

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 7, 2007/Phalgun 16, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at one minute past
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Secretary-General may now call
Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu to take the oath.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu (Amritsar)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are welcome back! He avoided
Sidhuism now!

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): The
only thing is that he should attend the Session also!

MR. SPEAKER: He also should play with a straight
bat!

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We will listen to your leader please
sit down first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one. This is
not the right way. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr.
Speaker, Sir as per the Constitution a person who is
not a citizen of India cannot be a member of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not received any notice on
this. Let some notice come; I will see.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, I
would only like to appeal to you to constitute a Privileges
Committee ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will see. Let some notice come to
me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It should examine
this issue because any Member who is not a citizen of
India ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot commit anything unless
something comes to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to bother about it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: As you said, the
same action has to be taken in this regard

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If it comes to me, I will look into
it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, shall I
request you to do it at 12 noon? We have not had
Question Hour so far in this Session.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for suspension of question Hour. The issue is that as the Congress usually does. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I assure you that I will listen to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you earnestly. I know that you have got an important issue to raise. I am only saying that you can raise it just 55 minutes later. In this Session, we have not had Question Hour. So, I earnestly request you.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Okay.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your kind cooperation. I am really thankful to you.

11.04 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Now let us take up Questions.

Q. No. 121, Shri Ananta Nayak—Not Present
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi

Visit of Russian President

*121. SHRI[†] ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian President recently visited India;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements including the setting up of nuclear plants in the country were signed during his visit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total number of nuclear plants proposed to be set up in the country under the said agreement, State-wise;

(f) the time by which these plants are likely to be set up;

(g) whether Russia has also agreed to help India in getting an exemption in the Nuclear Suppliers Group;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the extent to which Russian help will enable India to expand its nuclear energy programme and sustain energy security?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (i) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes. The Russian President visited India from 25-26 January 2007.

(b) The two Sides discussed a wide range of issues relating to regional and international matters of mutual interest and concern. The key issues of cooperation in the fields of defence, space, energy, science and technology, trade and investment were deliberated upon. The results of the discussions have been outlined in the "Joint Statement on the outcome of the Official Visit of H.E. Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation to the Republic of India" issued on 25th January 2007, which is available in the public domain.

(c) and (d) A number of bilateral documents were concluded during the visit but no agreement was signed on the setting up of nuclear power plants. Discussions were held on the construction of additional nuclear power plants at the Kudankulam site as well as at new sites and a Memorandum of Intent to this effect was signed. "Joint Statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of India and the President of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy" was issued on 25th January 2007. This joint statement outlines plans for cooperation with the Russian Federation in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The other documents signed were as follows:

(1) Joint Statement on the outcome of the official visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India;

- (2) Programme of Cultural Exchanges for the years 2007-09;
- (3) Protocol on holding "Year of Russia in India" in the year 2008 and "Year of India in Russia" in the Year 2009;
- (4) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to navigation signals of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS for peaceful purposes;
- (5) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to a part of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS Radio Frequency Spectrum;
- (6) Agreement on cooperation in the joint satellite project 'YOUTHSAT'; and
- (7) Protocol on exchange of information on the movement of goods and conveyances between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.

(e) and (f) The Memorandum of Intent referred to in the previous paragraph envisages construction of four additional nuclear power plant units at the Kudankulam site as well as construction of Russian design nuclear power plants at new sites in India. No other details regarding the number or sites for new nuclear power plants and possible time frame have emerged so far.

(g) to (i) Russia is collaborating with India in the construction of 2 units of 1000 MW capacity nuclear reactors in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu. Russia is supportive of wider cooperation with India in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and recognizes that nuclear energy provides a safe, environmental friendly and sustainable source of energy. Russia and India have jointly underlined the need to further develop international cooperation in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with their respective international commitments and national legislations. Specifically, Russia expects to continue to work with the participating Governments of Nuclear Suppliers' Group [NSG] to make an exception in its guidelines to facilitate full civilian nuclear energy cooperation with India.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, though we have signed the Memorandum of Intent, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since the trade deficit between India and Russia is huge, what steps are being taken to

bridge the trade deficit or gap and whether India is going to invest in Sakhaline III project.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the trade is concerned, it is true that the current level of trade between India and Russia is just about US \$ 3 billion; it has been decided to make it US \$ 10 billion by 2010. In respect of the investments in new oil fields, like Sakhalin III, the hon. Member may be aware perhaps of the facts. We have already made an investment in Sakhalin I. We are interested in two other sectors also. Talks are going on but nothing has been finalized.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: The other issue is about the visa agreement. Our Indian businessmen are facing a huge problem, especially when they go to Russia. What is it that the Government is doing in ensuring that India is going to sign the Re-admission Treaty with Russia since Russia is insisting upon signing the Treaty? This is a very important issue.

The other important question is, do we have to wait for 123 agreements with US because as it is we have a Nuclear Agreement with Russia.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the last question is concerned, there is no co-relation between signing of 123 agreement with the US and our programme with Russia in respect of civilian nuclear programmes for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As the hon. Member and the whole country is aware, already we are having two nuclear power plants with the support of Russia at Kudankulam and there is a proposal of having more nuclear power plants in Kudankulam and certain other areas also, though the areas have not yet been finalized. So, our nuclear cooperation programme for civilian uses with Russia is a continuing one and a long-term programme.

In respect of the visa agreement, the problem of the Russian insistence on the Re-admission Agreement along with a Visa Facilitation Agreement, the two sides are continuing discussions to resolve this issue. I am aware of the problem that our businessmen and professionals are some time facing due to the restrictive visa policies pursued by some countries including Russia.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Can Russia set up additional nuclear power plants in Kudankulam without the approval of IAEA or the Nuclear Supplier Group? Has Russia got an approval from such agencies or setting

up of such plants will require future approval from such agencies?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: There are a number of issues connected with the setting up of a nuclear power plant. Merely setting up of the power plant or buying reactor is not an end in itself. We require the continuing supply of fuel and supply of fuel depends on the NSG guidelines. Russia is also a signatory or a part of it. The hon. Member is aware that efforts are made to amend the NSG guidelines to ensure that we can have the supply of nuclear fuel for the generation of power. All these things are co-related and unless we have the assurance of the fuel supply we cannot have an agreement for the establishment of nuclear power plant.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Sir, in reply to 'b', 'c' and 'd', statements 3, 4, 5 and 6 are related to India's access to Russian satellite for peaceful purposes. Will the hon. Minister kindly explain the areas where we will have the benefit by getting this access? Do we have the benefit in communications or in doing satellite survey and all that?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the Agreement will help us to have access to navigation signals of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS radio frequency spectrum for peaceful purposes. These are the facilities we are going to have. In addition, talks are going on for the agreement on cooperation in the joint satellite project for the youth set.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, the arrangement and collaboration with Russia on the nuclear plants in Kudakulam was before the Indo-US Agreement signed. I would like to know how it was signed and what was the reaction of the US on this. In this process, the local and the domestic thorium will also be infused in it in the third stage. If that is so, why did we not really take this on a little further? What is the real advantage of the nuclear deal with the US when this could be signed with Russia much before that?

MR. SPEAKER: Today, we are having the first Question Hour of this Session. That is why, I have allowed your two supplementaries but you are entitled to ask only one.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the first part of the question is concerned, it is true that we were having these two programmes before the Indo-US nuclear

arrangement. Now there is a proposal for having four power plants. So far as thorium is concerned, it is a part of our three-pronged nuclear power programme but as the hon. Member is aware, the technology to have its full commercial use is yet to be developed and it will take some time. Keeping that in view, we would like to have it.

As far as the Indo-US nuclear deal is concerned, that is completely a different question altogether. If the hon. Member is interested, I could respond to it and I am ready for a full-fledged discussion on it.

[Translation]

AIIMS like Institutions

*122. **SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:**
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

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

(a) the present status with regard to the setting up of six AIIMS-like institutions in different parts of the country;

(b) whether his Ministry has any proposal under consideration to declare some important State Government hospitals as "Centres of Excellence" on the lines of AIIMS and extend financial assistance to them to make them "State of the Art" Regional Research Hospitals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it has been decided to set up one AIIMS like institution each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh).

The State Governments have provided a minimum of 100 acres of land. They have been requested to develop facilities for Power and water for the new institutions. The work of construction of boundary wall around all the sites has been completed. WAPCOS is conducting Environmental Impact (EIA) Study and pre-construction survey of the sites of AIIMS-like institution. Pre-Construction survey would be completed at all sites by the end of March, 2007.

Earlier bids received for selection of Project Consultant in setting up six AIIMS like institutions were rejected on technical grounds. It has now been decided that bids be called separately for each of the six institutions. Bids for the housing component are also being separately called for being built through EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) developer on turnkey basis. Expression of Interest (EOI) has been issued on 9.2.2007 for providing engineering, procurement and construction services for housing. Expression of Interest for selection of design and DPR consultant for the construction of medical college and hospital complex has been issued on 15.2.2007. The request for proposal in both cases for shortlisted bidders would be issued in April, 2007.

Under PMSSY, it is also proposed to strengthen 13 existing Medical College Institutions in terms of infrastructure and equipments. List of Institutions being upgraded is given in the enclosed statement. The Government of India is investing Rs. 100 crores for each institution and the State Government's share is Rs 20 crores and subsequent recurring, maintenance and manpower costs. In respect of SVIMS, Tirupati, the TTD trust is bearing half of the cost i.e. Rs 60 crores, and the GOI share is only Rs. 60 crores. Likewise, in respect of IMS (BHU) Varanasi, which is a GOI institution, Rs 20 crores is being provided by Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Annexure

Upgradation of 13 medical institutes under PMSSY

The following 13 medical institutes have already been identified for upgradation under PMSSY.

1. Government Medical College, Jammu (J&K)
2. Government Medical College, Srinagar (J&K)

3. Kolkatta Medical College, Kolkatta (W.B.)
4. Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow (U.P.)
5. Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi (U.P.)
6. Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad (A.P.)
7. Sri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati (A.P) (50% cost of upgradation will be borne by the TTD Trust)
8. Government Medical College, Salem (T.N.)
9. Patliputra Medical College & Hospital, Dhanbad (Jharkhand)*
10. B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)
11. Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore (Karnataka)
12. Grants Medical College & Sir JJ. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai, (Maharashtra)**
13. Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, (Kerala)

N.B.

*Government of Jharkhand has been requested to reconsider the option of upgradation of Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences at Ranchi.

**The upgradation is pending as the matter is *sub judice* in Nagpur Bench of Mumbai High Court on selection of this institution, instead of the Medical College at Nagpur.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: I would like to know whether the Guwahati Medical College is going to get the status of AIIMS.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we have taken a conscious decision to upgrade the Guwahati Medical College. I think within this year, the financial resources will be allocated for that. This comes under the National Rural Health Mission rather than the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. This would not be categorized as an AIIMS like institution but we are upgrading the Guwahati Medical College.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I think you have got your answer. All right. He is satisfied.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had decided to build six All India Institutes

of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), in Jodhpur, Patna in Bihar, Raipur in Chhattisgarh, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Bhubaneswar in Orissa and Rishikesh in Uttaranchal and the boundary-walls for the buildings have already come up. I would like to be informed by the hon. Minister about the budget allocation made for the said AIIMS during the current year along with the budget provisions for each of the said Institute separately.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the project PMSSY was conceptualized in 2003. Only last year we got the CCA approval for the project. Now we have been able to mobilize the financial resources for this. Since then we have started work on pre-construction survey, environmental impact assessment and on identification of project consultant etc. This year's allocation for the project is Rs. 150 crore. The Finance Department has assured that money would not be a constraint. So we have started the project in a big way. There are two parts—one is the All India Medical Sciences like institutions and the other is the upgradation of 13 existing Government medical colleges. This is going on accordingly.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to establish any All India Medical Sciences like hospital in the State of West Bengal. If so, what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, no.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whether you are agitated or not.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, three years have passed since medical colleges in Jammu were selected to be upgraded on the pattern of AIIMS. Funds for the purpose were said to have been sanctioned during the last financial year. With your permission, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any time-bound programme has been chalked out in this regard since the hopes of 50 lakh people is tied in with this project. By when is this project likely to be implemented and completed?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: This is regarding upgradation of two medical colleges in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier we had a proposal to

upgrade only one. But under the instruction of the hon. Prime Minister we now propose to upgrade two Government medical colleges, one in Jammu and the other in Srinagar. This is going on as per schedule.

MR SPEAKER: It is already there in the schedule—Nos. I and II.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, free health care is a fundamental right entrenched in the constitution and discussions have been held in this regard in the House many times. But, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you as to what are the facilities that are likely to be offered in the big hospitals in Uttar Pradesh situated in Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Agra if they are to be upgraded as Centres of Excellence and research institutes on lines of AIIMS. My question relates to part (b) of the question.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, firstly, health is a State subject. Under this project, the PMSSY we are not replacing the State's responsibility, we are supplementing the State's responsibility. For a big State like Uttar Pradesh, in fact, earlier we had a proposal to upgrade only one institute. But again under the instruction of the hon. Prime Minister we are upgrading two institutes keeping in view the fact that Uttar Pradesh is a large State.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, he has been telling this for the last two years...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Shri Raghunath Jha.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, you already had a question today. You are a very senior and a respected Member. I have called the name of another Member. Please co-operate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in AIIMS, proposed to be set up in Bihar, has been completed. I would like to ask him, through you, by when the work on AIIMS in Patna is likely to be completed?

*Not recorded.

Secondly, 13 medical colleges are proposed to be upgraded but not a single medical college in Bihar has been included in the list even though Bihar has a 9 crore strong population. The Minister has stated in his reply that it is a state subject. If it is a state subject then why is it being covered under the Pradhan Mantri Yojana. I would like to know whether the Pradhan Mantri Yojana is meant for a particular State or for the country as a whole? If it is a Pradhan Mantri Yojana then Bihar should also get a share of the pie since it is a backward State. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I have already said, health is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to provide quality health for citizens. The Central Government is only supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in the health sector and this scheme is conceptualized under PMSSY. The PMSSY was conceptualized after the Tenth Plan. In fact, during the planning of the Tenth Plan, there were no financial resources allocated for PMSSY and only last year, the CCEA had approved this project. The total cost of the project comes to a total of Rs. 3976 crore approximately and this is an on-going project. After the CCEA had approved the project last year, the process of project consultancy, environmental clearance, etc are happening. We had some problem about project consultants because we had clubbed the six new institutions or projects and we have not been able to get proper consultants. Now, we have individualized the six new AIIMS-like institutions and I assure the House, through you Sir, that these will be completed as soon as possible.

We are very concerned about Bihar. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have low health emphasis in health sector and we are definitely concerned about them. We will certainly take care of them.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

[Translation]

You, Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word is being recorded.

(Interruptions)...

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I find that our friends from Karnataka are not present in the House. I wish to convey to them my request. I believe that everybody will join me in requesting our friends from Karnataka to come and attend the House. I request all of you to convey this message to them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow any more supplementary. I have allowed five supplementaries from different sections. It cannot go on like this. You must know how to behave in the House.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, our honourable former Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda is present. Other Members from Karnataka are also present.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. I was wrong. I am glad that they are here and I deeply appreciate them.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASANGOURA R. PATIL (Yatnal): I have given notice regarding the Kavari issue under Rule 193. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sub-Standard Material for Construction

*123. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether materials of sub-standard quality are being used in the construction of various National Highways;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected by the Government during the last two years and the details thereof;

(c) the number of officers and contractors found guilty in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against officers and contractors found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) In order to ensure that the materials used in the construction of National Highway works conform to Ministry's specifications for Road and Bridge Works, 2001 (4th Revision) and relevant publications of Indian Roads Congress, various Government agencies viz. National Highways Authority of India (NHA), State Public Works Departments (PWDs), Border Roads Organisation (BRO) have quality control systems in place. No reports on the use of sub-standard materials in National Highway works have been received from them.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Sir, What is the status of Boruguma-Bargarh National Highway No. 201 of Orissa? By when will it be completed?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I am sorry to say that the questions pertains to the quality of materials.

MR. SPEAKER: You may send the information to her separately.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: I want to know the steps taken by the Government of India in case quality is not upto the mark. Like in PMGSY, the contractor has a five year guarantee period and in case the quality of the roads is not satisfactory, they would upgrade the quality of roads.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Every now and then we are assuring the specifications pertaining to the testing of materials such as limestone and the Ministry has already issued many guidelines on specifications. For road and—bridge construction, the Indian Road Congress is issuing many publications and contractors have to abide the standard laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards and the specifications issued by the National Highway Authority of India, the PWD, and so on.

MR. SPEAKER: Are the quality systems properly enforced? That is the question.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Yes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava—not present.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any corruption case against the maintenance work of National Highway 208 has been brought to the notice of the Union Government. If so, please give the details.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: In the last two years, we have not come across any such complaint.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA: North-East is very backward in respect of transportation. National highways are in a deplorable condition. National Highway 44 bypass near Karimganj, Assam was under construction for many years. It has been almost abandoned. Last year I raised a question in Parliament in this regard. I was told by the Minister that this will be completed by 2007. The work was started and we were very happy that this will be completed. My people were also very happy. But very recently we found that after two years of work the guard wall of the approach of the bypass has collapsed. It indicates that the foundation was not proper. I asked the Commandant of BRO about it. He told that it has happened due to rain. But actually the foundation was not proper. Had the foundation been proper, it would not have happened. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what type of corrective action they have taken in this regard.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: We have received complaints about Kolkata-Delhi National Highway. This is National Highway no. 2. There is a particular bypass called Asansol Bypass. It has subsided because of the collapse of the underground column of an abandoned coal mine. This particular complaint has been received. We are taking action. The inquiry is on. As and when the inquiry is completed, definitely we will be taking action against those who are responsible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated in his reply that he has no knowledge about the use of materials of sub-standard quality in the construction of National Highways. I would like to inform hon. Minister that three crore rupees are sanctioned for the construction of one kilometer National Highway. Accordingly the life of that road should be ten years. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know

why there are so many pot holes on the roads when three to four crore rupees are sanctioned for one kilometer National Highway. There are many potholes on the national highway from Pune to Hyderabad. It means that material of sub-standard quality has been used in the construction of that national highway.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, you are giving information. Ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I would like to know as to what efforts are being made to bring to India the technology being used for construction of national highways in foreign countries like Japan, England, America. Besides, I would like to mention that the work going on the National Highways is of a very poor quality.(Interruptions) What measures are proposed to be taken by his ministry so as to upgrade the quality of that work/road?(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The Indian standards are as good as foreign ones. As far as the National highways are concerned, we have got a lot of specifications in our hands. With National Highway Authority of India and PWD in our hands, we need not go and take it from any foreign country. As far as the road technology is concerned, I do not think we need to take any technology from foreign countries.

MR. SPEAKER: What about potholes?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: We have not received any such complaints. If the hon. Member writes to me, I will look into it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister once again, through you, what we had discussed in the three previous meetings with the hon. Minister that in Bihar for construction of all the National Highways. In those

meetings also I had said that the Central Agency gives tender to local contractors, who do not have adequate material. Orders are being given to them only despite their being blacklisted. You have sanctioned money for 106 and 107. We had told the hon. Minister in the meeting that only two and half inch thick road is constructed where six inches thick road is required. I recollect we had met the hon. Minister two years ago but work continues to be done in Bihar in the same way as before. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has taken any action in this regard?

SHRI UDAY SINGH: Sir, no action has been taken till date. Action should be taken in this regard.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as maintenance of National Highways in Bihar and all other States is concerned, the State PWD is maintaining the roads.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Why are you speaking?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to speak. You have no right to disturb the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: We fund the projects. But, at the same time, if any specific complaint is there with the hon. Member, she can come even today itself. I will definitely identify whether it is correct or not and if there is any problem, then I will sit with her and accordingly necessary action would be taken.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now it has been reported in the Press as well as in the media that one of the main reasons for road accidents is due to the sub-standard quality of material being used in the construction of National Highways.

Sir, we come across every day that innocent people are being killed due to road accidents. It is with a very sad heart that we can see it even in television also. I

am saying that it is happening every day and it is coming in all the newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It has become a tragedy for the people. The main reason is that sub-standard materials are being used. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would like to know whether the Government is aware of it and whether the Government will take any action for using sub-standard materials in the construction of roads because road becomes slippery. It is killing the people and it is due to use of sub-standard quality of materials being used in the construction of National Highways. So, will the Government take some steps?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, with a very great respect to 'Anna', I have not received ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: To whom?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It is to Shri V. Radhakrishnan. We call him 'Anna' which means 'Brother'. We have not received any complaint. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is happening every day in every National Highway. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you are not denying that he is your brother.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir during the UPA Government, I have not received even a single complaint about the quality of material so far. If any specific complaint is put up to me by the hon. Member, then I will take action. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have given complaints. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I will definitely take action to see that there are no such instances. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else except the hon. Minister's reply will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, I will now invite you to sit here.

...*(Interruptions)*

Accidents in Coal Mines

*124. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents that occurred in coal mines during the last three years, mine-wise and location-wise;

(b) the number of persons who died/injured in these accidents, mine-wise and location-wise;

(c) the funds allocated for undertaking safety measures in each coal mine during the said period;

(d) whether such accidents took place due to the negligence of the management;

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against those persons who are responsible for such accidents; and

(f) the details of the compensation and other relief provided to the families of the deceased?

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

*Not recorded.

Statement

(a) and (b) The details of accidents that occurred during the last three years (2004, 2005 & 2006) in the mines of subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), and the number of persons died/injured in these accidents are given as under:

Company/ Location	No. of Fatal Accidents			No. of Fatalities			No. of Serious Accidents			No. of persons seriously Injured		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
ECL (West Bengal & Jharkhand)	16	15	8	17	16	13	183	114	92	187	114	94

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
BCCL (Jharkhand)	11	12	11	12	17	60	70	61	45	71	66	47
CCL (Jharkhand)	10	8	4	10	22	4	20	16	14	24	16	14
NCL (M.P. & U.P.)	3	3	4	4	3	5	9	17	15	10	18	15
WCL (Maharashtra & M.P.)	13	11	13	13	11	13	63	44	56	66	45	59
SECL (Chattisgarh & M.P.)	7	14	7	8	15	7	97	87	66	99	90	69
MCL (Orissa)	4	9	2	4	9	2	17	13	10	17	13	17
NEC (Assam)	2	1	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	2	1
(Sub total) CIL	66	73	49	70	94	104	459	354	299	474	364	316
SCCL (Andhra Pradesh)	11	12	16	14	12	19	161	787	618	163	789	622
Others including Lignite	10	14	13	12	14	14	11	8	7	12	8	7
Total	87	99	78	96	120	137	631	1149	924	649	1161	945

ECL	=	Eastern Coalfields Limited
BCCL	=	Bharat Coking Coal Limited
CCL	=	Central Coalfields Limited
NCL	=	Northern Coalfields Limited
WCL	=	Western Coalfields Limited
SECL	=	South Eastern Coalfields Limited
MCL	=	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
NEC	=	North Eastern Coalfields

(c) The funds allocated for undertaking safety measures during the last three years in the mines of subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) and

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are given as under:

Figures in lakh rupees

Company	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
ECL	12578.00	12974.00	12588.00
BCCL	17118.05	14283.87	16017.43
CCL	1715.64	2252.21	2483.91
NCL	864.00	4960.00	4998.00
WCL	7413.18	6950.00	7474.80

1	2	3	4
SECL	9988.26	10025.75	10799.45
MCL	4516.00	5054.48	5293.00
NEC	500.00	274.00	404.00
CIL	54693.13	56774.31	60058.59
SCCL	20080.00	23760.00	27936.00

(d) and (e) Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, the statutory authority for enforcing the statutes governing safety in mines as per Mines Act-1952, conducts detailed enquiry into causes and circumstances of accidents in coal mines and fix the responsibility for such accidents, if any, including persons from management cadre. DGMS is empowered to take appropriate actions against the persons held responsible in enquiry, as per statute or may advise management to take appropriate action depending on the gravity of lapses/negligence. Apart from the above, departmental enquiry is conducted in each case of accident and action is taken against the persons held responsible.

(f) The details of the compensation and other relief provided by coal companies to the families of the deceased in mine accident in each case, are as under:

1. Immediate payment for funeral expenses and transport etc. is paid to the family of the deceased.
2. Ex-gratia payment of Rs 30000/- (revised from earlier Rs 25000 w.e.f 01.01.2005) to the family of the deceased.
3. Life Cover Scheme of Rs. 40,000/- (revised from Rs 30000 w.e.f 01.01.2005) to the family of the deceased.
4. Payment of compensation under Workmen Compensation Act, 1923, Gratuity on the basis of the length of service, P.F as per Coal Mines Provident Fund (CMPF) Rules, encashment of Earned Leave (EL) and other dues are paid.
5. Pension as per Coal Mines Pension Scheme (CMPS), 1998.
6. Employment is offered to eligible kin of the deceased.

7. In case there is no eligible person for employment, monetary compensation per month is paid to the family of the deceased.

Total amounts paid as compensation by CIL & SCCL during last three years (2004 to 2006) are Rs. 818.15 lakhs and Rs. 179.57 lakhs respectively.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Sir in the coal mines, a number of contract workers is on the rise. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would place a report in this House giving separate break-up about the accidents involving contract-workers, which should include fatal accidents as well as serious injuries.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member do you want a separate statement? Mr. Minister, have you got such information with you?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Actually the question relates to CIL, i.e. Coal India and Singareni. So I will send a separate reply to the hon. Member.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: I hope the hon. Minister is aware that increasing number of open-cast coal mining in the country is exposed to serious accidents. I would like to know whether the Department is deeply concerned with it and have taken necessary steps to regulate the functioning of the open-cast mining that does not violate the laws of the land.

MR. SPEAKER: It is about open cast mining.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: To address accidents, we are taking measures in open cast mining. In respect of underground mining, I would submit that we are taking a lot of measures. We are making them mechanized. Out of the 305 mines 96 mines are mechanized ones.

And, 90 mines are taken up for getting them mechanized in the Tenth Plan. So, the remaining will be taken up. Therefore, we are not ignoring underground mining or open cast mining.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tek Lal Mahto—not present here. Shri Hannan Mollah.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Regarding the coal mine accidents, as we have seen, in Andhra Pradesh where the SCCL is there, the accident rate is the highest in the country. After the Minister took over — who hails from Andhra Pradesh — I do not know whether it is increasing or not. Why is there such a huge increase in comparison to any other State? Why, in Andhra Pradesh, the coal mine accidents are increasing, I think, so much during the last three years?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, Sir, that till 2004, they used to report the major accidents to the DGMS in their own mining. But the DGMS norms require that even a fracture of any bone or a fracture of finger is ought to be reported as a serious injury. So, it has started from 2005. That is why, the number is increasing. That is the reason. It is not increase in the accidents. Previously, for example, accident like a small finger scratch and all such things were not reported as serious injuries. Now, as per the instruction of the DGMS, every small, minor injury should be reported as per norms.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: It talks about the number of persons who have been injured.

MR. SPEAKER: No more information is to be given. Mr. Minister, do not reply without my permission.

MR. SPEAKER:

- Q. 125 — Shri Haribhau Rathod—not present.
 Q. 126 — Shri Chandrakant Khaire—not present.
 Shri Ganesh Singh—not present.
 Q. 127 — Shri Shishupal N. Patle—not present.
 Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar—not present.
 Q. 128 — Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana.

[Translation]

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan

*128. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
 SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he visited Pakistan recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the talks held on issues like Siachen, Terrorism, Prisoners of War, Economic and Trade Co-operation, Nuclear Risk Reduction and Group tourism and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether Pakistan has agreed to release prisoners of war languishing in their jails;
- (d) if so, whether Pakistan has agreed to permit the relatives of the Indian prisoners of war in Pakistan jails to enable their identification; and
- (e) the extent to which the said visit is likely to further improve the cordial relations between the two countries?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes. The External Affairs Minister visited Pakistan on January 13-14, 2007 to convey the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to attend the 14th SAARC Summit to be held in New Delhi in April 2007. During his visit, EAM held bilateral talks with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri. Both sides agreed to establish a committee on prisoners comprising retired judges of the superior judiciary to visit jails in the two countries and propose steps to ensure humane treatment and expedite release of prisoners who have completed their prison terms; to expedite the liberalisation of the visa regime and agreed to complete the work in February 2007; that several agreements which are close to finalisation including the Agreement on a)

Reducing the Risk from Accidents relating to Nuclear Weapons (b) Speedy return of inadvertent Line Crossers and (c) Prevention of incidents at Sea will be concluded during the February 2007 visit of Foreign Minister Kasuri to India. On Siachen, both sides discussed the issue and decided that the officials would meet at an early date to address the issue. Both sides also agreed to facilitate movement of diplomats to Noida and Gurgaon in India and Taxila and Hasan Abdal in Pakistan. Procedures for this will be worked out. They also agreed that the first meeting of joint anti-terrorism mechanism would take place before the end of March 2007. Regarding Sir Creek, the officials concerned will be directed to expedite their work. The joint survey of Sir Creek has begun on 15th January 2007. Both sides also decided to launch the Fourth Round of Composite Dialogue with the Foreign Secretary talks on 13-14 March 2007.

(c) to (e) According to available information there are 74 Indian PoWs in Pakistani Jails. However, Pakistan does not accept the presence of any Indian PoW in its jails. During EAM's visit to Pakistan in January 2007, the matter was taken up with the Pakistani authorities and they have accepted to allow a delegation of families of PoWs to visit various Pakistani jails. We have proposed April 2007 for the above visit.

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the External Affairs Minister whether he has recently visited Pakistan. If so what are the details of the talks that were held on issues like Siachen, Terrorism, Prisoners of War, Economic and Trade Cooperation, Nuclear Risk Reduction and Group tourism and the outcome thereof?

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In the Statement, I have already stated the number of areas which we covered during my discussion with the leaders of Pakistan. Primarily, the objective of the visit was to extend the invitation to Pakistani Prime Minister on behalf of our Prime Minister to attend the 14th SAARC Summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi. Naturally, I took the opportunity of having discussions on bilateral issues with President Musharraf, the Prime Minister Mr. Shaukat Aziz and my counterpart the Foreign Minister Mr. Kasuri. All these issues have been taken up.

So far as the Prisoners of Wars are concerned, I would submit that the consistent stand that Pakistan has taken is that there is no Prisoner of War in any Pakistani jail. This is not for the first time but several times, several Foreign Ministers have taken up this position. Now, it has been decided. I suggested to President Musharraf that the family members want to satisfy themselves. So, if an opportunity is being provided to them, a delegation of the family members would come. If the Pakistan Administration facilitates the visit to different jails in Pakistan, they themselves can go and it has been agreed. Some time in April, the delegations will be sent.

In respect of Siachen, 10 rounds of discussions have taken place including three which are now being conducted under the Composite Dialogue Process. It was decided that the official level discussions will begin once again. In respect of certain other areas like Sir Creek, as the joint survey has started from 15th January, it was decided to expedite it. A number of Confidence Building Measures were discussed by the leaders of Pakistan with me and those Confidence Building Measures are being pursued.

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, whether Pakistan has agreed to release Indian Prisoners of War languishing in their jails, since long.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have already mentioned that Pakistan does not agree that there is any Prisoner of War in any Pakistan jail. Then, we insisted that we are receiving complaints from the family members of missing persons and so it would be desirable if you allow those family members to go and visit Pakistan.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many persons who left from India to Pakistan have gone missing there. Does the Government have any list of such missing persons and will the Government allow their relatives to go to Pakistan and search for them whether they are in any jail there or in hospital or whether they have died? Does the Government have any statistics about such missing persons?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, whenever Indian citizens go to any part of the world, naturally they report to our Missions there and our Missions keep track on them. But if some persons are missing and we come to know of it, definitely we try to ascertain about them and almost everyday I receive a number of letters from various Members of Parliament that such and such persons went to such and such country and there is no trace of them. In that case, through our Missions we try to locate them.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. External Affairs Minister has stated in his reply that he has held talks on different issues with different leaders of Pakistan and the first meeting of joint anti-terrorism mechanism has taken place. There has been a great misunderstanding regarding this joint anti-terrorism mechanism. Sir, on the one hand we say that there are camps of terrorists in Pakistan and they will be destroyed. Has Pakistan accepted this fact? If not, are not we projecting ourselves as sharing the same platform with Pakistan by setting up a joint anti-terrorism mechanism in collaboration with that country which spreads terrorism? ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from hon. Prime Minister, through you, the facts in this regard. There are misunderstandings with Pakistan regarding Siachen too. The views of army are different. The Army wants Siachen to remain with India in view of its strategic importance and that Indian army should not retreat from there. But they are insisting on withdrawal of troops. What does the government propose to do in order to clear the prevailing confusion in this regard?

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, there is no confusion anywhere. So far as the establishment of the Joint Anti-Terror Mechanism is concerned, it was decided during the meeting between President Musharraf and our Prime Minister at Havana in the margin of Non-Aligned Summit that efforts should be made to confront terrorism and to ensure that terrorist activities are completely neutralized. This exercise is going on. Successive Governments have undertaken this exercise and it is nothing new. The commitment of President Musharraf in this regard was reflected in the Joint Statement issued by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Musharraf on 6th January, 2004. At that time, it was agreed upon by President Musharraf that he would not allow Pakistan territory to

be used by terrorists. Therefore, we are insisting and we are talking that you fulfill your commitment. These talks are going on. Therefore, the entire issue is being discussed.

So far as Siachen is concerned, as I have told in reply to the earlier question, as many as 10 rounds of discussions have taken place between India and Pakistan on Siachen and some of these discussions took place during the earlier regime itself. This is an issue which we are trying to resolve through dialogue and discussion, but no decision has been taken so far. Therefore, there is no scope of confusion.

MD. SALIM: Sir, the development in the relations between India and Pakistan is taking a welcome route. Although, there are some minor irritants, I am not going to make a speech, I intend to ask the hon. Minister of External Affairs that for the SAARC Summit XI, he was supposed to go and invite the President of Pakistan, what happened in between that instead of inviting the President of Pakistan, he went to invite the Prime Minister of Pakistan. We are constantly engaged in a composite dialogue process and there are some good developments which are welcome. But in between these are the irritants. The hon. House has to be apprised of the facts as to what happened behind the scene because there are some conflicting and contradictory reports appearing in the newspapers on this count.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: There are no conflicting or contradictory reports. So far as SAARC Summit is concerned, it is the practice that either the Head of the Government or the Head of the State attends. For instance, in Sri Lanka, there is a Prime Minister, but normally the SAARC Summit is attended by the Sri Lankan President.

So far as Pakistan is concerned, even the Summit which took place at Islamabad, there also Pakistan was represented not by the President but by the Prime Minister and it is President Musharraf who indicated that we should extend an invitation to the Prime Minister. Therefore, I carried the invitation to the Prime Minister to invite him to attend the SAARC Summit.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure he will be a very honoured Guest here.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, it has been recently reported that a young pilot from India, Shri Muralitharan, took an IAF plane in 1971 War to Pakistan and his

aircraft was shot down near Peshawar. He got down through a parachute, but he was caught by the Pakistan Army and jailed. For the last 36 years, he is in the jail. His family members got letters from the Ministry regarding this that the enquiry is going on. I have brought it to the notice of the Ministry through letters.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot raise it just under any Question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, this is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly a serious matter, but I do not know whether the hon. Minister has the information.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, he has been in jail for the last 36 years. Sir, I have just now talked to the hon. Prime Minister also about this..

MR. SPEAKER: You need not repeat it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I would humbly request and seek information from the hon. Minister of External Affairs whether an immediate enquiry will be made in this matter and whether every effort will be made to bring him back to India.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a serious matter, but I do not know whether the hon. Minister can reply to that.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as these issues are concerned, I have already replied that we have given a list of 74 persons as Prisoners of Wars, including the list of 54 persons who are missing since the War of 1971. The names are there and the incidents which the hon. Member has referred to have also been pointed out. Even during my visit I carried a book and a letter from the Chief of the Air Staff. I am fully aware of the agony of the relations and the family members because till today they are not aware of the exact facts. But it has been the persistent stand of Pakistan authorities to deny that anybody as Prisoner of War exists in any jail of Pakistan. That is why, the mechanism which I referred to in the earlier question is being thought of and let us try once again.

[Translation]

Ban on Recruitment In Government Services

*129. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had promised to lift the ban on recruitment in the Government Services after assuming power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of posts in Class-III and Class IV categories by decreasing the number of posts in Class I and Class II categories;

(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) and (b) There is no ban on recruitment in Central Government.

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal. Posts are created on the basis of functional requirements and justification. Depending on the specific needs and requirements., posts are created in appropriate groups/scales.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know through you from the hon. Minister when did the Government lift the ban on new recruitment in Central Government. I also would like to know the number of new recruitments till the end of December, 2006.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not your question.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: It is my question. It is because there is a ban.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister says there is no ban and you are asking for the number.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: The hon. Member wanted to know about the posts recommended for filling in the last year. Between 2001-02 to 2005-06, the number of Group 'A' posts was 4375, the number of Group 'B' posts was 2500, the number of Group 'C' posts was 47,516, and the number of Group 'D' posts was 68,667. As far as posts recommended for abolition are concerned, these are 2,44,491 posts. This decision was

taken in 2001-02 when the then Finance Minister presented the Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir as it has been stated in the reply that the number of the vacant posts is 5000 or 6000 in a year.

[English]

Till 2004, 4.32 lakh posts were vacant.

[Translation]

By when these posts are likely to be filled? Unemployment in our country is a problem, I am talking of 2004 and today the number of vacancies is more than 4,32,000. By when these posts are likely to be filled? Is there any criteria for it? Have you a time-bound programme for it?

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: The hon. Member has referred to the year 2004-05. I would like to inform him that the sanctioned strength of employees is 35,59,831 and as far as 'men on roll' are concerned, their number is 30,88,09 and the percentage of vacancies is 13.25.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Is there any programme for filling these posts? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I speak from this seat?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Take my permission.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: I am asking for the same, may I speak from this seat.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, Do not repeat it in future.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he informed that there are many vacancies. How many posts

are reserved for the SC/ST category and how much is the backlog? The posts reserved on compassionate ground have been increased from 1 percent to 5 percent, is there any hope to increase it further? Since I want that with a view to empower woman they should be provided cent percent job on compassionate ground. Out of it how much backlog is for SC and ST?

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, hon. Member has asked question about backlog which is not related to this question but with your permission information regarding this would be sent to the hon. Member. On the instruction from hon. Prime Minister, the UPA Government has taken rapid action for filling up of backlogs for STs, SCs and about more than 52,600 people have been appointed as a result thereof.

So far as the question of compassionate ground and providing employment opportunities are concerned the earlier situation was that 1/3 posts were earmarked for clearing filling by screening committees and after amending and improving that rule a new circular has been issued and five-percent has been added on the total direct recruitment vacancies arising. One more thing was added to it that earlier technical posts were exempted. Now again we have issued an O.M. under which appointments are being made also on the technical posts on compassionate ground. The present UPA Government has issued its O.M. by further improving it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you cannot violate all the rules. You have violated one rule. You are sitting in somebody's seat and then putting more supplementaries.

Now, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, almost in all Departments, the persons in service are much less in number than in the previous years. This is noticed for the last 10 to 15 years. When Shri Kashiram Rana was in the opposite side, then also the same situation was prevailing. Similar is the situation in the Central Public Sector Undertakings also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: The persons who have retired in a single year against them, nobody is being

*Not recorded.

recruited appropriately. That is the fact of the matter. The Minister has also said in the sense that out of 35 lakh posts, more than five lakh posts are already vacant. So, functionally, recruitment is banned but formally what is the situation is a different question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps that the Government is taking to fill up these vacant posts so that the functional ban on recruitment in the Central Government service disappears.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: The hon. Member has asked as to what steps are being taken keeping in view the ratio of people retiring. I would like to quote the statement given by the then Minister of Finance while presenting the budget of the year 2001-2002. He said

[English]

"All requirements of recruitment will be scrutinized to ensure that fresh recruitment is limited to one per cent of total civilian staff strength. As about three per cent of staff retire every year, this will reduce the manpower by two per cent..."

[Translation]

It was expected that three percent people will be retiring each year and against it one percent would be appointed. It was the decision of the then Government. But as I have mentioned in my answer that Government will sympathetically consider to fill up such posts, which are functional requirement of the Department. Recently the Department of Health had proposed to increase its technical posts. Though such decisions are taken by the Cabinet, Cabinet but has accepted it. The Government will sympathetically consider if such functional requirements are proposed by more Departments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Please cooperate with the Chair. Do not record it.

(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: You are not Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. Please take your seat. I will not allow this.

Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister makes a categorical statement that there is no ban on recruitment. I do not make any comment on this but the fact of the matter is that the total manpower employed in the Central Government service including the Railway has declined drastically over the years. What can be attributed to this drastic reduction in manpower? Is there a ban on manpower? Otherwise, when a person retires, the next man is not recruited. Therefore, lakhs of posts are being abolished by the Government unnoticed, and the hon. Minister is passing the buck to the earlier regime. I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister whether it is the truth that the manpower in the Central Government service is being reduced drastically, and whether it is true that after retirement, posts are being abolished and new recruitments are not being done. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It is an undeclared ban. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is an undeclared ban.

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow him to answer. You only want him to hear your words.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, as far as the sanctioned strength in the Central Government service is concerned, I would put like this. In Group 'A' it is increased, as far as sanctioned strength is concerned. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not on Group 'A'. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: I am coming to that. In Group 'A', it is increased by 8034. In Group B, it is increased by 15,721; in Group C, it is increased by 9,871. Yes, in Group D, it is reduced. It is reduced by 80,277.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: What is due to?... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You need not take note of that. In the earlier Supplementary, you have already replied.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I want your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: I need protection myself!

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Round table Conference on Panchayati Raj

*125. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Round Table Conference has been held with the Ministers of Panchayati Raj from the States to identify some dimensions of the Panchayati Raj;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the broad recommendations made in the Round Table Conference; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened Seven Round Tables of State Panchayati Raj Ministers with the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj between July and December, 2004 as per the details given below:

Ist Round Table	24th & 25th July, 2004	Kolkatta
IInd Round Table	28th-29th August, 2004	Mysore
IIIrd Round Table	23-24 September, 2004	Raipur
IVth Round Table	7-8 October, 2004	Chandigarh
Vth Round Table	28-29 October, 2004	Srinagar
VIth Round Table	27-28 November, 2004	Guwahati
VIIth Round Table	17-19 December, 2004	Jaipur

During these Round Tables, the deliberations centered on the 18 identified dimensions of Panchayati Raj ranging from the effective devolution of functions,

finances and functionaries to district planning, training and capacity building and IT enabled e-governance. At the conclusion of the Round Tables, nearly 150 Action Points, comprised in a Compendium, were unanimously adopted by the Panchayati Raj Ministers. The Compendium has thus become a national road map for effective Panchayati Raj.

(d) The Union Minister of Panchayati Raj has undertaken a series of Panchayati Raj tours to 21 States/ Union Territories and signed Joint Statements of Conclusion on Devolution to Panchayats with the Chief Ministers of the State Governments (and authorities concerned for UTs) except Tamil Nadu where further actions is scheduled and Chandigarh where the Governor has intimated that all villages are to be merged into the Municipalities. To monitor the progressive implementation of effective Panchayati Raj, a Committee of Panchayati Raj Secretaries and a Council of Panchayati Raj Ministers have been constituted. So far, the Committee of Secretaries has held seven meetings. The Council of Ministers has been convened twice, at Kochi in August, 2005 and at Bhubaneswar in June, 2006. In addition, the Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council has also been placed under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Panchayati Raj. It has met in June, September, 2006 and January, 2007.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Coal

*126. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of coal is resulting in increase in its demand each year by 6-7 per cent;

(b) if so, efforts being made by the Government to bridge the gap in its demand and supply;

(c) whether private companies and PSUs which have been allotted captive coal blocks are not able to produce adequate quantity of coal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of coal produced by the said private companies and PSUs which have been allotted coal blocks during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Sir, Coal demand is a function of growth of national economy irrespective of availability of coal from domestic sources. The demand of coal has been increasing with the national economy steadily doing well. As against the demand of 460.50 million tonnes as envisaged in the Tenth Five Year Plan document for the year 2006-07 (terminal year of the Tenth Plan), the same has now been revised to 474.18 million tonnes during 2006-07. Based on the projections given by the user industries, the Working Group on Coal and Lignite has recently worked out a demand of coal of 731.10 million tonnes in the terminal year of XIth Plan (2011-12) as against the earlier projected demand of 620.00 million tonnes.

As against the Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 3% during IXth Plan in respect of coal demand, it is expected to increase to 5.50% (CAGR) during the Xth Plan. Increase in coal production which was 2.53% (CAGR) during the IXth Plan has improved to 5.70% (CAGR) during the Xth Plan. As against the projected increase of 9.71% CAGR in coal demand during the Xth Plan, coal production is expected to increase by 9.47% (CAGR) during the same period. This shows that coal production has been increasing along with the demand. The demand-supply gap is on account of inadequate reserves of coking and low ash non-coking coal reserves in our country.

(b) Measures taken/being taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply are given below:

- (i) 97 mining projects have been undertaken for implementation by CIL during X Plan
- (ii) improvement in equipment utilization;
- (iii) timely implementation of projects;
- (iv) all new mines are being planned with mechanization;
- (v) increasing productivity in both underground and opencast mines;
- (vi) 123 coal blocks have been allotted to various private/public sector companies;
- (vii) emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

(c) and (d) Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3 to 5 years to reach production stage depending on the geo-mining conditions. In case of unexplored blocks, it will take more time, depending on the quantum and depth of drilling to be carried out. Production has already started in 11 coal blocks. 6 more blocks are expected to start production during 2007-08.

(e) Among the blocks allocated during last 3 years to private/public sector only one blocks has come into production. The expected production during 2006-07 from this block is 0.60 million tonnes.

Banking Facilities in Post Offices

*127. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide banking facilities to the customers in the post offices;

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the growth rate of customers of post offices in rural areas of the country during 2006-07;

(c) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints from the customers regarding long wait for carrying out cash transactions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to computerise the post offices of the country particularly in the districts of Vidharba region of Maharashtra in view of the increasing number of customers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) In Post Offices, banking facilities are provided as per The Government Savings Bank Act, 1873, The Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959 and The Public Provident Fund Act, 1968. A proposal for setting up of a Post Bank of India to provide full-fledged banking facilities through Post Offices is at a conceptual stage.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Information on the details of complaints received is being collected from the field offices and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Computerization of Post Offices

in the country is an ongoing process. Under the 10th Plan computers have been provided to 8163 Post Offices. 170 Post Offices in Vidharba Region are computerized as on 27.2.2007. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Maharashtra Circle Nagpur (Vidharba) Region (Total—170)

List of Departmental Computerized Post Offices

Sl. No.	Name of SO	Status	PIN Code	District
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Achalpur City	LSG	444806	Akola
2.	AD Project	LSG	440021	Nagpur
3.	Aheri	A	442705	Gadchiroli
4.	Ajni	LSG	440003	Nagpur
5.	Boriarab	LSG	445109	Yeotmal
6.	Akola City	LSG	444002	Akola
7.	Akot	LSG	444101	Akola
8.	Amgaon	LSG	441902	Gondia
9.	Amravati Camp	HSG	444602	
10.	Anjangaon	LSG	444705	Amraoti
11.	Arjuni Morgaon	A	441701	Gondia
12.	Armorl	A	441208	Gadchiroli
13.	Arni	LSG	445103	Yeotmal
14.	Arvi	HSG-II	442201	Wardha
15.	Ashti	A	442202	Wardha
16.	Ayodhyanagar	LSG	440024	Nagpur
17.	B P Mills	LSG	442901	Chandrapur
18.	Babhulgaon	LSG	445101	Yeotmal
19.	Badnera	LSG	444701	Amraoti
20.	Bagadganj	LSG	440008	Nagpur
21.	Balapur	LSG	444302	Akola

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Ballarpur	LSG	442701	Chandrapur
23.	Barshi Takli	Class-I	444401	Akola
24.	Bezonbagh	LSG	440004	Nagpur
25.	Bhadrawati	A	442902	Chandrapur
26.	Bhandara O F	LSG	441906	Bhandara
27.	Bhiwapur	A	441201	Nagpur
28.	Borgeon Manju	A	444102	Akola
29.	Bramhapuri	LSG	441206	Chandrapur
30.	Cementnagar	A	442502	Chandrapur
31.	Chaitanyawadi (ND)	LSG	443001	Buldana
32.	Chamorshi	A	442603	Gadchiroli
33.	Chandrapur city	HSG	442402	Chandrapur
34.	Chandrapur O F	LSG	442501	Chandrapur
35.	Chandur	A	442908	Chandrapur
36.	Chandur Bazar	LSG	444704	Amraoti
37.	Chandur Rly.	LSG	444904	Amraoti
38.	Tilakwadi	LSG	445001	Yeotmal
39.	Chikhli	LSG	443201	Buldana
40.	Chimur	LSG	442903	Chandrapur
41.	Congress Nagar	HSG-I	440012	Nagpur
42.	Darwa	LSG	445202	Yeotmal
43.	Daryapur	LSG	444803	Amraoti
44.	Datala	A	443102	Buldana
45.	Deoli	LSG	442101	Wardha
46.	Desaiganj	LSG	441207	Gadchiroli
47.	Deulgaon Raja	LSG	443204	Buldana
48.	Dhamangaon RS	LSG	444709	Amraoti
49.	Dhantoli	LSG	440012	Nagpur
50.	Dhami	LSG	444702	Amraoti

1	2	3	4	5
51.	Digras	LSG	445203	Yeotmal
52.	Dr. Ambedkar Marg	LSG	440017	Nagpur
53.	Gadchiroli MOG	MOG	442605	Gadchiroli
54.	Gandhinagar	Class-	444004	Akola
55.	Ghatanji	LSG	445301	Yeotmal
56.	Gondia City	LSG	441614	Gondia
57.	Gondpipri	A	442702	Chandrapur
58.	Goregaon	A	441801	Gondia
59.	H V Nagar Amravati	LSG	444602	Amraoti
60.	Hanuman Nagar	LSG	440009	Nagpur
61.	Hinganghat	HSG-II	442301	Wardha
62.	Asthamba Chwok (ND)	LSG	444061	Amraoti
63.	Algaon	LSG	443402	Buldana
64.	Jaripatka	LSG	440014	Nagpur
65.	Atharpeth Akola	LSG	444005	Akola
66.	K. C. Park	LS		Nagpur
67.	Kalamb	A	445401	Yeotmal
68.	Kalmeshwar	A	441501	Nagpur
69.	Kamthi City	A	441002	Nagpur
70.	Kanhanpipri	LSG	441401	Nagpur
71.	Karanja(Lad)	LSG	444105	Washim
72.	Karanja (Ghadji)	HSG		Wardha
73.	Katol	LSG	441302	Nagpur
74.	Khamla	A	440025	Nagpur
75.	Khapa	A	441101	Nagpur
76.	Khaparkheda	LSG	441102	Nagpur
77.	Koradi	LSG	441111	Nagpur
78.	Kotal Road	LSG	440013	Nagpur
79.	Krishinagar	Class-	444104	Akola

1	2	3	4	5
80.	Kuhi	LSG	441202	Nagpur
81.	Kurkheda	A	441209	Gadchiroli
82.	Lakhni	LSG	441804	Bhandara
83.	Lonar	LSG	443302	Buldana
84.	M I D C Nagpur	A	440028	Nagpur
85.	Mahagaon	Class-II	445205	Yeotmal
86.	Mahal	LSG	440032	Nagpur
87.	Mahtma Fule Bazar	HSG-I	440018	Nagpur
88.	Malegaon	LSG	444503	Washim
89.	Malkapur	LSG	443101	Buldana
90.	Mangrulpir	LSG	444403	Washim
91.	Manora	Class-I	444404	Akola
92.	Maregaon Road	A	445303	Yeotmal
93.	Mauda	A	441104	Nagpur
94.	Mehekar	LSG	443301	Buldana
95.	Mohan Nagar (ND)	LSG	440001	Nagpur
96.	Morshi	LSG	444905	Amraoti
97.	Motala	LSG	443103	Buldana
98.	Mul	LSG	441224	Chandrapur
99.	Murtizapur	LSG	444107	Akola
100.	Nagbhid	LSG	441205	Chandrapur
101.	Nagpur Airport	LSG	440005	Nagpur
102.	Nandgaon Khandeshwar	A	444708	Amraoti
103.	Nandura	LSG	443404	Buldana
104.	Narkher	LSG	441304	Nagpur
105.	Nerparsopant	LSG	445102	Yeotmal
106.	Pandharkawada	LSG	445302	Yeotmal
107.	Parwatinagar	LSG	440027	Nagpur
108.	Patanbori	Class-II	445305	Yeotmal

1	2	3	4	5
109.	Pathrot	A	444808	Amraoti
110.	Patur	LSG	444501	Akola
111.	Patwardhan Ground	HSG-I	440012	Nagpur
112.	Pauni	LSG	441910	Bhandara
113.	Pulgaon	HSG-II	442302	Wardha
114.	Pulgaon Camp	A	442303	Wardha
115.	Pusad	HSG-II	445204	Yeotmal
116.	Raje Raghujji Nagar	A	440009	Nagpur
117.	Rajura M K	LSG	442905	Chandrapur
118.	Ralegaon	A	445402	Yeotmal
119.	Ramtek	LSG	441106	Nagpur
120.	Ranapratap Nagar	LSG	440022	Nagpur
121.	Risod	LSG	444506	Washim
122.	Rukmininagar	LSG	444606	Amraoti
123.	Sadar Bazar	LSG	440001	Nagpur
124.	Sakharkherda	A	443202	Buldana
125.	Sakoli	LSG	441802	Bhandara
126.	Saoner	LSG	441107	Nagpur
127.	Seloo	LSG	442104	Wardha
128.	Seminary Hills	CLI	440006	Nagpur
129.	Sevagram	A	442102	Wardha
130.	Shanichara (ND)	A	440018	Nagpur
131.	Shankar Nagar	HSG	440010	Nagpur
132.	Shegaon	LSG	444203	Buldana
133.	Shivaji Park Akola	LSG	444003	Akola
134.	Shivajinagar Amt.	LSG	444603	Amraoti
135.	Shivajinagar Chanda	A	442503	Chandrapur
136.	Sindewahi	A	441222	Chandrapur
137.	Sindkhed Raja	Class-I	443203	Buldana

1	2	3	4	5
138.	Sironcha	A	442504	Gadchiroli
139.	Sirpur	A	444504	
140.	Sitabardi	HSG- II	440012	Nagpur
141.	Tajnapeth	LSG	444006	Akola
142.	Telhara	LSG	444108	Akola
143.	Teosa	A	444903	Amraoti
144.	Tirora	LSG	441911	Gondia
145.	Tunisar	LSG	441912	Bhandara
146.	Umerkhed	LSG	445208	Yeotmal
147.	Umrer	LSG	441203	Nagpur
148.	Vivekanand Nagar	LSG	440015	Nagpur
149.	Wadi	A	440023	Nagpur
150.	Walgaon	LSG	444801	Amraoti
151.	Wani	HSG-II	445304	Yeotmal
152.	Warora	LSG	442907	Chandrapur
153.	Warud	LSG	444906	Amraoti
154.	Washim	MDG	444505	Washim
155.	ZP TSO Yeotmal	Class-II	445001	Yeotmal
156.	Hindinagar Wardh	LSG		Wardha
157.	Wardha Market	B Class		Wardha

Head Offices in Nagpur Region—13

1.	Nagpur GPO	Gazetted	440001	Nagpur
2.	Nagpur City HO	Gazetted	440010	Nagpur
3.	Chandrapur HO	Gazetted	442401	Chandrapur
4.	Gondia HO			Gondia
5.	Akola HO	Gazetted	444001	Akola
6.	Amravati HO	Gazetted	444602	Amravati
7.	Buldhana HO	Gazetted	443001	Buldhana
8.	Bhandara HO			Bhandara

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Paratwada HO			Paratwada
10.	Kamptee HO		441001	Nagpur
11.	Wardha HO	Gazetted	442001	Wardha
12.	Yeotmal HO	Gazetted	445001	Yeotmal
13.	Khamgaon HO			Buldhana

Inspection of Medical Colleges*[English]*

*130. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the number of inspections of Medical Colleges conducted by the Medical Council of India during the last two years;

(b) the number of medical colleges which were found to be violating the rules; and

(c) the action taken or likely to be taken against such colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Inspection of medical colleges by Medical Council of India is a continuous process to maintain the standard of medical education. The Council conducts inspection of medical colleges and attached hospitals for the purpose of making recommendations to the Central Government for grant of permission to establish a new medical college or to start new course of study or to increase intake capacity or for grant of annual renewal of the permission and also for recognition of the medical courses under section 11(2) of the Indian Medical Council Act and for maintaining the standard of medical education of the recognized colleges/institutions. The medical colleges which are found not meeting the requirements as per the regulations of the Council are given an opportunity to rectify the deficiencies. In such event, the colleges are subjected to re-inspection for verification of compliance report by the MCI. According to MCI, 429 inspections were carried out by MCI during the last two years.

