for their produce last two years? Today they are selling paddy at the rate of Rs. 600-700 per Quintal in the market thought it was sold at Rs. 1700-1800 per Quintal last year. Last year they sold cotton at the rate of Rs. 2700-2800 per Quintal but this year they are not getting even Rs. 1400/- per Quintal. For each Quintal of paddy they are getting Rs. 1000 less as compared to the previous year. The farmer is suffering while tall claims are being made that his condition has improved. Hon'ble Minister is saying that the Government has increased Minimum Support Price by Rs. 15 per Quintal on paddy and Rs. 10 per Quintal on wheat. I would like to say that it is not a big achievement as the Government has increased Minimum Support Price only on 'Parmal' variety of paddy whereas in the country 90% of the production is constituted other varieties of paddy. A farmer is suffering a loss of Rs. 1000 one each Quintal and the Government by increasing Rs. 15 is patting its back. The Financial condition of the farmers cannot improve until they get remunerative prices. The Government have fixed new minimum support price however it is limited to few crops. All hon'ble Members, who are present in the House cannot get elected to this House without farmers vote. We all have sympathy for them. All farmers put forward their problems and every Government takes up those problems but still I am unable to understand as to why they are suffering for the last 50-60 years. The cases of farmers committing suicides are increasing. Since all members have mentioned about this, I don't want to go into the details. The cases of suicides are increasing in states like Punjab. What does a farmer require? A farmer requires electricity, water, seeds and pesticides at low rates and remunerative price in the market. The Government has failed to provide these four things to farmers and here trying to appropriate applause. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to whether prices have not increased since last budget was presented? Whether prices of gas, diesel, bricks, coal, and medicines have not increased? The cost of almost every commodity has increased by 30 to 35% as compared to last year, then on what ground such claims are being made that the Government is pro-poor. The poor people are suffering losses. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the work on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana launched during the NDA Government headed by Atalji has slowed down quite a lot, a fact which several hon'ble members have also mentioned. Whether the

scheme of inter-linking of all the rivers which was envisaged as a panacea for the problem of floods and drought has not been put on the back burner? How would they achieve the goal of Bharat Nirman? I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to whether rural artisans like Carpenters, potters, blacksmiths, weavers, shoemakers and washermen are not being rendered unemployed? What the Government are doing for them? Mere jugglery of figures is going on. The Government forget ground realities. If the ground reality is not taken into account neither the farmer would be prosperous nor the country would develop and achieve the goal of Bharat Nirman. I would like to tell one more thing that Cattle rearing is another source of earning for farmers. Hon'ble Minister was quoting the figures that in 1952 there were 452 cattles per thousand people and in 2000 there were only 188 cattles per thousand people. The earnings of the common man have come down. Earlier people used to earn their livelihood from cattle rearing. What yardstick hon'ble Minister has adopted to support his claim that people are becoming prosperous? Representatives of farmers in Commission on Agriculture Cost and Prices decide the prices of commodities by sitting in comfortable places. They are not aware of the difficulties being faced by the farmers. Often the farmer's family is engaged in this work. They give water to their crops at night. They get electricity, fertilizer and seed at higher costs. Will they get justice if there is no representatives of farmers in Commission on Agriculture cost and Prices? My suggestion is that farmers should be given representation in the Commission on Agriculture Cost and Prices so that justice can be meted out to them.

All the factors should be taken into consideration while fixing support price. The farmers should be provided remunerative prices for their produce. Merely fixing support price will not do. The prices of the crops should be fixed before they are sown. Neither the economy nor the budget is concerned with this. If the Government fix the prices considering all these factors, it would prepare the farmer mentally for sowing the crops and it will also fulfill the purpose of diversification of crops. Hence prices of the crops should be fixed before they are sown so that farmers may not suffer loss and they could cultivate crops according the their convenience. With these words, I conclude my speech.

*SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, I would like to express my views on the demands for supplementary Grants for the year 2005-2006.