Indian Doctors in U.K.

*131. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of doctors from India who are undergoing training in U.K. may be forced to leave the country after they lost a legal challenge against the new immigration laws which bar Government hospitals from hiring doctors from outside the European Union without work permit as published in the 'Times of India' dated February 10, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether India has taken up the matter with the British Government to protect the interests of the Indian doctors in U.K.; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the response of the British Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) The British Government has implemented new immigration and employment regulations on 7th March, 2006, under which all non-EU doctors will hereafter require a work permit to work in the U.K. However, work permit will be given against specific vacancies for which suitable UK/EU doctors are not available. The new regulations abolished the Permit Free Training (PFT) category through which most Indian Medical Graduates (IMG) worked in the U.K. The new

regulations were confirmed by an order of the British High Court on 9th February, 2007. The Indian High Commission had taken up with the Government of U.K. the issue of 'allowing the Indian doctors to apply for the first round of recruitment under the system of current Modernising Medical Careers launched by U.K. Department of Health. The Department of Health has agreed to consider the request of keeping the first round open for Indian doctors. In the first round, NHS proposes to recruit around 10,000 doctors. Further efforts are on to ensure that IMGs are also allowed to appear unconditionally for the second round of recruitment that is likely to take place in April 2007.

[Translation]

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

*132. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

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

(a) whether the Government has contemplated for the merger of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Joint Forum of BSNL/MTNL Employees have submitted their memorandum to the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (e) Sir, various options for restructuring of MTNL and BSNL including merger option is under consideration of the government for bringing higher synergy in their operation.

The Joint Forum of BSNL/MTNL employees had submitted a memorandum to the Government on various issues concerning telecom sector including the issue of merger of BSNL and MTNL. The Government is considering all aspects in this regard.

Damage to Roads of GQ Project

*133. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the roads of the Golden Quadrilateral Project on N.H.-2 in the Asansol sector and on Kolkata-Mumbai sector have been damaged heavily due to subsidence;

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

(c) whether any responsibility had been fixed for the said damages;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officers or contractors responsible for the damages; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) About 450 metre of Kolkata-Delhi lane on Asansol Bypass on NH-2 subsidised A, on 16th January 2007. The Golden Quadrilateral part of NH-6, is only from Kolkata to Kharagpur and about 110 metre of Reinforced Earth (RE) Wall and embankment on Mumbai side approach of Railway Over Bridge (ROB) 19/1 at km 18/100 on NH-6 was damaged due to subsidence on 9th February 2006.

(c) to (e) On NH-2 the subsidence was due to collapse of underground column of abandoned coalmines in that area. Therefore, nobody associated with the project is responsible. As regards subsidence of the RE Wall and embankment on NH-6, the contractor is responsible for design and construction of the RE Wall. He has been asked to reconstruct the damaged portion at his cost.

Restrictions on Indian Diplomats in Pak

*134. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has imposed any restrictions on Indian diplomats on their movements out of Islamabad;

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

(c) whether India has lodged any protest in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether similar restrictions are in force with the Pakistani diplomats in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) Both Indian and Pakistani Diplomats posted in each other's country require prior permission to travel outside the respective capital cities. Modalities for liberalising this travel regime are currently being discussed. During EAM's visit to Pakistan on January 13-14, 2007 the issue was discussed and EAM and Pak Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri agreed to facilitate movement of diplomats to Noida and Gurgaon in India and Taxila and Hasan Abdal in Pakistan. Procedures for this are being worked out.

[Translation]

ASEAN Summit

*135. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister took part in the 'ASEAN' (Association of South East Asian Nations) Summit held recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed therein;

(c) whether any trade agreements were also signed on the occasion;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the benefits likely to be accrued to India as a result of these agreements; and

(e) the action plan of the Government to increase economic cooperation with the ASEAN countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) At the India-ASEAN Summit held on January 14, 2007 in Cebu, Philippines, PM exchanged views with ASEAN leaders to further strengthen India's ties with the South East Asian nations, through greater economic interactions, enhanced commercial linkages and enlarging people-to-people contacts, by way of cultural exchange, tourism etc.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Economic cooperation with ASEAN countries is being strengthened through several measures, including efforts aimed at (i) finalization of the ASEAN-India FTA; (ii) holding of a dialogue between ASEAN and India on an open skies policy; (iii) launching of mutually agreed special tourism campaigns in India and ASEAN countries, to enhance people-to-people contact and facilitate tourist, flow in both directions; and (iv) encouraging setting up of joint flagship projects that would capitalize on the complementary strengths of India and ASEAN.

Review of Internet Service Policy

*136. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

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

(a) the number of service providers who have been given licence to provide internet service in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review the internet service policy to create a healthy market by way of checking black marketing of internet; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) As on date, there are 383 licensees for provision of Internet services as per the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Government has decided to review the policy of Internet services with a need to address the issues of a large number of ISP licenses, gray market operations, level playing field vis-a-vis other telecom

service providers for an effective, regulated and controlled ISP license. For this endeavor, Government has sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

Statement

(a) *Number of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) With Service Area "All India" (Category-A): 63*

(b) *Statewise Details of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), With Category "B" and Category 'C' Service Area*

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Telecom Circle	Number of Service Providers
1.	Assam	11
2.	Andhra Pradesh	25
3.	Bihar	5
4.	Delhi	13
5.	Gujarat	33
6.	Haryana	20
7.	Himachal Pradesh	5
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	9
9.	Kerala	11
10.	Karnataka	23
11.	Maharashtra	48
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4
13.	North East	4
14.	Orissa	10
15.	Punjab	13
16.	Rajasthan	15
17.	Tamil Nadu	28
18.	Uttar Pradesh	32
19.	West Bengal	11
	Total	320

NOTE:

- (i) Category "A" SERVICE AREA—This covers the territorial jurisdiction of the Union of India except specified areas that may be notified to be excluded from time to time.

(ii) Category "B" SERVICE AREA—Any of the 20 Territorial Telecom Circles, four Metro Telephone Districts of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta or Chennai and four major telephone districts of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune are Category 'B' service areas. The four Metro Telephone Districts (Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai) are not part of any Telecom Circle, whereas the four major Telephone Districts (Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune) are part of respective Telecom Circles.

(iii) Category "C" SERVICE AREA—Any Secondary Switching Area (SSA) of DOT with geographical boundaries as on 1.4.98, will form a separate category "C" Service Area with the exception that each of the four Metro Telephone Districts of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and of four major Telephone Districts of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune of the DOT with geographical boundaries as on 1.4.98, will form a separate category "B" Service Area.

[English]

**Steps to Strengthen District
Planning Committees**

*137. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen and equip the District Planning Committees to coordinate with the Zilla Panchayats and other Government and non-Government organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any report from the sub-committee on Panchayati Raj institution; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Article 243ZD(3) (b) of the Constitution provides that the State may specify institutions and organisations which may be consulted by every DPC in preparing the draft development plan of the district. The Planning Commission has issued comprehensive guidelines on

25.8.2006 for the preparation of district plans in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. These provide that the State Governments constitute a Technical Support Group in each district to assist the District Planning Committees in preparing vision documents and vet the draft plan proposals. The Technical Support Group may consist of Departmental officers (where available) mandated and nominated for the purpose in addition to their duties or retired persons locally available or a local academic institution or established NGO with a proven record.

In order to strengthen and equip the District Planning Committees, Ministry of Panchayati Raj will provide financial support through the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). An amount of Rs. 250 crore has been especially earmarked for the capacity building of Panchayats in 250 districts covered under the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme. Securing assistance for Panchayats and the District Planning Committees is one of the components of capacity building which can be funded from the allocation of Rs. 250 crore.

(c) and (d) The Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council constituted for the financial and administrative empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions considered the issue of strengthening District Planning in its third meeting held on 12 June 2006. It endorsed the action points identified during a Workshop on Grass root level Planning held on 8-9 May, 2006 to ensure that the Eleventh Five year Plan of the State is built through a participative bottom up process. One of the main action points enjoined that the Planning Commission's guidelines for the preparation of the Eleventh plan will mandate the preparation of district plans through District Planning Committees. Subsequently, the Planning Commission has issued its guidelines on 25 August 2006 referred to above.

Expansion of Broadband Service

*138. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for expansion of broadband infrastructure in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed plan to cover all Gram Panchayats and higher secondary schools and public health centres;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred;

(d) the manner in which broadband users will be benefited by such expansion; ~

(e) the resources from where the Government proposes to manage funds for such an expansion plan;

(f) whether any other plan for the development of this sector is likely to be introduced; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (g) The year 2007 has been christened as the "Year of Broadband" with the target of reaching 9 million broadband connections by 2007. It has been planned to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats, Higher Secondary Schools and Public Health Centers progressively by the year 2008. The plan also envisages provision of 20 million connections by the year 2010.

Various service providers will provide the required services in urban areas on commercial basis. It is envisaged that Department of Information Technology (DIT) and Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund will provide the necessary viability gap funding for speedy rural Broadband Access rollout.

Broadband service will provide the platform for various e-governance projects. Service providers will provide various value added services to suit the requirements of consumers.

Foreign Ministers' Meet

*139. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements were signed on the occasion;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the benefits which are likely to be accrued to India as a result of these agreements; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the relations with Russia and China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China met in New Delhi on 14th February 2007. The discussions during the meeting covered the current global situation, regional developments' of common concern, counter-terrorism efforts and trilateral economic cooperation in areas such as energy, transport infrastructure, health, high technologies, including information technology and biotechnology. The three sides will hold official and expert level discussions in these areas.

Although no agreements were signed, the three sides issued a Joint Communiqué after the meeting the copy of which is enclosed as Statement.

India, Russia and China agreed that a trilateral business forum will be held in India during 2007. India proposed that it would host a trilateral seminar on emerging geo-strategic trends with the participation of officials and scholars in 2007.

(e) The Government of India engages with the Governments of Russia and China to promote mutually beneficial cooperation with each country and India has bilateral agreements with Russia and with China over a wide range of topics. In addition, there are frequent high-level exchanges in various formats with Russia and with China to further strengthen cooperation with the two countries.

Statement

A trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of India, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China was held in New Delhi on February 14, 2007.

The Ministers noted that the mechanism of trilateral meetings is a manifestation of enhanced mutual understanding and trust among the three countries and positively assessed the outcome of their meetings. They agreed that the Summit level trilateral meeting held in St. Petersburg on July 17, 2006 on the sidelines of the G-8 Summit demonstrated the willingness of the three sides to carry forward consultations on issues of shared interest, at the highest political level, with the aim of promoting the development objectives of the three countries as well as peace, security and stability in the region and the world. They reaffirmed that trilateral cooperation was not directed against the interests of any other country and was, on the contrary, intended to promote international harmony and understanding and find common ground amidst divergent interests. They also emphasized the strong commitment of India, Russia and China to multilateral diplomacy.

The Ministers discussed the political, security and economic aspects of the current global situation, besides exchanging views on how international relations are being presently conducted. They noted that globalization opens up opportunities for a more even distribution of development resources and influence in the world thus creating a foundation for a more stable and balanced international system. They also emphasized the need to preserve the cultural and civilizational diversity of the contemporary world and to promote the existing initiatives for dialogue among civilizations and religions. They expressed their conviction that democratization of international relations is the key to building an increasingly multi-polar world order that would be based on principles of equality of nations—big or small, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries, international law and mutual respect. The Ministers acknowledged that the UN is an appropriate instrument for promoting and attaining such a world order. The Sides stressed the importance of reforms at the UN, including the UN Security Council, in order to deal with the myriad challenges of today's world more effectively. They shared the view that member states should aim to make the UN more transparent, efficient and reflective of contemporary realities. The Sides agreed to take steps in this direction. In this context, the Foreign Ministers of Russia and China reiterated that their countries attach great importance to the status of India in international affairs, and understand and support India's aspirations to play a greater role in the United Nations.

The Ministers noted that international terrorism

continued to pose a grave threat to all nations and expressed concern about the new and evolving forms of the menace. They agreed that under central and coordinating role of the UN and within the framework of its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy collective action must be strengthened further by taking into account the mutating character of terrorism and its networks. They agreed that an early entry into force of International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the earliest possible adoption in the UN of the India-sponsored draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism would lead to further consolidation of the international legal basis for combating terrorism. The Sides underlined the substantial potential of their counter-terrorism cooperation in regional organizations. They agreed that there can be no justification for any act of terrorism, irrespective of motivations, wherever and by whosoever committed. They stressed that selective approaches in counter-terrorism cannot yield sustainable results and it should be combated in a consistent, sustained and comprehensive manner without any double standards. The Sides also agreed to coordinate action against all factors that feed international terrorism, including its financing, illegal drug trafficking and trans-national organized crime.

The Ministers agreed that India, Russia and China, as countries with growing international influence, can make substantive positive contribution to global peace, security and stability. In this context, the Ministers exchanged views on various regional and international issues of concern. They agreed that cooperation rather than confrontation should govern approaches to regional and global affairs. While welcoming India's joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as an observer country, the Foreign Ministers of Russia and China stated that they would actively facilitate early realization of mutually beneficial contribution of India to the SCO.

The Ministers paid specific attention to the high potential of trilateral cooperation and synergy in the economic field. The Ministers reiterated the considerable potential for mutually beneficial economic interaction among the three countries in areas such as energy, transport infrastructure, health, high technologies, including IT and biotechnology. Recognizing the important role of the business and industrial circles of the three consistently growing and large economies, the Ministers agreed to advice their respective apex business bodies to organize a trilateral business forum taking into account the capabilities and potential of the three countries. The

Ministers agreed to monitor this process with a view to facilitating the agreed business meeting which would take place during 2007.

The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the results of the trilateral meeting in New Delhi and agreed to hold their next meeting in China.

New Delhi

February 14, 2007

Empanelment of Hospitals

*140. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI BALASHOWARY VALLABHANENI:

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

(a) whether CGHS has removed several big private hospitals recently from its approved list resulting in a lot of inconvenience to the Central Government Employees and other CGHS beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken to include all major private hospitals in the country in the CGHS approved list; and

(d) if not, the steps that are being taken by CGHS to set up its own hospitals in all parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The process of empanelment of hospitals with CGHS is now a continuous one. Any private hospital/ diagnostic center that fulfils the conditions for empanelment and is willing to accept the rates approved by CGHS, can apply at any time for empanelment.

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

[Translation]

Launching of Space Satellites

1046. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Space Satellites launched by the country during the last five years along with their launching places;

(b) the number of satellites launched unsuccessfully and the reasons for then-failure including the cost thereof;

(c) the rank/position of India in satellite launch system globally; and

(d) the steps taken by India to develop the launching system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The details of the satellites launched by the country during the last five years are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Satellite	Launch Date	Launching Place
1.	INSAT-3C	24.1.2002	French Guyana.
2.	Kalpana-1	12.9.2002	Sriharikota, India
3.	INSAT-3A	10.4.2003	French Guyana
4.	GSAT-2	8.5.2003	Sriharikota, India
5.	INSAT-3E	28.9.2003	French Guyana
6.	IRS-P6 (RESOURCES AT- 1)	17.10.2003	Sriharikota, India
7.	EDUSAT	20.9.2004	Sriharikota, India
8.	IRS-P5(CARTOSAT-1)	5.5.2005	Sriharikota, India
9.	HAMSAT	5.5.2005	Sriharikota, India
10.	1NSAT-4A	22.12.2005	French Guyana
11.	1NSAT-4C	10.7.2006	Sriharikota, India
12.	CARTOSAT-2	10.1.2007	Sriharikota, India
13.	Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1)	10.1.2007	Sriharikota, India

(b) Amongst the above 13 launches, only one i.e. INSAT-4C on board GSLV-F02 on 10th July 2006 was unsuccessful. The reason for failure of the mission was identified as malfunctioning of one of the four strap-on stages of GSLV. The cost of INSAT-4C satellite was Rs. 96 crores and the cost of GSLV was Rs. 150 crores.

(c) India is one among the six nations in the world to develop satellites and have capability to launch them using its own rocket system.

(d) India is currently developing GSLV MK III capable of launching 4 tonne class communication satellite into Geo-stationary orbit. Technology development initiatives have also been taken up in the area of advanced launch vehicle systems including Reusable Launch Vehicles.

Allocation of USO fund

1047. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allocate money from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to certain mobile companies to provide phone facility in remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allotted to various phone companies from this fund during the last three years; and

(d) the State-wise number of villages equipped with phone facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Government is in the process of taking necessary action to provide support for provision of infrastructure for mobile services including Wireless Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile Terminal in rural and remote areas of the country. The infrastructure shall be created in those specified areas where there is no existing fixed wireless mobile coverage. The tenders have been invited from existing Basic Service Operators (BSO), Cellular Mobile Telephone service (CMTS) providers, Unified

Access Services Licences (UASL) and Shortlisted Infrastructure Providers Category-1 (IP-1) comprising of both private and public sector operators. A total of 7,871 towers will be set up in rural and remote areas of the country in 500 districts spread over 27 States. The District-wise, Village-wise location of these towers can be accessed on Department of Telecommunications website (www.dot.gov.in).

(c) The amount disbursed from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to various phone companies during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Service provider	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	197.30	1,311.00	1,744.41
2.	Reliance Infocomm Limited	0.80	0.90	18.78
3.	Tata Teleservices Limited	0.58	1.12	2.35
4.	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited	0.73	0.95	1.31
5.	Bharti Infotel Limited	0.13	0.10	0.00
6.	Hindustan Futuristic Corporation Limited (HFCL)	0.01	0.00	0.00
7.	Shyam Telelink Limited	0.45	0.10	0.00
Total		200.00	1,315.00	1,766.85

(d) A Statement indicating the State-wise number of villages covered by fixed telephone services in the country is enclosed.

Statement

(As on 31.12.2006)

Sl. No.	Name of Service Area	Provided by BSNL	Provided by PBSOs (As per claim statement and website information)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman Nicobar	198	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23930	1358 TTL
3.	Assam	24265	
4.	Bihar	38475	
5.	Jharkhand	27302	
6.	Gujarat	14208	3760 RIL

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	6811	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16814	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5572	
10.	Karnataka	27066	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	46966	242 Bharti
12.	Chhattisgarh	16933	
13.	Maharashtra	36119	2595 TTL
14.	North East-I	4457	
15.	North East-II	3767	
16.	Orissa	40778	
17.	Punjab	12687	35 HFCL
18.	Rajasthan	31561	886 Shyam
19.	Tamilnadu	17899	
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	76006	
21.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	21268	
22.	Uttaranchal	12773	
23.	West Bengal	37306	
24.	Calcutta	437	
	Total	543598	8876
25.	Kerala*	1468	
	Total	545066	8876
	Grand Total		553942

*Kerala at Sl. No. 25 are not covered under subsidy support from USO Fund.

The total number of VPTs also includes 38795 VPTs installed in the remaining uncovered villages as on 31.12.2006 out of the total of 66,822.

[English]

Uniform Cellphone Number

1048. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow the

cellphone users the freedom to retain the same number even after change of service providers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) (a) and (b) As on date, no decision has been taken in the matter.

Per Capita Income

1049. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of per capita income, for the year 2005-06 State-wise; and

(b) the reasons for disparity among States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) The estimated per capita income for most of the states is not available for the year 2005-06. However, the state-wise per capita income, at current prices, for the year 2004-05 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The reason for disparity in per capita income among the States is mainly attributed to the historical inequality and initial economic conditions. Also, some States may have generally had better governance and followed growth-enhancing policies more effectively than others.

Statement

Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (State Income) at Current Prices

(Rupees)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2004-2005
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23153
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	19724
3.	Assam	13633
4.	Bihar	5772
5.	Jharkhand	13013
6.	Goa	58184
7.	Gujarat	28355
8.	Haryana	32712
9.	Himachal Pradesh	27486

1	2	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	16190
11.	Karnataka	23945
12.	Kerala	27048
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14069
14.	Chattisgarh	15073
15.	Maharashtra	32170
16.	Manipur	14901
17.	Meghalaya	19572
18.	Mizoram	NA
19.	Nagaland	NA
20.	Orissa	13601
21.	Punjab	30701
22.	Rajasthan	16212
23.	Sikkim	24115
24.	Tamil Nadu	25965
25.	Tripura	NA
26.	Uttar Pradesh	11477
27.	Uttaranchal	19652
28.	West Bengal	22497
29.	A & N islands	NA
30.	Chandigarh	67370
31.	Delhi	53976
32.	Pondicherry	56034

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments as on 31.01.2007

[Translation]

In-Vitro Fertility Clinic

1050. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility of the In-Vitro-Fertility Clinic has been introduced in All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision to provide concession to the needy and poor people for the treatment in said clinic;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Telephone Courts

1051. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government organises Telephone courts to provide relief to telephone subscribers;

(b) if so, the dates on which telephone courts were organized in the country especially in Karnataka, during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the number of cases received and disposed off by these courts during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the relief provided to the telephone subscribers alongwith the rules of organizing such courts?

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

[Translation]

Faulty Telephone Bills in Gujarat

1052. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether a large number of faulty telephone bills have been delivered in rural areas of Gujarat;

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

(c) the number of officials found guilty in this regard alongwith the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect rural telephone users against such problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) It has been stated by BSNL that in some of the Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) bills were issued in certain cases without giving rebate in fixed monthly charges for the period(s) during which the telephones had remained faulty. The rebate was however given to the customers in the subsequent bills.

(b) The details of faulty bills in the concerned SSAs are as follows:

Year	No. of Cases	Rebate given In Fixed Monthly Charges (In Rs.)	Name of SSAs
2004-05	289	24,976	Ahmedabad, Baroda, Bhuj, Bulsar, Bhavnagar,
2005-06	1161	61,367	Himathanagar and Mehsana
2006-07	1030	1,08,626	

(c) No official was found guilty.

(d) BSNL has instructed the concerned field units to strictly implement Standing Orders regarding grant of rebate in fixed monthly charges for faulty telephones.

[English]

Space Capsule Recovery Experiment

1053. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has become a member of the exclusive space club by launching successfully Space Capsule Recovery Experiment vehicle; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the Space programme envisaged by ISRO in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. With the successful launch of Space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1) into orbit and its safe recovery, India has joined the exclusive group of countries such as USA, Russia and China having capability to launch and recover a spacecraft from orbit.

(b) SRE-1 was launched into 635 km high polar sun-synchronous orbit by India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C7, on January 10, 2007 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. SRE-1 was in orbit for 12 days, during which two micro-gravity experiments were conducted. On January 22, 2007, SRE-1 was successfully de-boosted by firing its rocket motors and after a series of complex manoeuvres, it was made to re-enter the earth's atmosphere and descend over the Bay of Bengal, about 140 km East of Sriharikota. It was then successfully recovered.

The future plans under the Indian space programme include development of advanced space transportation systems like reusable launch vehicles; space communications for developmental needs like education, health-care, rural development and disaster management support; enhanced imaging systems for natural resource management and front ranking research related to astronomy and planetary exploration.

International River Port at Dhubri

1054. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any demand from State Governments of Assam and West Bengal for setting up an international river port at Dhubri in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has conducted any Techno-economic feasibility study for developing such international river port at Dhubri;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, Government of West Bengal had forwarded a representation made by Brahmaputra Jalpath Dabi Samiti, Dhubri to the Chief Minister of West Bengal in which request for establishment of a port at Dhubri with all modern facilities was included.

(c) to (e) River Brahmaputra has been declared as National Waterway from Dhubri to Sadiya, and various developmental works are being executed on it, which include setting up of a floating terminal at Dhubri with open storage facility, road connectivity for loaded trucks and floating crane pontoon jetty for berthing of vessels and mechanised handling of cargo with gangway. Further upgradation is proposed at later stage based on cargo availability and demand at Dhubri.

However, on the basis of a representation received from Dhubri River Port Development Demand Committee for a mechanised and modernized river port with handling facilities at Dhubri, IIT Guwahati has been asked to do a quick feasibility study of an alternative site, slightly downstream at New Ghat.

Reduction in Tariff of BSNL Plan

1055. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has recently reduced the fixed line tariff particularly STD call rates, monthly rentals, increased the free calls and many other concessions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL has also proposed to follow suit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new proposal is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fixed Line tariff for exchange system capacity more than 29999 lines (Urban) has been reduced by bringing it in line with "One India" Plan. The tariffs of Basic services are being reviewed by BSNL from time to time. Details of various plans offered by BSNL for Fixed Line including BSNL "One India" plan are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. MTNL has been reviewing the fixed line tariff to meet competition and to meet the aspiration of customers, and has already introduced certain reductions and concessions, details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-II

Statement I

Present Tariff for BASIC SERVICE

The present tariff of BSNL basic services subscribers is as under:

(A) General Package

Monthly Rental Charges for B-fone/ WLL (F)

Rental charges	General Plan w.e.f. from 1st January 2006	
	Rural	Urban
Exchange System Capacity		
Less than 1000 lines.	Rs. 50	Rs. 120
1000 lines to < 30000 lines.	Rs. 110	Rs. 120
30000 lines to < 100000 lines.	Rs. 150	Rs. 180
100000 lines & above	Rs. 150	Rs. 180
Free Calls	75	50

(B) Alternative Packages:

In addition to the general package, revised/additional alternative packages for customers under B-fone/WLL are as under:

Particular	Rural Subscriber		Both Rural and Urban Subscribers					
	BSNL Economy	BSNL Special	Sulabh	BSNL Economy	BSNL Special	BSNL Plus Special	BSNL Super	BSNL Premium
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Fixed Monthly charges with effect from 1st January 2006								
Less than 30000 lines	Rs. 150	Rs. 650	Rs. 99*	Rs. 300	Rs. 375	Rs. 975	Rs.1450	Rs. 2450
> 30000 to < 100000 lines	Rs. 150	Rs. 650	Rs.120	Rs. 300	Rs. 425	Rs. 975	Rs. 1450	Rs. 2450

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
> 100000 lines	Rs. 150	Rs. 650	Rs. 160*	Rs. 300	Rs. 475	Rs. 975	Rs. 1450	Rs. 2450
Free Calls (MCU)	150	700	0	200	400/45 0/500	1100	1800	3500
Unit Rate (beyond Free calls)	1.20	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.00	0.90	0.80

*The fixed monthly charges of Sulabh Plan has been revised to Rs.75 & Rs. 120 per month for exchange system capacity less than 30000 lines and more than 30000 lines respectively with effect from 1st October 2006.

(c) Tariff under "BSNL ONE INDIA" for Basic and WLL Services

BSNL One India

Particular	Pulse in sec.	w.e.f. 01.11.2006
Fixed Monthly Charges		Rs. 180
Free calls (MCU)		50
Unit call rate		Rupee One
<i>Call Charges</i>		
<i>Local & Intra Circle Calls up to 50 kms</i>		
<i>Own Network</i>		
Fixed, WLL	180	Rs. 0.33/min.*
Cellular (94)	60	Rs. 1.00/min.
<i>Other Network</i>		
Fixed	180	Rs. 1.00/min.
Cellular, WLL	60	Rs. 1.00/min.
<i>Intra Circle calls more than 50 kms & Inter Circle Calls (Own and Other Network)</i>		
Fixed, WLL, Cellular	60	Rs. 1.00/min.
<i>ISD Calls</i>		
USA, Canada, UK	10.0	Rs. 6.00/min.
Sri Lanka	10.0	Rs. 6.00/min.
Europe (other than UK), Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Hong Kong	7.5	Rs. 8.00/min.
Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, Oman, Qatar	7.5	Rs. 8.00/min.
Rest of World	6.0	Rs. 10.00/min.

Note:

* Local and Intra circle calls up to 50 kms. are chargeable at Rupee one for 3 minutes.

The above package will be applicable for both Rural and Urban subscribers.

Statement II

*Details of recent reductions and concessions,
given by MTNL to subscribers*

In MTNL, Delhi

- (i) Monthly rental of One India Plan in Delhi was reduced from Rs. 299/- to Rs. 180/- w.e.f. 01.11.2006.
- (ii) STD tariff of landline has been reduced from Rs. 2.40/min to Rs. 2.00/min w.e.f. 1.1.2007.
- (iii) Local call rate between landline to own mobile (Dolphin, Trump, WLL, Garuda) has been revised from Rs. 1.20/- per min to Rs. 1.20/- per 3 min w.e.f. 01.1.2007.
- (iv) WLL mobile connection to landline customers from 20.11.06 to 2.12.06.
- (v) Relaunching of promotional plan 1+1 for basic service of MTNL from 5.12.06 for three months.
- (vi) Benefit in booking of extended MTNL landline from 1.1.07 for 90 days.

In MTNL, Mumbai

- (i) Monthly rental of One India Plan was reduced from Rs. 299/- to Rs. 180/- w.e.f. 1.11.2006.
- (ii) Tariff from landline and WLL to MTNL own network has been made local with Rs* 1.20/180 sec.
- (iii) Tariff from landline/WLL to MTNL Delhi landline/WLL has been reduced from Rs. 1.20/30 sec to Rs. 1.20/180 sec.
- (iv) STD tariff of landline/WLL has been reduced from Rs. 2.40/min to Rs. 2.00/min.
- (v) "Only incoming" plan for landline with Rs. 150/- rent per month has been made regular.

*[Translation]***Construction of Road and Bridge on NH-3**

1056. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2790 dated May 10, 2006 and to state:

(a) the present status of construction of a bridge across the Chambal river and the remaining part of the four laning of Dhaulpur-Murena section of National Highway No. 3;

(b) whether the said project was to start by 2004;

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

(d) the action taken against the officials responsible for the delay; and

(e) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Tenders for four laning of km 51.00 to km 61.00 (including Chambal Bridge) on Dholpur-Morena Section of NH-3 in the State of Rajasthan/Madhya Pradesh have been invited in February, 2007 and work is likely to be awarded in April, 2007. The cost of work put to tender is Rs. 235.00 crore.

(b) to (d) During the year 2004-05, the project was expected to be awarded with the provision of four lane Dholpur bypass. However, on the request of Government of Rajasthan, the alignment of the project has been reviewed and four laning of the existing NH-3 through Dholpur town was envisaged. The preparation for Detailed Project Report/drawings, field investigations and pre-construction activities like land acquisition, preparation of plans and estimates for utility shifting etc. has been subsequently taken up as per revised alignment which took some time and thereafter, bids could be invited in February, 2007.

(e) The work is stipulated for completion in 36 months from the commencement of work.

Abduction of Infants from Hospitals

1057. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) whether the incidents of lifting/disappearance of newly born infants from the Govt. hospitals are drastically increasing;

(b) if so, the number of infants lifted/disappeared from various hospitals during the last two years, hospital-wise;

(c) the number of infants recovered out of the total infants stolen and the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(d) whether the staff of the hospitals has also been found involved in such incidents;

(e) if so, the details about the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(f) the steps taken by the Governments to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Revival Proposal for CIWTC

1058. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to revive Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC);

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

(c) if not, the plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Cabinet had in its meeting held on 1.12.2005 decided that the Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD) should be handed over to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) or to any other Public Sector Enterprises along with existing manpower, assets and liabilities. It was also decided that outstanding principal amount as on 31.3.2005 be converted into equity and interest should be written off. It was further decided that Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) should be introduced in Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) to bring down the

manpower level and CIWTC minus RBD should be disinvested in favour of private parties.

As per present status of implementation of above package, Rajabagan Dockyard stands transferred to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers with effect from 1.7.2006. Orders have been issued for conversion of outstanding principal amount as on 31.3.2005 into equity and for writing-off of outstanding interest as on 31.1.2007. Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been introduced in CIWTC and at present the number of employees in CIWTC is 470. Action has been initiated by the Department of Shipping to assess the viability of disinvestment of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation with varying employees' strength.

[Translation]

Four-laning of Kanpur-Sagar National Highway

1059. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to convert the Kanpur-Sagar National Highway into four lanes and also construct a by-pass road to link cities situated between Kaimaha-Barrier to Hamirpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Utilisation of Land Line and Cellular Phones

1060. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote the utilisation of Land Line Phones and Cell One Cellular Phones in West Bengal during the last one year; and

(b) the result achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, following steps have been taken by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last one year to promote utilization of landline and cellular phones:-

- (i) Periodic revision of tariffs to make them competitive.
 - (ii) Introduction of new services viz. Broadband service on landline.
 - (iii) Publicising promotional schemes through printed media such as News Paper at local and national levels, magazines, use of broadcasting media at local and national levels, hoardings at prominent places throughout the State and glow-sign board at PCOs etc.
 - (iv) Participation in various local fairs, trade and book fairs for educating the public about the various services and tariff plans of BSNL.
 - (v) Dissemination of information about various schemes through SMS to mobile subscribers.
- (b) As a result of the efforts made, a total of

3,53,994 telephone connections have been added in West Bengal during the year 2006-07 till 31.1.2007.

Per Capita Expenditure

1081. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita expenditure in the country has increased during the last five years;

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

(c) the reasons for such increase in expenditure; and

(d) the comparison between per capita expenditure and per capita income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE, MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. As per National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) survey reports, Estimated Average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure for selected States in the rural & urban areas of the country for last five years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Monthly Per Capita Expenditure has increased by about 13% in rural areas and 15% in urban areas as compared to about 38% increase in per capita income at the National level during 2000-01 to 2004-05. Among other reasons, the increase in consumption is due to growth in income.

Statement

Summary of Estimated Average Monthly Per Capita Expenditure as Per NSSO Survey Results

State/UT	Average MPCE (Rs.) Rural					Average MPCE (Rs.) Urban				
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2004	2004-05	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2004	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	490	538	575	557	586	928	859	989	1102	1019
Assam	457	537	532	532	543	789	883	947	1019	1058
Bihar	396	400	424	442	417	595	625	692	784	696
Chhattisgarh	395	338		417	425	740	723		812	990

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Delhi	—	—	—	—	918	1309	1267	1129	1301	1319
Gujarat	591	621	590	613	596	953	954	1229	1092	1115
Haryana	682	706	703	879	863	898	1040	1123	1050	1142
Himachal Pradesh	701	775	—	793	798	1178	1195	—	—	1390
Jammu & Kashmir	680	758	787	802	793	1048	1087	1063	1086	1070
Jharkhand	385	376	391	405	425	691	785	827	969	985
Karnataka	531	525	513	502	508	900	973	969	937	1033
Kerala	841	840	881	990	1013	1204	1240	1267	1372	1291
Madhya Pradesh	390	401	436	437	439	727	737	709	793	904
Maharashtra	507	589	545	569	568	1034	1209	1164	1259	1148
Orissa	392	308	390	414	399	773	736	869	872	757
Punjab	771	761	788	947	847	973	1009	1110	1059	1326
Rajasthan	538	578	574	580	591	793	805	830	995	964
Tamil Nadu	526	552	542	603	602	969	898	1072	1131	1080
Uttar Pradesh	453	423	486	538	532	738	729	879	827	857
West Bengal	473	506	493	580	562	902	967	1066	1133	1124
All India	495	498	531	565	559	915	933	1012	1060	1052
% Increase during 5 years					13					15

Per Capita Net National Product at factor cost at current prices (Rupees)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
All India	16648	17800	18899	20936	22946
% Increase during 5 years					38

Declaring Bijapur Humanabad Road as NH-218E

1062. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway Authority of India has declared the Bijapur-Humanabad road via Jewargi and Gulbarga as National Highway 218E;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of National Highways that has been taken up for improvement and maintenance in the State; and

(d) the time by which the development on the National Highways of the State including NH 218 E is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Bijapur-Humanabad road via Jewargi and Gulbarga road was declared as National Highway (NH) 218E by this Ministry vide Notification dated 25.2.2004. This highway starts from its junction with NH 13 near Bijapur and terminates at its junction with NH 9 near Humanabad connecting Jewargi and Gulbarga.

(c) and (d) There are in all 14 National Highways including NH 218E passing through the state of Karnataka with a total length of 3978 km. Improvement and maintenance of the National Highways is a continuous process. The works are taken up as per *inter se* priority and overall availability of funds.

Corruption against IAS/IPS

1063. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of corruption has been received against the IAS/IPS Officers during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has ordered for conducting an enquiry against them; and

(d) if so, the number of such officers terminated from the service during the last two years?

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) As per available information 175 complaints of corruption against IAS officers were received in the Department of Personnel & Training during the years 2005 and 2006. The Ministry of Home Affairs has received 26 complaints of corruption against IPS officers during that period.

(c) The verifiable complaints were sent to the concerned State Governments/other authorities for further inquiry/report.

(d) No IAS/IPS officers have been terminated from service during the aforesaid period on the basis of such complaints.

[English]

Seeking of Loan from World Bank

1064. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought loan from World Bank for the new mining projects and expansion of the existing coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the operative conditions and norms of the proposal has been laid down in this regard;

(d) whether the World Bank has set any mandatory norm for rehabilitation and re-training of tribals affected by such projects;

(e) whether the Government has been able to attain the rehabilitation/re-training norms set by the World Bank considering the prevailing mining conditions; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Government has not sought loan from World Bank for new mining projects. However in the year 1998 Coal India had taken loan from World Bank for expansion of the existing coal mines.

(b) There were two projects under World Bank Loan and Borrowing.

(i) Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (CSRP)

(ii) Coal Sector Environmental and Social Mitigation Project (CSESMP)

CSRP covered 24 Projects and CSESMP covered the same 24 projects and 1 additional project under 5 Subsidiaries of Coal India Limited viz. CCL, MCL, SECL, WCL and NCL.

(i) Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (CSRP)

The net utilization of loan as disbursed by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development - IBRD (Agreement dated 19 March 1998) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation - JBIC (Agreement dated 13 April 1998) is to the tune of USD 245.73 million and JPY 28,440.82 million respectively, for procurement of

equipment and technical assistance under Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (CSR). The disbursement for funding of procurement by IBRD and JBIC was completed in December 2003. As such, there is no withdrawal of loan since January 2004.

(ii) Coal Sector Environmental and Social Mitigation Project (CSESMP)

The Coal Sector Environmental and Social Mitigation Project (CSESMP) (Agreement dated 05 June 1996) with International Development Association—IDA having its major activities under Environmental Action Plan (EAP), Rehabilitation Action Plan (RAP), and Indigenous People Development Plan (IPDP) have been completed as per schedule. As per the date stipulated by IDA, the project has been closed on 30th June-02. A total amount of USD 39.25 Million (equivalent to Rs. 177.69 crore) has been disbursed as IDA credit and the entire repayment of borrowing has already been made in the financial year 2005-06.

(c) Terms and Conditions laid down in the loan agreement are as below:

Terms

1. The principal amount of each Subsidiary Loan made by the Borrower to a Participating Subsidiary.

- (a) shall be equal to the amount of Dollars withdrawn on account of a Participating Subsidiary's respective part of the Project: and
- (b) shall be repaid in the currency of the Borrower in amounts equivalent (as of the date or respective dates of payment) to the amount in dollars so made available.

2. Participating Subsidiary concerned shall repay such principal amount over a period of twenty (20) years, inclusive of the grace period of five (5).

3. Borrower shall charge: (i) interest on such principal amount withdrawn and outstanding from time to time at a rate equal to the rate of interest applicable from time to time under the Loan Agreement, and (ii) a guarantee fee and service charge.

4. The Borrower shall charge a commitment charge on such principal amount, not withdrawn from time to time at the rate set forth in the Agreement.

Conditions

The Subsidiary Loan Agreements shall include the following provisions whereby;

1. Each Participating Subsidiary shall undertake to:

- (a) carry out its respective part of the Project with due diligence and efficiency and in accordance with the appropriate administrative, environmental, financial, social and technical standards and practices; and
- (b) without limitation on the foregoing take all measures necessary to ensure that its respective part of the Project shall be implemented in accordance with the implementation program of the Agreement.

2. Each Participating Subsidiary shall agree that: (a) all procurement of goods, works and services to be financed out of the Subsidiary Loan shall be carried out by the Borrower on behalf of the Participating Subsidiaries and in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement: and (b) such goods, works and services shall be utilized exclusively in the carrying out of its respective part of the Project.

3. Each Participating Subsidiary shall undertake to enable the Borrower and the Bank to inspect such goods, works and services and the sites included in its respective parts of the Project, the operation thereof, and any relevant records and documents.

4. Each Participating Subsidiary shall undertake to take out and maintain with responsible insurers such insurance, against such risks and in such amounts, as shall be consistent with sound business practice, including, without limitation, such insurance to cover hazards incident to the acquisition, transportation and delivery of goods financed out of the proceeds of the Subsidiary Loan to the place of use or installation, any indemnity there under to be made payable in a currency freely usable by the Borrower to replace or repair such goods.

5. Each Participating Subsidiary shall undertake to comply with the obligation set forth in the Agreement.

(d) CIL's R&R Policy-1994 has the norms for rehabilitation and Re-training. The policy was framed before the agreement with the World Bank. The R&R Policy was modified in Aug 2000 considering the

experience gained in implementation of the CSESMP Projects.

(e) CIL has been able to attain the rehabilitation/ Re-training norms set in its R&R policy.

(f) Not applicable.

Telephone Services in Villages

1065. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered by fixed/mobile telephone services in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of villages yet to be covered or in the process of covering by any of the telephone service, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to link all the villages in the country by fixed/mobile telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Department does not maintain segregated data in respect of mobile services in the villages of the country. A Statement-I indicating the State-wise number of villages covered by fixed telephone services in the country is enclosed.

(b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. Out of these, 39,741 villages have already been provided with VPTs by BSNL as on 31st January 2007. The remaining 27,081 villages will be provided VPTs progressively by November 2007. A Statement-II indicating the State-wise number of villages remains to be covered is enclosed.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government to link-villages in the country by fixed/mobile telephone services

(i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in all the remaining uncovered eligible villages,

excluding villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.

(ii) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs).

(iii) Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs.

(iv) Provision of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) on demand in 1685 commercially unviable short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).

(v) Government is in the process of launching a scheme to provide for setting up and managing infrastructure sites for provision of mobile services including other wireless services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile Terminals in the specified rural and remote areas of the country, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.

Statement I

State-wise number of villages covered by Fixed Telephone Services in the country as on 31.12.2006

Sl.NO.	Name of Service Area	Provided by BSNL	Provided by PBSOs (As per claim statement and website information)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	198	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23930	1358 TTL
3.	Assam	24265	
4.	Bihar	38475	
5.	Jharkhand	27302	
6.	Gujarat	14208	3760 RIL
7.	Haryana	6811	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16814	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5572	
10.	Karnataka	27066	

1	2	3	4
11.	Madhya Pradesh	46966	242 BHARTI
12.	Chhattisgarh	16933	
13.	Maharashtra	36119	2595 TTL
14.	North East-I	4457	
15.	North East-II	3767	
16.	Orissa	40778	
17.	Punjab	12687	35 HFCL
18.	Rajasthan	31561	886 SHYAM
19.	Tamil Nadu	17899	
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	76006	
21.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	21268	
22.	Uttaranchal	12773	
23.	West Bengal	37306	
24.	Calcutta	437	
Total		543598	8876
25.	Kerala*	1468	
Total		545066	8876
Grand Total		553942	

*Kerala at Sl. No. 25 are not covered under subsidy support from USO Fund.

—The total number of VPTs also includes 38795 VPTs installed in the remaining uncovered villages as on 31.12.2006 out of the total of 66,822.

Statement II

State-wise number of villages remain to be covered as on 31.01.2007

Sl. No.	Name of the Service Area	Total No. of uncovered villages	Balance remaining uncovered
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,074	542
2.	Assam	8,931	1,049

1	2	3	4
3.	Jharkhand	1,694	1,233
4.	Gujarat	4,144	1,036
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1,002	235
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,755	981
7.	Madhya Pradesh	11,894	2,423
8.	Chhattisgarh	5,043	2,724
9.	Maharashtra	6,441	1,707
10.	North East-I	2,128	1,951
11.	Meghalaya	1,957	1,830
12.	Mizoram	96	92
13.	Tripura	75	29
14.	North East-II	1,550	1,236
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	646	591
16.	Manipur	876	622
17.	Nagaland	28	23
18.	Orissa	4,899	4,829
19.	Rajasthan	12,386	4,425
20.	Uttaranchal	3,881	2,710
Total		66,822	27,081

[Translation]

Visas to Foreign Students

1066. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the image of India is being maligned due to delay in providing visa to foreign students as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 20, 2007;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) There have been a few instances of delay in issuing student visas by Indian Missions/Posts abroad. The delay has mainly been due to foreign students not fulfilling the prescribed conditions concerning grant of student visas.

(c) and (d) The Government has recently liberalised grant of student visas. The liberalised provisions are given below:

- (i) Visa to be granted for admission in recognised/reputed educational institutions in India;
- (ii) Visa co-terminus with the duration of the course or 5 years whichever is less;
- (iii) No restriction on number of courses that can be pursued;
- (iv) No restriction with respect to change of the course or institute or both;
- (v) Student visa for industrial training/summer project/internship;
- (vi) Waiver of the requirement of No Objection Certificate from the Ministry of Human Resource Development; and
- (vii) Extendibility on the grounds of clearing supplementaries.

[English]

Food and Drug Testing Laboratory

1067. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Govt. has received any proposal regarding setting up of a food and drug testing laboratory in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, by when the said proposal is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (a) and (b) No proposal has been received from State Government regarding setting up of Food and Drug Testing Laboratory in Karnataka. However, under the World Bank Assisted Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality

Control of Drugs, extension of the existing building of the State Drug Laboratory in Bangalore has been approved.

Rescue Services in Coal Mines

1068. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rescue services in coal mines in the country have been modernised at par with the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Government proposes to modernise these services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. Modernisation of rescue services for coal mines is a continuous process and action is taken by the coal companies to provide latest rescue equipment on par with the developed countries. Some of the modern equipment being used in rescue services in coal mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) & Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) are: for dealing with mine fires Drager BG-4 and BG-174 self contained breathing apparatus (short duration breathing apparatus); resuscitating pulmotor/maxaman, universal tester etc. BG-4 Positive pressure type self contained breathing apparatus; high speed gas chromatograph for quick and accurate analysis of mine air; digital gas detectors for spot detection of mine gases in underground mines; thermal image camera to locate the seat of fire etc. are some of the latest equipment procured/being procured by coal mines. For clearing the roof falls in underground mines hydraulic rescue tools with cutters, spreaders, lifting jacks and pneumatic lifting bags etc. have also been procured/being procured. For dewatering of workings, high capacity low head submersible pumps have also been procured/being procured. Other fire fighting equipment for dealing with surface fires like high capacity fire fighting nozzles, high expansion foam, nomex fire proximity suits for rescue personal have also been procured/being procured by coal companies.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply given to parts (a), (b) & (d) above.

Concession in Toll

1069. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Maharashtra State Road Transport Development Corporation for granting concessions to the residents in the radius of 5 kms to 10 kms at Tasawade Toll Plaza on National Highway No. 4; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Highways Authority of India has conveyed its consent to Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) for granting concessional daily passes for multiple journey in a day @ 1.5 time the rate of single journey valid for 24 hours, and concessional monthly passes for local people residing within a radius of 10 Km. and 20 Km. from Toll Plaza and school buses as applicable for public funded project.

Free Immunity Test for AIDS Patients

1070. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to make the immunity test for AIDS patients free of cost; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the list of hospitals where the said test is available free of cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CD4 teting has been made free of cost for patients infected with HIV/AIDS. The test shall be done free of cost every six months or earlier if prescribed by a doctor of an ART centre treating the person living with HIV/AIDS. The list of hospitals where the test facilities are available is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State	S.No.	List of Hospitals/Centers with CD4 count facility
1	2	3
Karnataka	1.	Lady Curzon and Bowering Hosp. (LCH) Bangalore
	2.	Mysore Med. College, MMC, Mysore
	3.	VIMS, Bellary
	4.	Karnataka Institute of Medical College, Hubli
Tamil Nadu	5.	G.M.C. Madurai
	6.	GHTM, Tambaram
	7.	GMC, Chennai
	8.	GMC, Salem
	9.	Thanzavur Medical College
	10.	Govt. Med. College, Tirunelveli
Maharashtra	11.	Sir JJ Group Hospital, Mumbai
	12.	KEM Hospital, Mumbai
	13.	BYL Nair Hospital, Mumbai
	14.	Sion Hospital, Mumbai
	15.	BJMC, Pune
	16.	Med. College, Sangli
	17.	Govt. Med. College, Nagpur
	18.	Aurangabad
	19.	NARI, Pune
Goa	20.	Medical College, Bomblian Panji, Goa
Andhra Pradesh	21.	GMC Guntur
	22.	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad
	23.	Cuddapah
	24.	Warangal

1	2	3
Manipur	25.	RIMS, Imphal
	26.	JN Hospital, Imphal
	27.	Ukahrul
	28.	Churachandpur
Nagaland	29.	Tuensang
	30.	Dimapur
	31.	Naga District Hospital Kohima
Delhi	32.	RML Hospital
	33.	AIIMS, New Delhi
	34.	LNJP Hospital
	35.	Sufdarjung Hospital
Assam	36.	GMC Gauhati
Gujarat	37.	BJMC, Ahmedabad
Madhya Pradesh	38.	Choithram Hospital, Indore
West Bengal	39.	STM, Kolkatta
Himachal Pradesh	40.	IGMC Shimla
Rajasthan	41.	MC Jodhpur
	42.	SMS, MC Hospital, Jaipur
Uttar Pradesh	43.	KGMC, Lucknow
	44.	BHU, Varanasi
Chandigarh	45.	PGIMER, Chandigarh
Kerala	46.	Thiruvananthapuram Medical College
Bihar	47.	MC Muzaffarpur
	48.	Pravadebi Hospital
Jharkhand	49.	JLN, Raipur
Haryana	50.	PGI Rohtak
Punjab	51.	MC Amritsar
Mizoram	52.	Aizawl

1	2	3
Jammu & Kashmir	53.	MC Srinagar
Karnataka	54.	NIMHANS
Delhi	55.	NICD, Delhi
Andhra Pradesh	56.	NIMS, Hyderabad
Orissa	57.	RMRC Orissa
Total Machines	57	

[Translation]

Ban on Swastick Symbol in EU

1071. PROF. VJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ban has been imposed on the display of 'Swastick', the symbol of Hinduism in European Union (EU);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up this matter with European Union countries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the European countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

National Family Health Survey

1072. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of reports, studies and surveys including the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS-3) and the Focus on Children Under Six (FOCUS) have indicated a noticeable decline in the qualitative aspects of the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services);

(b) if so, drawbacks have been indicated therein; and

(c) the steps taken to make the programme effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the findings of NFHS- III performance of States/UTs in reducing malnutrition amongst children varies considerably. While there has been significant reduction in prevalence of malnutrition amongst children below 3 years in some states, in many others, the reduction has been far from satisfactory.

FOCUS Survey conducted in some of the States pointed out wide variations in effectiveness of the ICDS between the States.

(c) Following steps have been taken to increase the effectiveness of the delivery of services under ICDS:-

- (i) Expansion of the ICDS Scheme to 466 ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) under 1st phase of expansion,
- (ii) Further expansion of ICDS Scheme to 173 Projects, 107274 AWCs and 25961 Mini AWCs.
- (iii) Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition from Re. 1/- to Rs. 2/- per beneficiary per day.
- (iv) Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States/UTs.
- (v) Constant emphasis on States/UTs to ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms; and ensure delivery of other services.
- (vi) To strengthen the existing monitoring and supervision mechanism for ICDS. Central Monitoring Unit (CMU) has been set up at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), which would monitor the Scheme through independent professional organization/institution in each State/UT.
- (vii) A National level Monitoring Committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of MOS (M/o Women & Child Development) to oversee the entire functioning of ICDS Scheme.

Model Concession Agreement for Ports

1073. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for the Port Sector is ready for execution;

(b) if so, the details thereof including concession period given, tariff fixation formula, appointment of engineers, etc;

(c) whether any consultation have been held with the Planning Commission in this regard;

(d) if so, whether any objection was raised by the Planning Commission on MCA;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which the MCA will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) For construction of new or additional facilities through private sector participation in the major ports under the control of the Central Government, a 'Model License Agreement' (MLA) was finalised and circulated to all the Major Port Trusts in March, 2000. The MLA addresses the concerns of the various stakeholders in the project including the technical parameters, rights and obligations of the contracting parties, tariff, financial and commercial terms, risk allocation, etc. However, pursuant to the decision of the Committee on Infrastructure headed by the Prime Minister, an Inter Ministerial Group under the chairmanship of Secretary (Shipping) with representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Law & Justice and the Planning Commission has been set up for evolving a Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for Ports. Necessary consultations with various stakeholders and other concerned Ministries including the Planning Commission are taking place. Certain differences of views are in the process of resolution. The new MCA will serve as the basis for concessions for Public Private Partnership projects in Ports in future.

[Translation]

Health Facility to Government Employees

1074. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been sanctioned for providing health services to the Central Government Employees in Indore;

(b) if so, by when this scheme will be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Central Government employees working in Indore can avail medical benefits available under CS(MA) Rules, 1944.

[English]

Negative Marking in Civil Services Examination

1075. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has decided to introduce negative marking in the Civil Services Examination as per the recommendations of Satish Chandra Committee in 1988 as reported in *the Asian Age* dated January 5, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the introduction of the new system has invited opposition/criticism from various quarters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for inordinate delay in implementing the recommendation of Satish Chandra Committee after a gap of 18 years?

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) The UPSC has decided to introduce negative marking as a strong deterrent against guesswork and accurately to assess the level of competence and proficiency of candidates. Besides, this practice is in keeping with the practice adopted by other competitive examining bodies in the country.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to introduce negative marking by the UPSC from 2007 after due consideration of the representations received.

(e) Although the recommendations were received in August, 1989, the UPSC after due consideration did not agree to the proposal of introduction of negative marking at that time. However, keeping in view the overall changes in the examination systems in the country, it has now been decided to introduce negative marking beginning the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2007.

[Translation]

Six Laning of Delhi Meerut Highway

1076. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of six laning of Delhi-Meerut Highway has been approved;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether six laning of Meerut-Haridwar-Dehradun highway has not been approved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to expedite the approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Six laning of Delhi-Meerut section of National Highway (NH) has been approved. Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress at present.

(c) to (e) Six laning of Meerut-Haridwar-Dehradun section of NH is not envisaged at this stage. Presently, four laning of Meerut-Muzaffarnagar section of NH has been awarded and four laning is proposed to be continued in Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar-Dehradun section of NH under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III.

[English]

Realignment in NH-8

1077. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat for realignment of Narol-Naroda section of National Highway No. 8;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the planning for rerouting of Narol-Naroda section of National Highway 8?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat for realignment of Narol-Naroda section of NH-8. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation plans to develop this section with their own resources.

Wages of DNB Students

1078. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representation from DNB students regarding their grievance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the institutions/hospitals are not following the guidelines/order of DNB Board regarding payment of uniform wages/emoluments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) National Board of Examination, New Delhi has received complaints from a number of Institutions (as per list enclosed as Statement) regarding non-payment of stipend as per stipulated guidelines issued by the Board. These Institutions have been informed that their accreditation will be withdrawn if they fail to comply with the guidelines, accreditation of Jaipur Golden Hospital in the speciality of General Medicine and Tirath Ram Shah Hospital in the speciality of Pediatrics has been withdrawn.

Statement

List of Institutions accredited by National Board of Examinations against whom complaints have been

received and Notice issued regarding Non-payment of stipend as per the stipulated guidelines.

Sl.No.	Name of the Institutions
1.	Sunder Lal Jain Hospital, New Delhi
2.	Mata Channan Devi Hospital, New Delhi
3.	Vidya Sagar Instt. Of Mental Health & Neurosciences, New Delhi
4.	St. Stephen's Hospital, New Delhi
5.	Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi
6.	Jaipur Golden Hospital, New Delhi
7.	Tirath Ram Shah Hospital, New Delhi
8.	G.T.B. Hospital, Delhi
9.	Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi
10.	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, New Delhi
11.	Lok Nayak Hospital, New Delhi.
12.	B.R. Ambedkar Hospital, New Delhi
13.	Dharamshila Cancer Hospital, Delhi
14.	Gandhi Eye Hospital, Aligarh
15.	Vivekananda Poly Clinic, Lucknow
16.	RGCIRC, Delhi
17.	IHBAS, Delhi
18.	Southern Railway Headquarters Hospital, Chennai.

Developing Colachel and Chennai Port

1079. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to develop Colachel as a maior port;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be developed;

(d) whether there is also a proposal to develop a Second Container Terminal at Chennai;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the estimated cost of the project; and

(g) the time by which the second terminal is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS. (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A request has been received from Government of Tamil Nadu for development of Coiachel Port as a Major Port. Preparation of a Techno-Economic Feasibility and Detailed Project Reports as well as Environmental Impact Assessment Studies for this project have been undertaken.

(d) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Second Container Terminal at Chennai Port, at an estimated cost of Rs. 492 crores will have a continuous berth length of 832 mtrs with a rated capacity of 0.8 million Twenty Feet Equivalent Units (TEUs) per annum. The project is to be implemented on EOT basis for which a Letter of Intent has been issued to the consortium of Port of Singapore Authority International Pvt. Ltd. (PSA International) and South India Corporation Limited Logistics (SICAL LOGISTICS) during November, 2006.

As per the draft Licence Agreement the licensee guarantees that the project completion shall be achieved in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on a date not later than 24 months from the Date of Award of the Licence.

Amendment to Immigration Act

1080. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to amend the Indian Immigration Act 1983 to enforce compliance of statutory standards by agents recruiting skilled and semi-skilled labour for placement abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has planned to extend the Immigration Check Not Required (ICNA) status to more countries than presently available;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the proposed amendment/extension is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The Government has proposed amendments to Emigration Act, 1983 to address the present day concerns in emigration management and to provide for the promotion and regulation of overseas employment and the protection and welfare of the emigrants. The amendments are under finalization.

(c) and (d) The Government has already placed 173 countries under Emigration Check Not Required category. As a result, emigration check is required only in respect of the following 18 countries—Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Afghanistan, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Iraq (emigration banned.)

(e) The amendments are under finalization.

Financial Assistance to Spastics Institutions

1081. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) the total number of Government Institutions and voluntary Institutions of spastics in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government provides any financial assistance to these Institutions;

(c) if so, the total amount provided to these institutions during each of the last three years, Institute-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE. (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEMPD), Chennai under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing schemes for the welfare of persons with multiple disabilities including those suffering from Cerebral Palsy. There are 259 voluntary organizations which are receiving financial assistance from the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the welfare of Mentally Retarded and/or the persons suffering

from Cerebral Palsy. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Rs. 1.00 crore and Rs. 6.50 crore was allocated to NIEMPD in 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively. In respect of the Voluntary Institutions the details are given in enclosed Statement-II

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (c) above.

Statement I

Statewise details of No. of Voluntary Institutions of Spastics Deen Dayal Rehabilitation Scheme

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Institutions
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	5
4.	Bihar	10
5.	Chandigarh	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	2
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
8.	Daman and Diu	0
9.	Delhi	8
10.	Goa	0

1	2	3
11.	Gujarat	9
12.	Haryana	14
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
15.	Jharkhand	1
16.	Karnataka	23
17.	Kerala	
18.	Madhya Pradesh	12
17.	Maharashtra	0
18.	Manipur	6
19.	Meghalaya	1
20.	Mizoram	1
21.	Orissa	14
22.	Pondichery	0
23.	Punjab	8
24.	Rajasthan	11
25.	Tamil Nadu	21
26.	Tripura	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	22
28.	Uttaranchal	6
29.	West Bengal	21
Total		259.00

Statement II

Details of NGOs grant released under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme during the year 2003-04 for Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retarded persons

State	District	Organisation Name	Released
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Aathmeeya Manasika Vikasa Kendram	1041768
Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Adi Andhra Educational Society	391204

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Andhra Mahila Sabha (Hyderabad)	1399653
Andhra Pradesh	Nizamabad	Andhra Pradesh State Forum for Economically Weaker Section	451170
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	ANURAAG	637092
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Arun Special Centre	1479294
Andhra Pradesh	Nalgonda	Asha Jyothi Welfare Association for the Disabled	455427
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	Backward Area Rural Development Society	914886
Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Chaitanya Institute for the Learning Disabled	656046
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Hellen Kellers' School for Deaf & Mentally Retarded Children	722205
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	Indian Red Cross Society (Nellore)	412110
Andhra Pradesh	West Godavari	J & J Karunodaya Institute for MR	1046452
Andhra Pradesh	West Godavari	Kalyani Rural Rehabilitation and Education Society	559854
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Kiranam	778527
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Lakshya Sadhana	620001
Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	Lebenshife	5002695
Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Manasika Vikas Kendram	754857
Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Manasika Vikas kendram	2116206
Andhra Pradesh	Warangal	Manochetana	475335
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	New Don Bosco Educational Society	1555902
Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	PAMENCAP (Godavarkhani)	716057
Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	PAMENCAP (Karimnagar)	1058715
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	PAMENCAP (Secunderabad)	983997
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	PAMENCAP (Secunderabad)	486468
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Parents Association of AG's Office Employees	645777
Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	Pavani Institute fo Multiple Handicapped & Spastics	836145
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	PAWMENCAP & Spastics (Hyderabad)	932715
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	People's Action for Social Service	1188945
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	Pragathi Charities	1163907

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Radha Institute for Mentally Retarded Children	644409
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Rastriya Seva Samithi	1510846
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Rastriya Seva Samithi	1452217
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Rastriya Seva Samithi	959040
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Rural Association for Developmental Awareness and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped	536724
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Sai Seva Sangh	911259
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Satya Integrated Rural Education and Economic Development Society	482958
Andhra Pradesh	Kamman	Seva Sadanam	351684
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Shanthiniketan	1275579
Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari	Siri Institute for Mentally Handicapped	1458639
Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Smt. Mera Ramamma Memorial Trust	555939
Andhra Pradesh	Nizamabad	Sneha Society for Rural Reconstruction	1318689
Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	Sri Dakshinya Bhava Samithi	1860138
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Sri Sai Educational Society	434232
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Sri Sai Public School, Educational Society	289557
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	St. Ann's Manovikas Kendra	406125
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	St. Ann's Manovikas Kendra	918558
Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	Surya Kiran Parents Association for the Welfare of M.H.	584244
Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	Surya Kiran Parents Association for the Welfare of M.H.	1788435
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Anuraag	637092
Andhra Pradesh	Medak	Swayam Seva Ass. for Parents of Rural Children with	688230
Andhra Pradesh	Secundrabad	Sweekar Rehabilitation institute for Handicapped	2894175
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehab. for MH	6298326
Andhra Pradesh	Hydrabad	Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehab. for MH	3674556
Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	The Karimnagar District Freedom Fighters' Trust	1200636

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	The Rural Education and Development Turst	464580
Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari	Uma Manovikasa Kendram (Kakinada)	2416446
Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam	Uma Manovikasa Kendram (Ongole)	1347192
Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Women and Child Welfare Centre	2685159
Bihar	Gaya	Aakanksha Institute for Mentally Handicapped	406710
Bihar	Patna	Akhil Bhartiya Gramin Vikash Avam Seva Mandai	822960
Bihar	Patna	Ayurvedic & Megnetotherapy Research Institute (AMRI)	1001790
Bihar	Patna	Bihar Institute of Spæech & Hearing Rsearch Centre	604530
Bihar	Arrah	Foundation for Integral Human Advancement	59400
Bihar	Patna	JM Institute of Speech & Hearing	654530
Bihar	Patna	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Institute	1411290
Chhattisgarh	Korba	ANKUR	469800
Delhi	Delhi	AAROH	535145
Delhi	Delhi	Anchal Charitable Trust	362664
Delhi	Delhi	Association for National Brotherhood for Social Welfare	1057941
Delhi	Delhi	Balvantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan Anguridevi Shersingh Memorial Academy	435420
Delhi	Delhi	Federation for the Welfare of the Mentally Retarded	317113
Delhi	Delhi	Parents Association for the Welfare of Children with Mental Handicap	404370
Delhi	Delhi	Society for Child Development	565588
Delhi	Delhi	TAMANA	1749150
Gujarat	Vadodara	Medical Care Centre	568486
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	SOPAN	245700
Gujarat	Vadodara	The Baniyan City Jaycee Education Turst	170100
Gujarat	Rajkot	The Society for the Mentally Retarded	635312
Haryana	Sirsa	Distirct Council for Child Welfare	250690

1	2	3	4
Haryana	Balabhgarh	Educational cum Vocational Association for the Disabled	440505
Haryana	Rohtak	Indian Red Cross Society (Rohtak)	1607173
Haryana	Gurgaon	Khushbob Welfare Society	393309
Haryana	Faridabad	National Association for the Integration and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped	505538
Haryana	Gurgaon	Sadbhavana Charitable Trust (Regd.)	823613
Haryana	Karnal	Tapan Rehabilitation Society	1316565
Himachal Pradesh	Sirmaur	Aastha Welfare Society	240624
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	Rotary Innerwheel Home for the Mentally Retarded Children	145758
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Deepshikha Institute for Child Development and Mental Health	4680
Karnataka	Devengere	Angaviklara Ashakiran Turst	2191988
Karnataka	Koppal	Association for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled	978120
Karnataka	Gadag	Bapuji Vidya Samasthe	1066689
Karnataka	Bidar	Chywan Ayurvedic Education Society	243450
Karnataka	Bangalore	Divya Shanthi Christian Association	475875
Karnataka	Kodagu	Kodagu Vidyalaya Opportunity School Trust	100800
Karnataka	Bangalore	Krishna Turst	559162
Karnataka	Koppal	Lion's Charitable Trust	280735
Karnataka	Gulbara	Mahadevi Tai Mahila Vidya Vardhak Sangh	1138056
Karnataka	Udupi	Manasa Rehabilitation and Training Centre for MR Children	880587
Karnataka	Gadag	Manju Education Society	892958
Karnataka	Bangalore	Sarvodaya Service Society	567252
Karnataka	Belgaum	Shri Doodana Vikas Shikshan Samaste	355800
Karnataka	Belgaum	Shri Renuka (Yallama) Vidya Vardhak Sangh	1472679
Karnataka	Bangalore	Shri Vadiraja Trust	527904
Karnataka	Mangalore	St. Agnes Teacher Training Institute for Special Education	296473
Karnataka	Bellary	Vishwa Bharathi Kalanikethan & Education Society	143550

1	2	3	4
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	All Kerala Association for Mentally Retarded Children	159359
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	All Kerala Association for Mentally Retarded Children	123606
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	All Kerala Association for Mentally Retarded Children	271634
Kerala	Emakulam	Atphons Social Center	574267
Kerala	Kozhikode (Calicut)	Ashakiran Association for Mentally Retarded Persons	714699
Kerala	Kottayam	Ashanilayam	674235
Kerala	Kottayam	Ashanilayam Social Service Centre	217935
Kerala	Kozhikode (Calicut)	Association for Welfare of the Handicapped	179885
Kerala	Kozhikode (Calicut)	Association for Welfare of the Handicapped	1288260
Kerala	Trichur	Bala Sahaya Samiti	246515
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	Bethania Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Women	257242
Kerala	Kozhikode (Calicut)	Calicut Islamic Cultural Society	659675
Kerala	Idukki	Camel Jyothi Centre for Mentally Retarded Children	489933
Kerala	Emakulam	Charitable Society for Welfare of Disabled	598275
Kerala	Emakulam	Chavara Special School for the Mentally Retarded	422347
Kerala	Kottayam	Deepthi Center	811845
Kerala	Palakkad	Directorate of Social Action	430110
Kerala	Emakulam	Emakulam Women's Association	164430
Kerala	Emakulam	Faith India	230805
Kerala	Emakulam	Faith India	792855
Kerala	Emakulam	Janey Centre for Special Education	543231
Kerala	Kannur	Jaycee Society for Rehabilitation of the Handicapped	140310
Kerala	Allapuzha	K. Velayudhan Memorial Trust	765351
Kerala	Kollam	Karuna Charitable Society	404685
Kerala	Trichur	MADONNA	602933

1	2	3	4
Kerala	Kollam	Manovikash Special School for Mentally Handicapped	398387
Kerala	Palakkad	Marian Service Society	808152
Kerala	Wayanad	Mercy Home Charitable Society	232200
Kerala	Trichur	Padma Educational & Charitable Establishment	475753
Kerala	Trichur	Pope John Paul Peace Home	1458405
Kerala	Idukki	Prateeksha Bhawan	905791
Kerala	Trichur	Prateeksha Training Centre	1270440
Kerala	Emakulam	Raksha Society for Care of Children with Multiple Handicaps	830448
Kerala	Trichur	Reach-Society for Remedial Education Assessment Counselling Handicapped	735925
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	Rotary Institute for Children in Need of Special Care	1655280
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	Sanathana Adwaita Ashram	794844
Kerala	Kottayam	Sanjose Welfare Centre	704520
Kerala	Kottayam	Santhinilayam for Handicapped Children	667014
Kerala	Emakulam	Santimargam Social Welfare Service Society	486000
Kerala	Kottayam	Seva Niketan	338605
Kerala	Emakulam	Shilpa Society for the Mentally Handicapped	388575
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	Shri P.R.S. Pillay Memorial Bala Vikas Trust	1172525
Kerala	Emakulam	Sneha Sadan Special School for the Mentally Retarded	811629
Kerala	Trichur	Sneha Bhavan Society	103392
Kerala	Emakulam	Snehanilayam Special School	684760
Kerala	Trichur	Sneharam Training Centre	566955
Kerala	Trichur	Social Welfare Centre	1916793
Kerala	Trichur	Social Welfare Centre	1552644
Kerala	Trichur	Social Welfare Centre	490590

1	2	3	4
Kerala	Trichur	Social Welfare Centre	507825
Kerala	Kannur	Society for Rehabilitation of Mentally Deficient Children	588327
Kerala	Kannur	St. Cemillus Training Centre for Mentally Retarded	644512
Kerala	Allapuzha	St. Joseph's Social Center	423808
Kerala	Kannur	Vikas Social Service Society	1310147
Kerala	Emakulam	Vimala Mahila Samajam	1212714
Kerala	Kottayam	Women's Welfare Centre	656820
Kerala	Kollam	Young Women's Christian Association	178020
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Digdarshika Institute of Rehabilitation Research	262415
Madhya Pradesh	Mandsaur	Indian Red Cross Society (Mandsaur)	111600
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Justice Tankha Memorial Rotary Institute for Spastic and Handicapped Children	616248
Madhya Pradesh	Morena	Kranti Kala Sangam	1125480
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh Viklang Sahayata Samiti	802309
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	Prem Sagar Special School	540675
Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Swarna Shiksha Kadhayee Prasikshan Kendra	554355
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shiv Kalyan Evam Shikshan Samiti	14400
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	Shri Shri Utkarsh Samiti	224100
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Vikang Seva Bharti	768060
Maharashtra	Bhandara	Parivartan Shikshan Sanstha	915975
Maharashtra	Pune	Savali	659304
Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	Swami Vivekanad Dhyam Prasarak Mandal	1825820
Manipur	Imphal	All Manipur Mentally Handicapped Persons Welfare Organisation	910656
Manipur	Imphal	All Manipur Mentally Handicapped Persons Welfare Organisation	280280
Manipur	Imphal (Zone II)	Centre for Mental Hygiene	628947

1	2	3	4
Manipur	Imphal (Zone II)	Centre for Mental Hygiene	455760
Meghalaya	Shillong	Dwar Jinkrymen School for Children in Need of Special Education	555588
Mizoram	Aizawl	Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic Children	1243350
Orissa	Ganjam	All India Women's Conference	1166265
Orissa	Koraput	ALOK	16650
Orissa	Cuttack	Association for Social Reconstructive Activities	1199610
Orissa	Sonepur	District Handicapped Welfare School	329040
Orissa	Cuttack	Indian Red Cross Society	730188
Orissa	Kalahandi	Jewels International	990126
Orissa	Dhenkanal	Jibanjoti Welfare Association for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped	1096146
Orissa	Khurda	National Institute of Tribal Welfare and Social Action	733559
Orissa	Puri	Nilachal Seva Prathisthan	719910
Orissa	Khurda	Open Learning Systems	1001835
Orissa	Bhubaneswar	Sisusakha Sangha	646029
Orissa	Nayagarh	Society for Environmental Development and Voluntary Action (SEVA)	2500920
Orissa	Khurda	Union for Learning, Training and Reformative Activities	885600
Punjab	Rupnagar	Ambuja Cement Foundation	321169
Punjab	Hoshiarpur	Asha Deep Welfare Society	352341
Punjab	Jalandhar	District Red Cross Society	241708
Punjab	Amritsar	Indian Red Cross Society (Amritsar)	269160
Punjab	Faridkot	Indian Red Cross Society (Faridkot)	258749
Punjab	Jalandhar	Indian Red Cross Society, Prayas	310514
Punjab	Patiala	Navjivini School of Special Education	1163988

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Chetna Samvaerden Samiti	990524
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Disha-Centre for Special Education	504609
Rajasthan	Bharatpur	Mahila Bal Vikas Gramodhyog Shiksha Samiti	679320
Rajasthan	Alwar	Navdeep Vikas Samiti	268763
Rajasthan	Hanumangarh	Saur Chetna Evam Urja Vigyan Shodh Sansthan	647343
Rajasthan	Bhilwara	Sona Vikang Punarwas Avam Shodh Sansthan	311176
Rajasthan	Sriganganagar	Tapovan Manovikas Vidyalaya	478260
Tamil Nadu	Erode	Action for Water and Rural Development	606249
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	All India Physically Handicapped Welfare Trust	264330
Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirapalli	Arivalayam	1306108
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Carmel Centre for Mentally Retarded	921150
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Dr. Dattu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust	921773
Tamil Nadu	Kanyakumari	Harmony Home	352350
Tamil Nadu	Tanjavur	Indian Society for the Handicapped	386865
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Karunai Villa Trust for Mentally Handicapped	1009368
Tamil Nadu	Erode	Knogu Arivalayam School for Mentally Retarded	827280
Tamil Nadu	Madurai	M.S Chellamuthu Trust & Research Foundation	2311320
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Madhuram Narayan Centre for Exceptional Children	1738796
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Navajyothi Trust	10901
Tamil Nadu	Madurai	St. Paul Society for the Mentally Disabled	570555
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	The Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu	853108
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Vidya Sagar	1871730
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Vidya Sagar	640548

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Cidya Vikasini Opportunity School	385020
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Vijay Human Services	1475712
Tripura	West Tripura	Tripura State Council for Child Welfare	458595
Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	Anand Charitable Society	514530
Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	Anand Training Charitable Society	1004760
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Chetna	639675
Uttar Pradesh	Agra	Handicapped Development Council	922230
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Nirvan	188955
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	The Spastic Centre Kanpur	40960
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	UP Parents Assn. for Welfare of Mentally Handicapped Citizens	616263
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	Vikang Kendra (Rotary Sponsored Crippled Youth & Welfare Society)	1034855
Uttaranchal	Deharadun	Jyoti School for Handicapped (Shri Bharat Mandir School Society)	952273
Uttaranchal	Dehradun	Raphaol	1379516
West Bengal	Kolkata	Alakendu Bodh Niketan Residential	524340
West Bengal	Kolkata	Bikashayan	1480788
West Bengal	24 Parganas (North)	Chittaranjan Smriti Pratibandhi Seva Kendra	116775
West Bengal	Kolkata	Greenfields	214265
West Bengal	Kolkata	Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy	388638
West Bengal	Kolkata	Jatiya Jaradhi Sansad	278080
West Bengal	Kolkata	Manovikas Kendra	4783303
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mentaid	832305
West Bengal	Kolkata	Prabartak Institute for Epilepsy & Cerebral Palsy	334961
West Bengal	Hooghly	Pratibandhi Kalyan Kendra	2327069
West Bengal	Purulia	Purulia Manovikas Kendra	713480

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	Midnapur	Sevayatan Kalyan Kendra	811719
West Bengal	Hooghly	Shelter	1035585
West Bengal	Burdwan	Society for Mental Health Care	1426950
West Bengal	Coch Behar	Spastic Society of Cooch Behar	329490
West Bengal	Hooghly	Srirampur Child Guidance Centre	983049
West Bengal	Howrah	Yuba Unnayan Seba Samity	567450

Details of NGOs Grant released under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme during the year 2004-05

State	District	Organisation Name	Released
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Aathmeeya Manasika Vikasa Kendram	1151010
Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Adi Andhra Educational Society	491823
Andhra Pradesh	Nizamabad	Andhra Pradesh State Forum for Economically Weaker Section	222210
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	ANURAAG	768132
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Arun Special Centre	1350351
Andhra Pradesh	Nalgonda	Asha Jyothi Welfare Association for the Disabled	547695
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	Backward Area Rural Development Society	996840
Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Chaitanya Institute for the Learning Disabled	741186
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Durgabai Desmukh Vocational Training & Rehab. Centre (Andhra Mahila Sabha), Hyderabad	1480634
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Hellen Kellers' School for Deaf & Mentally Retarded Children	2049232
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	Indian Red Cross Society (Nellore)	476577
Andhra Pradesh	West Godavari	J & J Karunodaya Institute for MR	1017680
Andhra Pradesh	West Godavari	Kalyani Rural Rehabilitation and Educational Society	679428
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	KIRANAM	953509
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Lakshya Sadhana	669447
Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	Lebenshilfe	4331160

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Manasika Vikas Kendram	592623
Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Manasika Vikas Kendram	1950228
Andhra Pradesh	Warangal	Manochetana	220793
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	New Don Bosco Educational Society	953748
Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	PAMENCAP (Godavarikhani)	802197
Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	PAMENCAP (Karimnagar)	1053999
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	PAMENCAP (Secunderabad)	1097811
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	PAMENCAP (Secunderabad)	280134
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Parents Association of AG's Office Employees	680850
Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	Pavani Institute for Multiple Handicapped & Spastics	750312
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Pawmencap (Hyderabad)	1161855
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	People's Action for Social Service	1139400
Andhra Pradesh	Nellore	Pragathi Charities	1254060
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Radha Institute for Mentally Retarded Children	600705
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Rastriya Seva Samithi	582356
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Rastriya Seva Samithi	2622059
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Rastriya Seva Samithi	1046520
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Rural Association for Developmental Awareness and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped	590463
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Sai Seva Sangh	836377
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Satya Integated Rural Education and Economic Development Society	525825
Andhra Pradesh	Khammam	Seva Sadanam	741455
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Shanthiniketan	1417073
Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari	Sri Institute for Mentally Handicapped	1764126
Andhra Pradesh	Krishna	Smt. Mera Ramamma Memorial Trust	1711863
Andhra Pradesh	Nizamabad	Sneha Society for Rural Rconstruction	1444914
Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	Sri Dakshinya Bhava Samithi	2314827
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Sri Sai Educational Society	784836
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	St. Ann's Manovikas Kendra	1151775
Andhra Pradesh	Kurnool	St. Ann's Manovikas Kendra	959947

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	Surya Kiran Parants Association for the Welfare of M.H.	2240514
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	Swayamkrushi	273672
Andhra Pradesh	Medak	Swayam Seva Ass. for Parents of Rural Children with	343836
Andhra Pradesh	Secunderbad	Sweekar Rhabilitation Institute for Handicapped	3082187
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehab. for MH	5428397
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehab. For MH	3655773
Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	The Karimnagar District Freedom Fighters' Trust	1289308
Andhra Pradesh	Rangareddy	The Rural Educational and Development Trust	734130
Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari	Uma Educational and Technical Society (Kakinda)	2995560
Andhra Pradesh	Prakasam	Uma Manovikasa Kendram (Ongole)	694431
Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	Women and Child Welfare Centre	2871099
Bihar	Gaya	Alhanksha Institute for Mentally Handicapped	389360
Bihar	Patna	Akshil Bhartiya Gramin Vikash Avam Seva Mandal	647460
Bihar	Patna	Ayurvedic & Megnetotherapy Research Institute (AMRI)	544860
Bihar	Patna	Bihar Institute of Speech & Hearing Research Centre	696420
Bihar	Arrah	Foundation for Integral Human Advancement	509148
Bihar	Patna	JM Institute of Speech & Hearing	1749888
Bihar	Vaishali	Janta Samaj Kalyan Sansthan	371250
Bihar	Samastipur	Nutan Vikas Vihar	92070
Bihar	Patna	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Institute	1190430
Chhatisgarh	Korba	ANKUR	555930
Delhi	Delhi	AAROH	288777
Delhi	Delhi	Anchal Charitable Trust	601488
Delhi	Delhi	Association for National Brotherhood for Social Welfare	1195686
Delhi	Delhi	Balvantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan Anguridevi Shersingh Memorial Academy	457740
Delhi	Delhi	Parents Association for the Welfare of Children with Mental Handicap	437258
Delhi	Delhi	Society for Child Development	700138
Delhi	Delhi	Special Olympics Bharat	1372000

1	2	3	4
Delhi	Delhi	Tamana	874575
Gujarat	Dahod	Blind Welfare Council	16905
Gujarat	Vadodara	Medical Care Centre	554723
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	SOPAN	117450
Gujarat	Vadodara	The Baniyan City Jaycee Education Trust	173436
Haryana	Jind	Amar Jyoti Foundation	108225
Haryana	Sirsa	District Council for Child Welfare	251655
Haryana	Ballabhgarh	Educational cum Vocational Association for the Disabled	488025
Haryana	Sonepat	Hari Das Shiksha Samiti	180270
Haryana	Hisar	Indian Red Cross Society (Hisar)	483441
Haryana	Rohtak	Indian Red Cross Society (Rohtak)	295684
Haryana	Rohtak	Indian Red Cross Society (Rohtak)	2508478
Haryana	Gurgaon	Khushboo Welfare Society National Association for the Integration and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped	597564
Haryana	Hisar	Royal Foundation fo India	104940
Haryana	Gurgaon	Sabhavana Charitable Trust (Regd.)	580680
Haryana	Kamal	Tapan Rehabilitation Society	1488162
Haryana	Yamunanagar	Utthan Institute of Development & Studies	762269
Himachal Pradesh	Sirmaur	Aastha Welfare Society	303912
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	Rotary Innerwheel Home for the Mentally Retarded Children	528686
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Deepshika Institute for Child Development and Mental Health	735858
Karnataka	Devengere	Angavikara Ashakiran Trust	2344813
Karnataka	Koppal	Association for the Rehabilition of the Disabled	1026108
Karnataka	Gadag	Bepuji Vidya Samasthe	1044729
Karnataka	Bidar	Chywan Ayurvedic Education Society	837340
Karnataka	Bangalore	Krishna Trust	279581
Karnataka	Koppal	Lion's Charitable Trust	319484
Karnataka	Turnkur	M.G. Education Society	46080
Karnataka	Gulberga	Maadevi Tai Mahila Vidya Vardak Sangh	963090

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	Udupi	Manasa Rehabilitation and Training Centre for MR Children	909891
Karnataka	Gadag	Manju Education Society	883112
Karnataka	Bangalore	Sarvodaya Services Society	845748
Karnataka	Bijapur	Shama Jyoti Vidya Samaste	917586
Karnataka	Belgaum	Shri Doodana Vikas Shikshan Samaste	693290
Karnataka	Belgaum	Shri Renuka (Yallama) Vidya Vardhak Sangh	1439694
Karnataka	Bangalore	Shri Vadiraja Trust	258093
Karnataka	Kolar	Shri Vadiraja Trust	263952
Karnataka	Bagalkot	Shri Yalagureshwar Vidya Vardhak Sangha	50103
Karnataka	Mangalore	St. Agnes Teacher Training Institute for Special Education	90192
Karnataka	Bangalore	The Association for Mentally Handicapped	444654
Karnataka	Bellary	Vishwa Bharathi Kalanikethan & Education Society	368280
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	All Kerala Association for Mentally Retarded Children	588463
Kerala	Emakulam	Alphons Social Centre	422930
Kerala	Emakulam	Alphons Social Centre	287134
Kerala	Kozhikode (Calicut)	Ashakiran Association for Mentally Retarded Persons	959130
Kerala	Kottayam	Ashnilayam	891961
Kerala	Kottayam	Ashanilayam Social Service Centre	80437
Kerala	Kozhikode (Calicut)	Association for Welfare of the Handicapped	52875
Kerala	Kozhikode (Calicut)	Association for Welfare of the Handicapped	1275921
Kerala	Trichur	Bala Sahaya Samiti	317682
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	Bethania Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Women	538995
Kerala	Kozhikode (Calicut)	Calicut Islamic Cultural Society	569160
Kerala	Idukki	Carmel Jyothi Charitable Society	767484
Kerala	Emakulam	Charitable Society for Welfare of Disabled	915741
Kerala	Emakulam	Chavara Special School for the Mentally Retarded	628839
Kerala	Kottayam	Deepthi Centre	740619
Kerala	Palakkad	Directorate of Social Action	192879

1	2	3	4
Kerala	Emakulam	Emakulam Women's Association	171558
Kerala	Emakulam	Faith India	250830
Kerala	Emakulam	Faith India	839281
Kerala	Eranakulam	Janey Centre	662201
Kerala	Kannur	Jaycee Society for Rehabilitation of the Handicapped	821767
Kerala	Allapuzha	K. Velayudhan Memorial Trust	723409
Kerala	Kollam	Karuna Charitable Society	412101
Kerala	Trichur	Madonna	627682
Kerala	Palakkad	Marian Service Society	1021725
Kerala	Wayanad	Mercy Home Charitable Society	388215
Kerala	Trichur	Padma Educational & Charitable Establishment	282263
Kerala	Trichur	Pope John Paul Peace Home	1488557
Kerala	Idukki	Prateeksha Bhawan School for Mentally Retarded Children	1224369
Kerala	Trichur	Prateeksha Charitable Society	1361182
Kerala	Emakulam	Raksha	866649
Kerala	Trichur	Reach-Society for Remedial Education Assessment Counselling Handicapped	959580
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	Rotary Institute for Children in Need of Special Care	1965240
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	Sanathan Adwaita Ashram	397422
Kerala	Kottayam	Sanjose Welfare Centre	1012252
Kerala	Kottayam	Santhinilayam for Handicapped Children	1012358
Kerala	Emakulam	Santimargam Social Welfare Service Society	628560
Kerala	Kottayam	Seva Niketan	335295
Kerala	Emakulam	Shilpa Society for the Mentally Handicapped	621855
Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram	Shri P.R.S. Pillay Memorial Bala Vikas Trust	287553
Kerala	Emakulam	Sneha Sadan Complex	855666
Kerala	Trichur	Snehabavan Society	120492
Kerala	Emakulam	Snehanilayam Special School (Managed by Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society)	342380
Kerala	Emakulam	Snehanilayam Special School (Managed by Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society)	615382

1	2	3	4
Kerala	Trichur	Sneharam Charitable Society	716191
Kerala	Trichur	Social Welfare Centre	2090835
Kerala	Trichur	Social Welfare Centre	1659429
Kerala	Trichur	Social Welfare Centre	1131471
Kerala	Kannur	Society for Rehabilitation of Mentally Defficient Children	314977
Kerala	Kannur	Society of Daughters of St. Camillus	784305
Kerala	Allapuzha	St. Joseph's Social Centre	411840
Kerala	Kannur	Vikas Social Service Society	1052235
Kerala	Ernakulam	Vimala Mahila Samajam	1609065
Kerala	Kottayam	Women's Welfare Centre	520740
Kerala	Kollam	Young Women's Christian Association	231303
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	Deaf Dumb Association Indore M.P.	109980
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Digdarsika Institute of Rehabilitation Research	445833
Madhya Pradesh	Satna	Durga Siksha Sadan	387200
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Justice Tankha Memorial Rotary Institute for Spastic and Handicapped Children	746415
Madhya Pradesh	Morena	Kranti Kala Sangam	533940
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	M.P. Viklang Sahayata Samiti (Navjyoti Special School, Shajapur Distt.)	48690
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh Viklang Sahayata Samiti	812929
Madhya Pradesh	Dewas	Malwa Council for Social work	48150
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	Prem Sagar Special School	449631
Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	Ramakrishna Ashrama	454040
Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Seema Silayee Kachayee Prashikshan Kendra	409037
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shiv Kalyan Evam Shikshan Samiti	529704
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	Shri Shri Utkarsh Samiti	192600
Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Viklang Seva Bharti	632097
Maharashtra	Bhandara	Parivartan Sikshan Sanstha	889650
Maharashtra	Pune	Savali	469854
Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	Swami Vivekanand Dhyan Prasarak Mandal	596858

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	Swami Vivekanand Dhyan Prasarak Mandal	568957
Manipur	Imphal	All Manipur Mentally Handicapped Persons Welfare Organisation	826776
Manipur	Imphal	All Manipur Mentally Handicapped Persons Welfare Organisation	334170
Manipur	Imphal (Zone II)	Centre for Mental Hygiene	482175
Manipur	Imphal (Zone II)	Centre for Mental Hygiene	412580
Meghalaya	Shillong	Dwar Jinkrymen School for Children in Need of Special Education	713556
Mizoram	Aizawl	Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic Children	1335060
Orissa	Koraput	ALOK	463995
Orissa	Sonepur	District Handicapped Welfare School	248240
Orissa	Nuapada	District Red Cross Society	155970
Orissa	Cuttack	Indian Red Cross Society	278925
Orissa	Cuttack	Indian Red Cross Society	348071
Orissa	Kalahandi	Jewels International	758540
Orissa	Dhenkanal	Jibanjyoti Welfare Association for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped	1168686
Orissa	Khurda	National Institute of Tribal Welfare and Social Action	366779
Orissa	Puri	Nilachal Seva Prathisthan	733635
Orissa	Bhubaneswar	Open Learning Systems	564899
Orissa	Bhubaneswar	Open Learning Systems	572670
Orissa	Bhubaneswar	Sisusakha Sangha	323014
Orissa	Nayagarh	Society for Environmental Development and Voluntary Action (SEVA)	1483488
Orissa	Kurda	Union for Learning, Training and Reformative Activities	883440
Punjab	Rupnagar	Ambuja Cement Foundation	539800
Punjab	Hoshiarpur	Asha Deep Welfare Society	447574
Punjab	Faridkot	Indian Red Cross Society (Faridkot)	367816
Punjab	Jalandhar	Indian Red Cross Society, Prayas	739954
Punjab	Patiala	Navjivini School of Special Education	1150038

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Disha-Centre for Special Education	508932
Rajasthan	Tonk	Manav Dharam Viklang Seva Sansthan	143982
Rajasthan	Alwar	Navdeep Vikas Samiti	1061234
Rajasthan	Hanumangarh	Saur Chetna Evan Urja Vigyan Shodh Sansthan	713736
Rajasthan	Bhilwara	Sona Viklang Punarwas Avam Shodh Sansthan	986765
Rajasthan	Sriganganagar	Tapovan Manovikas Vidyalaya	563346
Tamil Nadu	Erode	Action for Water and Rural Development	638334
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	All India Physically Handicapped Welfare Trust	132165
Tamil Nadu	Tiruchirappalli	Arivalayam	1277094
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Carmel Centre for Mentally Retarded	817200
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Dr. Dattu Rao Memorial Charitable Trust	1110400
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Karunai Villa Trust for Mentally Handicapped	1261243
Tamil Nadu	Erode	Kongu Arivalayam School for Mentally Retarded	1020780
Tamil Nadu	Madurai	M.S Cellamuthu Trust & Research Foundation	231120
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Madhuram Narayan Centre for Exceptional Children	1874477
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Navajyothi Trust	213106
Tamil Nadu	Cuddalore	Oasis Trust for the Handicapped	39752
Tamil Nadu	Kancheepuram	Paligaram Udayam, Udayam Rehabilitation Centre	11880
Tamil Nadu	Nilgiri	Shanthi Neethi Kendra	26617
Tamil Nadu	Madurai	St. Paul Society for the Mentally Disabled	651672
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	The Spastic Society of Tamilnadu	893783
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Vidya Sagar	1547873
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Vidya Sagar	448822
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	Vidya Vikasini Opportunity School	415280
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Vijay Human Services	1515798
Tripura	West Tripura	Tripura State Council for Child Welfare	447480
Uttar Pradesh	Pilibhit	Adarsh Viklang Kalyan Samiti	112050
Uttar Pradesh	Etawah	Adunic Vidya Mandir Avam Junior High School Samiti	97155
Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	Anand Training Charitable Society	1111050

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	Fatehpur	Bhavana Institute for the Defriendly Disabled	144360
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Chetna	1318039
Uttar Pradesh	Agra	Handicapped Development Council	982728
Uttar Pradesh	Chandouli	Jan Swasthya Avam Shiksha Kalyan Sanstha	139140
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Nirvan	517284
Uttar Pradesh	Banda	Rama School for Blind Evam Physically Handicapped Children	87840
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	UP Parents Assn. for Welfare of Mentally Handicapped Citizens	643912
Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad	Viklang Kendra (Rotary Sponsored Crippled Youth & Welfare Society)	1108671
Uttaranchal	Dehradun	Jyoti School for Handicapped (Shri Bharat Mandir School Society)	697545
Uttaranchal	Dehradun	Raphael	654039
West Bengal	Kolkata	Alakendu Bodh Niketan Residential	966780
West Bengal	Kolkata	Bikashayan	1294866
West Bengal	24 Parganas (North)	Chittaranjan Smriti of Pratibandhi Seva Kendra	657802
West Bengal	Kolkata	Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy	240943
West Bengal	Kolkata	Manovikas Kendra	2251764
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mentaid	450468
West Bengal	Darjeeling	North Bengal Handicapped Rehabilitation Society	1714539
West Bengal	Hooghly	Pratibandhi Kalyan Kendra	1093123
West Bengal	Purulia	Purulia Manovikas Kendra	417614
West Bengal	Midnapur	Sevayatan Kalyan Kendra	1039365
West Bengal	Hooghly	Shelter	500323
West Bengal	Burdwan	Society for Mental Health Care	1091655
West Bengal	Cooch Behar	Spastic Society of Cooch Behar	812025
West Bengal	Hooghly	Srirampur Child Guidance Centre	493263
Total			214655999

*Details of NGOs grant released under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme during the year
2005-06 for Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retarded Persons*

State	Name of Organisation	District name	Sum of Released
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Aathmeeya Manasika Vikasa Kendram	Rangareddy	1093213
Andhra Pradesh	Adi Andhra Educational Society	Krishna	675792
Andhra Pradesh	Al-Shifa Minority institutions for Mentally Retarded & Old Aged	Cuddapah	498748
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh State Forum for Economically Weaker Section	Nizamabad	798732
Andhra Pradesh	ANURAAG	Rangareddy	710451
Andhra Pradesh	Arun Special Centre	Rangareddy	1405944
Andhra Pradesh	Asha Jyothi Welfare Association for the Disabled	Nalgonda	669041
Andhra Pradesh	Association for Welfare & Comprehensive Rural Development (Arunodaya Manvikasa Kendram)	West Godavari	1276362
Andhra Pradesh	Backward Area Rural Development Society	Kumool	1041435
Andhra Pradesh	Care Land	Kumool	1564047
Andhra Pradesh	Chaitanya Institute for the Learning Disabled	Vizianagaram	958727
Andhra Pradesh	Chaitanya Manovikas Rehabilitation Centre	Prakasam	59130
Andhra Pradesh	Durgabai Desmukh Vocational Training & Rehab. Centre (Andhra Mahila Sabha), Hyderabad	Rangareddy	1626255
Andhra Pradesh	Eco Club Brama Institute for the Mentally Handicapped	Mahaboobnagar	479979
Andhra Pradesh	Hellen Kellers' School for Deaf & Mentally Retarded Children	Rangareddy	705582
Andhra Pradesh	Indian Red Cross Society (Nellore)	Nellore	565956
Andhra Pradesh	J & J Karunodaya Institution and Educational Society	West Godavari	710181
Andhra Pradesh	Kalyani Rural Rehabilitation and Educational Society	West Godavari	710181
Andhra Pradesh	Kiranam	Rangareddy	1122948
Andhra Pradesh	Lakshya Sadhana	Rangareddy	760131
Andhra Pradesh	Lebenshilfe	Vishakhapatnam	4300650
Andhra Pradesh	Leema Deaf and Mentally Handicapped Welfare Association	Guntur	418070
Andhra Pradesh	Manasika Vikas Kendram	Krishna	726579
Andhra Pradesh	Manasika Vikas Kendram	Krishna	1914516

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Manochetana	Warangal	1163371
Andhra Pradesh	New Don Bosco Educational Society	Rangareddy	987886
Andhra Pradesh	Nirman Association for the Mentally Handicapped	Rangareddy	120969
Andhra Pradesh	PAMENCAP (Godavari Khani)	Karimnagar	1044108
Andhra Pradesh	PAMENCAP (Karimanagar)	Karimnagar	1094136
Andhra Pradesh	PAMENCAP (Secundrabad)	Rangareddy	1015317
Andhra Pradesh	PAMENCAP (Secunderabad)	Rangareddy	479448
Andhra Pradesh	Parents Association of AG's Office Employees	Rangareddy	494190
Andhra Pradesh	Pavani Institute for Multiple Handicapped & Spastics	Vishakhapatnam	375156
Andhra Pradesh	Pawmencap (Hyderabad)	Rangareddy	1428021
Andhra Pradesh	People's Action for Social Service	Chittoor	1406106
Andhra Pradesh	Pragathi Charities	Nellore	1269270
Andhra Pradesh	Radha Institute for Mentally Retarded Children	Rangareddy	602955
Andhra Pradesh	Rastriya Seva Samithi	Chittoor	2875617
Andhra Pradesh	Rastriya Seva Samithi	Chittoor	568566
Andhra Pradesh	Rastriya Seva Samithi	Chittoor	595260
Andhra Pradesh	Rastriya Seva Samithi	Chittoor	1033344
Andhra Pradesh	Rural Association for Developmental Awareness and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped	Hyderabad	671382
Andhra Pradesh	Rural India Medical & Relief Society	Chittoor	281065
Andhra Pradesh	Sabita Educational Society	Prasant Nagar, Sangareddy, Medak	28703
Andhra Pradesh	Sadhana Society for Mentally Handicapped	Rangareddy	781803
Andhra Pradesh	Sadhana Society for Mentally Handicapped	Rangareddy	1358352
Andhra Pradesh	Sai Seva Sangh	Hyderabad	969627
Andhra Pradesh	Satya Integatd Rural Education and Economic Development Society	Chittoor	790065
Andhra Pradesh	Seva Sadanam	Khammam	720945
Andhra Pradesh	Shanthiniketan	Hyderabad	1475689
Andhra Pradesh	Sharda Health and Social Services	Rangareddy	227336
Andhra Pradesh	Siri Institute for Mentally Handicapped	East Godavari	1840653

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Smt. Merla Ramamma Memorial Trust	Krishna	1083447
Andhra Pradesh	Sneha Society for Rural Reconstruction	Nizamabad	1415655
Andhra Pradesh	Sri Dakshinya Bhava Samithi	Guntur	2321199
Andhra Pradesh	Sri Sai Educational Society	Rangareddy	833436
Andhra Pradesh	St. Ann's Manvikas Kendra	Kurnool	1020758
Andhra Pradesh	Surya Kiran Parents Association for the Welfare of M.H.	Guntur	659304
Andhra Pradesh	Surya Kiran Parents Association for the Welfare of M.H.	Guntur	974196
Andhra Pradesh	Swayamkrushi	Rangareddy	963600
Andhra Pradesh	Sweekar Rehabilitation Institute for Handicapped	Secunderabad	1531094
Andhra Pradesh	Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehab. for MH	Hyderabad	440505
Andhra Pradesh	Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehab. for MH	Hyderabad	2695874
Andhra Pradesh	Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehab. for MH	Hyderabad	2074892
Andhra Pradesh	Thakur Hari Prasad Institute of Research and Rehab. for MH	Haderabad	383442
Andhra Pradesh	The Karimnagar District Freedom Fighters Trust	Karimnagar	1298520
Andhra Pradesh	The Rural Education and Development Trust	Rangareddy	825156
Andhra Pradesh	Uma Educational and Technical Society (Uma Manovikasa Kendram), (Kakinda)	East Godavari	2316114
Andhra Pradesh	Uma Manovikasa Kendram (Ongole)	Prakasam	1412352
Andhra Pradesh	Velugu	Chittoor	734184
Andhra Pradesh	Women and Child Wefare Centre	Vizianagaram	2600964
Assam	Ashadeep	Guwahati	511020
Assam	Ashadeep	Guwahati	67140
Assam	Guwahati Mental Wefare Society	Guwahati	487080
Assam	Prerona Spastic Society of Jorhat	Jorhat	460315
Assam	Sahayika	Guwahati	134190
Bihar	Aakanksha Institute for Mentally Handicapped	Gaya	430200
Bihar	Akhil Bhartiya Gramin Vikas Avam Seva Mandal	Patna	620235

1	2	3	4
Bihar	Ayurvedic & Megnetotherapy Research Institute (AMRI) Patna		494100
Bihar	Bihar Institute of Speech & Hearing Research Centre Patna		716220
Bihar	Bihar Rehabilitation & Welfare Institute	Patna	52580
Bihar	Foundation for Integral Human Advancement	Arrah	510588
Bihar	Indian Institute of Rural Reconstruction and Social Change	Jehanabad	3157947
Bihar	J.M. Institute of Speech & Hearing	Patna	1341558
Bihar	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Institute	Patna	1298250
Bihar	Yoga Nature Care & Health Care Foundation of India	Patna	175000
Chhatisgarh	Aakanksha Lions School for Mentally Handicapped	Raipur	798150
Chhatisgarh	Ankur	Korba	623781
Delhi	AAROH	Delhi	889956
Delhi	Anchal Charitable Trust	Delhi	262944
Delhi	Asha Viklang Education & Rehabilitation Centre	Delhi	201420
Delhi	Association for National Brotherhood for Social Welfare	Delhi	1335969
Delhi	Balvantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan Anguridavi Shersingh Memorial Academy	Delhi	596287
Delhi	Parents Association for the Welfare of Children with Mental handicap	Delhi	400122
Delhi	Society for Child Development	Delhi	348590
Delhi	Tamana	Delhi	2151270
Gujarat	Blind Welfare Council	Dahod	417600
Gujarat	Khodia Education Trust	Mehsana	139176
Gujarat	Medical Care Centre	Vadodara	593169
Gujarat	Nav Shakti Vidyalaya	Rajkot	35486
Gujarat	Rajkot Diocese Trust (Nav Shakti Vidyalaya)	Rajkot	594109
Gujarat	Shri Arbuda Adarsh Trust	Gandhinagar	631012
Gujarat	SOPAN	Ahmedabad	276300
Gujarat	The Baniyan City Jaycee Education Trust	Vadodara	143640
Gujarat	The Society for the Mentally Retarded	Rajkot	463894

1	2	3	4
Haryana	District Council for Child Welfare	Sirsa	193249
Haryana	Educational cum Vocational Association for the Disabled	Balabhagarh	244013
Haryana	Indian Red Cross Society (Hissar)	Hissar	395329
Haryana	Indian Red Cross Society (Rohtak)	Rohtak	73297
Haryana	Indian Rd Cross Society (Rohtak)	Rohtak	1628878
Haryana	Indian Red Cross Society (Rothak)	Rohtak	172638
Haryana	Khushboo Welfare Society	Gurgaon	197981
Haryana	Nalanda Shiksha Samiti	Sonepat	65790
Haryana	National Association for the Integration and Rehabilitation of the Handicapped	Faridabad	720621
Haryana	Sadbhavana Charitable Trust (Regd.)	Gurgaon	290340
Haryana	Sadbhawana Samiti	Rewari	80991
Haryana	Suryodya Education Society	Rewari	184140
Haryana	Tapan Rehabilitation Society	Karnal	1673351
Haryana	Utthan Institute of Development & Studies	Yamunanagar	181620
Himachal Pradesh	Aastha Welfare Society	Sirmaur	401328
Jammu & Kashmir	Rotary Innerwheel Home for the Mentally Retarded Children	Jammu	174272
Karnataka	Angaviklara Ashakiran Trust	Devengere	2671263
Karnataka	Apostolic Carmel Education	Mangalore	505859
Karnataka	Association for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled	Koppal	1148229
Karnataka	Bapuji Vidya Samasthe	Gadag	1183622
Karnataka	Chywan Ayurvedic Education Society	Bidar	721955
Karnataka	Divya Jyoti Education Society	Haveri	379957
Karnataka	Divya Shanthi Christian Association	Bangalore	216225
Karnataka	Karnataka Parents Association for Mentally Retarded Citizens	Bangalore	146700
Karnataka	Krishna Trust	Bangalore	645232
Karnataka	Lion's Charitable Trust	Koppal	401049

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	M.G. Education Society	Tumkur	492930
Karnataka	Mahadvi Tei Mahila Vidya Vardhak Sangh	Gulbarga	771791
Karnataka	Manasa Rehabilitation and Training Centre for MR Children	Udupi	1003716
Karnataka	Manju Education Society	Gadag	1033767
Karnataka	Sarvodaya Service Society	Bangalore	875070
Karnataka	Sharna Jyoti Vidya Samaste	Bijapur	478740
Karnataka	Shri Ambigar Cowdaiah Education Society	Bangalore	805248
Karnataka	Shri Doodana Vikas Shikshan Samaste	Belgaum	822023
Karnataka	Shri Renuka (Yallama) Vidya Vardhak Sangh	Belgaum	1530099
Karnataka	Shri Vadiraja Trust	Bangalore	578077
Karnataka	Shri Yalagureshwar Vidya Vardhak Sangha	Bangalore	569169
Karnataka	The Association for Mentally Handicapped	Bangalore	403929
Karnataka	The Nandadeepa Education & Rehabilitation Society for Disabled	Kolar	84060
Kerala	Abhaya	Thiruvanthapuram	216941
Kerala	Alphons Social Center	Emakulam	858564
Kerala	Ashakiran Association for Mentally Retarded Persons	Kozhikode (Calicut)	479565
Kerala	Ashanilayam	Kottayam	931131
Kerala	Ashanilayam Social Service Centre	Kottayam	1005493
Kerala	Association for Welfare of the Handicapped	Kozikode (Calicut)	1118277
Kerala	Bala Sahaya Samiti	Trichur	162740
Kerala	Belinana Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Women	Tiruvananthapuram	135766
Kerala	Calicut Islamic Cultural Society	Kozhikode (Calicut)	673105
Kerala	Carmel Jyothi Charitable Society	Idukki	782469
Kerala	Charitable Society for Welfare of Disabled	Emakulam	985770
Kerala	Chavara Special School for the Mentally Retarded	Emakulam	777618
Kerala	Deepthi Center	Kottayam	763785
Kerala	Directorate of Social Action	Palakkad	308232
Kerala	Emmaus Villa	Wayanad	577170
Kerala	Emakulam Women's Association	Emakulam	85779
Kerala	Janey Centre	Emakulam	725273