*Laid on the Table.

The funds solicited by the Hon. Finance Minister should be properly utilized. Funds to the tune of Rs. 1.10 crore have been sought for nuclear energy for the Indra Gandhi Nuclear Research Institute and the Bhabha Nuclear Research Institute. We all know that the importance of nuclear energy has increased these days. The cost of energy produced either through conventional or other sources is very expensive, so tapping it from various sources has always been an important work and the efforts made by the Hon. Minister in this direction are commendable.

Similarly, grant has been solicited for fertilizer subsidy. Although the benefits of this subsidy never accrue the farmers. Actual benefits accrue to the wholesalers and industrialists. Big profiteers make profit out of it and the poor farmer is left to his fate. Sometimes even at a higher rate substandard quality of fertilizers are made available. It spoils his yield and his financial year as well. But as on the date on supplier of substandard fertilizer has been punished. The Hon. Minister wants to give subsidy on domestic decontrolled fertilizers, imported decontrolled fertilizers, imported fertilizers and nitrogen fertilizers. I hope that its actual benefits will accrue to the farmers.

The State Trading Corporation holds an important place in every state, it will have to be strengthened. I hope that the pending cases will be disposed of immediately and the funds would be given to the states through them. An amount to the tune of Rs. 40 crore has been solicited for contributing in the Democracy fund of the United Nations under item 31. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I recently had the occasion to visit the U.N.O. as representative of the Union Government. I had the opportunity to announce as the representative the funds being given to the UNO for providing financial assistance for various causes like child development, women development, rehabilitation, Human Rights and to its UNICEF organ. As soon as I finished with the announcement the representatives of other countries welcomed and gave standing ovation to India.

Demand of Rupees 200 crore has been made by the Hon. Minister for providing relief from the National Calamity Contingency Fund to states under item 36 in the event of major calamities. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire country knows that Gujarat has been in the grip of natural calamities for the last 5 years. Cyclones were followed by earthquake, excessive rainfall and floods in the rivers. Several people lost their lives and many

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

became homeless. Several kids were orphaned. Naked sky and land became home for many. At such a time help came from all the corners of the world. Financial Assistance was announced from the Union Government. Besides, the hon. Prime Minister also announced relief. However, comprehensive financial assistance has not been received till date. The Government of Gujarat has fulfilled its responsibility. The rehabilitation work in Kutch is almost complete. NGOs have extended full cooperation and people have offered every possible help. However, the people of Gujarat are waiting in expectation of assistance from the Union Government even as on date. I hope that the hon. Finance Minister would fulfil the assurance of the Union Government very soon.

Demand for Rs. 19.44 crore has been made to meet the additional expenditure on improvement of security system of the Parliament House complex under item 75. This is justified since Parliament House is the country's pride and any security lapse and unfortunate incident would be disgraceful for everyone. So the security systems should be strengthened to the full extent and a strict vigil should be kept at every step. On this day, I salute the employees who laid down their lives for the security of the Parliament House.

Sir, item No. 92 in Rs. 5 crore have been sought under the Integrated Handloom Weavers Development Scheme. Rs. 27.6 crore have been sought under the health Insurance Scheme for the handloom Weavers, Rs. 7.50 crore have been sought for the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi Weavers Schemes. What is the condition of Weavers even after such a heavy expenditure on them. They do not have a house to live in, clothes to cover themselves. They can not give proper education to their children. They run from pillar to post in search of work. Other people have snatched their trade from them. Big industrialists are running handloom and are not paying proper remuneration to the weavers. They slog themselves at the loom throughout the day and in the end do not even get Rs. 50-60 as wages. Very useful schemes are launched by the Government but its benefits to not accrue directly to the weavers. That is why the Hon. Minister is requested to monitor these schemes and inquire into the fact as to who is the actual beneficiary of this scheme—the weaver or somebody else?