1	2	3	4
Kerala	Jaycee Society for Rehabilitation of the Handicapped	Kannur	839241
Kerala	K. Velayudhan Memorial Trust	Alapuzha	361704
Kerala	Karuna Charitable Society	Kollam	664146
Kerala	Madonna	Trichur	860355
Kerala	Manovikash	Kollam	389880
Kerala	Marian Service Society	Palakkad	1178343
Kerala	Mercy Home Charitable Society	Wayanad	446195
Kerala	Padma Educational & Charitable Establishment	Trichur	496366
Kerala	Pope John Paul Peace Home	Trichur	734278
Kerala	Prateeksha Bhawan School for Mentally Retarded Children	Idukki	1273500
Kerala	Prateeksha Charitable Society	Trichur	1531638
Kerala	Raksha	Emakulam	927999
Kerala	Reach-Society for Remedial Education Assessment Counselling Handicapped	Trichur	1097451
Kerala	Rotary Institute for Children in Need of Special Care	Thiruvananthapuram	2093940
Kerala	Sanjose Welfare Centre	Kottayam	506126
Kerala	Sanihinilayam for Handicapped Children	Kottayam	1060041
Kerala	Santimargam Social Welfare Service Society	Emakulam	683952
Kerala	Seva Niketan	Kottayam	476865
Kerala	Shipra Society for the Mentally Handicapped	Emakulam	460470
Kerala	Shri P.R.S. Pillay Memorial Bala Vikas Trust	Thiruvananthapuram	841320
Kerala	Sneha Sadan Complex	Emakulam	932262
Kerala	Snohanilayam Special	Trichur	131904
Kerala	Snehanilayam Special School (Managed by Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus society)	Emakulam	890397
Kerala	Snenaram Charitable Society	Trichur	1046556
Kerala	Social Welfare Centre	Trichur	2061877
Kerala	Social Welfare Centre	Trichur	829714

1	2	3	4
Kerala	Social Welfare Centre	Trichur	585735
Kerala	Society for Rehabilitation of Mentally Deficient Children	Kannur	427619
Kerala	Society of Daughters of St. Camillus	Kannur	809577
Kerala	St. Joseph Social Center	Alapuzha	637020
Kerala	St. Joseph Mental Health Care Home	Trichur	4161115
Kerala	Vikas Social Service Society	Kannur	1224909
Kerala	Vimala Mahila Samajam	Emakulam	500760
Kerala	Vimala Mahila Samajam	Emakulam	312480
Kerala	Vimala Mahila Samajam	Emakulam	1954152
Kerala	Women's Welfare Centre	Kottayam	524160
Kerala	Young Women's Christian Association	Kollam	394988
Madhya Pradesh	Digdarshika Institute of Rehabilitation Research	Bhopal	174960
Madhya Pradesh	Durga Shiksha Sadan	Satna	838080
Madhya Pradesh	Justice Tankha Memorial Rotary Institute for Spastic and Handicapped Children	Jabalpur	657702
Madhya Pradesh	Kranti Kala Sangam	Morena	1286244
Madhya Pradesh	M.P. Viklang Sahayata Samiti (Navjyoti Special School, Shajapur Dist.)	Ujjain	308304
Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Viklang Sahayata Samiti	Ujjain	406464
Madhya Pradesh	Prem Sagar Special School	Ujjain	574812
Madhya Pradesh	Ramakrishna Ashrama	Gwalior	488715
Madhya Pradesh	Seoma Silayee Kadhayee Prashikshan Kendra	Mandla	570683
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Shri Utkars Samiti	Indore	483072
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Shri Utkarsh Samiti	Indore	247545
Madhya Pradesh	Viklang Seva Bharti	Jabalpur	710698
Maharashtra	Apang Va Niradhar Bauddeehiya Kalyankari Sanstha	Nagpur	196477
Maharashtra	Bhondekar Sanskrutik Krida va Samajk Sikshan Sanstha	Bhandara	133416

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	Institute of Rural Paediatrics	Pune	198517
Maharashtra	Savali	Pune	512680
Maharashtra	Swami Vivekanand Dhyan Prasarak Mandal	Gadchiroli	1267708
Manipur	All Manipur Mentally Handicapped Persons Welfare Organisation	Imphal	883080
Manipur	All Manipur Mentally Handicapped Persons Welfare Organisation	Imphal	306180
Manipur	Betar Living Conditions & Research Organisation	Thoubal	380862
Manipur	Centre for Mental Hygiene	Imphal (Zone II)	647712
Manipur	Centre for Mental Hygiene	Imphal (Zone II)	523658
Manipur	People Advance in Social Services (PASS)	Churachandpur	374416
Meghalaya	Dwar Jingkrymen School for Children in Need of Special Education	Shillong	682020
Mizoram	Society for Rehabilitation of Spastic Children	Aizawl	1316925
Orissa	ALOK	Koraput	568867
Orissa	District Red Cross Society	Nuapada	570627
Orissa	Indian Red Cross Society	Cuttack	347228
Orissa	Indian Red Cross Society	Cuttack	315848
Orissa	Jewels International	Kalahandi	872154
Orissa	Jibanjyoti Welfare Association for the Mentally and Physically Handicapped	Dhenkanal	1245321
Orissa	National Institute of Tribal Welfare and Social Action	Ratakhandi, Nayagarh	1093806
Orissa	Nilachal Seva Prathisthan	Puri	830790
Orissa	Open Learning Systems	Bhubaneswar	543330
Orissa	Regional Rehabilitation and Research centre	Rourkela	95040
Orissa	Union for Learning, Training and Representative activities	Khurda	441720
Orissa	Utta Kalyan Seva Sangh	Jharsuguda	224001
Punjab	Ambuja Cement Foundation	Rupnagar	222250
Punjab	Asha Deep Welfare Society	Hoshiarpur	540258
Punjab	Indian Red Cross Society	Moga	61650
Punjab	Indian Red Cross Society (Amritsar)	Amritsar	555120
Punjab	Indian Red Cross Society (Faridkot)	Faridkot	251948
Punjab	Indian Red Cross Society, Prayas	Jalandhar	1066446

1	2	3	4
Punjab	Navjivini School of Special Education	Patiala	1327923
Punjab	Social Action Group	Ludhiana	34380
Rajasthan	Karam Manovikas Sansthan	Alwar	642519
Rajasthan	Mahila Bal Vikas Gramodyog Shisha Samiti	Bharatpur	790208
Rajasthan	Manav Dharam Viklang Seva Sansthan	Jhalawar	242600
Rajasthan	Manav Dharam Viklang Seva Sansthan	Tonk	468891
Rajasthan	Navdeep Vikas Samiti	Alwar	794556
Rajasthan	Prayas Prachya Shodh Peet Samiti	Udaipur	284760
Rajasthan	Saur Chetna Evam Urja Vigyan Shodh Sansathan	Hanumangarh	818571
Rajasthan	Seth Ninua Ram Charitable Public Welfare Society	Dholpur	191754
Rajasthan	Society for Welfare of Mentally Handicapped	Jaipur	354793
Rajasthan	Sona Vikalang Punarwas Avam Shodh Sansthan	Bhitwara	807553
Rajasthan	Tapovan Manovikas Vidyalaya	Sriganganagar	651060
Tamil Nadu	Action for Water and Rural Development	Erode	651114
Tamil Nadu	Carmel Centre for Mentally Retarded	Chennai	810740
Tamil Nadu	Dr. Dattu Rao Memorial Charitable	Chennai	1155840
Tamil Nadu	Indian Society for the Handicapped Welfare and Rehabilitation (ISHWAR)	Tanjavur	348840
Tamil Nadu	Kanna Villa Trust for Mentally Handicapped	Chennai	1347336
Tamil Nadu	Kongu Arivalayam School for Mentally Founded	Erode	1232640
Tamil Nadu	M.S. Callamuthu Trust & Research Foundation	Madurai	716040
Tamil Nadu	M.K. Chellamuthu Trust & Research Foundation	Madurai	398520
Tamil Nadu	M.K. Chellamuthu Trust & Research Foundation	Madurai	232920
Tamil Nadu	Madhuram Narayan Centre for Exceptional Children	Chennai	1856936
Tamil Nadu	M.S. Chellamuthu Trust & Research Faralation	Madurai	232920
Tamil Nadu	Mathuram Narayan Centre for Exampletional Children	Chennai	1856936
Tamil Nadu	Navajyothi Trust	Chennai	165014
Tamil Nadu	Oasis Trust for the Handicapped	Cuddalore	645253

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	Paligaram Udayam, Udayam Rehabilitation Centre	Kancpepuram	292320
Tamil Nadu	Sansi Trust	Madurai	607374
Tamil Nadu	Sonstew Rehabilitation Center for the Handicapped	Coimbatore	1192365
Tamil Nadu	St. Paul Society for the Mentally Disabled	Madurai	758844
Tamil Nadu	The Spastic Society of Tamil Nadu	Chennai	532555
Tamil Nadu	Vidya Sagar	Chennai	1030104
Tamil Nadu	Vidya Sagar	Chennai	395928
Tamil Nadu	Vidya Vikasini Opportunity School	Coimbatore	497520
Tamil Nadu	Vijay Human Services	Chennai	1422925
Tripura	Tripura State Council for Child Welfare	West Tripura	223740
Uttar Pradesh	Adarsh Viklang Kalyan Samiti	Pilibhit	406665
Uttar Pradesh	Vidya Mandir Avam Junior High School Samiti	Etawah	603900
Uttar Pradesh	Apradar Social Welfare Minority Society	Ballia	125514
Uttar Pradesh	Anand Training Charitable Society	Ghaziabad	1210394
Uttar Pradesh	Asha Centre, Meerut (Army Welfare Society)	Meerut	81482
Uttar Pradesh	Bhavana Institute for the Differently Disabled Person	Fatehpur	579798
Uttar Pradesh	Chetna	Lucknow	495990
Uttar Pradesh	Dwaba Kalyan Samiti	Allahabad	413910
Uttar Pradesh	Handicapped Development Council	Agra	990900
Uttar Pradesh	Institute of Advance Studies & Research in Rehabilitation	Varanasi	175949
Uttar Pradesh	Jai Ma Kali Lucknow Montessory High School Samiti	Lucknow	384930
Uttar Pradesh	Jan Swasthya Avam Shiksha Kalyan Sanstha	Chandouli	600642
Uttar Pradesh	Laxmi Sarva Viklang Seva Samiti	Gorakhpur	139311
Uttar Pradesh	Manav Kalyan Awam Uthan Samiti	Ghazipur	134550
Uttar Pradesh	Manisha Sewa Sansthan	Lucknow	86850
Uttar Pradesh	Meerut Children Welfare Trust	Meerut	506340
Uttar Pradesh	Nirvan	Lucknow	548919
Uttar Pradesh	Rachana (Branch of Integrated Institute for Disabled)	Jaunpur	112779
Uttar Pradesh	Rama School for the Blind Evam Physically Handicapped Children	Banda	619290
Uttar Pradesh	Samta Vikas Samiti	J.P. Nagar	40140

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	UP Parents Assn for Welfare of Mentally Handicapped Citizens	Lucknow	729306
Uttar Pradesh	Viklang Kendra (Rotary Sponsored Crippled Youth & Welfare Society)	Allahabad	1497267
Uttaranchal	Mangal Deep Vidya Mandir	Almora	269775
Uttaranchal	Rapael	Dehradun	193751
Uttaranchal	Rapael	Dehradun	1002706
Uttaranchal	Shri Bharat Mandir School Society	Dehradun	708813
Uttaranchal	Unersess Research & Development Society	Bageshwer	782253
Uttaranchal	Viklang Mandbudhi Kalyan Samiti	Nainital	333522
West Bengal	Alakendu Bodh Niketan Residential	Kolkata	189900
West Bengal	Alakendu Bodh Niketan Residential	Kolkata	575820
West Bengal	Alakendu Bodh Niketan Residential	Kolkata	353180
West Bengal	Alakendu Bodh Niketan Residential	Kolkata	1282237
West Bengal	Bangal Ashar Alo	Bankura	659115
West Bengal	Bikashayan	Kolkata	1375308
West Bengal	Chittaranjan Smriti Pratibandhi Seva Kendra	24 Pareganas (North)	378153
West Bengal	Indian Institute of Cerabral Palsy	Kolkata	237960
West Bengal	Korak Pratibandhi Kalyan Kendra	Kolkata	700875
West Bengal	Kotwali Saleha Memorial School for Hearing & Mentally Handicapped	Malda	1781793
West Bengal	Manovikas Kendra	Kolkata	139171
West Bengal	Manovikas Kendra	Kolkata	6623897
West Bengal	Mentaid	Kolkata	180666
West Bengal	North Bengal Handicapped Rahabilitation Society	Darjeeling	1028835
West Bengal	Sevayatan Kalyan Kendra	Midnapur	1202589
West Bengal	Shelter	Hooghly	1630512
West Bengal	Society for Mental Health Care	Burdwan	516960
West Bengal	Society for Mental Health Care	Burdwan	1060785
West Bengal	Spastic Society of Cooch Behar	Cooch Behar	280620
West Bengal	Serampur Child Guidance Centre	Hooghly	1320678
West Bengal	West Bengal Council for Child Welfare	Kolkata	1054170

[Translation]

Mobile Tower in Villages

1082. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up GSM/BTS towers in villages to strengthen the communication system as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 23, 2007;

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

(c) whether tenders have been/are being invited from private sector companies for the purpose;

(d) if so, the estimated total number of rural areas in the country where the towers are likely to be set up;

(e) whether such towers are being set up in all the areas;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the work is being done on other schemes for development of mobile services in the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Government is in the process of taking necessary action to provide support for provision of infrastructure for mobile services including Wireless Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile Terminals in rural and remote areas of the country. The infrastructure shall be created in those specified areas where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.

(b) A total of 7,871 towers will be set up in rural and remote areas of the country in 500 districts spread over 27 States. The District-wise, Village-wise location of these towers can be accessed on Department of Telecommunications website (www.dot.gov.in).

(c) Yes, Sir. The tenders have been invited from existing Basic Service Operators (BSO), Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Providers, Unified Access Services Licenses (UASL) and Shortlisted Infrastructure Providers Category — I (IP-I) comprising of both private and public sector operators. Bids have been received.

(d) These towers will be set up in 7,871 villages.

(e) These towers will be installed only in those rural and remote areas of the country where there is no existing Fixed Wireless or mobile coverage.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) No, Sir.

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

Pre-paid Mobile Connections

1083. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of prepaid mobile subscribers of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has increased substantially in the country, specially in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of such mobile connection subscribers State-wise, circle-wise;

(c) whether connections have been provided to all the people applied for such connection; 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) Information about number of pre-paid Mobile connections of BSNL/MTNL as on 31-03-2006 and 31-01-2007 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. MTNL is providing mobile connections on demand. In BSNL, mobile connections are being provided on demand in all Circles except in North East-I, North East-II, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra circles where due to capacity constraint, there is waiting list. BSNL is augmenting its network to clear the waiting list.

Statement
Pre-paid Mobile connections of BSNL/MTNL
As on 31.03.2006 and 31.01.2007

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of Prepaid Mobile Connections as on 31.03.2006	No. of Prepaid Mobile connections as on 31.01.2007
1	2	3	4
BSNL			
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	23626	31555
2.	Bihar	516770	672538
3.	Jharkhand	314483	428372
4.	Orissa	408204	589571
5.	West Bengal (including Sikkim excluding Calcutta Telecom. District)	581614	833387
6.	Calcutta (Telecom District)	378777	515020
7.	North East-I(Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram)	15614	49790
8.	North East-II (Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland)	67357	125395
9.	Assam	96680	183325
10.	Gujarat	693750	787495
11.	Madhya Pradesh	223014	693088
12.	Chhattisgarh	76954	264898
13.	Maharashtra (including Goa excluding Mumbai)	759476	1589679
14.	Haryana	450543	739062
15.	Himachal Pradesh	181631	295555
16.	Punjab	317766	864089
17.	Rajasthan	918519	1499046
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	1437202	2473407
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	585436	757405
20.	Uttaranchal	256027	392741
21.	Jammu and Kashmir	354391	600045
22.	Andhra Pradesh	1027517	1509771
23.	Karnataka	1064170	1412240

1	2	3	4
24.	Kerala	1137039	1500864
25.	Tamil Nadu	1052265	1689365
26.	Chennai (Telecom District)	431833	595675
	BSNL (Total)	13370658	21093378
	MTNL		
1.	Delhi	675360	883644
2.	Mumbai	782102	1025003
	MTNL (Total)	1457462	1908647

*[English]***Fake Drugs**

1084. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
 SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
 SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
 SHRI B. MAHTAB:
 SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
 SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
 SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
 PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to

(a) whether there have been increasing incidents of circulation of substandard and fake drugs in some cities & towns;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether according to survey made by ASSOCHAM, fake drugs worth 4000 crores are sold in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken to stop the circulation of substandard and fake drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There are no reports of increased incident of circulation of substandard and fake drugs in certain cities and towns. A study of the samples of drugs tested all over the country in the last 3 to 4 years reveals that 7 to 8 percent of samples were reported to be not of standard quality and out of this 0.2 to 0.3 percent were found to be spurious.

(c) and (d) Spurious and misbranded drugs are commonly called as fake drugs. ASSOCHAM has published certain facts and figures indicating the quantum of counterfeit, spurious and contraband goods including pharmaceuticals. However authenticity of the claims can not be confirmed.

(e) The major steps taken by the Government to combat the circulation of substandard and spurious drugs are given below:

1. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 is being amended in pursuance of the recommendation of the Expert Committee setup under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General and Secretary CSIR. It is proposed to provide for stricter penalties, provision for special courts for speedy trial of drug related offences, compounding of offences authorizing the police also to file prosecution for drug related offences and making all drug related offences cognizable and non-bailable.

2. Government of India has also launched a 5 year World Bank Aided Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs with a total project cost of Rs. 354.25 crores. Extensive assistance is being provided to State Governments to augment their drug

testing facility by way of equipments, manpower, training and civil works under the project and a strong IEC campaign for the education of the consumers has also been initiated.

3. Schedule-M has been amended to make it at par with International standards and it is mandatory for the manufacturers of drugs to comply with the requirement for quality control of product manufactured by them.

[Translation]

Sale of Goods after their Expiry Date

1085. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) whether imported goods like chocolates, wafers, chips etc. are being sold in different parts of country even after the lapse of their expiry date as reported in *Hindustan* dated January 4, 2007;

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

(c) the action taken against those responsible; and

(d) the preventive measures 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) No such complaint regarding sale of imported food stuffs after lapse of their expiry date has been received in this Ministry.

(c) and (d) The implementation of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder are entrusted with the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. They have been instructed to lift samples of imported food articles sold in the market and take action including prosecution of offenders in the cases where the samples are found to be adulterated/misbranded or violating the labeling provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder.

Further, as a preventive measure, in the Department of Commerce has issued a Notification under Sec. 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act,

1992 that all edible/food products, domestic sale and manufacture of which are governed by Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 shall also be subject to the condition that at the time of importation, the products are having a valid shelf life of not less than 60% of its original shelf life.

[English]

Setting up of New System of Vigilance

1086. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a circular issued on November, 2006, the Central Vigilance Commission had directed the concerned Ministries and Departments dealing with public utility service to improve their vigilance administration through an effective use of web sites;

(b) if so, the details of new system of vigilance administration;

(c) whether no Government Organisation has responded to this circular of CVC;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor,

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the errant organisations which have failed to comply with the directions;

(f) whether any monitoring machinery has been set up to keep track of such things;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commission's guidelines are aimed at ensuring that government organizations, which have interface with the general public provide complete information on their websites regarding the laws, rules and procedures governing the issue of licenses, permissions, clearances etc.

(c) to (h) As it is an ongoing and continuous process, the Commission has advised the Heads of Departments to adopt a proactive approach to ensure regular updation of the information on websites.

Amendment to PFA Act, 1954

1087. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for amendment to the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 so as to make all punishable offences cognizable and non bailable under this Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) The proposal was that all offences punishable under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable.

(c) The proposed Prevention of Food Adulteration (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006 was in contravention to the provisions of Section 20 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Further, since the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has been passed by the Parliament and after its coming into force Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 shall be repealed, therefore, it was suggested by this Ministry that the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2006 may be kept in abeyance.

Mashelkar Committee Report

1088. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received request/representations from generic companies in regard to Mashelkar Committee's recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per information available, there are no generic companies existing in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Shortage of Drugs

1089. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether life savings drugs for persons attacked by dogs, snakes or scorpions are inadequate;

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

(c) whether the Government has any plan to coordinate with the WHO to counter this shortage;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to make such drugs readily available to the affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. No shortage of Anti Rabies Serum (ARV) and Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) required for the treatment of rabies and Ante Snake Venom Serum (ASVS) required for the treatment of snake bites have been reported.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The production capacity of the institutions manufacturing these drugs within India are sufficient to meet the requirement by the States.

(e) The State Governments can obtain the drugs/vaccines by placing advance supply orders with the institutions manufacturing these drugs.

Closure/Merger of Post Offices

1090. SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to close or merge some of the post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms being followed in earmarking such post offices;

(c) whether the staff representatives were consulted in JCM in this regard:

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the number of post offices closed or merged so far in rural and urban areas separately;

(f) whether there is large scale resentment amongst the postal employees due to closure of several post offices in Urban and Rural areas; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Department has no such general policy to close or merge post offices in the country. However, the Department receives requests for opening of new post offices from different quarters. These are examined as per prescribed norms in consonance with 10th Plan Policy Imperatives the justified requests are acceded to by relocation/merger of post offices from those areas where these are no longer justified.

Closure of post offices is sometimes resorted to in unavoidable and rare circumstances e.g. completion of construction work of a dam, dilapidated accommodation, court orders for vacation of building and availability of post offices in close proximity etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. This is not an item of the JCM.

(e) The rural/urban breakup of post offices closed, merged/relocated as on 31.03.2006, is 80 and 527 respectively.

(f) and (g) No, Sir.

Development of Maghdalla Port

1091. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of Maghdalla Port has been approved; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

1092. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has disapproved the proposal of the Ministry of Textiles for extension of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has any alternative scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pension Fund in BSNL/MTNL

1093. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pension fund for employees working in the two undertakings namely the BSNL and the MTNL has not been constituted so far;

(b) if so, the fund from which they are giving pension to their respective retired employees;

(c) the guidelines issued/likely to be issued by the Government for getting a uniform pension policy adopted for the employees of both the corporations; and

(d) the time by which these undertakings are likely to constitute their respective pension funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, no pension fund has been constituted in respect of government employees absorbed in Mahanagar Telepephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) whereas there is no provision for constitution of a pension fund in respect of government employees absorbed in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

(b) As no pension fund has been set up, MTNL is presently paying pension to most of such retired employees from company's own funds. The government is paying pension to those government employees absorbed in MTNL prior to 30.9.2000 who opted to receive prorata pension and also to those retiring after taking absorption in BSNL.

(c) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions' OM No.4/18/87 P&PW (D) dated 5th July 1989 contains the guidelines for the pension to the Government employees absorbed prior to 30.9.2000 in MTNL whereas Rule 37A of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 is applicable for the Government employees absorbed after 30.9.2000 in MTNL/BSNL as notified by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions vide No.4/61/99 P&PW(D) dated 30.9.2000.

(d) The matter is sub-judice and no time limit can be prescribed for constitution of pension fund in the case of MTNL.

[English]

Hiring of Local Indians by Indian Embassies

1094. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Embassies hire local Indians for carrying out various jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of benefits including medical facilities provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) Indian Missions/Posts abroad are manned by personnel posted from India or on transfer from other Indian Missions and by locally recruited staff. Such local staff is recruited on contractual basis under powers delegated to the Head of Mission/Post. They could include Indian nationals or nationals of the country in which the Indian Mission/Post is located or nationals of a third country. The staff so employed locally includes Secretarial/ Clerical Staff, Interpreters cum Translators, Marketing Officers, Chauffeurs, Gardeners, Cleaners etc.

(c) During their employment with the Mission, in addition to the pay, they are entitled to Cost of Living Allowance when the United Nations Cost of Living Index increases by 5%, Daily Allowance at the rates determined by the Ministry, Bonus provided such payment is necessary according to local laws, annual leave, sick leave, extra-ordinary leave, maternity leave in case of female employees. Locally recruited employees are also entitled to terminal gratuity at the prescribed rates on retirement, on superannuation/termination (except on disciplinary grounds) and on resignation on valid grounds, accepted by the Head of Mission/Post. The payment of gratuity is not admissible in cases where Mission/Post is contributing towards a mandatory social security scheme unless specifically sanctioned by the Ministry. The Ministry considers requests for providing medical facilities to the locally recruited employees on case by case basis. They are also entitled to Free return air passage from their respective Missions/Posts to New Delhi and back subject to the condition that the locally recruited employee has completed twenty five years of continuous service with the Indian Mission/Post. Where local laws make it mandatory to provide facilities apart from those mentioned above, such requests are also considered.

E-disha Ekal Seva Kendra

1095. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for establishment of "E-Disha Ekal Seva Kendras" under Common Services Centres (CSCs) scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of SCA (Service Center Agency) in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government has recently approved a Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 broadband, Internet enabled, Common Service Centres (CSCs) in rural areas of the country. These Centres would be opened in the ratio of 1 CSC for every 6 census villages in a State. These Centres would provide a mix of Government and private Services in rural areas. The Scheme is to be implemented in a public private partnership. The full details of the Scheme are available in the CSC guidelines which are accessible at www.mit.gov.in.

(c) The Service Centre Agency is a private entity loosely analogous to a franchiser which would operate, manage and build the VLE network and business. An SCA would be identified to manage the CSC business for one or more districts in a State (one district would cover 100-200 CSCs). The full details of the role of the SCA are available in the CSC guidelines which are accessible at www.mit.gov.in

[Translation]

Four-laning of National Highways

1096. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy rush of traffic on National Highway No. 9 (Pune-Solapur-Hyderabad) and National Highway No. 13 (Pune-Solapur-Bijapur) results in a large number of road accidents;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has any proposal to undertake four-laning of both the National Highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) There are several factors which are responsible for road accidents viz. lack of traffic discipline on the part of drivers and road users, mixed traffic condition, overspeeding, overloading, mechanical defects in vehicles, poor geometries of road etc. and not necessarily the heavy rush of traffic. In order to ease the situation, four laning of National Highways is undertaken in a phased manner on the basis of volume of traffic, inter-se-priority and availability of funds. Details in respect of four laning of National Highway No. 9 (Pune-Solapur-Hyderabad) and National Highway No. 13 (Solapur- Bijapur) are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

National Highway Number	Length (Km)	Already four/six laned	Under Implementation	Proposal for four laning Under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase IIIB	Proposal for four laning under non-NHDP
9.	534	45 Km Comprising 26 Km. in Maharashtra and 19 km. in Andhra Pradesh	31 km in Andhra Pradesh	Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress for 170 km in Pune-Solapur Section.	Bids are invited from consultants for preparation of DPR for 69 km in Andhra Pradesh.
13.	98	—	—	Length of 30 Km from Solapur to Maharashtra/Karnataka border has been identified for preparation of DPR for four laning	—

Issuance of Visa to the POK Leaders

1097. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Mohanlal Ganj): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued visa to the leaders of Pak Occupied Kashmir on the passport showing their nationality as Jammu & Kashmir;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Village Public Telephones

1098. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as against the target of providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in 66,822 uncovered villages under the programme, only 30,251 villages have been provided VPTs as on August 31, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the target of providing VPTs to villages of Assam region has been achieved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country by November, 2007. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested areas. The roll out period for provision of VPTs under this agreement has been prescribed as 20%, 40% and 40% respectively

in a phased manner for a period of 3 years. Out of these, 39,741 villages have already been provided with VPTs by BSNL as on 31st January 2007. The remaining 27,081 villages will be provided VPTs progressively by November 2007.

(c) and (d) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 8,931 unconnected villages in the State of Assam by November 2007. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested areas.

Out of these, 7,882 villages have already been provided with VPTs by BSNL as on 31st January 2007. The remaining 1,049 villages will be provided VPTs progressively by November 2007.

[Translation]

Central Projects

1099. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to wind up certain Central projects being monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, due to slow progress some projects were frozen on account of geo-mining problems, fund constraints, land acquisition problems, changes in strategy and other reasons, after the start of preliminary works. These projects were later taken up for monitoring.

[English]

Border Issues with Neighbouring Countries

1100. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to resolve Indo-China, Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh border disputes;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any further talks have been proposed to be held with these countries in the near future; and

(d) if so, the likely dates fixed for any such bilateral talks with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) India has appropriate mechanisms with Bangladesh, China, and Pakistan to address border-related issues. Details are given below, country-wise:

Bangladesh

The Land Boundary Agreement (LBA), signed between India and Bangladesh in 1974, has been implemented except for three issues pertaining to: (i) demarcation of 6.1 Km. of the border in three sectors, namely: Lathitilla-Dumabari (3 km in Assam sector), South Berubari (1.5 km in West Bengal sector), and Muhuri river/Belonia sector (1.6 km in Tripura sector); (ii) Exchange of adverse possessions; and (ii) Exchange of enclaves.

These issues are discussed in the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Boundary Working Group, which has met thrice so far. The dates for the next meeting will be decided through diplomatic channels

China

In June 2003, India and China each appointed a Special Representative on the boundary question to explore the framework of a boundary settlement, from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. There have been nine meetings of the Special Representatives so far with the last round being held in New Delhi on January 16-18, 2007. Both sides signed the "Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of India-China Boundary Question" on April 11, 2005 during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India. The two Special Representatives are presently engaged in discussions on an agreed framework for a boundary settlement on

the basis of the aforementioned Agreement. The dates of the next round of talks would be decided through diplomatic channels.

Pakistan

India-Pakistan talks on the Jammu & Kashmir and Sir Creek issues are held within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. The 4th round of the Composite Dialogue is scheduled to commence with the Foreign Secretary talks in Islamabad on 13-14 March 2007. In Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan is in illegal occupation of about 78,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory and has illegally ceded 5180 sq. kms. of Indian territory to China.

On Sir Creek, a joint survey of the horizontal segment was conducted in January 2005 and a joint survey of the creek segment is currently taking place. Talks have also been held with Pakistan on the delimitation of the maritime boundary.

Growth of Computer Software Services

1101. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the computer software services have registered enormous growth during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the growth rate of hardware exports;

(c) the details of targets fixed for export of computer hardware for the current financial year; and

(d) the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies) the Indian IT-ITES sector (including the domestic and exports segments) is expected to exceed US\$ 47.8 billion in annual revenue in Financial Year 2007, an increase of nearly 28 percent in the current fiscal year.

As per the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) Export of Electronics

Hardware has registered a growth of 41.18 percent in Rupee terms (38.89 percent in US\$ terms) during the period April 2006 to December 2006 over the corresponding period in the previous financial year.

(c) and (d) As per ESC target set for total Export of Electronics Hardware is Rs. 11500 crores (US\$ 2556 million) for the current financial year. The target set for export of Electronics Hardware for the current financial year was achieved by 83.48 percent as on December 2006.

Code of Ethics for Doctors

1102. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether Medical Council of India's Code of Ethics is not being enforced at all, as reported in *The Hindu* dated 31st January, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps 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) In order to regulate the conduct of doctors, the Medical Council of India with the approval of the Central Government have notified the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002. These Regulations prescribe the various acts of commission and omission on the part of a physician, which are construed as misconduct and unethical. The Medical Council of India or the appropriate State Medical Councils have been empowered to take disciplinary action against a physician for violation of the provisions of the Regulations. Various complaints are received by the Government from time to time against the violation of code of ethics of doctors. The Medical Council of India is advised to inquire into such violations and take strict action against violators.

Asian and Commonwealth Games

1103. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals won by Indian Sportspersons during each of the last three Asian and Commonwealth Games, discipline-wise;

(b) whether the performance of Indian sportspersons has declined over the last three Games;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the entire preparation for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games to be held in 2010 in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of Gold, Silver and Bronze medals likely to be won by the Indian sportspersons during the ensuing Commonwealth Games?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The details of medals won, discipline-wise, during each of the last three Asian and Commonwealth Games are enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Detailed discussions are being held on a continuing basis with all the stake holders, viz., the individual National Sports Federations concerned with the Commonwealth Games Disciplines, the Indian Olympic Association and the Sports Authority of India with a view to working out plans which could lead to improvement in the medal tally during the Commonwealth Games 2010, and making the necessary provisions towards this end through the Schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

(f) It is too early to make any exact assessment about the number of medals likely to be won by Indian sportspersons. However, as per the present assessment, it is expected that India's medal tally will improve in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, 2010.

Statement I

S.No.	Disciplines in 2006 Asian Games	Medal Won By Indian in 1998 AG	Medal Won By India in 2002 AG	Medal Won By India in 2006 AG
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Aquatics	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Archery	Nil	NIL	1(1B)
3.	Athletics	15(2G+6S+3B)	17-(7G + 6S + 4B)	10(1G + 5S + 4B)
4.	Badminton	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Baseball	Not participated	Not participated	Not Participated
6.	Basketball	Not participated	Not participated	Not Participated
7.	Body Building	Not participated	Nil	Not Participated
8.	Bowling	Not participated	Nil	Nil
9.	Boxing	2(G+1B)	Nil	2(2B)
10.	Canoeing & Kayak	Nil	Not Participated	Nil
11.	Chess	Not included	Not included	2(2G)
12.	Cue Sports	4(2G+1S+1B)	3(1G+1S+ 1B)	4(1G+ 1S + 2B)
13.	Cycling	Nil	Not participated	Not participated
14.	Equestrian	1(1B)	1(1B)	1(1B)
15.	Fencing	Not participated	Not participated	Nil
16.	Football	Nil	Nil	Nil
17.	Golf	Nil	1(1G)	1(1S)
18.	Gymnastics	Not participated	Not participated	Nil
19.	Handball	Not participated	Not participated	Nil
20.	Hockey	2(1G+1S)	1(1S)	1(1B)
21.	Judo	Nil	Nil	Nil
22.	Kabaddi	1(1B)	1(1G)	1(1G)
23.	Karate DO	Not participated	Nil	Not participated
24.	Rowing	2(2B)	1(1B)	3(2S+1B)
25.	Rugby	Not participated	Not participated	Nil
26.	Sailing	Nil	3(1S + 2B)	2(1S+ 1B)
27.	Sepak Takraw	Not participated	Not participated	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Shooting	3(2S+1B)	2(2S)	14 (3G+5S+6B)
29.	Softball	Not participated	Not participated	Not participated
30.	Soft Tennis	Not participated	Not participated	Not participated
31.	Squash	Nil	Nil	1(1B)
32.	Table Tennis	Nil	Nil	Nil
33.	Taekwondo	Not participated	1(1B)	Nil
34.	Tennis	4(4B)	4(1G+1S+2B)	4 (2G+2S)
35.	Triathlon	Not Participated	Not Participated	Nil
36.	Volleyball	Nil	Nil	Nil
37.	Weightlifting	1(1S)	Nil	Not Participated
38.	Wrestling	Nil	1(1B)	6(1S-1-5B)
39.	Wushu	Not participated	Not participated	1(1B)
Total		35(7G+11S+17B)	36(11G+12S+13B)	54(10G+18S+26B)

Statement II

S.No.	Disciplines In 2010 CWG	Medal Won By India in 1998 CWG	Medal Won by India in 2002 CWG	Medal Won By India in 2006
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Athletics	NP	2 (1S +1B)	3(2S + 1*B)
2.	Aquatics	NP	NIL	NIL
3.	Badminton	4 (2S + 2B)	1 B	2B
4.	Boxing	1(1S)	3(1G + 1S + 1B)	5(1G+2S+2B)
5.	Cycling	NP	NP	NP
6.	Gymnastics	NP	NIL	NIL
7.	Hockey	Nil	1 G (WOMEN)	1 S (WOMEN)
8.	Lawn Bowls	NP	NP	NP
9.	Netball (W)	NP	NP	NP
10.	Rugby 7a SIDE (M)	NP	NP	NP
11.	Shooting	7(4G+2S+1B)	24(14G+7S+3B)	27(16G+7S+4B)

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Squash	NP	NIL	NIL
13.	Table Tennis	NP	3 B	3 (2G+1B)
14.	Weightlifting	13(3G+5S+5B)	27(11G+9S+7B) Old rules—3 medals for each wt. category	9(3G+5S+1B) New rules of 1 medals for eac wt. category (Out of 27 medals won by Indian in 2002 Games only 9 medals were in total, as such Indian have won same number of medals but last 18 medals in counting due to change in rules in 2006 Games.)
15.	Wrestling	Not Held	6 (3G+3S)	Not held (Wrestling discipline was not included in 2006 wherein, India have won 6 medals in 2002 Games.)
16.	Judo	Not Held	2 (1S+1B)	Not held (Judo discipline was not included in 2006 wherein India have won 2 medals in 2002 Games.)
Grand Total		25 (7G+10S+8B)	69 (30G+22S+17B)	50 (22G+17S+11B)

Number of Medals won by India in 2002 Games are 69. However, after reducing the number of medals won by India in disciplines of Wrestling (6), Judo (2) and Weightlifting (18 i.e. Snatch and Clean & Jerk) the number of medals comes to 43, against which Indian contingent have won 50 medals in 2006 Commonwealth Games. Practically Indian contingent has improved its medal tally by 7 medals.

Issue of Passports

1104. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to do away with the Police verification before issuing passports;

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

(c) whether Indian passports have been issued to foreign nationals in fake names;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the number of foreign nationals who have received Indian passports in fake names;

(e) the action taken against the passport issuing authorities;

(f) the corrective measures/precautions taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the number of passports applied and issued during 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Government have taken steps to expand the number of applicants who can get passports on the basis of post issuance police verification. The Government have also taken steps to expedite the police verification process. Further, Passports are issued to senior citizens, Government servants and minors without police verification subject to completion of certain formalities. Tatkal Scheme has been further liberalised by reducing the time period for issuance.

(c) and (d) As per information available with the Ministry, in 2005, Immigration authorities detected 40 foreigners holding Indian passports which had been obtained fraudulently.

(e) and (f) These passports were revoked and action was taken against the culprits as per the Passports Act. Action, as required, was also taken against erring passport officials. Relevant procedures and precautions to be taken have been reiterated to the Passport Issuing Authorities.

(g) During 2006, 44,22,714 passport applications were received and 44,41,768 passports were issued including on the basis of some pending applications from the previous year.

[Translation]

Rules for Construction of Over-Bridges

1105. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) the rules governing the construction of over-bridges across National Highways in the country;

(b) the number of over-bridges on these National Highways which are pending for completion during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the delay in completion; and

(d) the time by which the construction of these over-bridges is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Presumably in the question "Road Over Bridges (ROBs)" are being referred as over Bridges. In National Highways Development Project (NHDP), generally the level crossings are replaced by ROBs. Due to paucity of funds, it is not possible to provide ROBs in lieu of existing level crossings in general on National Highways not covered under NHDP and decision is taken on case to case basis.

(b) to (d) There are about 101 nos of ROBs pending for completion out of which, 95 nos. are in National Highway Development Project (NHDP). The ROBs on non-NHDP are targeted for completion within a year i.e before April 2008. ROBs under NHDP are part of civil packages of up gradations of highways and their completion date is the same as for the corresponding package. However, in some cases delay has been encountered due to delay in acquisition of land or delay in approval by Railway authorities.

[English]

Telephone Call Rates

1106. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:

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

(a) whether there is any mechanism to regulate the cost of local telephone calls;

(b) if so, whether the telephone operators are threatening to raise local call rates;

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government proposes to regulate local telephone call rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) proposes to further reduce the call charges of STD and ISD; 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. The regulation of all tariffs for telecommunication services in the country has been entrusted under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to TRAI.

(b) TRAI has not received any communication from the telephone operators threatening to raise local call rates. However, the operators have the flexibility to fix any tariffs, subject to the regulatory principles laid down by the TRAI.

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

(d) No, Sir.

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

(f) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

Extra Postal Services by Postal Deptt.

1107. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) the details of services rendered by the Post Offices in the country;

(b) whether Postal Department is undertaking Extra-Postal Services like accepting Income Tax Returns, Passport applications, selling of application forms relating to various examinations etc.;

(c) if so, the details of such services undertaken by the Postal Department;

(d) whether the department is equipped with sufficient employees for undertaking such extra-departmental services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Indian Postal System

currently provides a number of services, which can be broadly classified into four categories: Communication services (Letters, Letter Cards, Post Cards, Printed Post Cards, Competition Post Cards, Registered Newspapers, etc.), Transportation services (Parcel, Logistics Post), Financial Services (Savings Bank, Money Order, International Money Transfer Services, Public Private Partnership for extending financial service outreach through the post office network, Postal Life Insurance) and Premium Value Added Services (like Speed Post, Business Post, Retail Post).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Department of Posts has the largest Postal Network in the world with 1,55,516 post offices of which 89% are in the rural areas. Department of Posts is leveraging its network to offer services like acceptance of payment of utility bills, sale of application forms relating to various examinations, acceptance of loan applications on behalf of financial institutions, acceptance of Income Tax and Service Tax returns etc.

(d) and (e) Such additional services are taken up by the Department of Posts with the objective of optimal utilization of existing manpower and infrastructure, which is adequate for the purpose.

Central Legislation for Private Hospitals

1108. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has realized that many private hospitals are charging abnormal fee from the patients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring any legislation to control and administer the private hospitals/nursing homes;

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

(e) whether the Government has proposed to constitute National Nursing Council to verify, categorise and standardize them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Health is a State subject and regulation of private hospitals including the fees charged by them is the responsibility of the State Government. Enactment of a legislation for registration & regulation of clinical establishment is a priority area for this government.

(e) and (f) The Indian Nursing Council is already existing under The Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.

Coastal Health Programme

1109. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any coastal health programme has been incorporated in the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has no specific programme on health care in coastal areas. However, the NRHM envisages improving health delivery in all areas, including coastal areas.

Recognition to Medical Colleges

1110. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which run three year medical courses;

(b) whether these courses are recognised by the Medical Council of India; and

(c) the reasons for not according recognition to medical colleges with such courses in West Bengal by the Medical Council of India?

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 placed on the Table of the House.

CIC In N.E. Region

1111. DR ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of basic services being utilized through Central Information Commission (CIC) in the North East Region including future plan, if any, like E-governance and Right to Information;

(b) whether the Government is likely to consider the permanent absorption of the services of CIC operators to ensure sustained services for the benefit of rural people;

(c) if so, the details of plan thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether these CICs could reach a state of commercially viable self sustained units as per the original plan of the Government;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to make them commercially viable?

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 Central Information Commission has been constituted to perform the functions assigned to it under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The Commission does not provide any other services.

(d) to (f) It has not been considered desirable to make the Central Information Commission a commercially viable organisation.

Corruption In Transport Sector

1112. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Transparency International (India) regarding the corruption prevalent in transport sector in India as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 02, 2007;

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

(c) the factors and practices responsible for prevalent corruption in transport sector;

(d) whether any suggestions have been made in this survey to check corruption in the transport sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to bring transparency in the transport sector in order to check corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) In a news item titled "Trucks roll on Rs. 22000-cr 'grease' road" published in "The Hindustan Times" on 2nd February, 2007, it has been reported that the survey conducted by Indian chapter of Transparency International inter-alia pointed out that the efficiency of the trucks is going down by 40% largely as a result of being allowed to overload. It has been alleged that the truckers are paying bribes to the enforcement authorities to overload their vehicles. It has also been alleged that the truck driver loses about 11 hours of travel time each day because of stoppages by RTO officials, police, sales tax officers and pays bribes to them. The details of the survey report are not available with this Department. The State Governments have been advised to take appropriate steps to eliminate alleged corruption in the Road Transport Sector on 28th February, 2007.

(c) Regulation of vehicular traffic on roads falls under the purview of the State Governments. The Central Government has no mechanism to assess the factors/practices being followed by the enforcement agencies responsible for corruption, if any, in road transport sector.

(d) and (e) It has been reported in the news item that the Transparency International has recommended various reform charter to weed out corruption stressing on e-truck transport, outsourcing of services and uniform rules across the country.

(f) The enforcement of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 is the responsibility of the State Governments. They have been advised to plug the loop holes in the enforcement mechanism so as to eliminate alleged corruption in the Road Transport Sector. They have also

been advised to take steps to have single checking points for various authorities at inter-state border check-posts.

National Aids Control Organisation

1113. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:



(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation is proposing to spend on prevention of HIV/AIDS and promotion of the usage of condoms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to its spending in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prevention of HIV/AIDS, including promotion of the use of condoms is an integral part of the National AIDS Control Programme and is being promoted for dual use—protection from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections; and unwanted pregnancy. 75% of the budget for the Programme in its Phase III is earmarked for prevention activities, including promotion of the usage of condoms, Targeted Interventions, Blood Safety and Information, Education and Communication (EEC). The supply of condoms and IEC activities are carried out in both the urban and rural areas, with priority being accorded to high HIV prevalent and high fertility districts and Targeted Interventions among the high risk groups and bridge populations. Prime focus is on strengthening condom access by increasing the number of outlets selling condoms to 30 lakhs, an increase from 6 lakhs at present.

Diabetes as a Global Threat

1114. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether 200 kids develop diabetes everyday in the country as reported in the *Times of India* dated December 8, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of patients in various age groups suffering from Diabetes;

(c) whether the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution on 14 November, 2006 has declared Diabetes as a global threat and asked its member nations to formulate a National Policy in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any policy in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government also intends to give subsidy on insulin and drugs used for treatment of diabetes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) According to WHO revised estimates there are 32 million Diabetic cases in India including kids (as in 2002). UN General assembly in its resolution on 14th November, 2006 has declared diabetes as a global threat and asked member nations to formulate National Policy in this regard. It is proposed to launch a National Programme for Prevention & Control of Diabetes, CVD & Stoke during the Xth Five Year Plan with the 'focus on increasing public awareness thereby preventing the common risk factors associated with these diseases.

[Transition]

Dengue Cases in AIIMS

1115. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether All India Institute of Medical Sciences remained badly affected by Dengue during the last week of September and first week of October and several doctors died of this disease;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any responsibility in this regard; 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) In addition to large number of Dengue cases reported during September/October, 2006, to AIIMS number of Dengue cases were also reported within AIIMS campus, which resulted in death of one Medical student. The matter was considered in Institute Body Meeting held on 18.10.2006. The Director was asked to give his response on the action taken by him to prevent the outbreak of Dengue within the premises of AIIMS. He has filed his response to the issue before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court and the matter is sub-judice.

[English]

Outstanding Amount against Cellular Operators

1116. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular operators owe a huge amount of licence fee and tariff plan migration fee to the Government and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount outstanding against each company, till date; and

(c) the efforts made/proposed to be made by the Government to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The total amount of Licence Fee which the Cellular Operators owe to the Government as on 31.01.2007 is Rs. 482.00 Crores. The details of outstanding amount are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of Licensee	Dues outstanding	Remarks
1.	M/s BPL Mobile Communications Ltd.	29.00	Penalty amount for the FY 2002-03. Stay granted by TDSAT.
2.	M/s Koshika Telecom Ltd.	453.00	License terminated and all Bank guarantees stand encashed. Arbitration award is awaited.
Total		482.00	

Cellular Operators and other operators are not liable to pay any license fee or any charge as 'Tariff Plan Migration fee' to BSNL.

Vacancies In DOT In Ladakh

1117. SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts in all categories sanctioned for Ladakh region of J&K State in the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) the number of incumbent posts, category-wise;

(c) the number of vacant posts available in all categories;

(d) whether the Government proposes to fill all vacancies to overcome shortages of staff to improve services; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Creation and filling up of the vacant posts are the continuous processes. Keeping in view the fast changing business as well as technological scenario, need-based recruitment by Direct recruitment as well as internal promotions are being done and the same will be continued in future as well.

Statement

Total number of sanctioned working and vacant posts in all categories for Ladakh region of J&K

Cadre	Sanctioned	Working	Vacant
1	2	3	4
STS/JAG	3	3	Nil
TES GROUP'S'	11	6	5
JTO	19	4	15
Sr.AO/AO	2	2	Nil

1	2	3	4
AAO/AO	2	Nil	2
TTA	20	4	16
Sr.TOA(P)*	6	6	Nil
Sr.TOA(G)	19	2	17
TM	30	22	8
PA	1	0	1
Driver	1	1	0
Lineman*	3	3	0
RM**	35	25	10
Cleaner*	2	2	0

* These cases have been declared as wasting and the posts are personal to incumbents.

** There is ban on direct recruitment against Group 'D' posts. The available posts are used for regularization of Casual Laborers and Compassionate ground appointments.

Tele-density in Rural Areas

1118. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether the present rural tele-density is 1.67% as compared to 26% in urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has any plan to increase the rural tele-density in all over the country, especially in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is not providing cable telephone connections in certain areas but giving WLL connections only; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.1.2007, the tele-

density in rural areas is 1.86 as compared to tele-density of 55.43 in urban areas.

(b) The contributing factors for higher tele-density in urban areas as compared to rural areas are as under:

- (i) Higher economic and literacy status as well as easier availability of supporting infrastructure* in the urban areas as compared to rural areas.
- (ii) The private sector telecom service providers are generally focusing more on urban areas because of higher revenue per line in urban areas as compared to that in rural areas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Following steps are being taken by the Government to improve the tele-density especially in rural areas in the country:

- (i) Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) Village Public Telephones (VPTs).
- (ii) Provision of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) on demand in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs).
- (iii) Government is in the process of launching a scheme to provide for setting up and managing infrastructure sites for provision of mobile services including other wireless services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile Terminals in the specified rural and remote areas of the country, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.
- (iv) Large scale deployment of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network in rural areas by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
- (v) Relaxation of the outdoor cable norms to 5 kms. as against the earlier norm of 2.5 kms. for landline exchanges by BSNL.
- (vi) BSNL has planned extensive infrastructure roll out which will provide mobile coverage.

(e) BSNL is providing wired line telephone connection with 5 kms. of local exchange. The demand beyond 5 kms of the local exchange and non feasible area within 5 kms. is met on WLL.

(f) The telephone connections beyond 5 kms. of local exchange are provided on WLL as provision of telephone on wired line is techno-commercially unviable.

[Translation]

Transit Facilities with Myanmar

1119. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to open free transit facilities with Myanmar on the lines of Nepal and Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the facilities likely to be extended to the citizens of Myanmar to enter into India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Flyovers on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

1120. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether construction work of flyovers at Mahipalpur, Delhi and Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon on Delhi-Gurgaon Express Highways was scheduled to be completed by January 31, 2007;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and the scheduled date by which the work was to be completed;

(c) the reasons for delay, if any, in the completion of the work by the scheduled date; and

(d) the date by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. However, there was marginal delay in opening of traffic on account of certain technical and safety aspects. These flyovers have been opened to traffic on 06.02.2007.

*[English]***Centrally Sponsored Scheme**

1121. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has framed a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for promotion of Coastal Shipping under the National Maritime Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the scheme;

(c) the details of proposals received from various State Governments for developing ports under CSS and the action taken thereon by the Government;

(d) whether Azhikal Port in Kannur district in Kerala is being considered under the scheme, and -

(e) if so, the detail thereof alongwith its present status?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Development of seven minor ports for promotion of coastal shipping has been included in the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP). As only one port from each Maritime State was to be included, only Azhikal port was included from Kerala. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of such ports is yet to be approved. Further action will be taken after the CSS is finally approved.

Non-availability of Peritoneal Dialysis

1122. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Peritoneal dialysis is not available in Safdarjung Hospital while the same is available in AIIMS and LNJP hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons for the said dialysis not being available in Safdarjung Hospital; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make the dialysis available in the hospital immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The facility of peritoneal dialysis is available in Safdarjung Hospital.

Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme

1123. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

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

(a) the main objectives of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme;

(b) whether the programme has failed to achieve its objective;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps taken to revamp the implementation of the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) is a decentralized, State based system of surveillance for communicable and non-communicable disease. IDSP objective is to improve efficiency of the existing surveillance activities and detect disease trends over time and evaluate control strategies. The major components of IDSP include strengthening of laboratories, use of information technology to collect, compile & analyze data and training of rapid response teams to investigate and control the outbreak.

(b) to (d) IDSP States are still in various stages of establishing their surveillance systems and the data inflow is at initial stage, IDSP, when fully implemented is expected to detect early warning signals of impending outbreaks and assist in timely and effective response. Under IDSP Laboratories have been strengthened by provision of equipment and manpower. IT network is being established and all districts Surveillance Units, State headquarter and Government Medical Colleges are being inter-linked for surveillance data collection and analysis. Weekly disease surveillance reports are being received regularly from about 250 districts. Data analysis and action are being taken by respective districts.

1532 Programme Officers/RRT have been trained. Medical Officers, MPWs and laboratory Technicians have also been trained in IDSP

A centralized Call Centre with a toll free number is also being established to provide information on unusual events/outbreaks to the call centre at any time.

Functioning of Government Departments

1124. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and Media Groups to get public feedback on the functioning of the Government Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the feedback received in this direction during the last two years; and

(c) the steps undertaken by the Government to improve the functioning of Government Departments?

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) Government Ministries/Departments have already been advised to consult the stake holders while preparing their Citizen's Charters, which specifically are drawn up to apprise the general public of the various services provided, including norms and timelines.

(b) No such information is centrally available.

(c) Government Ministries/Departments keep making improvements in their functioning based on public feedback

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Afghanistan

1125. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of External Affairs has visited Afghanistan recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the issues like terrorism and security of Indians working in Afghanistan also came up for discussion;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government for the safety of Indians;

(f) whether the Minister of External Affairs has announced enhancement of assistance being provided to Afghanistan;

(g) If so, the details thereof including the assistance provided by India during the last two years; and

(h) the names of sectors for which assistance is being provided?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee visited Kabul on January 23-24, 2007 to invite President Karzai to the 14th SAARC Summit to be held in New Delhi on April 3-4, 2007. During the visit, EAM called on President Hatnid Karzai, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga Mohammad Yunus Qanooni, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations of the Wolesi Jirga Ustad Rasool Sayyaf and Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta. In his interactions with the Afghan leaders, the entire gamut of bilateral relations was discussed. An MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Development in Public Administration was also signed with UNDP and Afghan Government. EAM also handed over the Polyclinic Block of Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health (IGICH), built with Indian assistance. He also unveiled a plaque naming a street adjacent to Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health Care (IGICH) as "Indira Gandhi Road".

(c) to (e) Issues like terrorism and security of Indians also came up for discussions. Both the sides agreed on the need to eradicate terrorism. Government of India are taking all possible measures to ensure the safety of Indian workers in Afghanistan, The Indian Mission/Posts in Afghanistan issue regular security advisories and updates for the benefit of Indians working in Afghanistan. Indian workers are urged to register themselves with the Indian Embassy or any of the Consulates. They have

been instructed to take adequate security measures and inform their employers and the Embassy/Posts in case they perceive any security threat. Government of India is in constant touch with the Government of Afghanistan, at various levels. Government of Afghanistan has assured that it will take all the steps necessary to provide security to Indians in Afghanistan.

(f) As part of India's long-term commitment to the stability, progress and peace in Afghanistan, during the visit of EAM, India announced an additional pledge of US \$100 million. With this additional pledge, India's total assistance pledge for the reconstruction of Afghanistan becomes US \$7.50 million.

(g) and (h) The Indian assistance to Afghanistan during the financial year was Rs. 272.25 crores and for the financial year 2005-06, it amounted to Rs. 383 crores. India's assistance has mainly been in the sectors that have been identified by the Afghan Government as priority areas of development. They are construction, agriculture, industry, telecommunications, information & broadcasting, power, urban development, technical assistance, education and health.

Rationalisation of Manpower

1126. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of COAL be please to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. has undertaken the process of rationalization of manpower in the organization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a comprehensive study on manpower requirement of executives at various levels was undertaken recently;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the time span within which the study would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of rationalisation of manpower are as under:

Executive cadre employees:

IIM, Lucknow has been assigned the task of study on executive manpower planning and development

process for the year 2005-06 and the next five years to focus on the following points:

1. To categorise mines, units and areas into different categories depending on their complexity with respect to geo-mining conditions as well as other complexities that may require positioning of adequate number of appropriate level of executives in that particular mine/unit/area.
2. To design suitable organization structure for each category of mine, unit and area in subsidiary companies.
3. To assess the optimal requirement of executives in different disciplines of requisite grades in all the establishments of CIL and its subsidiaries from unit level to apex level; keeping in view various statutory and administrative requirements;
4. To draw executive manpower pyramid for each company, discipline-wise indicating manpower at each level/grade and then combine them to form executive pyramid for CIL as a whole for each discipline.
5. To super impose the existing manpower pyramid over the pyramid assessed afresh.
6. To suggest ways and means for removal of discontentment among stagnating executives.
7. To suggest ways of fitting the existing pyramid into the assessed pyramid.

Non-executive cadre employees

Realistic assessment of manpower requirement is made and manpower budgets are made every year keeping in view, among other things, the annual action plan for coal production, OB removal, coal processing and dispatch, technology adopted, major inputs like HEMM and creation of infrastructure, growth in productivity etc. Relocation/redeployment within the area/company, training/re-training for skill development to match with the requirement, inter-company transfer, VRS etc. are some of the measures adopted for rationalization of manpower.

(c) to (e) Yes, sir. The comprehensive study on manpower development and process is being undertaken by IIM, Lucknow which has submitted an interim report on 7.6.2006. A High Power Committee under Chairmanship of CMD, Central Mine Planning and Design

Institute (CMPDI), Ranchi has been constituted in Sept., 2006 to examine the report. Sittings of the committee have already been held to facilitate IIM for shaping up the report and an interim report is expected to be submitted shortly.

Manpower Requirement in Postal Service

1127. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steady decline in the quality of Postal Services in the country due to shortage of manpower;

(b) if so, the actual number of postal employees in different categories against the required number of employees in the year 2005 and 2006; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to appoint sufficient employees in all the offices of Postal Department in the country?

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

(b) and (c) The sanctioned strength and actual strength, categorywise, as on 31.3.2005 and 31.3.2006 is as below:

Year	Particulars	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'	Total
31.3.2005	Sanctioned	751	7959	220475	51829	281014
	Actual	705	2015	200302	43656	246678
31.3.2006	Sanctioned	791	7958	217636	49579	275964
	Actual	780	3609	187565	42232	234186

Filing up of vacancies by direct recruitment and promotion is an ongoing process.

HIV/AIDS Prevalence in Children

1128. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some experts have visited India to know the status of HIV/AIDS affected children in some parts of the country in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures suggested by them to tackle this menace;

(d) whether the Government has arrived at any concrete decision based on their suggestions so far; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. UNICEF organized a National Consultation on children affected by HIV/AIDS in 2005. As a follow-up, a study is being undertaken to examine the barriers to services for children with HIV positive parents or orphaned by AIDS.

The above study is in its final stages and no report has been submitted so far.

Maternal Mortality Rate

1129. DR. K. DHANARAJU:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether every seven minutes, a woman dies of child birth related complications in the country as reported in *The Hindustan Times* dated February 11, 2007;

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

(c) whether the UNICEF has stated that mortality rate of women at the time of child birth is much higher in Madhya Pradesh as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing basic facilities in rural areas at the time of delivery;

(e) the details of deaths of women while delivering baby during the year 2005-06 and till date during the year 2006-07, State-wise; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) Yes. Based on the official estimates of Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for India is 301 per 100,000 live births (SRS 2001-03). This translates into an absolute number of maternal deaths of approximately 77,000 per year or in other words one woman dying every seven minutes due to complications related to pregnancy and child birth.

As per the latest survey reports (SRS - 2001-03), the reasons for high Maternal Mortality in the country are—Hemorrhage—38%, Sepsis—11%, Abortion—8%, Obstructed Labour—5%, Hypertensive Disorders—5% and Others—34%.

MMR as estimated for major states by the Registrar General of India (Sample Registration System 1998 and 2001-2003) are given in the enclosed Statement. As per these figures 3 states have a MMR higher than that of Madhya Pradesh, which is 379 per 100,000 live births. Data on details of Maternal Deaths state-wise and year-wise is not available.

To provide basic facilities in rural areas including those at the time of delivery the Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the year 2005, with special emphasis on improving the health status of rural population throughout the country. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years from 2005 to 2012 with a goal of achieving reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio to 100 per 100,000 live births. Under the NRHM (2005-2012) and the RCH

Programme Phase II (2005-2010), with the above goal in view, the Government of India is strengthening services by implementation of:

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a scheme to promote Institutional Delivery for reducing Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) by providing quality maternal care during pregnancy, delivery and immediate post-delivery period with appropriate referral transport system along with cash assistance to pregnant women with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) women. The scheme also covers SC/ST women delivering in the Govt. Health Institutions and accredited Private Institutions.
- Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population up to 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing health care services to the community and will have specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal checks and immunization to children.
- Ensuring skilled attendance at every birth both in the community and the Institutions.
- Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health services
- Making 50% Primary Health Centers functional for providing 24-hours delivery services, over the next five years
- Strengthening of sub-centre by providing untied fund of Rs. 10,000/- for utilizing at the sub-center to improve the service delivery. The fund shall be operated jointly by the Local Panchayat Representative and ANM.
- Organizing of Village Health & Nutrition Day at Anganwadi center at least once in every month.
- Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.
- Training of Medical doctors in emergency obstetric care and anaesthesia.

Statement**Maternal Mortality Rate India and Bigger States**
(Source: RGI, SRS, 1998, 2003)

Major State	MMR (1998)	MMR (2003)
India	407	301
Andhra Pradesh	150	195
Assam	409	490
Bihar	452	371*
Gujarat	28	172
Haryana	103	162
Karnataka	195	228
Kerala	198	110
Madhya Pradesh	498	379*
Maharashtra	135	149
Orissa	367	358
Punjab	199	178
Rajasthan	670	445
Tamil Nadu	79	134
Uttar Pradesh	707	517*
West Bengal	266	194
Others		235

*Bihar and Jharkhand, MP and Chattisgarh, UP and Uttaranchal.

Direction by CVC to BSNL

1130. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has directed Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to either re-tender or snap bid of Rs. 591 crore contract awarded to HCL Infosystem in September last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the directions of Central Vigilance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) An alternate communication network is being put up by BSNL for Indian Air force to facilitate vacation of spectrum for civil use. Indian Air Force had prescribed certain conditions for laying of alternate communication network of Indian Air Force by BSNL to facilitate vacation of spectrum for civilian use.

The tender conditions for the alternate network were framed taking into consideration the special requirements of Indian Air Force to ensure optimum operational efficiency and easy roll out. According to CVC this has resulted in certain amount of restriction in fair competition.

In view of CVC's observation, matter has been referred to Ministry of Defence for their views.

Central Drug Authority

1131. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up Central Drug Authority of India as an autonomous organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives for setting up Central Drug Authority; and

(c) the time by when the Central Drug Authority of India is likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) The Central Drug Authority of India (CDAI) will be an autonomous body under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It will consist of 10 divisions dealing with specific subjects related to drugs. The objective of the CDAI is to have improved and more efficient drug regulation in the country by bringing uniformity in licencing and by the enforcement of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 & Rules 1945. The relevant

Drugs & Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill for amending the D&C Act for enabling the setting up of the CDAI is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament in the current session. The setting up of the Authority will depend on the passing of the Bill by the Parliament.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to NCT of Delhi

1132. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of NCT of Delhi has sent any proposal to Union Government seeking allocation of funds for development of works in view of Commonwealth Games being organized in Delhi in the year 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof till date;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the amount allocated to Government of NCT by the Union Government for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of NCT of Delhi had initially projected a requirement of Rs. 1314 crores, which was subsequently revised to Rs. 770 crore for works related to up-gradation of civic infrastructure and the sports infrastructure assigned to the Government of NCT of Delhi in the context of the Commonwealth Games, 2010. The major services on which this amount is proposed to be spent include—improvement of transport system, road and bridges, civic infrastructure, augmentation of health facilities, water supply and sewage treatment facilities and upgradation of sports infrastructure.

(c) and (d) An Interministerial Committee headed by Member-Secretary, Planning Commission considered the requirements and has, in principle, cleared the above proposal of Rs. 770 crores of the Government of NCT of Delhi. In the budget for the Annual Plan 2007-08, Central Assistance of Rs. 350 crores has been allocated for this

purpose. Besides, the Government of NCT of Delhi would be spending on infrastructure from its own funds included in the Annual Plans approved by the Planning Commission.

[English]

Village Health Guides

1133. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the services of Village Health Guides who received six months training are discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to engage the Village Health Guides whose services are discontinued in other rural health schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Umashanker, former Director, Indian Institute of Public Administration, was appointed in July 1997. The Committee reviewed the VHG Scheme in due consultation with various Departments, State Governments and Village Health Guide Associations. The Committee submitted its report in November, 1998 which stated that the Scheme was not serving any useful purpose at all and should be discontinued at the earliest. Accordingly, the scheme was discontinued as a centrally sponsored scheme from the 10th Plan i.e. from 31.3.2003. However, State Governments were conveyed that they were free to continue with the existing/amended version of the Scheme and if interested, may propose the necessary provision in their State plan. The States were paid the arrears as requested by them.

(c) to (e) The eligible Village Health Guides, as per the rules, are free to apply as community level health workers under the schemes of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) being appointed as community level health workers under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

[Translation]

Reduction in Roaming Charges

1134. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

- (a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has decided to reduce the roaming tariff;
- (b) if so, whether cellular service provider companies are opposing the move of the TRAI;
- (c) if so, the main points on which the cellular companies are opposing the move;
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by TRAI for ensuring regular and better mobile services to consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), after due consultation process with all the stakeholders found justifiable grounds for a review of the tariff structure applicable for roaming services that had been fixed five years back.

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) had submitted that the customer tariffs are already lowest in the World and consistently coming down and thus, roaming tariffs should also be left to market forces.

Based on in-depth analysis of various elements of cost, data on costs, views of stakeholders, the prevailing tariff for calls originated in home network and other relevant factors, TRAI has prescribed a composite ceiling charges for regional/national, effective 15th February, 2007. The cellular operators have already revised roaming tariff accordingly.

(e) TRAI undertakes monitoring of the Quality of Service (QOS) through Quarterly Performance Reports and objective assessment of the Quality of Service and customer satisfaction survey through an independent

agency. The result of these audit and survey are widely published for public/stakeholders knowledge. Also, meeting are held with senior management of service providers for addressing the deficiencies in achieving QOS benchmarks.

[English]

Mumbai Harbour Dredging Port

1135. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to gear up the dredging project from Mumbai Harbour at Nhava Sheva;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including cost of the project; and
- (c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government has approved a project for deepening and widening of the Mumbai Harbour Channel and JN Port Channel at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Sheva, Navi Mumbai at an estimated cost of Rs. 800 crores. The project involves dredging for increasing the maintained depth, width and the length of the port channel so as to facilitate handling of vessels requiring draft upto 14 m using tidal window as against 12.5 m draft vessels at present. The project is scheduled to be completed within a period of 27 months from the date of issue of work order.

Classification of Ports

1136. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criterion followed to determine the classification of the ports;
- (b) the details of major ports in the country;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to enhance the classification of Cochin Port from its "B" category to "A" category;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which Cochin Port is likely to be placed in "A" category;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the details of the reports of the different committees on the issue of classification of ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There are twelve Major Ports in India out of which eleven are Major Port Trusts namely Kolkata, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Kandla, Cochin, Paradip, Mormugao, Tuticorin and New Mangalore which are governed by the provisions of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. Ennore Port is a corporate entity under the Companies Act and is a Schedule 'B' Public Sector Enterprise as per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises. Government has categorised the eleven Major Port Trusts for the purpose of pay scales of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen into two categories as under:

Category I: Kolkata, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Kandla Port Trust

Category II: Cochin, Paradip, Mormugao, Tuticorin and New Mangalore Port Trust

Broadly, the categorisation of these Port Trusts is based on the comparison with Schedule 'A', Schedule 'B' and Schedule 'C' Public Sector Enterprises.

(c) to (g) The Government had constituted a Committee to examine whether existing categories should be continued, revised or be dispensed with in respect of Major Port Trusts including Cochin Port Trust. The Committee has recommended that all Port Trusts should be treated at par and that issues of pay scales, inter-se seniority, promotional avenues of incumbent officers and pension be settled by the Pay Revision Committee in a regime without categorisation.

Packaged Ayurvedic Products

1137. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government had set up a high level Committee to look into reports that a study in the U.S. has found that many packaged ayurvedic products being sold contained high levels of heavy metals such as lead, mercury and arsenic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (e) No, Sir. A research article appeared in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) sometime ago indicating presence of heavy metals above the permissible limit in some of the Ayurveda and Unani formulations collected by the researchers from grocery stores from Boston area. The Government has introduced mandatory testing for heavy metals in all purely herbal Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines to be exported, which is effective from 1.1.2006 onwards. This has been done to meet the regulatory requirements of importing countries.

However, there are certain herbo-metallic Ayurveda formulations, which contain heavy metals like Mercury and Lead after a detailed purificatory and detoxification process for their therapeutic value. A research project has been sanctioned to various labs of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Golden Triangle Partnership Project to study the physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies.

Better Treatment of Patients

1138. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to start a scheme to ensure better treatment of patients with the participation of both the Public and the Private Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (c) The Government is not contemplating to start any specific scheme to ensure better treatment of patients with the participation of both the Public and the private sector. However, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) being implemented by this Ministry provides for the pro-people partnership with the non-governmental sector.

[Translation]

Low GDP Growth Rate

1139. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of the continuous economic reforms, GDP of various States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa etc. continue to be low in comparison to other developing States;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to modify the rate of economic reforms programme for giving impetus to annual growth rate of these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) According to the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2008 to 2011-2012), growth performances across states have been varied; the performance of poorer states with poorer infrastructure has been lagging.

(b) Balanced regional development has been an important objective in our planning and various instruments including fiscal incentives, industrial policies and directly targeted programmes have been deployed in the past to achieve it. Some policies, such as industrial licensing, are no longer relevant in today's economic environment since investment cannot be directed to particular locations. In a competitive world, investment

must be allowed to flow to locations perceived to have an attractive investment climate and better infrastructural facilities. While this has definitely generated efficiency, there is, at the same time, evidence of increasing regional divides.

(c) to (e) According to the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Eleventh Plan provides an opportunity for restructuring policies to achieve a new vision based on faster, more broad-based and inclusive growth. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan, as approved by the National Development Council, has set the growth target for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period at 9% per year and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth rate of approximately 10% by the end of its period. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan mentions about reducing disparities across regions by ensuring access to basic physical infrastructure as well as health and education services to all. A number of programmes for social and infrastructure sector development, including National Rural Health Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Bharat Nirman are in operation. The Backward Regions Grant Fund has been launched for the development of backward areas. This programme has two components, namely, (i) Districts component covering 250 districts, and (ii) Special Plans for Bihar and KBK districts of Orissa. In addition, some programmes specifically for the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, elderly, etc. are being implemented. All these programmes are meant to raise the growth rate of the economy, as well as ensuring greater inclusiveness.

Investment In I.T. Sector

1140. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to promote investment in I.T. sector in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up Information Technology (I.T.) Institutes in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to set up such institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up a centre at Indore, which is functioning since 2000. It has been decided to set up two more new STPI Centres at Bhopal and Gwalior in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) There are two Indian Institutes of Information Technology already set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, one in Gwalior and another in Jabalpur. As of now, there is no proposal to set up new IT Institutes in Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Interception of Telephone Messages

1141. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to issue new guidelines and rules to prevent illegal interception of telephone messages; 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) Government has issued Instructions for ensuring privacy of communications on 07.02.2006 and 13.02.2006, which inter alia include the following:

For Telephone companies

- To issue acknowledgment letters to Security Agencies within two hours of the receipt of communication.
- To put in place of adequate and effective internal checks within their organizations.
- To have designated officers to receive the communication, such communication to be handled by senior level officers.

For Security Agencies

- Only designated officers to convey the instructions for interception.

— Designated officers of the Security Agencies to deliver the letters to Service Providers.

— In emergent cases of carrying out interception, post confirmation from the Competent Authority is to be provided within seven days of the issue of the orders of interception.

The rule 419A of the Indian Telegraph Rules 1951 has been modified accordingly.

Monitoring Service Sector Performance

1142. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering to set up a high level group in the Planning Commission to monitor service sector performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is also considering to set up a group which can monitor the slow growth of Agricultural Sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has initiated action for setting up a High Level Group to look into the various factors influencing the performance of the service sector and suggest policy measures which would need to be taken to sustain its competitiveness in the coming years. The High Level Group will function under the overall Guidance of Planning Commission and will include experts from the relevant areas.

(c) to (e) The National Farmer's Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan has already gone into the various issues related to the agricultural sector including its slow growth and has submitted its reports to the Government. The Planning Commission has also set up 12 Working Groups to make recommendations on various aspects of development of the agricultural and allied sectors in the Eleventh Plan. A Steering Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. H. Hanumantha Rao would also, inter alia, go into the issue of slow agricultural growth. There is no proposal under

consideration of Planning Commission at present for setting up yet another group to monitor the slow growth of the agricultural sector.

Extension of USO Broadband Facility

1143. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for extending Universal Service Obligation (USO) to the remote border areas of the country;

(b) whether remote border villages from Kashmir Valley fall in the category for extending Universal Service Obligation (USO);

(c) if so, the reasons for not extending Universal Service Obligation (USO) to these far flung areas of Kashmir Valley;

(d) whether the Government proposes to extend USO broadband internet facility in all border States, including Jammu and Kashmir and North East States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Following criteria is followed for extending Universal Service Obligation (USO) to the rural and remote areas including remote border areas of the country:

- (i) Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by November, 2007 in all revenue villages in the country without any public telephone facility. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc.
- (ii) Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs.
- (iii) Provision of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in villages with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCO).
- (iv) Provision of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) on demand in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) of the country.

(v) Provision of mobile services including Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) services on Fixed/Mobile Terminals in the specified rural and remote areas of the country, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) USO is applicable in far flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

(d) and (e) With the aim to provide e-governance and data services to the rural masses, Government with the help of USO Fund is in the process of taking necessary action for facilitating broadband connectivity provisioning in rural and remote areas of the country including Jammu & Kashmir in phased manner by utilizing the infrastructure created for provision of mobile services.

Diabetic Foot Amputations

1144. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of diabetic foot amputations are increasing in the country;

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

(c) the total number of diabetic foot amputation patients in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such amputations and fund allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The data relating to the number of diabetic foot amputations is not Centrally maintained.

However, according to multicentric study by ICMR published in 2005, there is an increasing prevalence rate of amputations in diabetics. Various reasons like bare foot, injuries, infections, smoking, lesser use of customized foot wear, etc. are the reasons for the ulcers in the foot.

It is proposed to launch "National Programme for Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular (CVD) and Stroke" during the 11th Five Year Plan.

*[Translation]***Shortage of Medicines in CGHS**

1145. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:

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

(a) whether patients are facing difficulties due to shortage of medicines and irregular supply of life saving drugs in CGHS dispensaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the medicines meant to be supplied to CGHS dispensaries are being sold through black market; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such black marketing of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Medicines for supply to CGHS dispensaries are procured centrally and supplied to the dispensaries. In case the dispensaries do not have in stock a particular medicine, then the CMOs are authorized to place indent on the appointed local chemist, to be supplied to the dispensary the next day.

(d) and (e) No such complaint has come to the notice of the government. However, Delhi Police in August, 2006 has lodged an FIR regarding pilferage of Medicines from CGHS.

*[English]***Speed Post Service**

1146. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

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

(a) whether the Department of Posts has extended the Speed Post Services to 18 more towns in the national network;

(b) if so, the details in the regard and the revenue generated during the last two years;

(c) the number of district headquarters in the country, specially in Uttar Pradesh where Speed Post Service is not available at present, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to launch Speed Post Booking at all rural post offices in the country;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to make the service more attractive in the country?

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

(b) The Speed Post Service was extended to 18 more towns in the national network on 01.01.2007. The revenue generation details for the eighteen Centres is given in the enclosed Statement I.

(c) The number of district headquarters in the country where Speed Post service is not available is 17. State-wise break up is given in the enclosed Statement II. available in all district head quarters of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) No Sir.

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

(g) Some steps taken to make the service more attractive includes:

- **One India One Rate for Speed Post** launched for sending Speed post Articles up to 50 grams for Rs. 25/- all over the country.
- **Free Pick up**—Speed Post articles are picked up free of cost from the regular customers' premises
- **Door-to-door delivery**—Speed Post articles are delivered at the doorstep of the addressee.

- **Book-now pay later facility**—Regular customers do not have to make payment at the time of booking the articles. A monthly bill for the charges incurred will be sent at the end of the month.
- **Money back guarantee**—The time taken for transmission and delivery from the day of, booking the article is guaranteed. In case of failure to deliver within the guaranteed norms, refund of Speed Post charges is permissible.
- **Information on Delivery Status**—Information on delivery status of the article is provided on customer's request or the customer may log on to the website www.indiapost.gov.in for tracking and delivery status.
- **Proof of Delivery**—Proof of delivery facility is available on payment of Rs. 10.00 per article.
- **Insurance facility**—Insurance facility is available up to a value of Rs. 1 lakh.
- **Volume discount**—Based on monthly volume of business volume discount is given to regular customers.
- **24 hrs. Booking facility** in selected offices of metro cities and large towns.
- **Publicity**—Special attention to marketing and promotion of Speed Post.

Statement I

Details of Revenue Generation during the last two years

Name of the Circle	Sl.No	National Speed Post Centres	2005-Revenue	2006-Revenue
Andhra Pradesh	1	Anantapur	Rs. 49,15,601	Rs. 66,64,893
Chhattisgarh	2	Raigarh	Rs. 14,24,950	Rs. 15,35,895
	3	Korba	Rs. 14,14,753	Rs. 22,15,408
	4	Bhilai	Rs. 18,48,761	Rs. 16,40,920
Gujarat	5	Valead	Rs. 17,91,907	Rs. 19,20,844
Maharashtra	6	Jalgaon	Rs. 34,81,057	Rs. 39,65,854
	7	Wardha	Rs. 23,93,450	Rs. 29,01,526
	8	Chandrapur	Rs. 61,88,448	Rs. 68,01,006
Madhya Pradesh	9	Guna	Rs. 23,14,519	Rs. 29,17,570
	10	Satna	Rs. 37,65,078	Rs. 46,09,197
	11	Sehore	Rs. 17,01,252	Rs. 22,65,707
Jharkhand	12	Bokaro	Rs. 23,22,635	Rs. 28,43,726
Rajasthan	13	Pilani	Rs. 24,84,044	Rs. 28,79,631
	14	Bikaner	Rs. 24,84,044	Rs. 28,79,631
West Bengal	15	Malda	Rs. 31,42,157	Rs. 25,06,213
Punjab	16	Hoshiarpur	Rs. 57,00,201	Rs. 65,56,762
Uttaranchal	17	Haridwar	Rs. 31,97,945	Rs. 22,82,106
	18	Kashipur	Rs. 17,54,105	Rs. 15,30,829

Statement II*Number of Districts where Speed Post Services are not available*

Name of the Postal Circle	Name of the State	No. of Districts where Speed Post Service not available
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	NIL
Assam	Assam	NIL
Bihar	Bihar	NIL
Chhatisgarh	Chhatisgarh	NIL
Delhi	Delhi	NIL
Gujarat	Gujarat	NIL
	Diu- Daman & Silvasa	NIL
Haryana	Haryana	NIL
Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	01
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir	01
Jharkhand	Jharkhand	NIL
Karnataka	Karnataka	NIL
Lakshadweep	Kerala	NIL
Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh	NIL
Maharashtra	Maharashtra	NIL
	Goa	NIL
North East	Meghalaya	03
	Tripura	NIL
	Manipur	01
	Mizoram	NIL
	Arunachal Pradesh	08
	Nagaland	03
Orissa	Orissa	NIL
Chandigarh	Punjab	NIL
Rajasthan	Rajasthan	NIL

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu	NIL
Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	NIL
Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal	NIL
West Bengal	West Bengal	NIL
	Sikkim	NIL
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	NIL
Total		17

Withdrawal of User Charges

1147. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn the user charges levied on patients visiting AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details of the charges withdrawn;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether patients visiting OPD of AIIMS are asked to pay a charge for OPD card issued to them on the basis of per calendar year;

(e) whether the charge covers the cost of printing of the card only or other charges too; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The rationalized user charges implemented w.e.f. 23.11.2005 have been withdrawn and status-quo ante restored.

(d) to (f) The patients visiting AIIMS OPD have to pay a one time OPD registration charge of Rs.10/- valid for the same calendar year, which entails the patients registration and routine investigations.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Village Panchayats

1148. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maximum number of telephones installed in Village Panchayats of the country normally remain out of order and take months to make them functional;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any step has been taken by the Government to ensure that the telephones installed in the villages work properly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) and (d) As per agreements signed between Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/other Private Service Providers for operation and maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs), the Service Provider shall ensure the Quality of Service (QoS) as prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time. Inspections are carried out at field level to ensure proper installation and functioning of VPTs in villages. Further, as per agreements, the VPTs that remain faulty for more than 7 days in a quarter are not eligible for disbursement of full subsidy from USOF and subsidy payable is proportionately reduced for the total number of days the VPTs remain faulty during the quarter. In case, a VPT remains faulty for 45 days or more during the quarter, no subsidy for the entire quarter for that VPT is disbursed. VPTs that register no incremental meter

reading/call or remain disconnected due to non-payment during an entire quarter do not qualify for subsidy support for that quarter.

[English]

Central Road Fund

1149. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount released and utilized by the Government of Karnataka during the last three years under the Central Road Fund (CRF), year-wise;

(b) the details of the roads and its length for which funds were released;

(c) the details of road alongwith its length which has been sanctioned under CRF during the year 2005-06;

(d) the roads being built under CRF during the year 2006-07; and

(e) the total length of each of the National Highways in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) Details are furnished in the enclosed Statement I to V respectively.

Statement I

Details of Amount Released and Utilised under CRF

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Year	Amount released	Amount Utilised	Remarks
1.	2004-05	5331	10519	Previous year carried forward grant utilised
2.	2005-06	9513	8450	
3.	2006-07 (up to end of Jan 2007)	9665	7451	
	Total	24509	26420	Reimbursement by Ministry is a continues process

Statement II

Details of Roads & Length for which Funds Released under Central Road Fund

Sl.No	Year	No. of works sanctioned			Length (in Kms)
		*SH	** MDR	Total	
1.	2004-05	15	226	241	1596.935
2.	2005-06	3	137	140	1274.23
3.	2006-07	7	142	149	537.733
	Total			530	3408.898

* State Highway

** Major District Road

Statement III*Details of Roads Built under CRF during the year 2005-06*

Sl.No.	District	Length (In Kms)
1.	Bagalkot	37
2.	Bangalore (Rural)	101
3.	Bangalore (Urban)	21
4.	Belgaum	44
5.	Bellary	31
6.	Bidar	21
7.	Bijapur	100
8.	Chamarajanagar	11
9.	Chikkamagalore	27
10.	Chitradurga	49
11.	Dakshina Kannada	41
12.	Davanagere	20
13.	Dharwad	48
14.	Gadag	0
15.	Gulbarga	95
16.	Hassan	108
17.	Haveri	4
18.	Kolar	166
19.	Koppal	33
20.	Mandya	44
21.	Mysore	28
22.	Raichur	35
23.	Shimoga	39
24.	Tumkur	43
25.	Udupi	72
26.	Uttara Kannada	58

Statement IV*Details of Roads being Built under CRF during the year 2006-07*

Sl.No.	District	No. of Works
1.	Bagalkot	6
2.	Bangalore (Rural)	6
3.	Bangalore (Urban)	4
4.	Belgaum	10
5.	Bellary	6
6.	Bidar	3
7.	Bijapur	7
8.	Chamarajanagar	6
9.	Chikkamagalore	5
10.	Chitradurga	3
11.	Dakshina Kannada	5
12.	Davanagere	3
13.	Dharwad	5
14.	Gadag	3
15.	Gulbarga	7
16.	Hassan	8
17.	Haveri	7
18.	Kodagu	4
19.	Kolar	11
20.	Koppal	3
21.	Mandya	9
22.	Mysore	5
23.	Raichur	3
24.	Shimoga	6
25.	Tumkur	7
26.	Udupi	3
27.	Uttara Kannada	4

Statement V*Length of National Highways in Karnataka*

Sl. No.	N.H. No.	Description	Length K.M. in State
1.	4	Madras-Kolar-Banglore-Hubli- Belgaum-Poona-Bombay	700
2.	4A	Belgaum-Khanapur-Anmod-Panjim	84
3.	7	Banaras-Nagpur-Hyderabad-Kumool- Begepalli-Bangalore-Hosur-Krishnagiri- Madhurai-Cape Camorin.	128
4.	9	Poona-Sholapur-Humnabad-Hyderabad-Vijayawada	75
5.	13	Sholapur-Chitradurga-Chennagiri- Shimoga-Thirthahalli-Sringeri- Karkala-Mangalore	719
6.	17.	Panavel-Panjim-Karwar-Coondapur- Udupi-Mangalore-Cannanore-Trichur	300
7.	48	Banglore-Nelamangala-Kunigal- Hassan-Sakaleshpur-Mangalore	320
8.	63	Ankola-Hubli-Hospet-Bellary-Gooty	370
9.	67 (Extn)	Mettupalyam-Ooty-Gudalur-Junction with NH 212 near Gundlupet	27
10.	206	Tumkur-Shimoga-Honnavar	365
11.	207	Hosur (on NH-7)-Sarjapur-Devanahalli- Doddaballapur-Dobespel (on NH-4)	122
12.	209	Dindigal-Pollachi-Coimbatore-Annur-Sathyamangalam- Chamarajanagar-Kollegal-Bangalore	203
13.	212	The Highway starting from its junction NH-17 near Kozhikode in Kerala connecting Mysore and terminating at its junction with NH-209 near Kollegal in Karnataka.	150
14.	218	Hubli-Bijapur-Jeewargi-Humnabad	415
Total			3978

New Units of Atomic Power Plants

1150. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be Pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to allocate preferential power to Rajasthan from units VII and VIII of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) including 15% reserve capacity out of the unallocated quota of the RAPS units V & VI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government also received a proposal from the Government of Rajasthan to set up new units in Banswara unit IX (7000 MW) with equity participation by State;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status;

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the proposed units;

(f) the time by which these units are likely to be made critical;

(g) whether the facilities have also been extended to the employees alongwith the units of the power plants; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The allocation of power from central generating stations is decided as the project nears completion. RAPP 7&8 are targeted for completion late in the XII Plan and therefore it is too early to decide on allocation. Regarding the share of power to Rajasthan from the unallocated share of RAPP 5&6 (due for completion in 2007 and 2008), it is not fixed as the unallocated share of power is distributed amongst beneficiaries by Ministry of Power from time to time depending upon the demand.

(c) The Government has received a request from the Government of Rajasthan for setting up a nuclear power station at Banswara in Rajasthan.

(d) With a view to utilize the full potential of existing inland sites, the Government has accorded in principle approval for setting up two 700 MWe PHWR at Rawatbhata site. No decision has been taken on Banswara site.

(e) to (h) Do not arise.

River Bridges in Goa

1151. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to construct bridges over the rivers Talpona and Galgibaga along NH 17 in Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The Government has identified Maharashtra/Goa border to Karnataka/Goa border section of NH-17 for improvement under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase IIIB. The bridge over the rivers Talpona and Galgibaga fall on NH-17, The process of appointment of consultant for Detailed Project Report of NH-17 is in progress and the work shall be taken in due course.

Visit of PM to Backward Areas

1152. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has visited any backward areas recently;

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

(c) the amount released to each State for development of backward areas and the expenditure made therefrom;

(d) whether the PM has any proposal to visit more backward areas during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister launched the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme at Barpeta in Assam on 19th February, 2007. BRGF is designed to redress the regional imbalances in development. The programme covers 250 districts in 27 States. The existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) has been subsumed into the Backward Regions Grant Fund programme. A Statewise list of districts covered under BRGF is given in the enclosed Statement I.

Each district is entitled to receive a minimum developmental grant of Rs. 10 crore per annum under BRGF. 50% of the balance allocation under the

programme will be allocated on the basis of the share of the population and area of the individual district in the total population and area of all backward districts. Each State will, in addition, receive a capacity building fund calculated @ Rs. 1 crore per district. Districts earlier covered under RSVY will receive their total allocation of

Rs. 45 crore before they shift to BRGF. The details of the amount released to each State during 2006-07 may be seen at the enclosed Statement II (A) and (B).

(d) and (e) There are no firm proposals at present from PM to visit other backward areas during the current year.

Statement I

Backward Region Grant Fund—List of Districts

Andhra Pradesh

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Adilabad | 2. Anantpur | 3. Chittoor | 4. Cuddappah |
| 5. Karimnagar | 6. Khammam | 7. Mahbubnagar | 8. Medak |
| 9. Nalgonda | 10. Nizamabad | 11. Rangareddy | 12. Vizianagaram |
| 13. Warangal | | | |

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Upper Subansiri

Assam

- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Barpeta | 2. Bongaigaon | 3. Cachar | 4. Dhemaji |
| 5. Goalpara | 6. Hailakandi | 7. Karbi Anglong | 8. Kokrajhar |
| 9. Marigaon | 10. North Lakhimpur
(Laksha) | 11. North Cachar Hills | |

Bihar

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Araria | 2. Aurangabad | 3. Banka | 4. Begusarai |
| 5. Bhagalpur | 6. Bhojpur | 7. Buxar | 8. Darbhanga |
| 9. Gaya | 10. Gopalganj | 11. Jamui | 12. Jehanabad |
| 13. Kaimur/Bhabua | 14. Katihar | 15. Kishanganj | 16. Khagaria |
| 17. Lakhisarai | 18. Madhepura | 19. Madhubani | 20. Munger |
| 21. Muzzaffarpur | 22. Nalanda | 23. Nawadah | 24. Patna |
| 25. Pashchim Champaran | 26. Purba Champaran | 27. Purnia | 28. Rohtas |
| 29. Saharsa | 30. Samastipur | 31. Saran | 32. Sheikhpura |
| 33. Sheohar | 34. Sitamarhi | 35. Supaul | 36. Vaishali |

Chhattisgarh

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bastar | 2. Bilaspur | 3. Dantewada | 4. Dhamtari |
| 5. Jashpur | 6. Kanker | 7. Kawardha | 8. Korba |
| 9. Koriya | 10. Mahasamund | 11. Raigarh | 12. Rajnandgaon |
| 13. Sarguja | | | |

Gujarat

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------|------------|
| 1. Banaskantha | 2. Dangs | 3. Dahod | 4. Narmada |
| 5. Panch Mahals | 6. Sabarkantha | | |

Haryana

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| 1. Mohindergarh | 2. Sirsa |
|-----------------|----------|

Himachal Pradesh

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. Chamba | 2. Sirmaur |
|-----------|------------|

Jammu & Kashmir

- | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Doda | 2. Kupwara | 3. Poonch |
|---------|------------|-----------|

Jharkhand

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Bokaro | 2. Chatra | 3. Deoghar | 4. Dhanbad |
| 5. Dumka | 6. Garhwa | 7. Giridih | 8. Godda |
| 9. Gumla | 10. Hazaribagh | 11. Jamtara | 12. Kodarma |
| 13. Latehar | 14. Lohardagga | 15. Pachim Singhbhum | 16. Pakaur |
| 17. Palamu | 18. Ranchi | 19. Sahibganj | 20. Saraikela |
| 21. Simdega | | | |

Karnataka

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Bidar | 2. Chitradurga | 3. Davangere | 4. Guibarga |
| 5. Raichur | | | |

Kerala

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| 1. Palakkad | 2. Wynad |
|-------------|----------|

Madhya Pradesh

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Balaghat | 2. Barwani | 3. Betul | 4. Chhatarpur |
| 5. Damoh | 6. Dhar | 7. Dindori | 8. Guna |
| 9. Jhabua | 10. Katni | 11. Khandwa | 12. Mandla |

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 13. Panna | 14. Rajgarh | 15. Rewa | 16. Satna |
| 17. Seoni | 18. Shahdol | 19. Sheopor | 20. Shivpuri |
| 21. Siddhi | 22. Tikamgarh | 23. Umaria | 24. West Nimar |

Maharashtra

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Ahmednagar | 2. Amravati | 3. Aurangabad | 4. Bhandara |
| 5. Chandrapur | 6. Dhule | 7. Gadchiroli | 8. Gondia |
| 9. Hingoli | 10. Nanded | 11. Nandurbar | 12. Yavatmal |

Manipur

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Chandel | 2. Churhandrapur | 3. Tamenlong |
|------------|------------------|--------------|

Meghalaya

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ri Bhoi | 2. South Garo Hills | 3. West Garo Hills |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------|

Mizoram

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. Lawngtlai | 2. Siaha |
|--------------|----------|

Nagaland

- | | | |
|--------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Mon | 2. Tuensang | 3. Workha |
|--------|-------------|-----------|

Orissa

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Bolangir | 2. Boudh | 3. Debagarh | 4. Dhenkanal |
| 5. Gajapati | 6. Ganjam | 7. Jharsuguda | 8. Kalahandi |
| 9. Keonjhar | 10. Koraput | 11. Malkangiri | 12. Mayurbhanj |
| 13. Nabrangpur | 14. Nuapada | 15. Phulbani | 16. Rayagada |
| 17. Sambalpur | 18. Sonapur | 19. Sundargarh | |

Punjab

- | |
|---------------|
| 1. Hoshiarpur |
|---------------|

Rajasthan

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Banewara | 2. Barmer | 3. Chittaurgarh | 4. Dungarpur |
| 5. Jaisalmer | 6. Jalore | 7. Jhalawar | 8. Karoli |
| 9. Sawai Madhopur | 10. Sirohi | 11. Tonk | 12. Udaipur |

Sikkim

- | |
|-----------------|
| 1. Sikkim North |
|-----------------|

Tamil Nadu

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Cuddalore | 2. Dindigul | 3. Nagapattinam | 4. Sivagangai |
| 5. Tiruvannamalai | 6. Villupuram | | |

Tripura

1. Dhalai

Uttar Pradesh

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Ambedkar Nagar | 2. Azamgarh | 3. Bahraich | 4. Balrampur |
| 5. Banda | 6. Barabanki | 7. Basti | 8. Budaun |
| 9. Chandauli | 10. Chitrakoot | 11. Etah | 12. Farrukhabad |
| 13. Fatehpur | 14. Gonda | 15. Gorakhpur | 16. Hamirpur |
| 17. Hardoi | 18. Jalaun | 19. Jaunpur | 20. Kaushambi |
| 21. Kushinagar | 22. Lakimpur Kheri | 23. Lalitpur | 24. Maharajganj |
| 25. Mahoba | 26. Mirzapur | 27. Pratapgarh | 28. Raebareilly |
| 29. Sant Kabir Nagar | 30. Shravasti | 31. Siddharthanagar | 32. Sitapur |
| 33. Sonbhadra | 34. Unnao | | |

Uttaranchal

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Chamoli | 2. Champawat | 3. Tehri Garhwal |
|------------|--------------|------------------|

West Bengal

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Bankura | 2. Birbhum | 3. Dakshin Dinajpur | 4. Jalpaiguri |
| 5. Malda | 6. Midnapur East | 7. Midnapur West | 8. Murshidabad |
| 9. Purulia | 10. South 24 Parganas | 11. Uttar Dinajpur | |

Statement II A*Backward Districts Initiative—Release of Funds to RSVY districts*

As on 5.3.2007 (Rs. in Cr)

Sl. No.	State/District	Total amount to be released	Amount released in 2003-04	Amount released in 2004-2005	Amount released in 2005-2006	Amount released in 2006-2007	Total Amount released	Cumulative Expr. reported by state Govts.	UCs received
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh (10)								
	Adilabad	45.00	12.50	2.50	7.50	7.50	30.00	19.50	19.50
	Warangal	45.00	12.50	10.00	7.50	7.50	37.50	27.10	27.10
	Chittoor	45.00	5.00	2.50		7.50	15.00	7.50	7.50
	Karimnagar	45.00	5.00	10.00	7.50	7.50	30.00	21.11	21.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Khammam	45.00	5.00	10.00		7.50	22.50	13.54	13.54
	Nizamabad	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	16.93	14.58
	Nalgonda	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	7.55	7.55
	Mahboobnagar	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	7.62	7.62
	Vijainagaram	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	7.54	7.54
	Medak	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.37	12.37
	Total	450.00	40.00	72.50	37.50	75.00	225.00	140.78	138.41
2.	Gujarat (3)								
	Dangs	45.00	12.50	10.00	7.50	7.50	37.50	27.87	23.06
	Dahod	45.00	5.00	2.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.06	12.06
	Panchmahals	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	5.54	4.55
	Total	135.00	17.50	20.00	15.00	22.50	75.00	45.47	39.67
3.	Haryana(1)								
	Sirsa	45.00	0.00	7.50	15.00	22.50	45.00	34.53	28.38
4.	Karnataka (4)								
	Gulbarga	45.00	7.50	7.50		7.50	22.50	13.68	11.66
	Bidar	45.00	5.00	2.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	13.56	13.56
	Chitradurg	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	13.78	13.66
	Davengere	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	13.62	13.62
	Total	180.00	12.50	25.00	15.00	30.00	82.50	54.64	52.50
5.	Kerala (2)								
	Pattadak	45.00	15.00	7.50	15.00	7.50	45.00	36.51	36.00
	Wayanad	45.00	5.00	10.00		7.50	22.50	12.59	
	Total	90.00	20.00	17.50	15.00	15.00	67.50	49.10	36.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh (10)								
	Mandla	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	15.00	45.00	34.66	34.55
	Barwani	45.00	7.50	15.00	15.00	7.50	45.00	37.50	22.58
	Khargone	45.00	7.50	15.00	15.00	7.50	45.00	36.61	29.86
	Shahdol	45.00		22.50	15.00	7.50	45.00	37.45	27.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Satna	45.00		15.00	15.00	15.00	45.00	34.99	32.18
	Sidhi	45.00		15.00	15.00	15.00	45.00	35.42	35.42
	Umaria	45.00		15.00	15.00	15.00	45.00	34.90	34.90
	Balaghat	45.00		15.00	15.00	15.00	45.00	34.52	34.52
	Seoni	45.00		15.00	15.00	15.00	45.00	34.53	34.53
	Dindori	45.00		7.50	15.00	15.00	37.50	28.97	28.97
	Total	450.00	22.50	142.50	150.00	127.50	442.50	349.55	314.78
7.	Maharashtra (9)								
	Gadchiroli	45.00	7.50	7.50		15.00	30.00	20.64	20.64
	Bhandara	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50		22.50	15.37	6.76
	Chandrapur	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	13.62	13.62
	Gondia	45.00		7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00	14.99	10.53
	Dhule	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	6.49	4.56
	Nanded	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	21.91	21.91
	Nandurbar	45.00		7.50	7.50		15.00	10.53	10.53
	Hingoli	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.20	14.16
	Ahmednagar	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.20	12.20
	Total	405.00	15.00	67.50	60.00	67.50	210.00	127.95	114.91
8.	Rajasthan (3)								
	Dungarpur	45.00	15.00	15.00	15.00		45.00	34.86	34.86
	Banswara	45.00	15.00	15.00	15.00		45.00	34.53	34.53
	Jhalawar	45.00	5.00	17.50	7.50	15.00	45.00	35.60	28.73
	Total	135.00	35.00	47.50	37.50	15.00	135.00	104.99	98.12
9.	Tamil Nadu (5)								
	Tiruvannamalai	45.00	15.00	15.00	15.00		45.00	36.00	36.00
	Dindigul	45.00	5.00	17.50	15.00	7.50	45.00	35.27	35.27
	Cuddalore	45.00		15.00	15.00		30.00	27.26	27.26
	Naggapattinam	45.00		15.00	15.00		30.00	19.84	15.00
	Sivganga	45.00		15.00	15.00	7.50	37.50	27.71	27.71
	Total	225.00	20.00	77.50	75.00	15.00	187.50	146.08	141.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Uttar Pradesh (21)								
	Sitapur	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	7.50	37.50	27.27	27.27
	Unnao	45.00	7.50		7.50	15.00	30.00	27.15	22.64
	Raebareli	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	15.00	37.50	27.04	27.04
	Sonbhadra	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	15.00	45.00	34.80	28.55
	Hardoi	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	15.00	37.50	19.62	10.67
	Barabanki	45.00	5.00	10.00	7.50	7.50	30.00	19.50	18.00
	Fatehpur	45.00	5.00	10.00	15.00	7.50	37.50	27.68	22.71
	Banda	45.00	5.00	10.00	7.50	7.50	30.00	19.60	19.60
	Chitrakoot	45.00	5.00	10.00	7.50	7.50	30.00	20.02	20.02
	Mirzapur	45.00	5.00	10.00	7.50	7.50	30.00	19.50	15.54
	Gorakhpur	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	19.53	19.53
	Azamgarh	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	14.06	14.06
	Kushinagar	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	11.69	11.69
	Jaunpur	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	20.59	20.59
	Chandauli	45.00		7.50	7.50	22.50	37.50	27.03	27.03
	Kaushambi	45.00		7.50	15.00	15.00	37.50	27.06	25.32
	Hamirpur	45.00		7.50	7.50	22.50	37.50	27.05	22.43
	Mahoba	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	19.50	19.50
	Lalitpur	45.00		7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00	20.26	13.70
	Pratapgarh	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	13.67	13.67
	Jalaun	45.00		7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00	19.67	14.72
	Total	945.00	62.50	162.50	202.50	247.50	675.00	462.28	414.27
11.	West Bengal (8)								
	Purulia	45.00	12.50	2.50	7.50	7.50	30.00	20.26	20.26
	Jalpaiguri	45.00	12.50	2.50	7.50	7.50	30.00	20.78	20.78
	24 South Paraganas	45.00	5.00	10.00		7.50	22.50	12.08	10.86
	Midnapur West	45.00	5.00	10.00		7.50	22.50	12.29	12.29
	North Dinajpur	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	13.45	13.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	South Dinaipur	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.32	12.32
	Bankura	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	15.00	15.00
	Birbhum	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	14.71	13.46
	Total	360.00	35.00	55.00	45.00	60.00	195.00	120.89	118.42
12.	Chhatlegarh (8)								
	Dantewada	45.00	15.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	37.50	30.37	25.21
	Bastar	45.00	15.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	37.50	27.26	27.26
	Kawardha/Kabirdham	45.00	5.00	2.50	15.00	7.50	30.00	19.69	19.69
	Rajnandgaon	45.00	5.00	10.00		15.00	30.00	19.97	20.79
	Jaapur	45.00		7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00	21.28	19.81
	Bilaspur	45.00		7.50	15.00	7.50	30.00	22.88	22.50
	Kanker	45.00		7.50	15.00	22.50	45.00	35.27	35.27
	Sarguja	45.00		7.50	15.00	15.00	37.50	27.41	27.41
	Total	360.00	40.00	57.50	90.00	90.00	277.50	204.13	197.94
13.	Bihar (21)								
	Jehanabad	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	12.02	6.29
	Kaimur	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	19.64	
	Gaya	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	21.01	21.01
	Rohtash	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	21.24	21.24
	Aurangabad	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	19.75	
	Darbhanga	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	19.54	19.54
	Madhubani	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	20.71	14.80
	Muzaffarpur	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	20.25	
	Nalanda	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	19.53	
	Samastipur	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	19.57	19.57
	Patna	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	21.57	21.57
	Bhojpur	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	19.68	13.17
	Vaishali	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	19.56	19.55
	Sheohar	45.00		7.50	7.50	0.00	15.00	12.14	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Katihar	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	19.51	19.51
	Nawadah	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	21.36	19.49
	Purnea	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	19.55	19.55
	Lakhisarai	45.00		7.50		15.00	22.50	20.18	20.18
	Supaul	45.00		7.30	7.50	15.00	30.00	19.76	19.76
	Araria	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.07	
	Jamui	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	19.58	5.66
	Total	945.00	0.00	157.50	135.00	210.00	502.50	398.22	260.89
14.	Jbarkhand (16)								
	Simdega	45.00	7.50	15.00		22.50	45.00	34.85	34.85
	Guinla	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	45.00	34.79	34.79
	Lohardagga	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	15.00	45.00	35.04	35.04
	Palamu	45.00	5.00	2.50	15.00	22.50	45.00	34.60	34.60
	Latehar	45.00	5.00	10.00	15.00	7.50	37.50	19.65	15.71
	Bokaro	45.00	5.00	2.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	19.56	14.99
	Chatra	45.00		7.50	15.00	15.00	37.50	27.82	27.82
	Koderma	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	19.51	19.51
	Ranchi	45.00		7.50	15.00	15.00	37.50	27.30	27.30
	Dhanbad	45.00		7.50	7.50	22.50	37.50	27.14	27.14
	Hazaribagh	45.00		7.50	7.50	22.50	37.50	27.17	27.17
	Godda	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	20.09	20.09
	Garhwa	45.00		7.50	7.50	22.50	37.50	22.12	22.12
	Girdih	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.15	12.15
	Saraikela	45.00		7.50	7.50	30.00	45.00	34.63	34.63
	West Singhbhum	45.00		7.50		22.50	30.00	19.55	19.55
	Total	720.00	37.50	120.00	142.50	292.50	592.50	415.97	407.46
15.	Orissa (5)								
	Mayurbhanj	45.00	5.00	10.00	7.50	15.00	37.50	27.14	21.72
	Ganjam	45.00	5.00	10.00	15.00	7.50	37.50	28.85	20.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Gajapati	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	15.56	6.09
	Keonjhar	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.87	9.50
	Sundargarh	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	19.11	13.38
	Total	225.00	10.00	42.50	45.00	45.00	142.50	103.53	70.76
16.	Punjab (1)								
	Hoshiarpur	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	16.31	14.21
17.	Arunachal Pradesh (1)								
	Upper Subansiri	45.00		7.50	7.50	0.00	15.00	7.50	6.40
18.	Assam (5)								
	Kokrajhar	45.00	5.00	2.50		15.00	22.50	14.44	14.35
	North Lakhimpur	45.00	5.00	2.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.47	12.47
	Dheemaji	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00		
	N.C.Hills	45.00		7.50		15.00	22.50	6.21	
	Karbi-Anglong	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	7.50	7.50
	Total	225.00	10.00	27.50	7.50	52.50	97.50	40.62	34.32
19.	Himachal Pradesh(2)								
	Chamba	45.00	5.00	10.00	7.50	15.00	37.50	28.38	28.38
	Sirmaur	45.00		15.00	7.50	15.00	37.50	27.03	27.03
	Total	90.00	5.00	25.00	15.00	30.00	75.00	55.41	55.41
20.	Jammu & Kashmir (3)								
	Doda	45.00	5.00	10.00	7.50	7.50	30.00	20.03	11.69
	Kupwara	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	13.69	13.69
	Poonch	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.94	12.94
	Total	135.00	5.00	25.00	22.50	22.50	75.00	46.66	46.66
21.	Manipur (1)								
	Tamenglong	45.00	7.50	7.50	15.00	7.50	37.50	27.45	27.45
22.	Meghalaya (1)								
	West Garo Hills	45.00		7.50		7.50	15.00	7.50	
23.	Mizoram (1)								
	Lawngtlai	45.00		7.50	7.50	15.00	30.00	22.50	22.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24.	Nagaland (1)								
	Mon	45.00		15.00	7.50	15.00	37.50	30.00	30.00
25.	Tripura (1)								
	Dhalai	45.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	30.00	20.87	20.87
26	Uttaranchal (3)								
	Champawat	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.00	12.00
	Chamoli	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.21	12.21
	Tehri Garhwal	45.00		7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	12.09	12.09
	Total	135.00	0.00	22.50	22.50	22.50	67.50	36.30	36.30
27.	Sikkim (1)	45.00		7.50	7.50	22.50	37.50	32.69	25.88
28.	NABARD	9.30		1.08	3.24	1.65	5.97		
	Total	6624.30	402.50	1241.08	1210.74	1546.65	4400.97	3101.90	2753.75

Statement II B*Release of Capacity Building fund to States under BRGF*

Sl. No.	States	No. of Districts	2006-07	
			Total Entitlement	2006-07 (Rs. in crore)
1.	Sikkim	1	1 crore	0.9482
2.	West Bengal	11	11 crore	10.5
	Total			11.4482

Dilapidated Condition of Bridges on NH-60

1153. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three bridges of Sai bridges near Amarkanand and Dang Mejia and Tarapur of NH-60 in the district of Bankura, West Bengal are in dilapidated condition;

(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 SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) These three bridges are composite structure of single lane width. Some damages have occurred in the Deck Slab in the recent past which has been repaired expeditiously. Now these are all in traffic worthy condition. Reconstruction of all the three bridges will be taken up in a phased manner depending upon *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

Vacant Posts of Youth Co-ordinators

1154. SHRI C. H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many posts of Youth Coordinators and other cadres are lying vacant in Nehru Yuva Kendra;

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

(c) whether non-appointment of youth coordinators is resulting in ineffective management of youth programmes;

(d) if so, whether Government is considering for filling up of the vacant posts;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (f) As against 808 sanctioned posts, including 311 posts of Youth Coordinators, in the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), the total number of persons working in NYKS at present is 2208. The process of rationalization and regularization of the excess posts is presently under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. In the meanwhile, the programmes of the NYKS are being conducted through the Youth Coordinators, by giving them additional charge, wherever necessary, with the involvement of the Youth Clubs and volunteers under the National Service Volunteer Scheme and the Rashtriya Sadbhavana Yojana.