Under this very item, funds have been sought to compensate the losses suffered on the procurement of

cotton on account of price support campaign of CCI. However, CCI does not procure cotton at appropriate time from appropriate place. We request the CCI to open purchase centres at particular places but it is adhered to in the last and by the time the farmer actually falls a prey to the profiteers. Since the farmer runs from pillar to post in order to sell his truck load of cotton and ultimately, takes recourse to them for the sale. So, it is my humble request that purchase centres should be opened at appropriate places by the CCI at appropriate time.

Rs. 10 crore have been sought to provide grant-in-aid to the Sabarmati Ashram Trust. It is commendable that assistance is being provided but where are those dalits and backward people for whom Mahatma Gandhi built this Ashram. They have got no place today. Ironically, other people have got hold of this ashram. Besides, the land of the Ashram which should have been given to the dalits and the backward people is being given to the builders and the cooperative societies. Whereas dalits are nowhere. Inquiry should be held into this matter.

Sir, funds have been sought to introduce Kishori Shakti Yojana under ICDS. In my opinion, this scheme should be expanded further in order to ensure justice to the girl child. Now-a-days, we read cases of female foeticide in the newspapers. She is killed in the womb before seeing the light of the world. That is why such a scheme should be formulated so as to ensure that the mother gives birth to her girl child without any fear and the father brings up his daughter and gives her education. Along with this, special assistance in the form of scholarship should be provided to the student belonging to the scheduled castes and tribes to study abroad. Thousands of students from other communities go for higher studies abroad. Gujarat has taken proper measures to send its scheduled castes and scheduled tribes students abroad. Every year 40 to 50 students are going abroad. My request to the Union Government is that more financial assistance should be provided to the Government of Gujarat under these schemes.

The Hon. Minister has sought funds under the Panchayat Shashaktikaran Protsahan Yojana, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Integrated barren land Development Programme. I request that a block level committee should be constituted to monitor the proper implementation of these schemes and

proper utilization of funds under the scheme. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has Rs. 1.50 crore for giving impetus to sports in colleges and universities in addition to seeking grant for creating sports based infrastructure in schools which is praiseworthy. However I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the youths of this country. Our youths are educated, strong and cultured. But has he been getting a fair opportunity. He also aspires to make the country number one in sports on the lines of other countries. However, there are no playgrounds in schools and colleges. There is no arrangement for gymnastics. The organization does not bother to install state of the art equipments. As a result, the youths cannot demonstrate their talents abroad and sometimes go astray out of disappointment. The asset of this country sometimes become a cause of concern. That is why I would urge upon the hon. Minister to give grants to the schools, colleges and universities in a big way and to extend full cooperation to them.

Sir, a conference of NRIs was organized in Delhi during the regime of NDA. The representatives coming to the country were excited and happy to see the developments made by this country and observed that if this would be the pace of development of infrastructure like roads, water, telephones, railways, etc. then the day is not far away when they would happily come back home. However, the developmental works initiated by the NDA Government have all been put on the back burner. And the communities in the UPA are always dilly dallying and the hon. Minister continues to give assurances in his statements. The people of this country still remember the tasks performed by NDA.

To conclude I would urge upon the hon. Minister to provide—

"Kisano ko subsidy, Jawano ko rajgar. Balkon ko paushtic aahar, Mahilaon ka rakshan, Daliton ko shiksha, videsh mein abhyas, schools collegon ko khetkood, rajyon ko aapda mein har tarah ka sehyog,

Munafakhor aur kala bazaar ka hartarh ka virodh

Cotton ki kharid, fasal ka uchit dam, kisano ko rin mukti

Bharat vikas ke liye uchit yukti, gavon ka ho vikas, atankvadi aur gaddaron ka ho vinash

Ma. mantriji se raktha hoon itni aas,

Mauka mila hai to kaam karke dikhao kuch khas".

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) is over and the hon. Minister will reply tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 15th December, 2005 at 11.00 a.m.

20.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 15, 2005/ Agrahayana 24, 1927 (Saka)

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