Widening of NH

1155. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways having single lane width and intermediate lane width in various States of the country, specially in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to widen these National Highways;

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

(d) whether the stretch between Chittorgarh to Neemuch of NH-79 qualifies for four-laning;

(e) if so, the details thereof including estimated expenditure on the project; and

(f) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of the National Highways having single lane and intermediate lane width in various States of the country including those of Rajasthan State are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and these are taken up in phased manner depending upon the traffic volume, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no proposal for four laning of stretch of NH-79 between Chittorgarh to Neemuch of NH-79.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	Length of Single & Intermediate Lane of NHs in Km
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	300
2.	Andhra Pradesh	356
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	340
4.	Assam	779
5.	Bihar	1952
6.	Chhatisgarh	773
7.	Goa	96
8.	Gujarat	228
9.	Haryana	327

1	2	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	847
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	792
12.	Jharkhand	941
13.	Karnataka	610
14.	Kerala	290
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1426
16.	Maharashtra	268
17.	Manipur	510
18.	Meghalaya	444
19.	Mizoram	784
20.	Nagaland	379
21.	Orissa	1700
22.	Punjab	55
23.	Rajasthan	1538
24.	Sikkim	62
25.	Tamil Nadu	104
26.	Tripura	333
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2253
28.	Uttrakhand	1510
29.	West Bengal	623

Dolphin/Cellular Service

1156. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dolphin/Cellular Service customers are facing difficulties in operating their Mobile phones especially in NCR region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to redress the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, no specific difficulties for Dolphin/cellular service customers in NCR region have been reported. However, the improvement in network is a continuous process and the following measures are taken from time to time for better coverage.

(i) 146 numbers of Base Transceiver Stations are planned to be commissioned in 2007-08. Six numbers of indoor solutions are working in 4 National Capital Region towns and in addition, 20 numbers are planned to be commissioned in 2007-08 to improve coverage.

(ii) Optimization of network is carried out on continuous basis to keep the system in best operational conditions.

(iii) MTNL is also offering a number of Value Added Services to its mobile customers. A new billing system has been commissioned to address customer needs in changed scenario.

Liver and Kidney Transplantation Facilities

1157. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether the human Liver and Kidney Transplant surgeries are being successfully carried out in various hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the Institutions/Hospitals in which these facilities are available;

(c) the approximate amount of expenditure incurred on the said surgery;

(d) the method adopted to provide Liver and Kidney to the patients for transplant surgery;

(e) whether the Government provide any financial assistance to the patients for the said surgery; 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) A list hospitals registered for liver and kidney transplant surgery in the UTs is enclosed as Statement. The hospitals are registered under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 in various States by respective Appropriate Authorities in the States concerned. The information, however, is not centrally maintained by the Government of India.

(c) As per information available, the approximate amount of expenditure incurred on liver transplant surgery is about Rs. 15-20 lakh in private sector. Whereas the cost of kidney transplant in this sector is about Rs.2-3 lakh. The costs for above surgery in Government sector is subsidized and, therefore, is lower than the cost in private sector.

(d) There are two types of donor for transplantation i.e. (i) live donor (related or unrelated) (ii) Cadaveric donor. The procedure for transplantation has been prescribed under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, and Transplantation of Human Organ Rules, 1995.

(e) and (f) The poor and needy patient can avail financial assistance under National Illness Assistant Fund similar to any other illness subject to fulfillment of certain terms and conditions. Patients from Below Poverty line families can seek financial assistance from the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi for treatment of various life threatening diseases in any Government hospital.

Statement

List of Hospitals registered under THOA, 1994 for Kidney and Liver Transplantation

1.	The Director, P.G.I., Chandigarh	Kidney
2.	The Commandant, Army (R&R) Hospital, Delhi Cantt. Delhi-110010.	Liver/Kidney
3.	The Medical Superintendent, Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre, Tuglakabad, New Delhi-110062	Kidney
4.	Medical Director, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Marg, New Delhi-110060	Liver/Kidney
5.	Director, AIIMS, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029	Liver/Kidney
6.	The Medical Superintendent Pushpawati Singhanian Research Institute, Press Enclave Marg, Sheikh Sarai Phase-II, New Delhi-110017	Kidney
7.	The Director, St. Stephen Hospital, Tis Hazari, Delhi-110054	Liver/Kidney
8.	Dy. Manager, J.P. Apollo Hospital, Sarita Vihar, Delhi Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044	Liver/Kidney
9.	Medical Superintendent, Jaipur Golden Hospital, 2 Institutional Area, Sector-III, Rohini, New Delhi-110085	Kidney
10.	Medical Superintendent, Government General Hospital No. 1, Victor Simon Street, Pondicherry-605 006	Kidney
11.	The Director, G.B. Pant Hospital, New Delhi-110002	Liver
12.	The Medical Director, Forties Fit, Lt. Rajan Dhall Hospital, N Sector B, Pocket 1, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070.	Kidney

[Translation]

High Security Number Plate

1158. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether introduction of High Security Number Plate for motor vehicles has been kept pending by the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to implement the High Security Number Plates; and

(d) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Implementation of the scheme for introduction of High Security Number Plates is entirely the responsibility of the concerned State Governments.

(d) This scheme was to be implemented by 31.10.2006, in respect of new vehicles and within 2 years thereafter, in respect of "in use" vehicles.

Uranium Exploration

1159. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will The PRIME MINISTER be Pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to acquire economically viable uranium deposits abroad to exploit them for peaceful purposes;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No policy decision has been taken so far in this regard.

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

[English]

Private Sector Investment In Telecom Sector

1160. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector has made investment in providing telephone connections in villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the private sector investment in rural telephony during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure investment by private sector in the areas of basic and cellular telephony in villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per the license conditions of private telephone service providers, there are no conditions of making investment in providing telephone connections in villages. Government does not maintain any data regarding investment made by private sector for provision of telephone connections in villages.

However, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is providing subsidy to all service providers including service providers in private sector for provision of telephone connections in villages as per details given below:

(i) USOF has entered into an agreement with Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL) in September 2004 for provision of 21,431 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) in villages with population more than 2000 and where there are no Public Call Offices (PCOs)—As on 31st January 2007, 15,531 RCPs have been provided by RIL.

(ii) USOF has also entered into an agreement with RIL, Tata Tele Services Ltd. (TTL) and Tata Tele Services Ltd. (Maharashtra) (TTL-MH) in March 2005 for provision of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) on demand in 203, 172 and 43 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) respectively—As on 31st January 2007, 4,64,276, 5,00,023

and 1,40,192 RDEs have been provided by RIL, TTL and TTL-MH respectively.

(c) Government is in the process of taking necessary action to provide support for provision of infrastructure for mobile services including Wireless Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile Terminal in rural and remote areas of the country. The infrastructure shall be created in those specified areas where there is no existing fixed wireless mobile coverage. Tender document for this purpose has already been issued on 18.1.2007 and bids have been received.

[Translation]

Permission to Internet Service Providers

1161. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO
GAWALI:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given permission to 128 Internet Service Providers (ISP) to provide internet telephone in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number which have been provided till date?

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

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

[English]

Maintenance of NH in Andhra Pradesh

1162. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from Government of Andhra Pradesh for maintenance and repair works of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their pendency;

(c) the status of each proposal; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. State Government have forwarded 20 proposals amounting to Rs. 29.56 crore for maintenance and repair works on National Highways in Andhra Pradesh. Out of these, 9 proposals amounting to Rs. 17.70 crore have already been sanctioned. The remaining 11 proposals will be considered for sanction during current year depending upon availability of funds.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Doctors in Hospitals

1163. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several posts of expert doctors are lying vacant in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and AIIMS, which are under Central Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes. sir. The number of posts of specialists lying vacant are as follows:

Sr.No.	Name of Institute/ Hospital	Number of vacant posts
1.	AIIMS	138
2.	Dr. RML Hospital	13*
3.	Safdarjung Hospital	16*

* Excluding posts filled on contractual basis.

(c) The AIIMS has advertised 128 vacancies in respect of the Institute. In respect of the Dr. RML and Safdarjung Hospitals, vacancies have been intimated to the UPSC for making necessary recommendations for appointment to these posts. Simultaneously, pending

regular appointment on the basis of recommendations of the UPSC, contractual appointments have also been made in Dr. RML and Safdarjung Hospitals.

[English]

Pilgrimage of Immigrants Overseas

1164. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians emigrated and working in various foreign countries, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the exploitation and problems is being faced by Indian labourers and the NRIs working in various countries especially in Gulf;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the incidents of delay in sending homes the bodies of those who died abroad;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the diplomatic missions are given adequate funds to meet the expenses in case of exigencies;

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to redress the grievances of Indian labourers?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) A Statement indicating the number of Indians emigrated to various countries after—obtaining emigration clearance during last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Complaints are received from time to time from the Indian nationals working abroad, particularly in Gulf countries, regarding non-payment of salaries, ill-treatment and poor living conditions. On the basis of complaints received, 329 foreign employers have been black-listed.

(d) and (e) Ordinarily there are no cases of delay in repatriation of mortal remains of Indians who die while working abroad. It generally takes 7 to 10 days for the process to complete. However, delays are sometimes experienced in cases of unnatural deaths as investigations and formalities take longer time to complete.

(f) and (g) Indian Missions have been providing necessary assistance to Indian nationals in case of exigencies as per the provisions contained in the Consular Manual.

(h) The Indian Missions take up the grievances with the local employers as well as local government authorities. Legal and counselor assistance is also provided to the workers by the missions. Assistance is rendered to the affected workers in coordination with the expatriate Indian associations. Besides, in case the grievances of the workers relate to registered recruiting agents in India, appropriate penal action is taken under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983. In case of involvement of an unregistered recruiting agent, matter is referred to the concerned police authorities concerned for proceeding against the agent for violation of the Emigration Act, 1983.

Statement

*Emigration Clearances granted during the year
2004—Country-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	No. of emigration clearances granted
1	2	3
1.	U. A. E.	1,75,262
2.	Saudi Arabia	1,23,522
3.	Kuwait	52,064
4.	Oman	33,275
5.	Malaysia	31,464
6.	Bahrain	22,980
7.	Qatar	16,325
8.	Mauritius	3,544
9.	Maldives	3,233

1	2	3
10.	Jordan	2,576
11.	Libya	2,303
12.	Sri Lanka	914
13.	Sudan	868
14.	Nigeria	848
15.	Georgia	811
16.	Israel	647
17.	Afghanistan	552
18.	Brunei	543
19.	Guinea	459
20.	Seychelles	332
21.	Yemen	279
22.	Iran	239
23.	Turkmenistan	207
24.	Iraq	195
25.	Algeria	168
26.	Hong Kong	125
27.	Egypt	122
28.	Congo	120
Others (61 countries)		983
Total		4,74,960

Statement

Emigration Clearances granted during the year 2005—Country-wise

S.No.	Name of the Country	No. of emigration clearances granted
1	2	3
1.	U.A.E.	1,94,412
2.	Saudi Arabia	99,879

1	2	3
3.	Malaysia	71,041
4.	Qatar	50,222
5.	Oman	40,931
6.	Kuwait	39,124
7.	Bahrain	30,060
8.	Maldives	3,423
9.	Sri Lanka	2,416
10.	Libya	2,226
11.	Mauritius	1,965
12.	Sudan	1,930
13.	Jordan	1,851
14.	Brunei	1,662
15.	Nigeria	1,389
16.	Male	1,033
17.	Seychelles	1,030
18.	Afghanistan	739
19.	Israel	585
20.	Yemen	352
21.	West Indies	333
22.	Azerbaijan	282
23.	Kazakhstan	216
24.	Iran	182
25.	Russia	180
26.	Hong Kong	150
27.	Zambia	145
28.	Guinea	145
29.	Algeria	138
30.	Tanzania	131
31.	Congo	127
32.	Egypt	84
33.	Indonesia	49
34.	Botswana	44

1	2	3
35.	Turkmenistan	42
36.	Tajikistan	37
37.	Asmara (Eriteria)	32
38.	Kenya	31
39.	China	25
40.	Ethiopia	20
41.	Syria	17
42.	Lebanon	16
43.	Fiji	16
44.	Ukraine	15
45.	Philippines	15
46.	Ghana	14
47.	Djibouti	13
48.	Mozambique	12
49.	Bermuda	11
50.	Zimbabwe	6
51.	British West Indies	6
52.	Cambodia	5
53.	Chile	5
54.	Grenada	5
55.	Malawi	5
56.	Uganda	4
57.	Cayman Island	4
	Others	21
	Grand Total	5,48,853

Emigration Clearances granted during the year 2006—Country-wise

Sl.No.	Country	No. of emigration clearance
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	829
2.	Algeria	75

1	2	3
3.	Angola	97
4.	Antigua	1
5.	Azerbaijan	29
6.	Eriteria	8
7.	Bahrain	37688
8.	Barbados	23
9.	Botswana	44
10.	Brazil	20
11.	Brunei	862
12.	Burundi	1
13.	Bermuda	16
14.	Cambodia	0
15.	China	222
16.	Congo	23
17.	Chile	4
18.	Cayman Is	4
19.	Dumail	27
20.	Djibouti	243
21.	Egypt	173
22.	Ethiopia	22
23.	Fiji	23
24.	Ghana	27
25.	Grenada	4
26.	Gabon	1
27.	Gambia	2
28.	Guyana	135
29.	Guinea	28
30.	Hong Kong	217
31.	Indonesia	36
32.	Iran	180
33.	Israel	406
34.	Jamaica	103

1	2	3
35.	Jordan	1485
36.	Kazakhstan	434
37.	Kenya	323
38.	KSA	134059
39.	Kuwait	47449
40.	Kingston	2
41.	Lebanon	43
42.	Libya	1371
43.	Madagascar	1
44.	Malawi	36
45.	Malaysia	36500
46.	Maldives	4671
47.	Macau	1
48.	Mauritius	1795
49.	Mongolia	55
50.	Morocco	14
51.	Mozambique	61
52.	Myanmar	33
53.	Nairobi	2
54.	Nambia	1
55.	Netherland	1
56.	Nigeria	1050
57.	NIUE	11
58.	Oman	67992
59.	Palau	1
60.	Phillipines	40
61.	Qatar	76324
62.	Russia	331
63.	Senegal	14
64.	Seychelles	1874
65.	Singapore	1
66.	Somalia	11

1	2	3
67.	Sri Lanka	1840
68.	St. Lucia	7
69.	St. Martin	6
70.	Sudan	1240
71.	Syria	12
72.	Taiwan	29
73.	Tanzania	67
74.	Tazakistan	95
75.	Thailand	629
76.	Togo	1
77.	Trinidad & Tobago	8
78.	Turkey	1
79.	Turk & Caicos	1
80.	Turkmenistan	154
81.	UAE	254774
82.	Uganda	34
83.	Ukraine	17
84.	Vietnam	2
85.	West Africa	4
86.	West Indies	6
87.	Yemen	354
88.	Zambia	42
89.	Zimbabwe	30
Total		676912

[Translation]

Environmental Clearance

1165. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the construction of National Highways sanctioned by the Union Government are not being completed for want of environment clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of length of National Highways in kilometres, construction of which has been delayed and the period for which construction has been delayed, State-wise;

(d) whether the cost escalation as a result of delay in construction work of these highways has also been assessed;

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

(f) the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which environment clearance is likely to be provided for the completion of these highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

Dilapidated Condition of Bridge

1166. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bridge over Chambal river situated on Etawah-Bhind National Highway is not in traffic worthy condition;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct new bridge on this river;

(d) if so, the details of the project; and

(e) the time by which the new bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The bridge over

Chambal river situated on Etawah-Bhind National Highway is in traffic worthy condition at present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Allotment of Coal to West Bengal

1167. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly requirement of coal for domestic and industrial consumption in West Bengal;

(b) the quantity of coal actually allotted to the State during each of the last two years till date, quantity-wise, rate-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to increase allotment of coal to West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Coal demand is not assessed state-wise. It is done for different sectors of consumers based on projected demand. The total quantity of coal dispatched to the units in the State of West Bengal by Coal India Limited (CIL) during each of the last two years is given as under:

(figures in million tonnes per annum)

Year	Despatch of coal to West Bengal
2004-05	27.454
2005-06	29.087

The quality of dispatched coal to West Bengal from subsidiary companies of CIL varies widely from "A" to "F" grade and accordingly the prices vary.

(c) to (e) Supply of coal is made on the basis of demand of consumers subject to availability of coal and transport logistics.

Per Capita Amount Allocated

1168. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount allocated for agriculture and rural development during the last three years, especially for drought-prone areas of Maharashtra; and

(b) the amount demanded by the State and the amount sanctioned by the Planning Commission for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) No specific per capita amount has been allocated for agriculture and rural development sectors for drought prone areas of Maharashtra for the last three years. However, year-wise allocation and expenditure for these sectors both under State Plan as well as Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for the State of Maharashtra is placed at enclosed Statement-I The funds allocated/released by Ministry of Rural Development for rural development sector including the specific allocation for drought prone areas for the State of Maharashtra for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Year-wise allocation and expenditure for agriculture and rural development both under State Plans as well as Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 of Maharashtra

(Rs. in crore)

Sector	Year	State Plan		Centrally Sponsored Schemes		Total	
		Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay	Expenditure
Agriculture	2003-04	465.25	322.24	131.86	120.80	597.11	443.04
	2004-05	183.50	324.00	239.08	207.81	422.58	531.81
	2005-06	302.30	367.47	112.92	67.84	415.22	435.31
Rural Development	2003-04	1,088.17	143.78	1,116.48	954.99	2,204.65	1,098.47
	2004-05	217.15	162.81	1,160.42	966.64	1,377.57	1,129.45
	2005-06	984.49	153.39	1,455.52	1,296.13	2,420.01	1,449.52
All Sectors	2003-04	12,052.50	7,411.74	3,330.70	3,235.01	15,383.20	10,648.75
	2004-05	9,665.25	9,817.74	3,611.93	3,429.06	13,277.18	13,246.48
	2005-06	11,014.03	14,674.21	4,434.78	4,113.34	15,448.81	18,787.55

Statement II

The funds allocated/released by Ministry of Rural Development for rural development during the last three years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 of Maharashtra

(Rs. in lakhs)

Programmes	Opening Balance	Total Allocation	Total Releases
1	2	3	4
2003-04			
SGSY	790.28	8436.65	7780.28
SGRY-I	3720.66	21785.79	20512.28

1	2	3	4
SGRY-II	1920.68	21525.20	20996.75
IAY	1765.91	16727.38	16420.83
DPAP			1484.30*
IWDP			949.41*
2004-05			
SGSY	680.20	10560.52	9664.90
SGRY	3291.00	46229.57	45756.39
IAY	1798.89	22004.63	20758.84
NFFWP		15495.26	15495.26
DPAP			3486.00*
IWDP			1660.06*
2005-06			
SGSY	780.19	10560.52	9965.02
SGRY	3373.08	55386.35	52747.88
IAY	793.31	19619.41	23408.47
NFFWP/NREGA	1028.90	34504.70	25357.82
DPAP			4449.39*
BVDP			2051.93*

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

* Total Allocation/Total Release.

SGSY	:	Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana
SGRY	:	Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana
IAY	:	Indira Awaas Yojana,
NFFWP	:	National Food for Work Programme
DPAP	:	Drought Prone Area Programme
IWDP	:	Integrated Wasteland Development Programme
NREGA	:	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

Shortage of Sim Cards

1169. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of Sim Cards in the country specially in the Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no shortage of SIM cards. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has released 72,78,603 cellular mobile connections in the country including 2,89,460 cellular mobile connections in the state of Karnataka during the current financial year till 31st January, 2007.

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

[Translation]

Eradication of Diarrhoea

1170. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the several people in Maharashtra dies untimely due to diarrhoea;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise for the last three years;

(c) whether these deaths took place in villages due to lack of medical facilities; and

(d) if so, the steps 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 cases of deaths due to diarrhoea, State-wise including Maharashtra for the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

Health is primarily a state subject and provision of medical relief for diseases like cholera etc. through primary and community health centers is looked after by the State Governments. Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and hygiene are some of the causes of diarrhoea. The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, School Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for taking quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi (NICD) provides technical support to the State Governments and undertaking surveillance, earlier detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communication diseases including diarrhoea. Technical support to improve the quality of drinking water is also envisaged to be provided by NICD Delhi.

The Government of India has launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme in November, 2004 to further strengthen identification of outbreaks of various diseases including diarrhoea so that early intervention could be made and occurrence, disability and death due to such diseases could be reduced.

Statement

Reported Cases and Deaths Due to Acute Diarrhoeal Disease in India—2004

(Including Gastro-Enteritis)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Male		Female		Total		Reference Period up to
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	675248	67	681634	49	1356882	116	Dec. 2004
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
3.	Assam	259324	17	247644	3	506968	20	Dec. 2004

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
5.	Chattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
6.	Goa	516	0	4958	0	10119	0	Dec. 2004
7.	Gujarat	221378	6	201456	4	422834	10	Dec. 2004
8.	Haryana	132214	23	135678	16	267892	39	Dec. 2004
9.	Himachal Pradesh	217567	27	231009	10	448576	37	Dec. 2004
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	508144	16	Dec. 2004
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
12.	Karnataka	622583	355	507227	207	1129810	582	Dec. 2004
13.	Kerala	250858	11	289223	10	540081	21	Dec. 2004
14.	Madhya Pradesh	208414	58	196057	29	404471	87	Dec. 2004
15.	Maharashtra	296596	24	281955	33	578551	57	Dec. 2004
16.	Manipur	6495	1	6159	2	12654	3	Dec. 2004
17.	Meghalaya	65772	14	69877	9	135649	23	Dec. 2004
18.	Mizoram	8533	6	8015	3	16548	9	Dec. 2004
19.	Nagaland	4698	0	4288	0	8966	0	Dec. 2004
20.	Orissa	213548	33	164277	11	377825	44	Dec. 2004
21.	Punjab	89266	35	91630	23	180896	58	Dec. 2004
22.	Rajasthan	200095	15	154088	11	354183	26	Dec. 2004
23.	Sikkim	28023	1	24095	1	52118	2	Dec. 2004
24.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	281795	41	Dec. 2004
25.	Tripura	18955	16	18470	14	37425	30	Dec. 2004
26.	Uttaranchal	62463	27	41746	6	104209	33	Dec. 2004
27.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	6656	1	Jan. 2004
28.	West Bengal	1192585	873	1133613	698	2326198	1571	Dec. 2004
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	16638	3	14233	1	30871	4	Dec. 2004
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	3491	8	May, 2004
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	49948	14	41715	8	91663	22	Dec. 2004
32.	Daman and Diu	2478	0	2490	0	4968	0	Dec. 2004

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33.	Delhi	78959	45	58362	34	137321	79	Dec. 2004
34.	Lakshadweep	4294	1	3745	0	8039	1	Dec. 2004
35.	Pondicherry	71683	14	69752	5	141435	19	Dec. 2004
Total		5003776	1686	4683376	1187	10487238	2939	

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill defined average

NR—Not Received

...Not Reported

The sum of male and female may not tally with the total figure as some States/UTs. have not reported genderwise information separately.

SOURCE: Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs, Directorate of Health Services.

Reported Cases and Deaths Due to Acute Diarrhoeal Disease in India Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases—2005

(Including Gastro-Enteritis)

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Male		Female		Total		Reference Period
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	808158	178	806118	70	1614276	248	DEC., 05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16571	6	15728	10	32297	16	DEC., 05
3.	Assam	578045	89	213546	55	791591	144	Dec., 05
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
6.	Goa	1219	0	1124	0	2343	0	Apr., 05
7.	Gujarat	241708	8	228967	7	470675	15	Dec., 05
8.	Haryana	148184	12	146233	20	294417	32	Dec., 05
9.	Himachal Pradesh	194898	18	206860	0	401758	21	Dec., 05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	528677	2	Dec., 05
11.	Jharkhand	8178	1	5270	2	13448	3	Dec., Except Jan. to Mar., 05
12.	Karnataka	517132	157	476488	105	993620	262	Dec., 05
13.	Kerala	240240	3	300613	2	540853	5	Dec., 05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Madhya Pradesh	270263	44	231498	21	501761	65	Dec., 05
15.	Maharashtra	366905	23	363012	15	729917	38	Dec., 05
16.	Manipur	9592	0	9180	2	18772	2	Dec., 05
17.	Meghalaya	83805	26	75245	30	159050	56	Dec., 05
18.	Mizoram	7741	6	7533	4	15274	10	Dec., 05
19.	Nagaland	1885	0	1749	0	16081	0	Dec., 05
20.	Orissa	198940	58	151237	34	350177	92	Dec., 05
21.	Punjab	87715	15	87936	18	175651	33	Dec., 05
22.	Rajasthan	216815	7	168218	6	385033	13	Dec., 05
23.	Sikkim	25453	1	25164	0	50617	1	Dec., 05
24.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	351818	134	Dec., 05
25.	Tripura	87594	22	79235	19	166829	41	Dec., 05
26.	Uttaranchal	24029	3	24451	1	48480	4	Nov., 05
27.	Uttar Pradesh	185390	74	150016	51	335406	125	Dec., 05
28.	West Bengal	829839	404	774729	278	1604568	682	Aug., 05
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	12397	5	10433	1	22830	6	Dec., 05
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	31681	2	31724	4	63405	6	Dec., 05
32.	Daman and Diu	1220	0	1293	0	2513	0	Nov., 05
33.	Delhi	81077	47	55679	41	136756	88	Dec., 05
34.	Lakshadweep	3632	0	3156	0	6788	0	Dec., 05
35.	Pondicherry	82017	1	70761	2	152778	3	Dec., 05
Total		5362323	1210	4723194	801	10978459	2147	

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill defined coverage

NR-Not Reported

The sum of male and female may not tally with the total figure as some States/UTs. have not reported genderwise information separately.

SOURCE: Monthly Health condition Reports of States/UTs. Directorate of Health Services.

*No. of reported cases and Deaths Due to Principal Communicable Diseases in India**Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases-2006*

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Male		Female		Total		Reference Period up to
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	569558	81	569898	32	1139456	113	Nov., Except Aug. 06
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	36118	1	29261	0	65379	1	July Except Jan., 06
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
7.	Gujarat	199406	2	182650	2	382056	4	Dec., 06
8.	Haryana	115060	14	110863	19	225923	33	Sept., 06
9.	Himachal Pradesh	143662	7	155754	16	299416	23	Nov., Except Oct., 06
10.	Jammu Div.	101047	11	66628	5	304752	32	Dec., 06
	Kashmir Div.	118135	0	96430	0	214565	0	Dec., 06
11.	Jharkhand	7534	1	7218	0	14752	1	Dec., 06
12.	Karnataka	451733	464	418808	810	870541	1274	Nov., 06
13.	Kerala	200553	2	238128	2	438681	4	Nov., 06
14.	Madhya Pradesh	166571	53	152364	35	318935	88	July, 06
15.	Maharashtra	50159	2	51189	1	101348	3	Mar. Except Jan., 06
16.	Manipur	5837	7	5187	5	11024	12	Sept., 06
17.	Meghalaya	78464	17	73019	13	151483	30	Aug., 06
18.	Mizoram	8414	10	8156	9	16570	19	Nov., 06
19.	Nagaland	4662	0	4514	0	9176	0	July, 06
20.	Orissa	186375	26	138668	13	325043	39	Oct., 06
21.	Punjab	85178	32	85719	26	170897	58	Nov., 06
22.	Rajasthan	157911	17	123266	4	281177	21	Oct., 06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
23.	Sikkim	25646	4	25787	4	51433	8	Dec., 06
24.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	116062	12	Nov., 06
25.	Tripura	78982	25	71768	22	150750	47	Nov., 06
26.	Uttaranchal	51131	4	43615	2	94746	6	Dec., 06
27.	Uttar Pradesh	148415	26	119220	19	267635	45	Nov., 06
28.	West Bengal	1010257	410	950943	291	1961200	701	Sept., 06
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9070	1	7100	0	16170	1	Sept., 06
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	35880	1	38781	3	74661	4	Dec., 06
32.	Daman and Diu	18	0	27	0	45	0	Apr. Except Jan. & Mar. 06
33.	Delhi	56689	49	37709	36	94398	85	Dec., 06
34.	Lakshadweep	3532	0	3190	0	6722	0	Nov., 06
35.	Pondicherry	61707	2	55104	3	116811	5	Dct., 06
Total		4167704	1269	3870964	1372	8291807	2669	

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill defined coverage.

—Not Reported

NR—Not Received

The sum of male and female may not tally with the total figure as some States/UTs. have not reported genderwise information separately.

Source: Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs, Directorate of Health Services.

[English]

Regional Office of NACO

1171. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposal to set up a Regional Office of National Aids Control Organization (NACO) in North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Regional Office is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Regional Office of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) for the North-Eastern Region is proposed to be set up in Guwahati, Assam for which the process for recruiting personnel has started.

(c) The Regional Office is expected to become functional by the end of April 2007.

[Translation]

Construction of Bye-passes on NH-24

1172. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bye-passes to be constructed on National Highway No. 24 alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether the proposal to construct bye-pass through Bareilly is pending for consideration; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared and construction work started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Presently there is no fresh proposal for constructing a bypass in Delhi-Moradabad section of NH-24. Four laning of Lucknow-Sitapur section of NH-24 has been taken up in NHDP Phase-IIIA which also does not provide for construction of any bypass. For Moradabad-Bareilly and Bareilly-Sitapur sections of NH-24, preparation of project design has been taken up by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under NHDP Phase-IIIB. Since land acquisition for Bareilly bypass had already been taken up and a draft Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the bypass had also been prepared in the Ministry, NHAI has been requested to consider this draft DPR while finalizing the said project design.

[English]

Leprosy Patients

1173. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madras High Court has given any direction to the Government for submitting any scheme or plan for rehabilitation and welfare of Leprosy patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing help and assistance to the affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not received any direction from Madras High Court for submitting any scheme or plan for rehabilitation and welfare of leprosy patients.

(c) Under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme, leprosy services are available through all Primary Health Centres (PHC) & Government dispensaries free of cost. Following steps are taken for providing help and assistance to the affected persons i.e. leprosy patients with disability under NLEP.

(i) Organizing Prevention of Disability (POD) camps at block level, where leprosy disabled patients receive one day training on self care practices.

(ii) Conducting Re-constructive Surgery (RCS) operations at various GOI recognized institutions managed by NGO's, Central Government Leprosy teaching and research centres, identified Medical Colleges. Recently efforts are on to increase the number of institutions/centres to provide RCS facilities under Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) plan.

(iii) Supplying MCR footwear to needy patients through District Leprosy Societies, NGO's & ILEP institutions.

These services are provided to leprosy disabled persons free of cost.

Eligibility Criteria for Nursing Courses

1174. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Nursing Councils impose discriminatory eligibility criteria such as marital status or physical requirements for admission to nursing courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to simplify the conditions for nursing admission and to make it hassle free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Indian Nursing Council has not prescribed any criteria such as marital status or physical requirements for admission to nursing courses. Candidates are however, required to produce medical fitness certificate for admission to nursing courses.

(c) Indian Nursing Council has issued instructions to all the State Governments/Union Territories/State Nursing Councils not to impose eligibility criteria like married, divorced or widowed women for admission to nursing courses.

Increasing Capacity of Ports

1175. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the capacity of the ports in the country through Public-Private Participation (PPP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the share of the Government and private parties?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Measures for increasing the capacity in the Major Ports which are under the control of the Central Government are taken as part of an on-going process, keeping in view the demands of maritime trade, through implementation of development plans for the ports, improvement in productivity, etc. The aggregate capacity of the Major Ports as on 31.3.2006 is 456.20 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA). Under the National Maritime Development Programme, which has been formulated by the Department of Shipping, a total of 387 specific projects have been identified to be taken up for implementation over a defined period. Total investment involved under the Programme is Rs. 1,00,339 crores. Out of this, a total of 276 projects involving an investment of Rs. 55,804 crores pertain to the Major Ports and the balance pertain to the Shipping and Inland Water Transport Sectors. Out of Rs. 55,804 crores envisaged for the Major Ports, Rs. 34,505 crores is expected from the private sector, mainly in commercially viable projects like development and operation of berths, terminals, etc. The balance is planned to be met from public funds including Government grants and internal and extra budgetary resources of the Major Ports. Thus, Public Private Partnership (PPP) will be a significant mode for implementing the Programme in the Major Ports.

Mandatory Rural Posting of Doctors

1176. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for all doctors to undergo one year rural posting before they get permanent registration;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a move;

(c) whether this decision has been opposed by the doctors and the Medical Council of India (MCI);

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether any remuneration will be paid to the doctors during the one year rural stint;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the private colleges will also be part of this scheme; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (h) The Government constituted a Task force on Medical Education for the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) under the Chairmanship of Shri Javed Chaudhary, Ex-Union Health Secretary. The Task Force was required to suggest among other measures as to how rural service can be made attractive for MDBS doctors along with other possibilities of providing Health care in rural and under served areas including modification in the curriculum for the medical course. The Task Force has submitted its report and the same is under consideration of the Government.

Awarding Research Contracts

1177. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research contracts on various topics are awarded to Consultants, NGOs, Academic and Research Organisations;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for awarding the contracts;

(c) the list of the research contracts with the name of the organizations awarded in the last three years and its progress;

(d) whether research contracts are available on the website of the Ministry; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), grant-in-aid is provided under their Extra-mural Research Programme to scientists working in permanent positions in medical and other colleges, universities,

research institutions, laboratories and non governmental organizations (NGOs) to conduct health research in specific fields of interest. Three types of projects are funded:

- (i) *ad-hoc projects*: these are investigation oriented, in which a scientist develops a research project in his area of interest.
- (ii) *Task Force Oriented Projects*: There are centrally commissioned programmes on a time bound basis with specific objectives and targeted outcome. These are centrally initiated by ICMR in specific subject areas and identified scientists are invited to participate in the implementation of the project.
- (iii) *Centres for Advance Research*: These projects are received from a scientist with outstanding achievements and recognition in any field. Alternatively, the ICMR may also identify a specific research need and call for applications from selected individuals/centers which have proven excellence in the same area and have necessary infrastructure to carry out further work. These Centres carry out in-depth research on a specifically identified research problem with the aim of reaching a scientific conclusion.

(b) The Criteria adopted for awarding projects include:

- (i) need for research in a specific areas, the topic should have relevance to national health priorities.
- (ii) generation of new knowledge to fill gap in science
- (iii) scientific merit of the project
- (iv) the investigator should be a permanent employee of an institution, have proven track record of academic excellence, should have undertaken some preliminary work on the topic.
- (v) the host institute should provide the infrastructural support for conduct of the research
- (vi) *for NGOs or private institutions*: should be registered as a research body with the Department of Science & Technology
- (vii) the Institution should observe all Government norms in incurring expenditure, and agree to

provide an audited Statement Account by a statutory body or an AGCR recognized Chartered Accountant approved by the Government Body/Executive council of the Institute.

(c) The number of research projects funded to various category of organizations is as follows:

Sl. No.	Category of Organisation	2004	2005	2006
1.	Government Hospital	3	2	3
2.	Private Hospitals	2	2	5
3.	Government Medical College	27	21	28
4.	Private Medical College	6	7	25
5.	Government Research Institute	51	85	134
6.	Private Research Institute	11	8	16
7.	Government Department	1	—	1
8.	University	9	19	43
9.	Others	8	10	23
Total		118	154	278

(d) The list of all Scientists awarded research project by ICMR is available on the website of the ICMR (www.icmr.nic.in).

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

[Translation]

Computerisation of CGHS Dispensaries

1178. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided computers in all the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi;

(b) if not, the details of the dispensaries where computers have been provided; and

(c) the time by which computers are likely to be provided in rest of the dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA

LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Computerisation of CGHS dispensaries in Laxmi Nagar, North Block, South Block and Parliament House Annexe has been completed. Computerisation of other dispensaries in Delhi is expected to be completed by the end of August, 2007.

[English]

Setting Up of Aero Space University

1179. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an Aerospace University in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which university is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Space proposes to establish the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology near Thiruvananthapuram. The Institute will offer Undergraduate, Post Graduate and Post Doctoral programmes in Space Science and Space Technology. The Institute is primarily meant to meet the requirement of highly skilled manpower for our Space programme.

(c) The Institute is planned to commence its operation during academic year 2007-08.

Administrative Reforms Commission

1180. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has recommended for a total technological overhaul of the anti-terror machinery and streamlining of the intelligence network to counter the terror;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the report has emphasized upon upgrading the intelligence agencies and inducting state of the art technology into the terror fighting mechanism,

(d) the other recommendations made by the ARC; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

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) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Compulsory Teaching of Language

1181. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended teaching of the language as compulsory as reported in *The Times of India* dated January 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether setting up of expert group to develop a pedagogically sound English text books for every class has been suggested by NKC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government on the suggestions made by NKC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) The recommendation of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) is given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The proposal of the N.K.C. has been sent to the Ministry of Human Resource Development for examination.

Statement

Extracts from the Report of the National Knowledge Commission pertaining to Languages

The National Knowledge Commission has emphasized the importance of an inclusive society as the foundation for a knowledge society. NKC has also recognized the

significance of language, not only as a medium of instruction or a means of communication but also as a determinant of access. An understanding and command of over the English language is a most important determinant of access to higher education, employment possibilities and social opportunities. School-leavers who are not adequately trained in English as a language are always at a handicap in the world of higher education. More often than not, teaching is in English. Even if it is not, in most subjects, books and journals are available only in English. And those who do not know English well enough find it exceedingly difficult to compete for a place in our premier educational institutions. This disadvantage is accentuated further in the world of work, not only in professional occupations but also in white-collar occupations overall.

This reality is not lost on our people, who recognize that the English language is a critical determinant of access to, and opportunities for a better life. Available information suggests that middle income or lower-income households spend a large proportion of their modest income on sending their children to relatively expensive English medium schools. Such educational opportunities for children are a priority that is almost at par with health care for the family. But there are a very large number of people who simply do not have the resources for such investment. The outcome is exclusion. We believe that inclusion is possible through public provision.

There is an irony in the situation. English has been part of our education system for more than a century. Yet English is beyond the reach of most of our young people, which makes for highly unequal access. Indeed, even now, no more than one per cent of our people use it as a second language, let alone a first language.

These realities cannot be changed overnight. But NKC believes that the time has come for us to teach our people, ordinary people, English as a language in schools. Early action in this sphere, would help us build an inclusive society and transform India into a knowledge society. In just 12 years, it would provide the country's school-leavers with far more equal access to higher education and, three to five years thereafter, much more equal access to employment opportunities.

The Commission engaged in informal consultations on this subject with a wide range of people in government, academia, media and industry. It consulted some Chief Ministers in the states. It consulted Members

of Parliament. It consulted people in professions such as medicine and law as well as civil society organizations. There was unanimity that this can and should be done. A Working Group was constituted to work out the modalities in terms of first steps. The report submitted by this group was used as an input in NKC's deliberations.

NKC recommends that the teaching of English as a language should be introduced, along with the first language (either the mother-tongue or the regional language) of the child, starting from Class-I in school. This phase of language learning should focus on using both languages to create meaningful learning experiences for the child without disproportionate emphasis on grammar and rules.

NKC recognizes that nine States (of which six are in the north-east) and three Union Territories have already introduced English as a compulsory subject from Class-I onwards. In addition, as many as 12 States and three Union Territories have made English a compulsory subject, at different stages in primary school, by Class-V at the latest. However, the implementation is slow and the quality of English language teaching is simply not good enough. The support systems, such as the number of teachers or materials for teaching, are neither adequate nor appropriate. NKC is recommending a fundamental change that seeks to introduce, nationwide, the teaching of English as a language from Class-I onwards. This is not meant to be a stand-alone, add-on subject, but is meant to be integrated into the school curriculum.

Language learning cannot be separated from, and must be integrated with, content learning. Therefore, English should also be used to teach some non-language, content subjects, starting from Class-III in school. The choice of subjects for this purpose can be left to schools depending on the proficiency of teachers and availability of materials. This would, in effect, create multimedial schools. It would also help reduce the divide between English medium schools and regional language-medium schools.

The pedagogy of language learning as well as teaching should be suitably contextualized, to lend meaning to real situations than specifying achievement targets that reward mastery of single texts acquired through rote learning. To this end, a National Testing Service (NTS) for certification of language competence as well as recruitment of language teachers should be set up.

In order to meet the requirement for a large pool of English language teachers, graduates with high proficiency in English and good communication skills should be inducted without formal teacher training qualifications. They could be selected through an appropriate procedure developed by the National Testing Service and then given a short-term orientation. The nearly four million school teachers all over the country, regardless of their subject expertise, especially teachers at the primary level, should be trained to improve their proficiency in English through vacation training programmes or other short-term courses. Most teacher training programmes are not based on a real assessment of needs of teachers. Thus, the entire teacher training system catering to pre-service and inservice training that exists today, including training for language teaching, needs to be thoroughly reviewed, recognizing the centrality of language in the curriculum.

A multiplicity of English textbooks should be made available to address the diversity of English language environments in the country. However, to ensure that certain standards are maintained, benchmarks may be laid down for the content of textbooks at each stage. For this purpose, an expert group should be set up to develop pedagogically sound English textbooks for every level, from Class I to XII. These should be used as models by states and made freely available on the web to allow easy access. While the State Council for Educational Research and Training (SCERT) may continue to be a nodal agency for textbook development for state board schools, the writing of textbooks needs to be further decentralized. To make the exercise more collaborative, civil society organizations with expertise in the domain should be involved in developing textbooks.

Since language learning takes place not only through direct instruction but also through assimilation from the environment, the classroom needs to be equipped with appropriate supplementary audio-visual and print material. Resource libraries could be set up in every classroom, comprising of a collection of books, magazines, newspapers, audio-visual material and posters, appropriate to the age of the students, on a variety of subjects. Language learning opportunities should also be created outside the classroom through specific bilingual radio and TV channels, which could be introduced for formal and informal teaching and learning of English. Knowledge clubs could be formed to discuss and disseminate knowledge as well as extend the use of English outside the classroom. Given that language learning requires extensive resources, a centrally

sponsored scheme of financial assistance for developing English language resources (teachers and materials) should be instituted to address this requirement.

State governments would need to be equal partners in the implementation of this idea. NKC therefore proposes that the Prime Minister discuss this matter with all Chief Ministers at the National Development Council, to formulate a National Plan for the teaching of English as a language, in addition to the regional language, starting in class-1. This would also ensure that at the end of twelve years of schooling, every student is proficient in at least two languages.

UNDP Report on Diarrhoea Deaths

1182. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNDP report has revealed that diarrhoea deaths in India is 1/3rd of total diarrhoea deaths in the world;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the Human Development Report 2006 published for UNDP, diarrhoea claims 4,50,000 lives in India

(c) and (d) Health is primarily a state subject and provision of medical relief for diseases like cholera, etc. through primary and community health centers is looked after by the State Governments. Unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation and hygiene are some of the causes of diarrhoea. The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packet, etc.

The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme,

Total Sanitation Campaign, School sanitation and Hygiene Education and Low Cost Sanitation Scheme for tackling quality related problems in respect of rural and urban drinking water supply. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi (NICD) provides technical support to the State Governments and undertake surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases including diarrhoea. Technical support to improve the Quality of drinking water is also envisaged to be provided by NICD, Delhi

The Government of India has launched an Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme in November 2004 to further strengthen identification of outbreaks of various diseases including diarrhoea so that early intervention could be made and occurrence, disability and death due to such diseases could be reduced.

PM's Visit to Japan

1183. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Japan, an agreement was signed to set up an Industrial Corridor along the Delhi-Mumbai multi-modal freight corridor with Japanese Cooperation;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement reached with Japan in this regard and the nature and extent of Japanese Cooperation committed thereunder; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) During the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Japan in December 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Government of Japan for the establishment of the "Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor". The MoU provides for cooperation between the two countries towards the development of an industrial corridor along the Dedicated Freight Corridor between Mumbai and Delhi, already under development, in order to absorb greater investment, including from Japan. The Japanese side will consider providing support for the development of facilities in the proposed Industrial Corridor. The Government has set up a Group of Officers to develop the project outline.

Junk DNA

1184. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists of centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, proved that Junk DNA does contain so many secrets;

(b) if so, the details of the discovery; and

(c) to what extent this discovery helps in human genome project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research more than 98.8% of human genome is made up of non-coding DNA generally referred to as "JUNK". Less than 1.2% of human DNA codes for proteins. One of the biggest challenges in the field of modern biology is to find out functions of Junk DNA (non-coding sequences). The Y chromosome is of interest to man because it carries genes for maleness. Two-thirds of Y Chromosome is made up of only repetitive DNA, which has been thought of as junk. The current study at Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) presents unequivocal evidence, for the first time that 40 Mega base repeat block of the chromosome, which was earlier perceived as Junk DNA, is transcribed into novel RNAs in testis, which controls the expression of a Gene present on another chromosome. This is the first demonstration of the function for Y-Junk.

Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education

1185. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended for increase in the number of universities by 2015 as reported in the *Times of India* dated January 13, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NKC has also recommended for the setting up of Independent Regulatory Authority for higher education;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(e) whether NKC has recommended to bring entire vocational courses under Ministry of Human Resource Development;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(g) whether NKC has recommended for allowing private investment for improving university education; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The NKC has recommended an expansion in higher education. As per its recommendations on higher education, "the higher education system needs a massive expansion of opportunities to around 1500 universities nation-wide that would enable India to attain gross enrolment ratio of at least 15 per cent by 2015....."

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The comments of the Department of Higher Education, MHRD have been sought on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission pertaining to Higher Education.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission pertaining to Vocational Education and Training are given in the Statement enclosed. The comments of the Department of School Education and Literacy and the Ministry of Labour and Employment have been sought on these recommendations.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) The comments of the Department of Higher Education, MHRD have been sought on the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission pertaining to Higher Education.

Statement

Extracts from the Report of the National Knowledge Commission pertaining to Vocational Education and Training

NKC considers Vocational Education and Training (VET) to be an important element of the nation's education initiative. In order for VET to play its part effectively in the changing national context and for India to enjoy the fruits of the demographic dividend, there is an urgent need to redefine the critical elements of imparting vocational education to make them flexible, contemporary, relevant, inclusive and creative. The Government is well aware of the important role of VET and has already taken a number of important initiatives. Through consultations with industry groups, academics, civil ways and means to strengthen these initiatives and recommends the following long and short-term strategies.

1. Place Vocational Education entirely under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD): In view of the role of VET in human resource development and importance of its linkages with other streams of education, the Government may consider placing all aspects of VET under MHRD. Currently, VET falls under the purview of MHRD as well as the Ministry of Labour, which leads to fragmented management of the VET framework. MHRD may consider setting up a National Institute of Vocational Education Planning and Development to formulate strategy, advise the Government, and undertake research and development in areas pertaining to technology and workforce development.

2. Increase the flexibility of VET within the mainstream education system through the following steps:

- (i) Aspects of general education (such as numeracy skills) should be retained in VET as far as possible, to enable students to return to mainstream education at a Later stage.
- (ii) Courses in training institutes and polytechnics should have distinct tracks for students of different educational attainments.

- (iii) Entry requirements for certain trades should reflect the requirement of the trade (as appropriate, for instance the entry requirement of Class-X could be relaxed to Class-VIII in some cases). Students should be permitted multiple entry and exit options in the vocational education stream.
- (iv) Links should be established between the vocational education stream and school education as well as higher education.
- (v) Courses devoted to certain skills training at the primary and secondary level should be introduced in all schools.
- (vi) Vocational training should be made available in various literacy and adult education schemes.
- (vii) Schemes for lifelong skill up-gradation, through short training programmes, should be introduced.
- (viii) There should be a provision for generating a cadre of multi-skilled persons.

3. Quantify and monitor the impact of vocational education: Data should be collected periodically and analyzed in order to assess the impact of training on employability. Empirical evidence on wage premium or other advantages enjoyed by VET graduates, seat utilization in training institutes, nature of employment post-training, and the efficacy of various schemes is essential for continuous improvement. A detailed exercise of manpower analysis is a necessary step to understanding the nature and quantum of demand for VET and the mismatch between the skills of VET certificate holders and the requirements of the labour market. This exercise may be undertaken by the proposed National Institute of Vocational Education Planning.

4. Increase resource allocation to vocational education: In per capita terms, vocational education costs more than general education, however public expenditure on vocational education has been extremely low, as compared to general secondary education. Given the demand for skilled manpower in manufacturing and services, the Government should aim to spend at least 10-15 per cent of its total public expenditure on education, on vocational education. Some options that may be considered for raising additional funds to finance a modernized VET scheme are:

- (i) Enhancing fees, coupled with student loan schemes. This would also make VET institutions more responsive to market needs.

- (ii) Raising funds through a cess on employers (for instance two per cent of salaries of all employees, as in Singapore).
- (iii) Making it obligatory for companies to finance public vocational education and training programmes (as in Korea).

5. Expand capacity through innovative delivery models: In order to meet the burgeoning requirements of skilled and unskilled labour, a massive increase in quantity of training is needed. The Government could explore new delivery models to increase capacity such as public-private partnerships, decentralized delivery, distance learning and computerized vocational training. At the same time, the Government must introduce certain minimum standards as a measure of quality, and ensure that all public and private VET institutions adhere to these.

6. Enhance the training options available for the unorganized and informal sector: The greatest challenge lies in providing training for potential entrants in the unorganized/informal sector, which accounts for the largest proportion of employment. Systematic efforts need to be made to impart the skills required by the unorganized sector. These should be formally introduced in the curricula and practical training courses. In order to achieve this, the Government should act as a facilitator and provide financial support. This aspect of VET is critical for the success of the system as a whole.

7. Strengthen the current institutional structure: The existing Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) are widely recognized to face problems such as poor quality trainers, lack of flexibility, and outdated infrastructure. Measures to improve the existing institutions are as follows:

- (i) Extent of functional autonomy must be increased, ITIs should be given more power to strengthen and adapt their training programmes to better meet local market needs.
- (ii) Indicators of internal and external efficiency should be developed (by the proposed National Institute) to incentivize good performance.
- (iii) Modules on literacy, numeracy, communication skills, entrepreneurship and other general skills relevant to workplace requirements must be introduced in all courses.

- (iv) Different tracks within courses for different levels of specialization should be introduced.
- (v) Students should be offered incentives such as tools, membership of trade associations, etc., as part of their degree or diploma.
- (vi) Industry and trade involvement should be enhanced not only at the internship stage, but also at the time of examinations and placements.
- (vii) Curricula should be constantly monitored and updated.
- (viii) The skills and courses offered should be reviewed periodically. The number of skills currently offered needs to be increased.
- (ix) Teaching should be conducted in English as well as local languages.
- (x) Infrastructure should be regularly upgraded.
- (xi) Quality of teaching should be drastically improved.

8. Ensure a robust regulatory and accreditation framework: In order to achieve the desired modernization and expansion, a critical aspect will be to regulate entry of new institutions and accreditation of all institutions. NKC therefore recommends that an independent regulatory agency for VET be established. This body would license accreditation agencies and prescribe standards for certification. The procedures and methodologies adopted by the body would need to be simple and transparent to ensure unhindered growth in the sector.

9. Ensure proper certification: At present, the process of certification is handled by the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT), in association with State Councils for Vocational Training (SCVTs). Clear demarcation between the roles of the NCVT, the SCVTs and the Directorate General of Employment and Training is essential for the proper functioning of the certification process. In order to ensure recognition of certification by employers, both in India and abroad, an electronic database of certified training providers as well as electronic identification for certified workers should be introduced. Electronic identification should contain information regarding skills and qualifications (and eventually other relevant information as well) about certified individuals and can be used to facilitate mobility of workers, encourage bank linkages and entrepreneurial initiatives.

10. Undertake a re-branding exercise: It is widely recognized that a crucial problem with vocational training in India is a negative association with manual labour. In order to match the modern requirement of the skills and competitiveness of the workforce, a massive re-branding exercise is of the highest priority. This could be the prime task of the recently announced National Skills Mission. Initiatives such as replacing the use of terms like 'Vocational education' by 'skill development' are a step in the right direction. Training institutes should try to chart out a career path for their students and introduce entrepreneurship training modules.

It is crucial to significantly increase public and private investment in VET. However, a detailed analysis of manpower requirements in terms of numbers, skills and competitiveness is essential before formulating a master plan and deciding the quantum of expenditure in the 11th Plan. A robust framework put in place as a visible and dedicated resource in the MHRD is a pre-requisite to ensuring quality and facilitating significant private investment and participation. Most importantly, the quality as well as the image of VET needs to be actively promoted in order for it to be viewed as comparable to general secondary education, and as relevant.

Non-compliance of FDI Limit

1186. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the telecom operators have not complied with the guidelines for an increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit of 74 per cent as reported in *The Hindu* dated December 22, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has rewritten the FDI norms after the US and other countries expressed concern over norms relating to repair by remote access; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The existing telecom

operators have been given time to comply with the conditions of Press Note 5 (2005) dated 03.11.2005 including security conditions up to 2nd April, 2007.

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

(c) and (d) The Cabinet has set up a Group comprising of National Security Advisor; Cabinet Secretary; Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; Secretary, Ministry of Defence; Finance Secretary and Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, to examine the security conditions and safeguards concerning remote access to Public Switched Telephone Networks and make recommendations for any strengthening or changes required and their reflection in the guidelines for foreign direct investment.

Ban on Junk Food

1187. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose ban of junk food and colas in schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government is making efforts to discourage consumption of junk food and make people aware of nutritious and healthy foods.

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has written to Health Ministers of all States & Union Territories to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from school and college canteens. Letters have also been written to Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories to seriously consider issuing instructions to Vice-Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and Agricultural Universities of their respective States for withdrawal of Junk Food and Carbonated Drinks from canteens of educational Institutions.

IEC material advising avoidance of junk food has been prepared and circulated to the States.

National AIDS Control Programme

1188. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any review on the achievements made under the National AIDS Control Programme Phase-I and Phase-II;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to implement National AIDS Control Programme in Phase-III; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the schemes and the funds earmarked to implement the AIDS Control Programme Phase-III ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National AIDS Control Organisation has entrusted the task of evaluation of National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II to a consortium consisting of Indian Institute of Health Management & Research, Jaipur; Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata and John Hopkins University, USA.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country, NACO is focusing on up-scaling the targeted intervention approach among high risk population groups, mass awareness for behavior change particularly among youth and women groups, expanding care, support and treatment to needy patients including the opportunistic infection management and provision of free antiretroviral drugs and mainstreaming the HIV intervention strategies. Rs. 6806 crore has been budgeted for implementing the programme with 75% for prevention, 17% for treatment and the rest for training, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation.

[Translation]

Losses Incurred by BSNL

1189. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL is incurring heavy losses due to withdrawal of its earning from spectrum charges and licence fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount received by BSNL in the form of spectrum charges during the last two years;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to bail out BSNL from the losses;

(d) whether the BSNL has applied for operating mobile services in Delhi and Mumbai;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is a profit making company since its inception. In the year 2005-06, net profit of BSNL was Rs. 8,939.69 crore. Reimbursement of Spectrum charges and license fee was granted upto 2005-06 to enable it to set off losses incurred on account of rural telephony and other socially desirable projects.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) BSNL applied to Department of Telecommunications on 28.7.2006 for grant of Unified Access Service (UAS) license for operating fixed and mobile services in Delhi and Mumbai Metro Service areas. However, Government has rejected BSNL's

application for operating in Delhi and Mumbai service areas.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

New Guidelines for Backward Districts

1190. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drafted new guidelines for identifying backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said guidelines are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Backward Regions Grant Fund programme covers 250 districts. The list of districts includes 200 districts covered by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme and districts identified by an Inter Ministry Task Group on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances set up by the Planning Commission in August, 2004.

A State-wise list of Districts is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Saliient features of the guidelines are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

The Programme is being implemented according to the guidelines from the current financial year.

Statement I

Backward Region Grant Fund—List of Districts

Andhra Pradesh

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Adilabad | 7. Mahbubnagar |
| 2. Anantpur | 8. Medak |
| 3. Chittoor | 9. Nalgonda |
| 4. Cuddappah | 10. Nizamabad |
| 5. Karimnagar | 11. Rangareddy |
| 6. Khammam | 12. Vizianagaram |
| | 13. Warangal. |

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Upper Subansiri

Assam

1. Barpeta
2. Bongaigaon
3. Cachar
4. Dhemaji
5. Goalpara
6. Hailakandi
7. Karbi Anglong
8. Kokrajhar
9. Marigaon
10. North Lakhimpur
11. North Cachar Hills (Laksha)

Bihar

1. Araria
2. Aurangabad
3. Banka
4. Begusarai
5. Bhagalpur
6. Bhojpur
7. Buxar
8. Darbhanga
9. Gaya
10. Gopalganj
11. Jamui
12. Jehanabad
13. Kaimur/Bhabua
14. Katihar
15. Kishanganj
16. Khagaria
17. Lakhisarai
18. Madhepura
19. Madhubani
20. Munger
21. Mazarfarapur
22. Nalanda
23. Nawadah
24. Patna
25. Pashchim Cham pa ran

26. Purba Champaran

27. Purnia
28. Rohtas
29. Saharsa
30. Samastipur
31. Saran
32. Sheikhpura
33. Sheohar
34. Sitamarhi
35. Supaul
36. Vaishali.

Chhattisgarh

1. Bastar
2. Bilaspur
3. Dantewada
4. Dhamtari
5. Jashpur
6. Kanker
7. Kawardha
8. Korba
9. Koriya
10. Mahasamund
11. Raigarh
12. Rajnandgaon
13. Sarguja

Gujarat

1. Banaskantha
2. Dangs
3. Dahod
4. Narmada
5. Panch Mahals
6. Sabarkantha

Haryana

1. Mohindergarh
2. Sirsa

Himachal Pradesh

1. Chamba
2. Sirmaur

Jammu & Kashmir

1. Doda
2. Kupwara
3. Poonch

Jharkhand

1. Bokaro
2. Chatra
3. Deoghar
4. Dhanbad
5. Dumka
6. Garhwa
7. Giridih
8. Godda
9. Gumla
10. Hazaribagh
11. Jamtara
12. Kodarma
13. Latehar
14. Lohardagga
15. Pachhim Singhbhum
16. Pakaur
17. Palamu
18. Ranchi
19. Sahibganj
20. Saraikela
21. Simdega

Karnataka

1. Bidar
2. Chitradurga
3. Davangen
4. Gulbarga
5. Raichur

Kerala

1. Palakkad
2. Wynad

Madhya Pradesh

1. Balaghat
2. Barwani
3. Betul
4. Chhatarpur
5. Damoh
6. Dhar
7. Dindori
8. Guna
9. Jhabua
10. Katni

11. Khandwa
12. Mandla
13. Panna
14. Rajgarh
15. Rewa
16. Satna
17. Seoni
18. Shahdol
19. Sheopur
20. Shivpuri
21. Siddhi
22. Tikamgarh
23. Umaria
24. West Nimar

Maharashtra

1. Ahmednagar
2. Amravati
3. Aurangabad
4. Bhandara
5. Chandrapur
6. Dhule
7. Gadchiroli
8. Gondia
9. Hingoli
10. Nanded
11. Nandurbar
12. Yavatmal

Manipur

1. Chandel
2. Churchandrapur
3. Tamenglong

Meghalaya

1. Ri Bhoi
2. South Garo Hills
3. West Garo Hills

Mizoram

1. Lawngtlai
2. Siaha

Nagaland

1. Mon
2. Tuensang
3. Workha

Orissa

1. Bolangir
2. Boudh
3. Debagarh
4. Dhenkanal
5. Gajapati
6. Ganjam
7. Jharsuguda
8. Kalahandi
9. Keonjhar
10. Koraput
11. Malkangiri
12. Mayurbhanj
13. Nabrangpur
14. Nuapada
15. Phulbani
16. Rayagada
17. Sambalpur
18. Sonapur
19. Sundargarh

Punjab

1. Hoshiarpur

Rajasthan

1. Banswara
2. Barmer
3. Chittaurgarh
4. Dungarpur
5. Jaisalmer
6. Jalor
7. Jhalawar
8. Karoli
9. Sawai Madhopur
10. Sirohi
11. Tonk
12. Udaipur

Sikkim

- 1, Sikkim North

Tamil Nadu

1. Cuddalore
2. Dindigul
3. Nagapattinam
4. Sivagangai

5. Tiruvannamalai
6. Villupuram

Tripura

1. Dhalai

Uttar Pradesh

1. Ambedkar Nagar
2. Azamgarh
3. Bahraich
4. Balrampur
5. Banda
6. Barabanki
7. Basti
8. Budaun
9. Chandauli
10. Chitrakoot
11. Etah
12. Farrukhabad
13. Fatehpur
14. Gonda
15. Gorakhpur
16. Hamirpur
17. Hardoi
18. Jalaun
19. Jaunpur
20. Kaushambi
21. Kushinagar
22. Lakhimpur Kheri
23. Lalitpur
24. Maharajganj
25. Mahoba
26. Mirzapur
27. Pratapgarh
28. Raebareli
29. Sant Kabir Nagar
30. Shravasti
31. Siddharthanagar
32. Sitapur
33. Sonbhadra
34. Unnao

Uttaranchal

1. Chamoli
2. Champawat
3. Tehri Garhwal

West Bengal

1. Bankura
2. Birbhum
3. Dakshin Dinajpur
4. Jalpaiguri
5. Malda
6. Midnapur East
7. Midnapur West
8. Murshidabad
9. Purulia
10. South 24-Parganas
11. Uttar Dinajpur

Statement II

Salient features of the guidelines for the districts component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)

The Backward Regions Grant Fund is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. The fund will provide financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into identified districts, so as to (a) bridge critical gap in local infrastructure and other development requirements that are not being adequately met through existing inflows, (b) strengthen Panchayat and Municipality level governance with more appropriate capacity building, to facilitate participatory planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring, to reflect local felt needs, (c) provide professional support to local bodies for planning, implementation and monitoring their plans, (d) improve the performance and delivery of critical functions assigned to Panchayats, and counter possible efficiency and equity losses on account of inadequate local capacity.

The implementing Ministry for the BRGF districts is the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Ministry has prepared and issued the guidelines for implementation of the BRGF recently. The guidelines have been placed on the website of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (<http://www.panchayat.gov.in>). The salient features of the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj are as follows:

- (i) The BRGF covers 250 districts including all the 147 districts covered by the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY).

- (ii) BRGF consists of two funding windows, namely, a Capacity Building Fund of Rs. 250 crore per annum, and a substantially untied grant of Rs. 3500 crore for 2006-07 (outlay during the Eleventh Plan period to be intimated in due course).
- (iii) The substantially untied grant will be distributed among the districts as follows: (a) every district will receive a fixed minimum amount of Rs.10 crore per annum, and (b) the balance allocation under the scheme will be made on the basis of the share of the population and area of the districts in the total population and area of all the backward districts.
- (iv) All the 147 RSVY districts will be released funds till the plans approved under RSVY (plus the existing monitoring fee) have been completed to the extent approved. Non RSVY - BRGF districts will begin the process of District Plan preparation in 2006-07 in accordance with these guidelines.
- (v) Each Panchayat or Municipality within the backward district concerned will be the unit for planning under BRGF. Plans prepared by each Panchayat or Municipality will be consolidated into the District Plan by the District Planning Committee, constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- (vi) During the consolidation of the District Plan, particular care shall be taken to ensure that the District Plan addresses issues relating to SC/ST development.
- (vii) The State Government will designate a department, preferably the Department of Panchayati Raj, as the nodal department at the State level, responsible for the management, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.
- (viii) A High Powered Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary and consisting of Members from various departments of State Government and the Central Ministries will consider and approve the proposed District Plans to be taken up under the districts component of the BRGF.
- (ix) All funds will be transferred to the Consolidated Funds of the State Governments. Those funds that are to be transferred to Panchayats and Municipalities by the State Governments will be

transferred to their bank accounts within 15 days of the release of funds to the Consolidated Funds.

- (x) Audit, Inspection of works, preparation of booklet of verification of works and progress reports will be done as per the procedure prescribed.
- (xi) Separate guidelines have been provided in Chapter 5 for the States and districts not covered by Part IX and Part IXA of the Constitution.

[English]

Coal Production through Contractors

1191. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 50% of coal production is made through contractors and contract workers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether contractors and contract workers are being engaged as per the law;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding violation of such laws by the authorities;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Out of total production of 343.39 million tonnes of coal in 2005-06 about 160.34 million tonnes was produced by hired equipments/outourcing in Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries. Outsourcing is being done to augment the production capacity and because of its being more economic so that the demand of coal is met by CIL.

(c) and (d) CIL and its subsidiaries companies do not directly employ / engage labourers on contract basis. However, certain works, which are not of permanent and perennial nature, are given on contract for which contractors deploy their workmen. Terms and conditions of service, other facilities / benefits etc, are as per the provisions of contract agreement and Contract Labour

(Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise in view of reply at part (e) above.

Indo-Pak Relations

1192. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the President of Pakistan has put forth any fresh proposals for improvement of Indo-Pak relations including resolution of Kashmir issue;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In an interview to an Indian news channel in December, 2006, President Musharraf made certain proposals on Jammu and Kashmir, which were similar to proposals made by him earlier. These included identification of the area to which these proposals would apply, making the Line of Control irrelevant, demilitarisation, self-governance and joint management.

(c) The issue of J&K is being discussed between India and Pakistan within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. Our consistent position during the above talks has been that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and the settlement of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir can be achieved through dialogue. Any demilitarisation or re-deployment of security forces within the territory is a sovereign decision of Government of India based on our own assessment of prevailing security situation. Jammu and Kashmir already enjoys autonomy under the Indian Constitution and has in place a democratically elected government.

Coal Distribution Policy

1193. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to replace e-auction system for marketing of coal;

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

(c) whether the Government has constituted a committee to finalise coal distribution policy;

(d) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (f) The sale of coal through e-auction introduced in the year 2004-05 has been discontinued as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. Coal India Limited has, in the interim, put in place E-booking scheme to ensure that the supply of coal to non-linked consumers does not suffer. Keeping in view the observations and directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, a Committee has been constituted on 29th December, 2006 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) to evolve a new policy for distribution of coal. The Committee is likely to submit its report shortly.

[Translation]

Quality of Health Services

1194. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve the quality of health services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance of the World Health Organisation, World Bank and other International Agencies likely to be sought in this regard;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute any new body with the assistance of drug manufacturers, chemists and the Non-Governmental Organisations well-versed with laboratories and research work to improve the quality of health services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Health is a State subject. Hence, State Governments are primarily responsible for provision of preventive, promotive and curative health care services. However, Central Government extends assistance to various States in implementation of Centrally Sponsored Health Programmes like Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. The government has also launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which provides for adoption of Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) at all levels, i.e., sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres and district hospitals. Efforts are also made to augment the resources for health sector by mobilizing external assistance. The World Health Organisation is providing technical assistance for the programmes of the sector, the World Bank is providing loans to the Government for the National Health programmes as well as some State Health Systems projects aimed at improving and upgrading the health care facilities and other international agencies such as UNICEF, UNFPA, Department For International Development of UK (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), European Commission (EC) etc. are collaborating with the government in different spheres of the NRHM.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration.

[English]

Vacancies in Telecom Circles

1195. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in BSNL/MTNL in the country, State-wise/Circle-wise and category-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to fill up the vacancies to improve Telecom services;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be filled up?

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

House.

Organ Transplantation

1196. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any gap between the demand and supply of organs for transplantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a specific policy and guidelines encouraging the donors with handsome incentives and provide transplant centres and facilities both in public and private sector hospitals in each of the district headquarters; 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) Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, facilitates cadaver as well as brain-dead organ donation, and provides for (i) regulated removal and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes, making it mandatory to perform transplantations only in hospitals registered under the Act; (ii) banning of commercial dealing in human organs; and (iii) legalizing brain death and makes it possible to perform not only cadaveric kidney transplantations but even heart, lung, liver and other organ and tissue transplants using brain-dead donors.

Donation of organs after death has been accepted in India. But the number of donated organs is not sufficient in number of donated organs is not sufficient in number to meet the demand. The number of organ donors in the country is very small due to inability to obtain consent from relatives of such donors.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has set up the Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation (ORBO) as the national facility and nodal centre for encouraging organ donations, fair and equitable distribution of human organs and optimum utilization of human organs. ORBO coordinates cadaver organ donation. ORBO has published brochures for general public and posters for display. ORBO organises donation awareness campaign with religious bodies, academic institutions, etc., regularly. A network of 15 hospitals (Government, public and charitable) with ORBO has been formed for smooth functioning and coordination process of organ donation and transplantation in Delhi.

NGOs and institutions like Multi Organ Harvesting and Network (MOHAN), Hyderabad; Foundation for Organ Retrieval and Transplant Education (FORTE), Chennai; and Zonal Transplant Coordination Committee (ZTCC), Mumbai, not only coordinate cadaver donor transplant activities, but also educate masses about the same.

Setting up of Institutes of Public Health

1197. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Institutes of Public Health in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the places identified for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up such an institute at Hyderabad, in view of the vast public health infrastructure available in the city;

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the time by which such institutes are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to support the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in setting up of world class Institute of Public Health in India. PHFI is an autonomous Public-Private partnership wherein the Government of India proposes to contribute as one-time grant upto Rs.65 crore to the initial Rs. 200 crore PHFI corpus, whereas another one-third will come from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the remaining from high net worth corporates/individuals, both in India and abroad. The exact location where the schools are to be set up would be decided by PHFI.

(c) and (d) As reported by PHFI, the foundation has been pursuing with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up an Institute of Public Health at Hyderabad.

(e) According to the PHFI, the first Institute of Public Health is likely to be commissioned by PHFI in July, 2008.

[Translation]

Equipments in Government Hospitals

1198. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of health investigation facilities in various government hospitals located in Delhi;

(b) the amount spent by the Government in procuring/ repairing new diagnostic equipments in various hospitals from 1st January, 2006 till date;

(c) the details of such diagnostic machines/ equipments which are out of order till date; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to restore the faith of the patients in the Government Hospitals for treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In so far as Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals are concerned, well equipped investigation facilities are available.

The amount spent for procurement/repair of diagnostic/investigation equipments from January, 2006 to till date is as under:

S.No.	Name of Hospital	Amount
1.	Safdarjung Hospital	Rs. 272.64 lakh
2.	Dr. RML Hospital	Rs. 494.34 lakh
3.	LHMC & Associated Hospitals	Rs. 223.78 lakh

Strengthening and upgradation of hospital services/ infrastructure, is a continuous process and the same are undertaken as per the need and available resources.

[English]

Skeletal Fluorosis

1199. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Endemic Skeletal Fluorosis has affected millions of people in the various States causing disability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether people affected by fluorosis are often exposed to multiple sources of fluoride in food and water as outlined in WHO Report; and

(d) if so, steps taken to contain such Endemic Skeletal Fluorosis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Skeletal fluorosis is one of the three forms of fluorosis. Based on the fluorine content of the drinking water in the country, fluorosis is a problem in 19 states, which are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. It is estimated that population actually affected by fluorosis in the country is 25 million.

(c) Intake of fluoride is generally through drinking water and food products. Other sources of fluoride are industrial emissions, fluoride containing drugs.

(d) Fluorosis is combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a State subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) - Rural Drinking Water for tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Along with the Department of Drinking Water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ion-meters to different states for estimation of fluoride in drinking water. National Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to Public Health Engineers and Medical professionals from various States/Union Territories to generate awareness about fluorosis and check the spread of fluorosis in the country.

The Government is considering launch of a Natural Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis.

MoU with Gulf Countries

1200. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to sign Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with several Gulf countries like Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain to protect the rights of migrant labourers;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the MoUs;

(c) the number of labourers working in Gulf, country-wise;

(d) whether any agreement has been signed for cooperation in manpower recruitment between India and UAE; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposed Memorandum of Understandings envisage bilateral cooperation in the field of labour, employment and manpower development between India and the Gulf countries. The objectives are promotion of orderly & humane overseas employment, welfare and protection of all categories of overseas Indian workers and addressing labour issues through Joint Committees.

(c) As per the information provided by the missions, the number of Indians working in the Gulf are as under:

S.No.	Name of the Country	Number of workers
1.	Kuwait	4,77,938
2.	Qatar	2,20,000
3.	Saudi Arabia	12,39,686
4.	Oman	3,68,277
5.	Bahrain	2,18,242
6.	UAE	7,70,000

(d) and (e) The Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of United Arab Emirates and the Government of India in the field of manpower was signed on 13.12.2006. Specific provisions have been incorporated in the Memorandum of Understanding for promoting overseas employment, extending protection of law to all categories of emigrant workers, preventing illegal migration of workers and constituting a Joint Committee to monitor the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding and resolve issues connected therewith.

[Translation]

Incidence of Road Accidents

1201. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has suggested the Government to adopt scientific measures like conducting research, improving roads, discarding risky vehicles and maintaining strict monitoring of drunken drivers for formulating a national policy to reduce the increasing number of fatal road accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Delhi High Court has also given orders for furnishing details of casualties in road accidents in view of their increasing number;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to increase the compensation to road accident victims; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has not given any directions for formulating a National Policy for using scientific method to reduce fatal road accidents in the country. However, this Department has taken several steps to improve road safety for the road users which are as under:—

(i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at planning stage for National Highways/ Expressways.

- (ii) Various steps to enhance road safety such as road furniture, road markings/road signs, introduction of Highway Traffic Management System using Intelligent Transport System, enhancement of discipline among contractors during construction, road safety audit on selected stretches, have been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India.
- (iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector.
- (iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Department of Road Transport and Highways and National Highways Authority of India.
- (v) Setting up of Model Driving Training School in the country.
- (vi) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.
- (vii) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.
- (viii) Tightening of safety standards of vehicles.
- (ix) Provision of cranes and ambulances to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km. on each of its completed highways under its Operation & Maintenance contracts.
- (x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes, etc.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Yes Sir.
- (f) The details can not be given at this stage.

[English]

Decline In Unregistered Parcel Business

1202. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether there has been a decline in the unregistered parcel business of Indian Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the revenue earned therefrom during 2004-05;

(c) whether the Government proposes the Joint Parcel Product Initiative with the Indian Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Government is likely to revive their parcel business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) In unregistered parcel business, there was slight decrease in 2004-2005 *vis-a-vis* 2003-2004. However, there is increase in 2005-2006 *vis-a-vis* 2004-2005.

The revenue earned from 2003-2004 onward is as follows:

(in Rupees)			
Name of the parcel	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Unregistered	118390114	117078465	152032334

(c) to (e) Department of Posts and Ministry of Railways have been working on a proposal for a joint product for sending Parcels and Logistics Post consignments through rail network. The joint parcel product is expected to provide a boost to our parcel business.

Contracts to Private Parties by NHAI

1203. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the contracts awarded to the private parties by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the construction of National Highways, during the last three years;

(b) whether some of these contracts were terminated by NHAI;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) 317 contracts covering a

length of 12428 km have been awarded to private sector by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for construction of National Highways. Some of these contracts have been terminated due to poor mobilization of man and machinery and extremely slow progress of work by contractors. The details of contracts terminated is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Terminated Contracts on GQ

S.No.	Stretch	Funded By	NH No.	Length (km)	Present Status
<i>Golden Quadrilateral</i>					
1.	Chitradurga bypass	ADB	4	18	Balance work awarded on December, 2006
2.	Ganjam to Ichchapuram (OR-VIII)	NHAI	5	50.8	Balance work awarded on 31.03.2006
3.	Shikohabad to Etawah (GTRIP I-B)	WB	2	59.02	Balance work awarded on 05.09.2005
4.	Srikakulam to Champawati (AP-1)	NHAI	5	48	Balance work awarded in December, 2005
5.	Etawah Bypass	NHAI	2	13.6	Balance work awarded in December, 2005
6.	Haveri-Harihar	NHAI	4	56	Terminated on 16.01.2007
7.	Harihar-Chitradurga	NHAI	4	77	Terminated on 16.01.2007
<i>North South</i>					
8.	Six laning of Panchi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonapat) (NS-17/HR)	NHAI	15	21.7	Balance work re-awarded on 18.10.2005
9.	Eight laning of Haryana/Delhi Border to Mukaraba Chowk (NS-18/DL)	NHAI	1	12.9	Balance work re-awarded on 05.10.2005
10.	Gundla Ponchampalli to Bowenpalli/km 464 to km 474 & km 9.20 to km 22.30(NS-23)	NHAI	7	23.1	Balance work awarded on 30.06.2005
11.	Kanniyakumari-Panagudi (NS-32)	NHAI	7	23.1	Contract terminated
<i>East West</i>					
12.	Lucknow-Kanpur (EW/3A)	NHAI	25	16	Balance work re-awarded

Telephone Connections in Post Offices

1204. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone connections have been provided at all post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The State-wise number of post offices provided with telephone connections as on 31-03-2006 is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) As per the policy of the Department of Posts, all the Departmental Post Offices in the country will be provided with telephone connections in a phased manner.

Statement

State-wise number of Post Offices provided with telephone connections as on 31-03-2006

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Departmental Post Offices with telephone connections	No. of Extra Departmental Post Offices with telephone connections
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1767	6
2.	Assam	440	7
3.	Bihar	1042	99
4.	Chhattisgarh	334	128 WLL
5.	Delhi	421	Nil
6.	Gujarat	1299	7
7.	Haryana	458	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	378	Nil
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	138	1
10.	Jharkhand	321	Nil
11.	Karnataka	1692	180
12.	Kerala	1454	727
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1008	1

1	2	3	4
14.	Maharashtra	1777	Nil
15.	Goa	207	Nil
16.	Tripura	65	Nil
17.	Meghalaya	47	Nil
18.	Manipur	35	Nil
19.	Mizoram	39	Nil
20.	Nagaland	31	Nil
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	42	Nil
22.	Orissa	845	1502
23.	Punjab	790	3
24.	Chandigarh	46	Nil
25.	Rajasthan	650	Nil
26.	Tamil Nadu	1341	13+167 PCOs
27.	Pondicherry	22	Nil
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1595	1069
29.	Uttaranchal	288	Nil
30.	West Bengal	1649	252
31.	Sikkim	23	Nil
32.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	27	Nil
Total		20,271	4167

HIV/AIDS Awareness

1205. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a survey 73 percent of young people have misconceptions about HIV;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether according to the said survey married women may be more vulnerable to HIV than unmarried girls; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to create awareness about HIV among this segment of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the National Behavioural surveillance survey conducted in 2001, 73% of youth populations had misconceptions on certain incorrect modes of transmission such as mosquito bite and sharing meals. However, during 2006 the percentage has decreased to 49.4%. The report does not mention regarding the higher vulnerability of young brides as compared to the unmarried girls.

(d) The core strategy of National AIDS Control Programme continues to be prevention. IEC campaigns through mass media and inter personnel channels are being used with a special focus on youth for propagating abstinence and delay of sexual debut, being faithful to their partner and correct & consistent condom use. The focus is also on the life skill development among youth to protect themselves.

[Translation]

Rail-Road Linkage Projects

1206. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether a number of rail-road linkage projects received from the State Government are pending with the Government;

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

(c) the progress made in respect of these projects during the last three years, year-wise and project-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to expedite the Rail and Road connectivity to sea ports in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Union Government is responsible for development and maintenance of only National Highways (NH) and providing NH connectivity to the Major Ports of the country. At present, there is only one Major Port in Gujarat, i.e., Kandla Port which is well connected through National Highway NH-8A. However, some of the projects for augmentation of National Highways in Gujarat, that have been included in the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-III, would also facilitate improved road linkage to some non-Major Ports of Gujarat. These projects are indicated below:

Project	Status
Kandla-Mundra Port Section of NH-8A	Bids are under evaluation for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project for four laning of 73 kms stretch of NH-8A.
Surat-Hazira Port Section of NH-6	DPR is in inception stage for the project of four laning of 29 kms stretch of NH-6.

For the connectivity of Broad Gauge Rail Linkages to important non-Major Ports in Gujarat, the Gujarat Maritime Board had initiated and completed Techno-Feasibility Studies through M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) Limited. Discussions were held between

senior officers of Government of Gujarat and Railway Board on 20th July, 2006. Meanwhile, Railways are executing following projects for providing linkage to non-Major Ports in Gujarat:

Name of the Port	Status
1	2
Dahej Port (Bharuch-Samni-Dahej-Gauge Conversion)	The project has been sanctioned for execution by Rail Vikas (RVNL) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz. Railway Company Limited which will implement the shareholder's agreement has been signed on 12.1.2007. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 165.77 crores.

1	2
Hazira Port (Surat-Hazira-New Line)	A Special Purpose Vehicle for implementation of this project is to be created upon finalization of principles for revenue allocation and Concession Agreement for this project.
Dholera Port	Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is undertaking the Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey (PETS) for rail connectivity to this Port.
Bedi and New Bedi Port Connectivity	Railway Board is appraising the Study Report prepared by RITES for this project.

[English]

Hurdles in Sethusamudram Project

1207. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

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

(a) whether the work on the proposed Sethu-Samudram Project in Tamil Nadu has started;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present status of the said project;

(d) whether the Government has received any suggestion or alternative to save the underwater bridge from dredging;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The commencement of the work for the project was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 02.07.2005 and the work is in progress. The project involves dredging work mainly at two places namely Adam's Bridge and Palk Strait & Palk Bay. As

estimated, a total quantity of 82.5 million cubic metres is required to be dredged. The Dredging Corporation of India Ltd., Visakhapatnam has been entrusted with the dredging work of the project. The work at Adam's Bridge has commenced on 11.12.2006.

(d) and (e) Representations against undertaking the project have been received. However, as per the scientific information available with the Project Authorities, there is no underwater construction in the project area.

(f) As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the project is scheduled to be completed by November, 2008.

Private Cell Phone Companies

1208. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private cell phone companies operating in the country;

(b) the criteria for starting new companies;

(c) whether the private cell phone companies are providing more attractive schemes to customers which drastically affects BSNL and MTNL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 27 private companies have been licensed to operate in the country for providing access services including cell phone services.

(b) A new company can be started as per provisions in the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) and (d) As per Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), their schemes are equally attractive and affordable as per market requirement and suiting all segments of society.

Primary Health Centres in Rural Areas

1209. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to open more Primary Health Centres in Rural and Remote Areas in view of the fact that every seven minutes a woman dies of child birth related complication in every State;

(b) if so, whether the existing Primary Health Centres are not equipped with essential medicines, doctors and para medical staff;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of complaints received in this regard during each of the last three years; and

(e) steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The number of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) functioning in the country are 22669 as on March 2006. About 7.5% of the PHCs were without a doctor, about 38.9% were without a lab technician and about 17.7% were without a pharmacist as on March 2006.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), all PHCs in the country are being strengthened to provide a package of essential public health services.

- By ensuring support for outreach services.
- Regular supply of essential drugs and equipment, round the clock services.
- Upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting AYUSH practitioners at PHC level.
- Providing standard treatment protocols and training medical officers and para-medical workers in their use.

Construction of by-pass Road

1210. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the By-pass road at Alappuzha along the National-Highway is yet to be completed although twenty-five years have lapsed after the commencement of the work;

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

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

(d) the time period by which the project is likely to be completed;

(e) whether the Government has received any proposal from State Government of Kerala regarding construction of flyover along 2 km length of the NH; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Total length of Alappuzha Bypass is 7.580 km. After acquiring the land for the bypass, the construction was taken up in two Phases. Phase I of the bypass for a length of 3.730 km has already been completed. Phase II of the bypass involving a length of 3.850 km excluding two R.O.Bs sanctioned on 20.5.03 is in progress and is likely to be completed by December 2007. The delay in implementation of the bypass is mainly due to delay in land acquisition.

(e) and (f) No such proposal has been received in the Ministry so far.

Physical Education Institutes

1211. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of institutions imparting physical education and sports sciences in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of students trained by these institutes during the last two years, institution-wise;

(c) whether these institutions focus on training young men and women for international events according to international standards;

(d) if so, the number of alumni who have participated in international events;

(e) whether the Government proposes to open more of such institutions;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Sports is a State subject and it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to take necessary steps for promotion of sports including imparting Physical Education and Sports Sciences in their respective States. No data relating to the number of institutions imparting Physical Education and Sports Sciences in the country is maintained by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. However, there are two institutions under the Government of India which impart Physical Education: (i) Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh) and (ii) Lakshmbai National College of Physical Education (LNCPE) Trivandrum (Kerala). In addition, the Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports, Patiala (Punjab) under Sports Authority of India also runs courses in respect of Sports Medicine.

(b) The number of students trained/passed out of these institutes during last two years is indicated below:

LNIPE, Gwalior	358
SAI, LNCPE, Trivandrum	150
Netaji Subash National Institute of Sports, Patiala.	11

(c) No, Sir, because these institutes focus on training of young men and young women for taking up teaching/training in Physical Education in general.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) This Ministry has no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

Delay In Construction Work on NH

1212. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the construction work on the National Highways is very slow and lagging behind the scheduled time;

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

(c) the present status of construction work of the National Highways under various programmes, project-wise;

(d) the steps taken to monitor the progress of construction work of National Highways;

(e) the funds allocated and spent during the last three years, year-wise and project-wise; and

(f) the scheduled dates fixed for the completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There are 43 No. of works each project costing more than Rs.5 crores aggregating to Rs. 728 crore on National Highways entrusted with State PWD and Border Road Organization which are progressing slowly and delayed. There has been some delay in completion of some works on National Highways entrusted with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The main reasons for the delay in completion of work are the problems associated with acquisition of land, shifting of Utilities, delay in environmental and forest clearance, poor performance of some contractors, delay in clearances for railway overbridges (ROBs, very heavy and continuous rainfall and extreme in some parts of the country, and law and order and insurgency problems in some States.

(c) The status of different phases of the National Highway. Development "project being implemented by NHAI are given in the enclosed Statement-I. In addition the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North Eastern Region (SARDP-NE) Phase A provides for improvement of 1110 km. of National Highways. Preparation of detailed project report for development of 736 km. has started. Balance length of 374 km. have been approved for implementation.

(d) Regular monitoring of financial and physical progress of works is carried out with a view to removing bottlenecks. Quarterly review meetings are being held with the officers of the State Government for monitoring

as well as removal of bottlenecks. In addition, the following steps are also being taken by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to expedite the implementation of National Highway Development Project:

- (i) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and Minister, Shipping Road Transport & Highways.
- (ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highway Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances, etc.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearances of railway overbridges, etc.

(e) Funds for development of National Highways are allocated Statewise and Organizationwise and not projectwise. The Statewise and organizationwise details of the funds allocated and the expenditure incurred on the development of National Highways during the last 3 years are given in the enclosed Statement-II

(f) Development and maintenance of the National Highway is a continuous process. The target date of completion of project is decided based on the type, amount, specifications used and location of the project. The completion date varies from project to project. The approved projects of NHDP are targeted for completion by December, 2015. SARDP-NE Phase A is targeted to be completed by March, 2009.

Statement I

Status of Projects under National Highway Development Project

Sl. No.	Project	Total length (km.)	4-laned (km.)	Under Implementation		Balance for Award (km.)
				Length (km.)	No. of contract	
1.	Golden Quadrilateral	5846	5521	325	35	—
2.	North South & East West Corridors	7300	964	5266	146	908
3.	Port connectivity and Other NHs	1325	427	857	23	41
4.	NHDP—IIIA	4000	30	1296	20	2674
5.	NHDP Phase-V	6500	—	148	2	6352
6.	NHDP Phase-VI	1000	—	—	—	1000
						Section identified for prioritization and study
Total		25971	6942	7892	226	10975

Statement II*Allocation and Expenditure of funds for the development of National Highways during the last 3 years*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	103.00	102.61	90.00	89.86	70.00	69.65
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.10	4.05	6.00	5.91	6.00	6.00
3.	Assam	106.83	106.74	78.00	78.00	58.00	58.00
4.	Bihar	70.17	52.07	66.07	47.11	65.00	64.92
5.	Chandigarh	1.50	1.72	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.89
6.	Chhattisgarh	45.17	42.39	35.00	34.89	49.85	49.34
7.	Delhi	10.00	13.39	4.00	3.95	1.00	0.51
8.	Goa	24.00	23.18	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00
9.	Gujarat	60.24	60.24	60.00	53.64	94.50	94.50
10.	Haryana	52.50	53.66	46.00	37.87	57.42	57.42
11.	Himachal Pradesh	32.00	27.78	45.00	40.48	39.00	39.00
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.00	4.00	0.22	0.21	0.00	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	36.70	33.00	35.00	14.04	40.00	39.97
14.	Karnataka	148.37	154.48	76.91	76.90	84.00	84.00
15.	Kerala	95.00	95.00	60.00	58.38	65.00	65.99
16.	Madhya Pradesh	72.52	72.35	83.00	82.86	74.07	73.61
17.	Maharashtra	120.00	109.00	70.00	65.64	112.00	111.93
18.	Manipur	15.95	15.16	14.00	13.78	20.00	20.00
19.	Meghalaya	39.30	35.92	28.00	28.26	24.00	24.18
20.	Mizoram	31.00	31.00	25.00	24.91	15.75	15.75
21.	Nagaland	11.50	11.48	16.00	16.00	11.25	11.25
22.	Orissa	68.00	68.00	72.75	72.33	66.00	65.77
23.	Pondicherry	2.20	2.20	2.13	2.13	2.65	2.64
24.	Punjab	48.73	48.72	53.00	50.72	62.50	62.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	Rajasthan	44.27	44.23	60.00	46.45	83.00	83.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	87.00	80.79	85.00	65.31	86.00	81.80
27.	Uttarakhand	19.10	18.38	27.00	26.48	40.00	40.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	89.05	89.05	172.00	171.99	186.00	185.97
29.	West Bengal	73.00	69.79	70.00	71.90	56.00	55.75
30.	Border Road Organization (BRO)	256.00	256.00	210.00	320.00	415.00	311.12
31.	National Highway Authority of India (NHA)	8724.74	8715.87	3848.00	6301.00	7019.74	6305.56

Education Budget in Eleventh Five Year Plan

1213. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated budget for education has been enhanced by the Planning Commission for the first year 2007-08 of the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the items of higher technical education for the year 2007-08, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has proposed to increase the budget for secondary school education for the year 2007-08; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Budget Estimate for Higher Education (including Technical) for 2007-08 is Rs. 6483 crore. State-wise allocation under the schemes/programmes of the Department of Higher Education (MHRD) has not yet been finalized.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The allocation for Secondary Education has been increased by 196.53% from Rs. 1067 crore in BE 2006-07 to Rs. 3164 crore in BE 2007-08.

[English]

Herbal Drug for Diabetics

1214. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of diabetic patients in the country;

(b) whether a Herbal drug by the name 'Vijaysar' has been tested and recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research for curing diabetic;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to manufacture this herbal drug; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to revised estimates of WHO (2004), there are 32 million diabetic in India and the WHO (2002) has projected that India would have large number of diabetic (80 million) in the world by 2030.

(b) to (d) Indian Council of Medical Research has conducted Task Force Muticentric clinical trials on 'Vijaysar' which showed that it is a safe formulation to be used in newly diagnosed diabetic patients and in those not controlled by intake of one oral anti-diabetic drug. Despite several attempts the Pharma industry is not willing to take up the technology transfer due to doubtful commercial viability in the long run caused by uncertain availability of raw materials for continuous supply of the standardized formulation. The problem is aggravated due to dwindling number of the 'Vijaysar' tree which has commercial value as timber and inexpensive oral synthetic drugs are already easily available in the market.

Lease an Aircraft to Fly Letters, Parcels, etc.

1215. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take an aircraft on lease to fly letters, parcels and cargo; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the investment proposed to be made and revenues expected to be earned therefrom?

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

(b) Department of Posts has been facing an acute problem with respect to conveyance of mail in the North-Eastern Region in the absence of a reliable rail/air network. It has, therefore, been proposed to wet lease a freighter aircraft from Indian Airlines for conveyance of mail in the North-East Region. In addition to an initial one time expenditure of Rs. 12 crores, approximately Rs. 36 crores will be incurred on this account per year. The prime objective of this proposal is to provide to the North East region quality of service at par with that rendered by Department of Posts in the rest of the country. It is also expected to generate additional revenue in terms of increased mail volumes.

Administrative Vigilance Unit

1216. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Vigilance Unit which issues guidelines for eradication of corruption and keeps vigil on different Ministries of the Government and their functioning is operating under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the directives issued by the unit for eradication of corruption during the last three years;

(c) whether any review of compliance of these directions has been undertaken during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the dates by which such review were undertaken; and

(e) the details of the achievements 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Under the directions of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, various Ministries prepare their Annual Action plan regarding anti-corruption activities. The progress in this regard is reviewed by the Ministry of Personnel on a quarterly basis.

Coal Blocks to NTPC

1217. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has sought allotment of coal blocks for captive mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has released coal blocks to NTPC; and

(d) if so, the names of coal blocks allocated location-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In response to an advertisement issued by the Government in the month of November, 2006 offering coal blocks for captive mining, NTPC has applied for Mandakini; Ganeshpur, Gourandih ABC and Fathepur East coal blocks.

(c) and (d) Government has not allocated any block applied in response to advertisement of November, 2006 as yet. However, NTPC has been already allocated coal blocks as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Block	Location
1.	Pakri-Barwadih	North Karanpura, Jharkhand
2.	Talaipali	Mand-Raigarh, Chhattisgarh
3.	Kerandari	North Karanpura, Jharkhand
4.	Chatti Bariata	North Karanpura, Jharkhand
5.	Dulanga	Ib Valley, Orissa
6.	Brahmini	Brahmini, Jharkhand
7.	Chichro Patsimal	Brahmini, Jharkhand

Prevention of Bird Flu

1218. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

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

(a) whether the Government has purchased medicines for prevention of Bird Flu;

(b) the quantity and value of medicine purchased, company-wise;

(c) whether the Government is considering to develop any vaccine to prevent the spreading of Bird Flu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The quantity and value of medicine purchased company-wise are as under:

Quantity	Value	Medicine	Company
7,00,000 capsules	Rs.4,97,00,000	Fluvir (Oseltamivir)	M/s. Hetero Drugs
3,00,000 capsules	Rs.2,65,82,400	Tamiflu (Oseltamivir)	M/s. Taksal Pharma Pvt. Ltd.

(c) and (d) At present there is no vaccine for human cases of Avian Influenza.

[Translation]

Lack of Proper Treatment in Hospitals

1219. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper medical treatment is not being provided to the patients coming from outside Delhi at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) whether the Government has received complaints from Members of Parliament in this regard;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government from MPs during the last three years along with the action taken thereon; and

(d) other steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In so far as the three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, are concerned, all the patients who come to the hospitals are given appropriate treatment expeditiously irrespective of states, he/she belongs. Whenever any complaint regarding treatment are received it is looked into by the Grievances Redressal Committee of the hospitals. Periodical review of the complaints are undertaken in each of the hospitals.

Instructions are issued from time to time to the staff of the hospitals to ensure that the patients are dealt with Politely, Sympathetically while providing the treatment.

[English]

Eradication of Chikungunya

1220. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Health Ministers of the States was held recently at New Delhi on the eradication of Chikungunya;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate medicines are supplied to all States to meet any eventuality; and

(d) whether the situation is under control now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A meeting of the State Health Ministers of Chikungunya effected states was held on 11.10.06 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss the Chikungunya situation and remedial measures undertaken by the respective states.

All the states were advised to take prevention and control measures on war footing. The Government of India has released additional amount of Rs. 2160.46 lakhs to the 11 Chikungunya affected states namely

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, Delhi and Andaman & Nicobar Islands for procurement of fogging machine, pyrethrum extract (2%), temephos, insecticide treated bed nets and carrying out awareness campaign.

States were advised to carry out intensive and focused awareness campaign using both electronic and print media.

Twelve Apex referral centres have been identified for diagnosis of Chikungunya as are given in the enclosed Statement.

National Institute of Virology, Pune has been identified for supply of test kits for detection of Chikungunya fever.

(c) There is no specific medicine for treatment of Chikungunya. However, medicines for supportive treatment are made available by the respective State Governments.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Statement

12 Apex Referral for Centres for Diagnosis of Chikungunya

1. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi.
2. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.
3. National Institute of Virology, Pune
4. Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Chandigarh.
5. National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore
6. Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of medical Sciences, Lucknow.
7. National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases, Kolkata
8. Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Dibrugarh, Assam
9. King's Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chennai
10. Institute of Preventive Medicine, Hyderabad.

11. B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad

12. State Virology Institute, Allappuzha, Kerala.

[Translation]

The Visit of External Affairs Minister to Myanmar

1221. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the External Affairs Minister recently visited Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held and the outcome thereof;

(c) the bilateral agreements which were signed on the occasion; and

(d) whether the issue regarding the terrorist activities from the soil of Myanmar against India also came up during the talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The External Affairs Minister paid an official visit to Myanmar from 19-21 January, 2007. During his meetings with the Myanmar leadership, the full range of bilateral relations was discussed including the activities of Indian insurgent groups on the Indo-Myanmar border, implementation of various infrastructure projects, border management, measures to enhance trade and cooperation in the field of energy.

[English]

Ayurveda Colleges in Kerala

1222. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted projects for Central assistance for development of various Ayurveda Colleges in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The details of proposals received and action taken thereon are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Status of Projects for Central Assistance for Development of various Ayurveda Colleges Submitted by Government of Kerala

S.No.	Name of the College	Project	Action taken by the Central Government
1.	Govt. Ayurveda College, Trippunithura (PG Salyathantram Specialty)	Proposal for payment of stipend amounting to Rs. 71,79,437.00	An amount of Rs. 14,25,887/- has been approved but not released due to pendency of Utilisation Certificate in respect of previous grants.
2.	Govt. Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram (PG Panchakarma Koumaram Agatham)	Proposal to release funds under P.G. component-stipend	Rs. 43.00 lakhs released on 30.6.05 and Rs. 12.80 lakh on 25.2.05. Further assistance of Rs. 23.80 lakhs and Rs. 40.50 lakhs have been approved but not released due to pending Utilisation Certificate in respect of previous grants.
3.	Govt. P.S. Varier Ayurved College, Kottakkal (Agatham Manasikaroga)	Proposal for PG stipend of Rs. 13.56 lakhs and Rs. 11.60 lakhs.	Rs. 11.38 lakhs in Agadathantra and Rs. 11.16 lakhs in Manasog approved but not released due to pendency of Utilisation Certificate in respect of previous grants.
4.	Govt. Ayurveda College, Kannur (Kriyasareeram Roganithanam)	Proposal for PG stipend of Rs. 36.37 lakhs	Rs. 24.30 lakhs approved but not released due to pendency of Utilisation Certificate in respect of previous grants.
5.	Govt. Ayurveda College, Kanpur (Construction of Men's Hostel)	Proposal for Rs. 60.00 lakhs	Rs. 24.30 lakhs approved but not released due to pendency of Utilisation Certificate in respect of previous grants.
6.	Govt. Ayurveda College, Thrippunithura (Project for Gastro intestinal disorders)	Proposal for C.M.E. Rs. 0.50 lakhs	} Approved Rs. 1.00 lakhs on 7.9.06 but not released due to pendency of Utilisation Certificate in respect of previous grants.
7.	Govt. Ayurveda College, Triunithura (Continuing Medical Education Programme)	Proposal for C.M.E. Rs. 0.50 lakhs	
8.	Govt. Ayurveda College, Triunithura (Development plan for Salyathantra Dept.)	Proposal for PG stipend of Rs. 72.79 lakhs	Rs. 14.25 lakhs approved but not released due to pendency of Utilisation Certificate in respect of previous grants.
9.	Vaidarathnam P.S. Varier Ayurveda College, Kottakkal (Strengthening of existing facilities of UG Colleges)	Strengthening of existing facility under UG component.	Rs. 25.00 lakh approved but not released due to pendency of Utilisation Certificate in respect of previous grants.
10.	Vaidyaratnam Ayurveda College, Ollur (Strengthening of existing facilities of UG Colleges)	Strengthening of existing facility under UG component.	Rs. 26.50 lakh released on 13.12.2006.

Non-availability of Adjustable Stretchers

1223. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adjustable stretchers are available in AIIMS but the same are not available in Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to immediately replace all the stretchers with adjustable stretchers for the benefit of the heavy weight and old age patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes sir. Detachable patient trolleys/stretchers and foot steps are available in Safdarjung Hospital to cater to the need of the patients.

Construction of Tunnel

1224. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to construct a long tunnel to make Leh a all-weather destination;

(b) if so, the details of the project including cost of construction; and

(c) the target date set for the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of tunnel with estimated cost and target are as follows:

S.No.	Name of the Tunnel	Length	Cost	Target date of completion
1.	Rohtang Tunnel	8.802 km.	Rs. 1410.37 Cr.	31st March, 2014.
2.	Shinkhunla Tunnel	4.00 km.	Rs. 525.00 Cr. (tentative)	Approved in principle. Actual cost and date of completion can only be decided after conducting the feasibility study.
3.	Zojila Tunnel	12.00 km.	Rs. 1333.00 Cr. (tentative)	Approved in principle. Actual cost and date of completion can only be decided after conducting the feasibility study.
4.	Z-Morh Tunnel	3.10 km.		

AIDS Vaccine

1225. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any findings on the AIDS vaccine has been made;

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

(c) India's contribution in such findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No AIDS vaccine has yet

been licensed for use in any country. A number of studies are ongoing for development of the vaccine internationally and in India.

(c) Phase-I human vaccine trial using Adeno Associated Virus (AAV) based vaccine was tested at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune, in 30 healthy volunteers. The first phase of the trial has been completed. Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) vaccine an experimental vaccine developed by Indian scientists is undergoing Phase-I trial at Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai.

Gender Change

1226. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in number of sex change operations being done in the country by private and Government Hospitals;

(b) whether such operations are permitted by any law/rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the response of the Government thereto particularly for enacting law to permit such operations in cases of "Gender Identity Disorder"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Sex change is usually desired by those having gender identity disorder characterized by persistent crossed gender identification and a persistent discomfort with his/her own sex or some sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of the sex and therefore it is important for such people to be examined by a Psychiatrist first. In some cases, there may be a medical need where the change of sex can be beneficial for the well-being of the patient.

Sex reassignment surgery for such patients of gender identity disorder is an internationally accepted treatment provided the patient meets the standard treatment criteria and has undergone psychiatric evaluation. In India, there

are only limited facilities for this surgery and that too mostly in private sector. The law regarding performing 'Sex reassignment surgery' appears to be silent in our country.

[Translation]

Upgradation of NH

1227. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has recently received any proposals from various States of the country specially Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar regarding development/repair/maintenance/upgradation of National Highways, Golden Quadrilateral Project and of damaged bridges situated on National Highways;

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

(c) the action taken thereon and the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The State-wise details of the proposals received and sanctioned during the current year as on 31.1.2007 for development and maintenance of the National Highways and bridges situated on National Highways including that of Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are given in the enclosed Statement. These are in addition to routine repair works carried out through out the year and emergent repair works during rainy season/ whenever required. The proposals submitted by the States can be sanctioned depending upon their inclusion in the Annual Plan programme, availability of funds and amount of ongoing works. It is pre-mature to indicate any time frame for such sanction. The Golden Quadrilateral Project comprises of 4-laning of National Highways connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Delhi. The damaged bridges on these National Highways are being repaired/ strengthened.

Statement

Details of proposals received from the State Governments and sanctioned for Development and Maintenance during the current year 2006-07 as on 31.01.2007

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Proposals received for		Proposals sanctioned for	
		Development (Nos)	Maintenance (Nos)	Development (Nos)	Maintenance (Nos)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26	17	21	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	0	0
3.	Assam	18	15	7	15
4.	Bihar	30	16	17	11
5.	Chandigarh	1	0	1	0
6.	Chhattisgarh	39	12	14	12
7.	Delhi	3	0	0	0
8.	Goa	6	2	4	2
9.	Gujarat	38	13	16	13
10.	Haryana	50	9	20	6
11.	Himachal Pradesh	69	19	26	11
12.	Jharkhand	42	10	17	10
13.	Karnataka	32	19	21	19
14.	Kerala	20	13	10	13
15.	Madhya Pradesh	44	37	13	23
16.	Maharashtra	64	25	30	9
17.	Manipur	4	10	0	1
18.	Meghalaya	8	8	0	1
19.	Mizoram	8	6	0	1
20.	Nagaland	4	5	0	3
21.	Orissa	50	18	30	16
22.	Pandicherry	2	1	1	0
23.	Punjab	47	12	14	9
24.	Rajasthan	30	43	18	38
25.	Tamil Nadu	83	10	39	2
26.	Uttarakhand	13	9	4	7
27.	Uttar Pradesh	63	17	31	17
28.	West Bengal	29	11	9	7

*[English]***Incentive for Girl Child**

1228. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to provide incentives to have a girl child through free education, extra PDS ration, even tax concessions to reduce the number of female foeticide abortions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is mobilizing the social and religious organizations against this practice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the role assigned to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Following steps have been suggested as the inputs in the 11 Five Year Plan to raise the status of the girl child:

- Conditional Cash and Non-Cash Transfers on fulfillment of four important conditionalities—
 - birth and registration;
 - health and immunization;
 - retention in school;
 - delay age of marriage beyond 18 years;
- Component of insurance cover for the girl child.

An insurance cover for the girl child as a safety net and to enable the girl to receive a lump sum at the age of 18 years with suitable medical and educational components.

(c) and (d) Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide by mobilizing the social and religious organizations. Workshops and seminars are organized through Voluntary Organizations at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. The Government of India had funded the Padyatra undertaken by Swami Agnivesh, World Council of Arya Samaj from Gujarat to Punjab,

undertaken with the objective to create awareness on the issue. UNFPA had organized multi-faith religious leaders meet under the leadership of Art of Living Foundation of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. The Government of Punjab had involved Jathedars of Takhat Shri Damdama Sahib & Anandpur Sahib in preaching and advocacy in the state.

*[Translation]***Blindness Eradication Programme**

1229. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from Government of Madhya Pradesh for additional grants under National Blindness Eradication Programme to achieve the target of cataract operations in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard and the time by which expected grants will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In the Annual Plan Allocations for the Financial year 2006-07 an amount of Rs. 354.50 lakh has been allocated to Madhya Pradesh as grant-in-aid for Cataract and other Eye Care activities under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB).

However, on the basis of proposal received from Government of Madhya Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 406.00 Lakh has been sanctioned and released to the State as grant-in-aid for cataract and other Comprehensive Eye Care activities during the current financial year (2006-07) to achieve the targets of cataract operations.

In addition to above, Grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 181.00 lakh has also been released to the State for Procurement of Ophthalmic Equipment under NPCB during the current financial year (2006-07).

*[English]***Road Connectivity in Himalayan Belt**

1230. SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any policy for road connectivity in the Himalayan Belt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific routes that have been identified in Arunachal Pradesh for the road connectivity; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. As per the policy of this Ministry, roads which help opening up large tracks of backward area and hilly regions are, *inter-alia*, considered while declaration of new National Highways. There is no specific policy for road connectivity in the Himalayan Belt. However, the Government has taken up separate programmes such as the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-Eastern Region (SARDP-NE), Prime Minister's package for road development in Jammu and Kashmir, and development of border area roads along the Indo-China Border for development of the roads in these regions including roads in Himalayan Belt.

The Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-Eastern region (SARDP-NE) includes upgrading/improvement of about 3228 km of National Highways, 4388 km of State roads, General staff roads and roads of strategic importance. The Government has approved SARDP-NE Phase-A for development of 1110 km of National Highways and 200 km of State Roads and General Staff Roads. Prime Minister's Package for road development in Jammu and Kashmir includes upgradation/improvement of about 795 km length of National Highways and 297 km length of state roads. It has been decided to undertake phase-wise construction of 27 road links having a total length of about 608 km in the border area along the Indo-China border in the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The improvement of about 36 km length of the State Road from Lumla to Tashigong via Dudunghar (Indo-Bhutan road) in the State of Arunachal Pradesh is included in the SARDP-NE Phase-A, with target for completion by year 2009. As a part of development of road links in the border area along Indo-China Border,

five routes are included in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, namely road connectivities between (i) Rama Sapper-Mago-Chuna, (ii) Zimithang-Survasamba-Khinzemane, (iii) Shungatsar-Kharsang La, (iv) Yarlung-Lamang, and (v) Bona to Gelling, having a length of about 130 km, and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has been assigned with the works of construction of these roads with target for completion by the year 2012-2013.

Premature Retirement by Bureaucrats

1231. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that many bureaucrats, scientists and professionals have left Government jobs to join private organisations;

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

(c) the number of such persons who left Government job and joined private sectors during the last three years;

(d) whether these Government employees do not adhere to the rules before taking these jobs after premature retirement;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures taken 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) to (f) Under the rules for seeking premature (voluntary) retirement from service, employees fulfilling the relevant conditions can seek voluntary retirement and a few of such cases could be with the intention of joining private organisations. No data in regard to the number of persons who left Government service and joined private sector is centrally kept as, under the existing rules, former employees other than those who held Group 'A' posts are not required to obtain prior permission of the Government to join private organisations after taking voluntary retirement. Group 'A' employees are, however, required to seek prior permission of Government in case they take commercial employment within one year of their voluntary retirement. Penal provisions already exist in Rule 10 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 to deal with the

cases where the rule for seeking prior permission to take up commercial employment within the time limit prescribed is not adhered to by the concerned pensioner.

Health Care System

1232. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Approach Paper of the Eleventh Plan, the Indian Healthcare System has suffered a severe shortage of trained personnel to the extent of 6% to 30%;

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

(c) whether as per the study undertaken by CII, in collaboration with Planning Commission, the potential employment in the health sector in 2010 is 26,02,440 against 12,50,000 in 2004;

(d) if so, the comprehensive plan proposed to be undertaken by the Government to meet the said target by 2010; and

(e) the measures taken under National Rural Health Mission to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes Sir. Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan states that at present, our healthcare system suffers from a severe shortage of trained personnel. Across states, 6%-30% posts of doctors remain vacant.

(b) According to the Bulletin on Rural Health Statistics in India, 2006, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, as on September, 2005, the overall total shortfall in the posts of Health Worker (Female) / ANM was 19311. Similarly, in case of Health Worker (Male), there was a shortfall of 64211. In case of Health Assistant (Female) / LHV, the shortfall was of 4214 and that of Health Assistant (Male) was 5290.

Even out of the sanctioned posts, a significant percentage of posts are vacant at all the levels. For instance, about 4.7% of the sanctioned posts of Health Worker (Female)/ANM were vacant as compared to about 24% of the sanctioned posts of Health Worker (Male).

At PHC, about 13.1% of the sanctioned posts of Female Health Assistant/LHV, 25.4% of Male Health

Assistant and 17.4% of the sanctioned posts of doctors were vacant. At the Sub Centre level, about 4.77% were without a Female Health Worker/ANM, about 39.2% were without a Male Health Worker and about 2.78% were without both Female & Male Health Worker, which shows a large shortfall in the number of health workers.

(c) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in collaboration with Planning Commission has prepared a document "Sectoral Growth and Employment in the 11th Plan." Healthcare is one of the sectors analyzed and examined and the employment potential has been estimated. As per exercise undertaken by the CII, the potential employment in Healthcare Sector in 2010 is 26,02,440 against 12,50,000 in 2004.

(d) In the context of the formulation of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Planning Commission has constituted 11 Working Groups and four Steering Committees and Task Force on Planning for Human Resources in the Health Sector. Based on the recommendations of the Steering Committees, the 11th Five Year Plan *inter alia* will look into all aspects relating to Health Care including manpower requirement.

(e) The framework for implementation of National Rural Health Mission (2005-2012) indicates about the measures to be taken to meet the human resource needs which include engaging more para-medics and doctors to meet the growing health care needs in rural areas, compulsory rural postings/Rural Health Service, incentives for difficult areas and system for career progression that categorizes postings into different grades.

The NRHM is also focusing on the key shortages of Anesthetists, Gynecologists, Surgeons, Pediatricians, etc. alongside strengthening of diagnostic facilities and regular in-service training which ensures that skills and motivation levels of all staff are periodically assessed and upgraded.

Levy of Spectrum Charges

1233. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the levy of spectrum charges on BSNL;

(b) whether the Government proposes to further the extension of waiver of spectrum charges to BSNL; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Spectrum charges are charges on account of spectrum allotted to BSNL. Spectrum is a scarce natural resource and has to be paid for by all telecom service providers. BSNL paid Rs. 334.06 crore in the year 2005-06 towards Spectrum Charges.

(b) No, Sir.

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

Enhancement of Seats in Medical/Dental Colleges

1234. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical Council of India and Dental Council of India proposes to increase seats in all Medical/Dental Colleges in various States in view of OBC reservations from the next academic year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of directions issued to MCI and DCI 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 Medical Council of India and the Dental Council of India are recommendatory bodies. The proposals for increase in the seats in Medical/Dental courses received, from time to time, by the Central Government, from Medical/Dental colleges/institutions are considered in consultation with these regulatory Councils. However, the permission for increase in seats in Medical/Dental courses is granted by this Ministry. As such there is no need to issue directions to MCI/DCI in this regard.

[Translation]

Clinical Tests in Hospitals

1235. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients have to wait for very long time to avail different clinical tests facilities in all Central

Government Hospitals including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure conducting of clinical tests in hospitals in lesser time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In so far as the three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi, are concerned, facilities of emergency investigations are available round the clock. However, due to heavy patient load, there is some waiting time for routine & special investigations. To ease the pressure on these hospitals, CGHS has empanelled private diagnostic labs for conducting such tests for CGHS beneficiaries. Additionally, the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna, envisages the establishment of AIIMS like institutions in six States and Upgradation of 13 institutions. This would reduce the pressure on Central Government hospitals in Delhi.

[English]

Testing Facilities for Dengue and Chikungunya

1236. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Testing facilities available in Government Hospitals for detecting dreaded diseases such as Chikngunya and Dengue among patients State-wise;

(b) if so, whether the majority of the District Headquarters in the country do not have local detection centres for these diseases; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to remedy this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The following Institutions/Hospitals have testing facilities available for detection of Dengue/Chikungunya:

1. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi.
2. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.
3. National Institute of Virology, Pune, Maharashtra.

4. National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka.
5. Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
6. Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Chandigarh.
7. National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases, Kolkata, West Bengal
8. Regional Medical Research Centre (ICMR), Dibrugarh, Assam.
9. King's Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
10. Institute of Preventive Medicine, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
11. B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
12. State Virology Institute, Allappuzha, Kerala.

(b) and (c) Government of India in consultation with the States have identified Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals for the diagnosis of Dengue/Chikungunya in district and Medical College Hospitals in Dengue and Chikungunya affected States. The List of Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of the Sentinel Hospitals

Name of the States	Sentinel hospitals/ Institutes
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. MGM Hospital, Warangal, 2. Ruya Hospital, Tirupathi, 3. Govt. Hospital, Guntur, 4. Govt. Hospital, Vijayawada, 5. Govt. Hospital, Karimnagar, 6. Govt. Hospital, Nizamabad, 7. Govt. Hospital, Annanthpur. 8. VBRI, Hyderabad. 9. Medical College, Kumool 10. Medical Collage, Mahboobnagar

1	2
2. Goa	1. Hospicio Hospital, Margo, South Goa. 2. Goa Medical College, Goa
3. Maharashtra	1. Indira Gandhi Govt. Medical Vollege, Nagpur 2. B.J. Medical College, Pune 3. Govt. Medical College, Aurangabad 4. District Hospital, Bhandara 5. District Hospital, Gondia 6. District Hospital, Wardha 7. District Hospital, Gadchiroli
4. Gujarat	1. N.H. Municipal Medical College, Ahmedabad. 2. Govt. Medical College, Vadodara, 3. Govt. Medical College, Surat 4. Municipal Med. College, Surat 5. M.P. Shah Medical College, Jamnagar 6. Govt. Med. College, Rajkot 7. Govt. Medical College, Bhavnagar
5. Madhya Pradesh	1. Medical College, Bhopal 2. Medical College, Gwalior 3. Medical College, Rewa 4. Medical College Jabalpur 5. Medical College, Indore
6. Delhi	1. Agrasen Jain Hospital 2. Guru Govind Singh Govt. Hospital, Raghuvеer Nagar, Delhi 3. Swami Daya Nand Hospital, Shahadra, Delhi

1	2
	4. Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital, Jahangirpuri, Delhi
	5. Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital, Pitampura, Delhi
	6. Shastri Park Hospital
	7. Raja Harish Chand Hospital, Narela, Delhi
	8. N.C. Joshi Memorial Hospital, Karolbagh, Delhi
	9. Kasturbha Hospital, Near Jama Masjid, Delhi
	10. Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, Rajpur Road, Delhi
	11. Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi
	12. Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Mangol Puri, Delhi
	13. BSA Hospital, Rohini, Delhi
	14. Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi
	15. Malviya Nagar Hospital, Malviya Nagar, Delhi
	16. SVB Patel Hospital Patel Nagar
	17. ABG Hospital, Moti Nagar, Delhi,
	18. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi
	19. NDMC Charak Palika Hospital, Moti Bagh, New Delhi
	20. Lok Nayak Hospital, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Delhi
	21. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Hari Nagar, Delhi
	22. GTB Hospital, Dilshad Garden, Delhi,
	23. G.B.Pant Hospital, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Delhi
	24. Chacha Nehru Children Hospital, Geeta Colony, Delhi

1	2
	25. Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Khichirpur, Delhi
	26. Rao Tula Ram Memorial Hospital, Jaffarpur, Delhi
	27. Maharishi Balmiki Hospital, Pooth Khurd, Delhi
	28. Dr. Hedgewar Arogya Sansthan, Karkardooma, Delhi
	29. Lady Hardinge Medical College and Smt. Sucheta Kriplani Hospital, Panchkuin Road, New Delhi
7. Punjab	1. Civil Hospital, Ludhiana
8. Rajasthan	1. SMS Hospital
	2. J.K. Lone Hospital
	3. Umaid Hospital, Jodhpur
	4. SMDM, Jaipur
	5. M.B. Hospital, Kota
	6. S.P. Medical College, Bikaner
	7. RNT Medical College, Udaipur
	8. JLN Medical College, Ajmer
9. Haryana	1. State Bacteriological Laboratory, Karnal
	2. B.K. Hospital, Faridabad
	3. District Hospital, Kaithal
	4. District Hospital, Kurukshetra
	5. District Hospital, Ambala
10. Karnataka	1. Central Lab. (Hqrs), Bangalore
	2. District Hospital, Kolar
	3. Bellary Medical College
	4. District Hospital Devenagare
	5. District Hospital, Belgaum
	6. District Hospital, D. Kannada

	1	2
		7. SNR Hospital, Kolar
		8. VIMS, Bellary
		9. Chigateri General Hospital, Davanager
11. Kerala	1. Govt. T.D. Medical College, Campur, Vandanam, Allapuzha	
	2. District Hospital, Kottayam	
12. Tamil Nadu	1. Kanniyakumari Medical College	
	2. Tirunelveli Medical College	
	3. Thoothukudi Medical College	
	4. Thanjavur Medical College	
	5. Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College, Salem	
	6. Coimbatore Medical College	
	7. K.A.P. Viswanathan Medical College, Trichy	
	8. Theni Medical College	
	9. Chengalpattu Medical College	
	10. Madurai Medical College	
	11. Vellore Medical College	
	12. Madras Medical College	
	13. Institute of Vector Control and Zoonoses, Hosur	
13. West Bengal	1. Burdwan Medical College Hospital	
	2. School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta	
14. Bihar	1. Patna Medical College & Hospital	
15. Uttar Pradesh	1. Regional Lab. Swasthya Bhawan, Lucknow	
	2. District Hospital, Ghaziabad	
	3. L.L.R.M., Medical College, Meerut	
	4. M.L.B. Medical College, Jhansi	

	1	2
		5. M.L.N. Medical College, Allahabad
		6. Institute of Medical Sciences, B.H.U., Varanasi
		7. S.N., Medical College, Agra
		8. G.S.B.M., Medical College, Kanpur
		9. K.G.M.U., Lucknow.

Lack of Facilities on National Highways

1237. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether facilities such as lighting and ambulances etc. on the National Highways are lacking;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to identify the lack of road facilities;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Ambulances to States/UTs and Non-Governmental organizations are provided under National Highways Accidental Relief Service Scheme. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) also deploys an ambulance at an average interval of 50 km of National Highways under Operational and Maintenance and Build, Operate and Transfer contracts on the completed stretches of National Highways. Similarly, NHAI has a policy of providing wayside amenities at each 50 km along National Highways. However, no specific survey has been conducted to identify lack of such services on National Highways.

Normally, it is not the policy of Ministry to provide light on National Highways as the vehicular traffic moves under their own light.

Preparation of Waiting List for Haj

1238. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to prepare a waiting list for Haj pilgrims before nine months of the Yatra for all States in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Task Force for Telecom Sector

1239. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Government for providing the benefit of the technological development in Telecommunications Sector to each and every citizen and outcome thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to constitute a task force for the coordination in Telecommunications Sector; and

(c) the time by which the task force is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Government has liberalized the telecom sector. The New Telecom Policy formulated by the Government has brought competition among the operators to provide the latest and best telecom services to the subscribers at the most cost effective price. Indian telecom network is poised for 200 million connections. Latest Telecom Services like Internet, Broadband, Cellular Mobile Services has already been made available to the masses. Cellular Mobile services is now growing at the rate of about 7 million connection per month. With regard to introduction of 3rd and future generations of mobile services, the government is in the process of formulating appropriate policy.

In order to roll out telecom services in the rural area, government is in the process of developing telecom infrastructures by utilizing the USO fund.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Outstanding Dues of CIL

1240. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Electricity Boards and other major consumers of coal have not paid Coal India Limited for the coal lifted by them;

(b) if so, the details of outstanding overdues of Coal India Limited, consumer-wise, as on December 31, 2006 and steps taken during the last three years to recover the outstanding dues;

(c) the effects alongwith the achievements made as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government has changed or is interested to make any change in the policy in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with the problem of black-marketing and theft of coal by mafia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) State Electricity Boards and other major consumers of coal have been paying Coal India Limited (CIL) for the coal lifted by them. However, there are some outstanding dues.

(b) The total sum outstanding of CIL as on 31.12.2006 amounts to Rs. 3380.98 crores. Details of such consumers are given in the enclosed Statement. Steps taken by the coal companies during the last three years to recover the outstanding dues are as follows:

(i) As per provision in the Securitisation Scheme, coal companies are insisting on SEBs for opening IRLC for payment of bills raised against supply of coal. Some SEBs have already opened IRLC and the scheme is under operation successfully. Others are being persuaded.

(ii) Securitisation Scheme has provision for regulation of supply, in case of non payment of bills during the period stipulated therein. In case of default in payment, coal companies are regulating supply of coal selectively.

- (iii) As per provision in the Securitisation Scheme, coal companies are claiming interest in case of delay in payment beyond the schedule specified in the scheme.
- (iv) coal companies are holding meeting periodically at different levels in case of any default in payment of bills and for settlement of disputes raised by SEBs and other consumers.
- (c) As a result of the steps taken as mentioned above, the outstanding dues are showing reducing trend gradually. The total dues of CIL as on 31.12.2003 was 4724.35 crores which has come down to Rs. 3380.98 as on 31.12.2006. Thus the reduction of dues amounting to Rs. 1342.37 crores has been achieved during the last three years.
- (d) and (e) There is as such no proposal at this stage to amend the existing policy of recovery of the dues.
- (f) The Government and the coal companies have taken the following steps to deal with the problem of black marketing and theft of coal by the coal mafia:
- (1) Specific complaints regarding pilferage of coal are investigated by the Vigilance Wings of CIL and its subsidiaries. Where outside parties are allegedly involved, the CBI is also asked to investigate the allegations.
 - (2) Governments of Coal bearing states have been requested to take steps to prevent illegal mining in their areas.
 - (3) Law and order is a state subject, and with support of local state authorities, the coal companies are addressing the issue of pilferage of coal.
- (4) The following steps are also being taken to prevent the theft/pilferage of coal:—
- (i) Collection of intelligence report about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
 - (ii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
 - (iii) Construction of watch-towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area.
 - (iv) Erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pithead depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours.
 - (v) Escorting of loaded rakes upto railways weighbridges by armed guards and point patrolling with Railways Protection Force (RPF) along the railway tracks, which are prone to wagon looting.
 - (vi) Sealing of illegal mining spots.
 - (vii) Stringent action against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.
 - (viii) Engagement of lady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executive with aptitude of security work and induct qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.
 - (ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.

Statement

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Consumers	Dues
1	2	3
Power		
1.	Bihar State Electricity Board (BSES)	196.58
2.	Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB)	82.77

1	2	3
3.	Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited. (UPRVUNL)	93.40
4.	Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB)	244.89
5.	Tamil Nadu Electricity Board TNEB	15.57
6.	Haryana Power Generation Corporation Limited (HPGCL)	25.17
7.	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL)	99.04
8.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB)	151.45
9.	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB)	385.43
10.	Chhattisgarh Electricity Board (CSEB)	52.72
11.	Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL)	8.41
12.	West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB)	1.29
13.	West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC)	133.90
14.	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGENCO)	8.06
15.	Karnataka Power Company Limited (KPCL)	12.62
16.	Durgapur Project Limited (DPL)	21.32
17.	Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)	179.84
18.	Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB)	3.85
19.	Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS)	334.48
20.	National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)	357.64
21.	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO)	1.34
22.	Calcutta Electric Supply Company (CESC)	5.59
23.	Ahmedabad Electricity Corporation (AEC)	2.46
24.	Bombay Suburban Electric Company (BSES)	1.47
25.	Disergarh Power Station Company (DPSC)	2.61
26.	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TVNL)	103.64
27.	Orissa Power Generation Corporation (OPGC)	4.39
Total Power		2529.93
Steel		
28.	Durgapur Steel Plant	132.22
29.	Rourkela Steel Plant	164.65

1	2	3
30.	Bokaro Steel Plant	145.79
31.	Bhilai Steel Plant (BOKARO)	276.47
32.	IISCO Steel Plant	11.66
33.	Indian Iron Steel Company	26.12
34.	Tata Iron Steel Company	0.99
35.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (VIZAG)	46.08
Total Steel		803.98
36.	Loco	4.80
37.	Govt.	42.27
Total Others		47.07
Grand Total		3380.98

Vehicles Running on L.P.G.*[Translation]*

1241. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Land Acquisition for Coal Mine Project

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

1242. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vehicles running on authorized L.P.G. in the country, State-wise;

(a) Whether land has been acquired for Akona - Marada Coal Mines project of Vikoli, an associate company of Coal India Ltd. (CIL);

(b) the details of action taken by the Government against vehicles which are running without proper permission for L.P.G.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

(c) whether cases of compensation claims of farmers and employments to the dependents have been disposed off after acquiring land for the Coal Mines Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 the registering authorities are appointed by State Government. As such, this information is not available with the Central Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Action against the vehicles running on L.P.G. without proper permission is required to be taken by the concerned State Government.

(b) An area of 415.83 hectares of tenancy land of villages Yekona and Marda has been notified under section 9 (1) of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 *vide* S.O. No. 2576, published in the Gazette of India on 16.10.2004.

(c) and (d) Compensation roll will be prepared on receipt of rates from the Collector, Chandrapur for which he has been requested. Physical possession of land is yet to be taken from the farmers.

(e) Compensation and employment will be considered as per the norms of the company after finalization of compensation amount and obtaining physical possession of the land.

[English]

Computerisation of Post Offices

1243. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices computerized in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be computerized during the year;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target for the next three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether logistics post services has been launched in various cities of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on date 8163 large Post Offices throughout the country have been provided with computers. State-wise list indicating number of post offices supplied with computers is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Order for supply of computers to 100 more post offices has been placed during this year.

(c) and (d) Target for supply of computers to the post offices for the next three years has not yet been fixed.

(e) and (f) Logistics Post has been launched by the Department of Posts for enabling the customers to send large consignments and goods of any weight. It aims to provide end-to-end logistics solutions to the customers

across India by linking major cities and towns through a hub and spoke network.

Statement

*Number of post offices provided with computers
as on 28-02-2007*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of post offices provided with computers
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	494
2.	Assam	262
3.	Bihar	293
4.	Chhattisgarh	93
5.	Delhi	278
6.	Gujarat	527
7.	Haryana	170
8.	Himachal Pradesh	128
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	72
10.	Jharkhand	126
11.	Karnataka	511
12.	Kerala	608
13.	Madhya Pradesh	278
14.	Maharashtra and Goa	929
15.	North Eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura)	119
16.	Orissa	255
17.	Punjab	255
18.	Rajasthan	283
19.	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	900
20.	Uttar Pradesh	768

1	2	3
21.	Uttaranchal	138
22.	West Bengal and Sikkim (including Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	676
Total		8163

National Games at Guwahati, Assam

1244. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY. Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 33rd National Games is being organized at Guwahati in February, 2007 as reported in the 'Times of India' dated January 9, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether elaborate security arrangements have been made by the Union and State Governments to provide security cover to the Organisers and the participants;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the concerned authorities are considering to postpone the National Games or changing the venue in view of the prevailing situation in the State on account of ULFA activities;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the participants likely to take part in the games;

(h) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the Games; and

(i) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State of Assam in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The 33rd National Games were organized in Guwahati from 9th February to 18th February, 2007, in which events were held in 32 sports disciplines. 30 States, 2 Union Territories and Services Sports Control Board participated in the Games.

(c) and (d) Appropriate security arrangement were made and the Games were held peacefully without any untoward incident.

(e) and (f) Do not arise. The Games have already been concluded.

(g) A total number of 6872 athletes/sportspersons participated in the Games.

(h) The total expenditure incurred on the National Games was approx. Rs. 288.77 Crores.

(i) The financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State of Assam for holding these games was Rs.148.00 Crores.

Vaccination for Indians in Saudi Arabia

1245. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has made it mandatory for Indians visiting that country to have Polio Vaccination;

(b) the reaction of the Indian Government in this regard;

(c) whether the decision of Saudi Arabia has any adverse impact on the Haj Pilgrims;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the decision of the Saudi Arabia is the result of the recommendation of the Global Advisory Committee on Polio eradication;

(f) if so, the recommendations of the said Committee;

(g) whether the recommendations of the Committee were given wide publicity before the commencement of Haj pilgrimage; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Saudi Embassy intimated that based on WHO recommendations, people arriving in Saudi Arabia would be required to have polio drops a month before their arrival in the Kingdom.

On receipt of the information Ministry of Health has made necessary arrangements for administration of Oral Polio Vaccine and issue of a certificate to the Haj pilgrims before their departure from the country for Saudi Arabia.

No adverse impact on Haj pilgrims on account of this move has been received in this Ministry or in the Ministry of External Affairs as well as our Missions in Saudi Arabia.

(e) Yes Sir.

The recommendations of the Global Advisory Committee on Polio eradication is given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) to (h) Yes, Sir.

All State Governments were required to make necessary arrangements at the Health Centers to administer Oral Polio Vaccine to Haj pilgrims. They were also requested to set up polio booths at the Air ports as well as at the office of State Haj Committee.

The Haj Committee issued Press release to all the allied Agencies, viz. State/Union Territory Haj Committees, through Leading newspapers throughout the country. Various State Haj Committees, particularly those handling the Embarkation Points has set up Polio Booths at all the district hospitals, rural hospitals, selected primary health centers, corporation hospitals, Haj Camps and also at the Airports of the Embarkation Points.

Statement

Recommendations of the Global Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication

A multi-pronged strategy is needed to address the risk of international spread of circulating polio virus. In addition to the technical recommendation previously made by the ACPE, the following steps should be taken to reduce the risk of international spread of wild polio virus.

Countries bordering the endemic areas of Nigeria and India should continue to conduct SIA rounds of an appropriate scale annually until transmission in the neighboring endemic reservoir is interrupted.

The WHO publication "International Travel and Health" should be updated to recommend that all travellers to polio infected areas should be fully immunized against

poliomyelitis in accordance with national policy. Individuals without a prior history of polio immunization should complete a full primary series by one month prior to the date of intended travel. Previously immunized individuals should receive a booster dose between one and twenty-four months prior to travel.

A Standing Recommendation on polio immunization for travellers from "polioinfected areas should be established under the International Health Regulations 2005. Among other provisions, this should recommend that:

- (a) individuals who have not completed a full series of polio immunization should complete a full primary series by at least one month prior to the date of intended travel,
- (b) previously immunized individuals should receive a booster dose of OPV between one month and twenty-four months prior to travel, and
- (c) individuals undertaking travel on short notice (i.e. less than one month before departure) should receive a dose of polio vaccine prior to departure.

The immunization of travellers arriving from polio-infected areas with a single dose of polio vaccine at the point of entry may reduce the risk of spread of an imported virus.

The vaccine of choice for immunizing travellers from polio infected areas is trivalent OPV.

These recommendations should remain in effect for a minimum of 6 months after detection of the last wild poliovirus in the polio-infected area. If certification standard surveillance is not in place in the infected country, the recommendation should remain in effect for a minimum of 12 months.

WHO should take immediate steps to ensure appropriate polio expertise is available to the expert roster for the IHR (2005).

Exemption from RTI Act

1246. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAI:
SHRI AMITAVA NANDY:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the high profile public authorities including Supreme Court, UPSC, CBI and Delhi Metro have sought exemption from the purview of Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of requests received by RTI regulator for such exemption from different authorities during the last one year;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Act;

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

(f) whether the Central Information Commission has submitted its first report to the Government on the returns filed by 837 public authorities on the working of RTI Act; and

(g) 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 (c) The public authorities indicated in the enclosed statement have requested for exemption from the purview of the RTI Act, 2005.

(d) Government has not taken any decision to amend the Second Schedule to the Act which contains the names of organizations to which the Act does not apply.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) The Central Information Commission has submitted its first Annual Report 2005-06 to the Government which, in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, will be laid before each House of Parliament.

Statement

List of Public Authorities who have requested for exemption

1. Armed Forces (Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard)
2. Ministry of Defence (Partial exemption)
3. Railway Protection Force

4. Directorate General of Central Excise & Custom Intelligence
5. Directorate General of Income Tax investigation
6. National Technical Research Organisation
7. Central Bureau of Investigation (Partial modification)
8. Bureau of Civil Aviation Security
9. National Security Council Secretariat
10. Union Public Civil Services (Partial exemption).

[Translation]

Gross Budgetary Support

1247. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to enhance Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) to the States keeping in view the financial health of the States;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed enhancement; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) As per the Expenditure Budget (Volume I) 2007-08, the total Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for Central Assistance to the States has been increased by 20.96 per cent from Rs. 38,961.48 crore in 2006-07 (BE) to Rs. 47,127.04 crore in 2007-08 (BE).

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Joint Venture Project between Pakistan and China

1248. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any joint venture between Pakistan and China to produce multi role fighter planes with Russian engines;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. Government have seen media reports indicating that the Joint Fighter-17 (JF-17). Thunder, also known as the Fighter China-1 (FC-1) Fierce Dragon is being built by China's Chengdu Aircraft Industry Corporation and Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and that the JF-17 is expected to be introduced into the Pakistan Air Force. Some reports also indicate that RD-93 aero engine of Russian origin may be used to power this aircraft.

(c) Government remain vigilant in monitoring developments, which have a bearing on the national interests of India, and are taking all necessary steps to safeguard these interests.

Primary Health Centres

1249. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from State Governments to transfer the Primary Health Centres to the Non-Governmental Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the number of PHCs transferred/ likely to be transferred to various NGOs, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No sir. The Central Government has not received any such proposal. However, a few State Governments have entered into partnership with NGOs for running some of the PHCs in their States.

[Translation]

Reduction in Port Fee by TRAI

1250. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) proposes to reduce the rates of port fees;

(b) if so, the total percentage of rates of port fee reduced;

(c) whether any assessment has been made with regard to the reduction in rates of telecommunication as a result thereof;

(d) whether any assessment has been made with regard to rise/fall in revenue collection of telecommunication as a result of reduction in such rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of reduction in tariff of telephone fixed phone line as well as of cellular phone for subscribers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued amended Regulations on Port charges on 2nd February 2007 which is effective from 1st April, 2007. The amendment in these Regulations reduces the existing Post charges by about 23% to 29% for various slabs.

(c) The telecom tariffs are under forbearance, except for the tariff in rural areas in case of basic phone and roaming tariff in case of mobile phones and tariff for leased circuits. Service Providers are free to offer any combination of rental and free calls as alternative packages to the subscribers in addition to the TRAI stipulated standard tariff plan in rural areas.

(d) The port charges are payable by the interconnection seeker to the interconnection provider for terminating interconnection links on the network interface of the interconnection provider. The reduction in port charges is not directly connected to Average Revenue Per User. Therefore, the question of assessment of rise or fall in revenue collection of telecommunication does not arise.

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

*[English]***Statement****Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas**

1251. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas 2007 was held in New Delhi during the first week of January, 2007;

(b) if so, the delegates participated in the conference in comparison to the previous year i.e. 2006 and the reasons for the difference thereto;

(c) the details of issues discussed in the conference and the outcome thereof;

(d) the main concern shown by the Pravasi Bharatiyas in regard to investment and local aid etc.;

(e) whether the Government has announced more concessions and facilities to Pravasi Bhartiya to attract more investment in the country from them;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the facilities likely to be provided by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2007 was held in New Delhi from 7-9 January, 2007. 1094 paid delegates attended the Conference as compared to 916 paid delegates who attended Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2006 held from 7-9 January, 2006 at Hyderabad.

(c) Focus areas of the conference were health, youth, education, healthcare, women, investment, technology, media, etc.

(d) to (g) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for investment from overseas Indians. Most of the sectors are open to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route. Under FDI policy the facilities available to overseas Indians are enclosed as Statement.

1. Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) can invest upto 100% under the automatic route in the Housing and Real Estate Development for the following activities.

- > Development of serviced plots and construction of built up residential premises;
- > Investment in real estate covering construction of residential and commercial premises including business centers and offices;
- > Development of townships;
- > City and regional level urban infrastructure facilities, including roads and bridges;
- > Investment in participatory ventures in the above activities;
- > Investment in housing finance institutions.

2. NRIs can invest upto 100% in Indian companies engaged in Air Taxi Operation. (For foreign companies Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted only up to 49%).

Other facilities for NRI:

In addition to the investments under the FDI policy, NRIs can also invest under other schemes under various Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Regulations in the following activities/Sectors:

- > Mutual Funds.
- > Investment in PSU Bonds.
- > Investments up to 100% equity in proprietary/ partnership concerns, except in agricultural/ plantation activity or real estate business. (Foreign companies are not allowed to invest in partnership firms/ proprietary concerns).
- > *Portfolio Investment Schemes.* NRIs are permitted to invest in shares and debentures through secondary market purchase from the stock exchanges under the portfolio scheme. Investment limit are 5% and 10% respectively. These limits are over and above the Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) portfolio investment limits so as to ensure that NRI investment are not crowded out by FIIs.

- > NRIs can acquire immovable property, other than agricultural land/plantation property/farm house and transfer such property to a resident, another NRI.

Polio Cases

1252. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI A. SAIPRATHAP:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

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

- (a) whether several new cases of polio have been detected recently from several parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether this is likely to affect the country's claim of being 'Polio-free';
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to eradicate polio from the country; and
- (e) the present estimate of polio cases made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 2007, 11 cases of wild polio virus have been detected so far from five States as under:

Uttar Pradesh	—	3
Bihar	—	5
Haryana	—	1
Maharashtra	—	1
Andhra Pradesh	—	1

The epidemiological situation of polio in the country was reviewed by India Expert Advisory Group on Polio during December 2006 and they were of the opinion that the population immunity against wild polio virus type 1 will be very high by the end of 2006 due to improvement in Supplementary Immunization Activity quality, use of monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine and outbreak of 2006. The India Expert Advisory Group on Polio was confident that wild polio virus circulation can be stopped in India in 2007 through implementation of appropriate strategies.

(d) and (e) Following steps are being taken to eradicate polio from the country:

- (1) Strategic and targeted use of monovalent oral polio vaccine 1 and 3 to finish polio type 1 and type 3 circulation respectively.
- (2) Increasing the number of immunization rounds in high risk districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the 1st half of 2007 to accelerate the immunity of children in these areas against wild polio virus.
- (3) Continued efforts to improve and sustain the quality of immunization campaigns in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- (4) Enhancing social mobilization efforts in West UP by engaging the regional leaders and local influences to ensure better acceptance and full community participation.
- (5) The ASHA workers selected under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) are also now being fully involved in Pulse Polio Immunization especially in tracking of newborn and missed children and vaccinating them during the monthly Health and Nutrition Day organized at Anganwadi's.

[Translation]

Pakistan Human Rights Issues

1253. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Pakistan Human Rights Commission has expressed concern over the complaints of rising incidents of coerced abduction of Hindus in the country;

(b) whether Pakistan Human Rights Commission has demanded the administration to release such citizens or to release the list of persons illegally abducted or taken into custody; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. The report of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan for the year of 2006 states that the cases of abduction, disappearances and forced conversions of Hindus of Pakistan increased in 2006.

(b) and (c) In the above report, the Commission states that it moved a petition in the court in a case of abduction of three Hindu girls for their recovery and arranged for their parents to meet the press. The report further states that in the first week of December the Supreme Court ordered the police to shift the girls to the Edhi Welfare Center and provide protection to them until the time it was ascertained whether they had been indeed compelled to convert to Islam.

[English]

Growth of Inland Water Transport Sector

1254. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of infrastructure available and business performance of inland water transport sector during the last three years;

(b) the growth projections of the sector in the next five years and the steps taken to achieve the projected growth and development;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage private investment in the sector and set up public joint venture for vessel building and construction of terminals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Details of available infrastructure on existing National Waterways i.e Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Haldia to

Allahabad (NW-1), the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (NW-2) and the West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals (NW-3), are given in the enclosed Statement. Cargo transported by Inland Water Transport (IWT) mode (organized sector) in the country in last three years is as under:

Year	Cargo movement (in billion tonne km)
2003-04	1.628
2004-05	2.468
2005-06	2.823

(b) The target is to achieve 20 billion tonne km of cargo transportation by IWT mode in the organized sector by the year 2025 from the present level of 2.82 billion tonne km. In the next five years i.e up to 2011-12 it is estimated that IWT transportation would reach a level of 5.0 billion tonne km.

The steps proposed for achieving this projected growth are as under:

- (i) Making the three existing National Waterways fully functional,
- (ii) Declaration and development of new National Waterways,
- (iii) Encouraging private sector in development, operation and management of IWT infrastructure.
- (iv) Providing facilitative framework for increasing IWT fleet under private ownership.

(c) and (d) A beginning has been made by signing four Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) one for setting up of a Joint Venture for construction and operation of three floating jetties at Bandel, Kolaghat and Budge-Budge in West Bengal and three for setting up of Joint Ventures for acquisition, operation and management of barges on Kolkata-Mongla, Kolkata-Dhubri and Kolkata-Pandu routes. More private investment is expected after the three NWs and made fully functional. Action is already underway to speed up setting up of essential infrastructure.

Statement*Details of available infrastructure on National Waterways*

Waterway	Navigational Channel	Navigational aids	Terminals
NW-1	Channel is maintained between Haldia and Patna (1020 km) with least available depth (LAD) of 2.0m, between Patna and Varanasi (363km) with LAD of 1.5m and between Varanasi and Allahabad (237km) with LAD of 1.0m for most parts of the year.	Day navigational aids are provided in the entire waterway. Night navigation aids are also provided between Tribeni and Farakka (364km).	Terminals exist at Haldia, Kolkata, Pakur, Farakka, Patna, Bhagalpur, Varanasi and Allahabad.
NW-2	Channel is maintained between Dhubri and Dibrugarh (768km) with least available depth (LAD) of 2.0m, between Dibrugarh and Sadiya (123 km) with LAD of 1.2m for most parts of the year.	Day navigational aids are provided in the entire waterway. Night navigation aids are also provided between Dhubri and Pandu (255km).	Terminals exist at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu, Tejpur, Silghat, Jamguri and Bogibil.
NW-3	Channel is maintained between Kochi to Thakkazi and Udyogmandal and Champakara canals (121km) with least available depth (LAD) of 2.0m, and rest of waterway with LAD of 1.0m for most parts of the year.	Day navigational aids are provided in the entire waterway. Night navigation aids are also provided between Kochi-Allapuzha along with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (112km).	Terminals at Kottapuram, Aluva, Maradu, Viakom, Taneermukham (Chertala), Trikkunnapuzha and Kayamkulam

Encouragement to OCI Card Holders

1255. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken to encourage Overseas Citizenship of India card-holders to invest and work in India by suitably evolving easy official procedures eschewing the usual red-tapism?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for investment from overseas Indians. Most of the sectors are open to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route. Overseas Citizenship Card holders do not need an employment visa to work in India in the private sector.

Verification of Mobile Subscribers

1256. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether a large number of subscribers of mobile phones are not identified by the operators;

(b) if so, the number of such subscribers; and

(c) the measures taken or likely to be taken by the Government to achieve 100 per cent identification of the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) It was brought to the notice of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) that the mobile service providers are generally not complying with the requirement of subscriber verification as contained in their licence agreements.

DoT carried out special drives to check this in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and the State of Haryana. In the samples checked, it was observed that in prepaid subscribers about 60% and in post-paid subscribers about 93% were meeting the requirement of subscriber verification. Based on the observations of special drive, directions were issued to concerned service providers to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification.

Instructions have also been issued to all the mobile service providers on 22nd November 2006 for re-verification of existing subscribers by end of March 2007. Thereafter, if any number is found working without proper verification, a minimum penalty of Rs. 1000 per violation of subscriber number verification shall be levied on the licensee apart from immediate disconnection of the subscriber number by the licensee.

Conversion of Coal to Liquid Fuel and Gas

1257. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Investment Commission headed by Ratan Tata has directed to examine the feasibility of converting coal in to liquid fuel and gas as reported in *The Hindu* dated January 06, 2007;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has set up an inter-ministerial group to examine the said feasibility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Shri Ratan Tata, Chairman, Investment Commission made a presentation to the Prime Minister on establishment of coal to liquid (CTL) industry in India. The presentation highlighted the role of CTL in India's oil security, feasibility of CTL in India and Government facilitation for CTL. After discussion it was decided to set up an Inter Ministerial Group within the Planning Commission to examine the proposal and recommend a specific road map with time lines for future actions.

(c) to (e) An Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission which will furnish the recommendations to the Planning Commission by the end of March 2007. Members of the inter-Ministerial Group are as follows:

Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

Secretary, Ministry of Coal

Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Secretary, Department of IPP, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Secretary, DST, Ministry of Science and Technology

Principle Adviser (Energy), Planning Commission.

Artificial Heart Valve 'Chitra'

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

(a) whether improved version of India's first artificial heart valve "Chitra" has been devised;

(b) if so, its approximate cost thereof; and

(c) the action taken to produce it on a large scale to help poor heart patients needing artificial valve implant surgically?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) an improved version of India's artificial heart valve, the TTK-Citra Valve is at an advanced stage of development and testing under a collaborative project between Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum and TTK Healthcare Ltd., Chennai with the financial support of DSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology under their PATSER Scheme. The new version is expected to enter the clinical evaluation phase during the last quarter of 2007. The manufactured price of the new model is expected to be the same as the present model. TTK Healthcare Ltd. has set up a new plant in Trivandrum with increased capacity to take care of the requirement.

[Translation]

Haj Subsidy

1259. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has sought any clarification from the Union Government in January 2007 with regard to Haj subsidy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) While the Hon'ble Supreme Court has not sought any clarification, the Government have received Notice of the Writ Petition filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Constitutional validity of the Haj Committee Act, 1959.

[English]

Indo-Pak Joint Commission

1260. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Indo-Pak Joint Commission was held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed during the said meeting; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes. The 5th Joint Commission Meeting was held in New Delhi on February 21, 2007. It was co-chaired by EAM and Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri. The meeting reviewed the progress made by eight Technical Level Working Groups in the areas of Agriculture, Health, Science & Technology, Information, Education, IT & Telecommunications, Environment and Tourism. The reports of all the eight Technical Level Working Groups were presented at the Joint Commission and discussed. Joint Commission's deliberations are expected to lead to greater bilateral cooperation and provide a structural basis for improving the relations between our two countries.

Meningitis

1261. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether cases of meningitis have come to the notice of the Government in various parts of the country including Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected till date, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to deal with this killer disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The State-wise number of cases of Meningitis during 2006, including that of Delhi, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to prevent the disease and to provide the

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20.	Orissa	33	1	12	3	45	4	Oct.,06
21.	Punjab	16	5	9	0	25	5	Nov.,06
22.	Rajasthan	14	1	0	0	14	1	Oct.,06
23.	Sikkim	3	0	1	0	4	0	Dec.,06
24.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	8	0	Nov.,06
25.	Tripura	40	6	21	3	61	9	Nov.,06
26.	Uttaranchal	35	0	23	0	58	0	Dec.,06
27.	Uttar Pradesh	12	2	1	1	13	3	Nov.,06
28.	West Bengal	391	44	253	41	644	85	Sept.,06
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4	0	3	1	7	1	Sept.,06
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	NR
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	Dec.,06
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	Apr. Except Jan.& Mar.,06
33.	Delhi	237	39	82	19	319	58	Dec.,06
34.	Lakshadweep	4	0	2	0	6	0	Nov.,06
35.	Pondicherry	35	0	35	1	70	1	Oct.,06
Total		1550	129	1037	88	2601	217	

Data is provisional and not comparable due to ill defined coverage.

—Not Reported

NR—Not Received

The sum of male and female may not tally with the total figure as some States/UTs have not reported genderwise information separately.

Source: Monthly Health Condition Reports of States/UTs, Directorate of Health Services.

Increase In HIV Patients In Prisons

1262. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HIV positive cases are increasing in prisons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the spread of HIV in the country, specially in prisons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No such data is available at National AIDS Control Organization.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The core strategy of National AIDS Control Programme continues to be prevention through activities such as Targeted interventions among high risk groups. Information Education Communication, Blood Safety, Counselling services, etc. As on date, 45 Targeted Interventions are being implemented in the prisons for prevention of HIV & AIDS among prison inmates.

Super Speciality Hospital

1263. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of Rs. 7.5 crores for construction of a super speciality Pancha Karma Hospital is pending with Central Government for approval;

(b) if so, the areas proposed to be taken in this regard by the Central Government; and

(c) other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Increase in Amount under MPLAD Scheme

1264. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the amount to be allotted to each MP under the MPLAD scheme, keeping in view the increase in cost of works under the scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) A proposal for increase in the annual allocation of MPLADS funds from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 5 crore for each MP is under examination in the Ministry.

Indian Migrant Workers

1265. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dubai has ordered closure of 107 labour camps in the construction industry unless the living conditions of Indian migrant workers are improved as reported in *The Times of India* dated December 18, 2006;

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

(c) the details of facilities to be provided to the Indian workers?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

1266. SHRI M. ANJANKUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of the National Highways, in kilometer constructed by NHAI in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the target set for the said construction during the aforesaid period and the achievement made thereagainst;

(c) the reasons for the shortfall; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) A length of 559 km of NH-5 under Golden Quadrilateral of Kolkata-Chennai Section in Andhra Pradesh has been four-laned by NHAI during the last 3 years.

(b) to (d) There has been delay ranging from 2 to 27 months in implementation of above projects due to acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, difficulty in Environment and Forest clearances, poor performance of some contractors and termination of some contracts, etc. Nevertheless, these projects have already been completed in March, 2006 except Srikakulam-Champawati section which got delayed due to some contractual problem. Action has been initiated against the defaulting contractor and balance work has been awarded, which is likely to be completed by April, 2007.

Indian Immigrants in Gulf

1267. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people going abroad, particularly to Gulf countries for jobs have to deposit fees towards the immigration fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which the same was started;

(c) the objective for creation of such a fund;

(d) the amount so far collected on this account;

(e) whether this fund has been utilized to help migrant Indian labourers and for their rehabilitation on return from abroad; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (f) As per Rule 17 of the Emigration Rules, 1983, an emigrant recruited directly by a foreign employer is required to deposit one way return air fare as security to meet the cost of his repatriation, if required. Such deposit is refundable to the emigrant concerned as and when claimed by the returnee on production of requisite documents. However, with the introduction of the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojana, 2003 (as revised in 2006) such deposit of one way air fare has been discontinued with effect from 25.12.2003, since the said Bima Yojana provides for the cost of such repatriation.

At the end of year 2006 outstanding deposits by the emigrants amounted to Rs. 26.93 crores (approx.). Claims by the emigrants on return is an ongoing process.

Relaxation of Property Tax to Indian Embassies

1268. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has suffered the loss worth crores of rupees due to extension of relief on property tax being granted to the Embassies as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 29, 2007;

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

(c) whether the Government has extended the said relief to those countries which are not providing any such tax relief to Indian Embassies in their countries;

(d) the names of such countries which are charging the tax from the Indian Embassies; and

(e) the policy of the Government regarding recovery of the Service tax and other taxes?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No. Under Article 23 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961, "the sending State and the Head of Mission shall be exempt from all national, regional or municipal dues and taxes in respect of the premises of the Mission, whether owned or leased, other than such as represent payment for specific services rendered". This applies not only to foreign Missions based in India but also to Indian Missions abroad.

(c) No.

(d) All countries have exempted Indian owned or leased Head of Mission Residences and Chancery premises from payment of land/property tax.

(e) Government policy is based on the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961.

New Rail Line between India-Nepal-Bhutan

1269. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to construct a new rail line between India, Nepal and Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details of expenditure of the proposed project;

(c) whether the Government is trying to renew Friendship Treaties with Nepal and Bhutan in the sphere of bilateral relations; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposed changes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Feasibility studies

are presently being undertaken in respect of setting up of five cross border rail-links between India and Nepal and five cross border rail-links between India and Bhutan.

(c) and (d) Government have updated the Treaty between India and Bhutan of August 8, 1949. The updated India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty has been signed on February 8, 2007 in New Delhi. The updated Treaty reiterates that there shall be perpetual peace and friendship between India and Bhutan. It removes provisions, which have become obsolete over time. It includes fresh provisions for consolidating and expanding economic cooperation for mutual and long-term benefit and cooperation in the fields of culture, education, health, sports, and science and technology. It does not envisage a change in the treatment of nationals of both countries, or in the free trade regime that we have. The Treaty commits both countries to cooperate closely with each other on issues relating to their national interests, and not allow the use of their territories for activities harmful to the national security and interest of the other.

Indian Prisoners in Foreign Jails

1270. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian prisoners in jails in various countries, country-wise;

(b) whether Government has taken up the issue with the respective countries to secure release of the prisoners from foreign jails;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) A Statement containing available details of Indians imprisoned in various countries is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The Government of India through Indian Missions/Posts abroad makes all possible efforts to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released quickly and provide necessary 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 their relatives in India, ensuring fair and humane

treatment to the prisoners in jails abroad and facilitating repatriation of released prisoners to India.

(d) Does not apply.

Statement

Details of Indian prisoners in various countries

Country	Number of Indians in Jails
1	2
1. Afghanistan	Nil
2. Albania	Nil
3. Algeria	Nil
4. Angola	Nil
5. Argentina	Nil
6. Armenia	Nil
7. Austria	Not Available
8. Australia	35
9. Azerbaijan	Nil
10. Bahrain	101
11. Belarus	3
12. Benin	Nil
13. Bangladesh	893
14. Belgium	Not available
15. Bhutan	36
16. Bosnia and Herzegovina	Nil
17. Botswana	1
18. Brazil	Nil
19. Brunei	16
20. Bulgaria	Nil
21. Burundi	Nil
22. Burkina Faso	Nil

1	2	1	2
23. Cambodia	NH	52. Greece	24
24. Costa Rica	NH	53. Honduras	NH
25. Canada	21	54. Hungary	NH
26. Chad	NH	55. Indonesia	11
27. Chile	NH	56. Iran	15
28. China	3	57. Iraq	NH
29. Colombia	NH	58. Iceland	NH
30. Congo (Democratic Rep. of)	NH	59. Ireland	NH
31. Cote d'Ivoire	1	60. Israel	9
32. Croatia	NH	61. Italy	57
33. Cuba	2	62. Jamaica	NH
34. Cyprus	NH	63. Japan	12
35. Czech Republic	37	64. Jordan	16
36. Denmark	Not available	65. Kazakhstan	1
37. Djibouti	NH	66. Kenya	NH
38. Ecuador	NH	67. Korea (DPR)	NH
39. El Salvador	NH	68. Korea (Republic of)	NH
40. Egypt	NH	69. Kuwait	108
41. Estonia	NH	70. Kyrgyzstan	NH
42. Eritrea	NH	71. Lao PDR	NH
43. Ethiopia	NH	72. Lebanon	50
44. Fiji	NH	73. Libya	NH
45. Finland	1	74. Luxemburg	NH
46. France	Not available	75. Madagascar	NH
47. Germany	Not available	76. Malaysia	545
48. Ghana	NH	77. Maldives	8
49. Guinea	NH	78. Mauritius	21
50. Guyana	1	79. Mexico	NH
51. Guatemala	NH	80. Moldova	6

1	2	1	2
81. Morocco	3	110. Singapore	791
82. Mongolia	Nil	111. Slovak Republic	100
83. Mozambique	Nil	112. South Africa	Nil
84. Myanmar	16	113. Spain	12
85. Namibia	Nil	114. Sri Lanka	59
86. Nepal	Nil	115. Sudan	Nil
87. Netherlands	Not Available	116. Suriname	Nil
88. Netherlands Antilles (St. Maarten)	2	117. Sweden	1
89. New Zealand	29	118. Switzerland	Not available
90. Nigeria	Nil	119. Syria	Nil
91. Nicaragua	Nil	120. Tajikistan	1
92. Norway	Nil	121. Tanzania	Nil
93. Oman	54	122. Thailand	40
94. Pakistan	655	123. Trinidad & Tobago	Nil
95. Palestine	Nil	124. Tunisia	Nil
96. Panama	Nil	125. Turkey	Nil
97. Papua New Guinea	Nil	126. Turkmenistan	Nil
98. Peru	Nil	127. Uganda	1
99. Philippines	27	128. UAE	825
100. Poland	30	129. UK	239
101. Portugal	10	130. Ukraine	1
102. Qatar	32	131. USA	194
103. Rwanda	1	132. Uzbekistan	Nil
104. Romania	1	133. Venezuela	Nil
105. Russian Federation	3	134. Vietnam	Nil
106. Saudi Arabia	1116	135. Yemen	Nil
107. Serbia and Montenegro	1	136. Zambia	Nil
108. Senegal	Nil	137. Zimbabwe	Nil
109. Seychelles	1	Total	6277

Purchase of Computers

1271. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts had purchased computers at rates higher than the DGS&D approved rates;

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

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Department had placed an order for supply of 104 servers at the rate of Rs. 1.70 lakhs on M/s Compaq Computers (India) Pvt. Ltd. on 21.3.2001 for the Multipurpose Counter Machines (MPCMs) project. Subsequently, another purchase order was placed with M/s IBM on 28.3.2001 for supply of 5 servers for the Very Small aperture Terminal (VSAT) Money Order Transmission project at the rate of Rs. 1.28 lakhs at DGS&D approved rate. The configuration of the Servers in both the cases were not the same. This was the reason for the price difference.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

CBI Investigation on Nithari Cases

1272. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has initiated investigation of skeleton episode of Nithari Village in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for immediate completion of the investigation along with prevention of recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the guilty persons?

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) The skeletons, bones, etc. recovered from the premises at D-5, Sector-31, Noida have been subjected to Postmortem examination at AIIMS and then forwarded to Center for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad for DNA profiling and matching. Blood samples of the relatives of the victims have been obtained and forwarded to CDFD, Hyderabad for DNA matching.

(c) CBI endeavors to complete investigation in all cases at the earliest. There is a laid down system of holding monthly and quarterly review meetings where the cases under investigation are examined by the CBI with a view to finalise them early. Norms have also been laid down in the CBI(Crime) Manual for finalisation of investigation in various kind of cases.

Under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, the 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects and as such, the primary responsibility lies with the State Governments in regard to prevention, detection, and registration of crimes. The Government, however, attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime, and therefore, from time to time, has issued advisories to the State Governments and UT Administrations to give more focused attention to the matter of prevention and control of crimes within their jurisdiction with special emphasis on prevention of crime against vulnerable sections of the society, including children.

(d) The action is taken in accordance with law after completion of the investigation.

MFN Status to India

1273. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan has refused to give Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has sought clarification from Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Pakistan has so far not granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India despite its obligations, including under the WTO, and has cited extraneous political reasons for this.

(d) Government have consistently raised this issue with Pakistan and drawn attention to its obligation to grant MFN status to India.

Indian Diplomatic Missions Abroad

1274. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries in which India has diplomatic representations;

(b) whether the Government has any plan for opening new missions in certain countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to open its missions in all the UN Member states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) India has resident diplomatic representation in 116 member-States of the United Nations today.

(b) to (d) It has been decided to open Consulates General or Consulates in Songkhla (Thailand), Juba (Sudan), Guangzhou (China) and Karachi (Pakistan). The opening of Missions abroad is determined by India's overall strategic interest within the available financial and human resources. No decision has been taken so far to open more Missions abroad.

[English]

Passport of Indian Women

1275. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to make mandatory certification of marriage on the passport of Indian women who marry non-Resident Indians and visit their husband abroad;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

[English]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, please allow me to make my submission ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Saheb, I will give you a chance. First, let the Papers be laid on the Table of the House.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Port (Amendment) Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.16(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2007 under sub-section (2B) of section 6 of the Indian Ports Act, 1908.
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.767(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2006 keeping in abeyance the date of implementation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Fixation of Rates for the Use of Landing Places, Wharves, Quays, Warehouses, Sheds and other Miscellaneous Services) Amendment Rules, 2004 till the revised date is notified again, issued under Indian Ports Act, 1908.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5840/07]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.17(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2007 approving the amendment to the Mumbai Port Trust (Pension fund) Regulations, 2004 under sub-section (4) of section 124 Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5841/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885:

(i) The Use of low power wireless equipment in 335 MHz for remote control of cranes (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Amendment Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 34(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2007.

(ii) The use of low power wireless equipment in the citizen band 26.957-27.283 MHz (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Amendment Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 35(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2007.

(iii) The Indoor use of low power wireless equipment in the frequency band 5 GHz (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Amendment Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 36(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2007.

(iv) The Use of low power equipment in the frequency band 865-867 MHz for (RFID) Radio Frequency Identification Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Amendment Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 37(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2007.

(v) The Outdoor Use of Wireless Equipment (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2007 published in Notification No.

G.S.R. 38(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2007.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5842/07]

- (2) A copy of the Indian Post Office (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.762(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5843/07]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Information Technology for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—5844/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:

(i) S.O.2015(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 58 (Meerut - Muzaffamagar section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) S.O.2096(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Gorakhpur Bypass, including Rapti Bridge on National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Muzaffamagar section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(iii) S.O.2049(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26, including construction of Bypasses (Jhansi- Lalitpur section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (iv) S.O.2050(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway) (Ghaziabad Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (v) S.O.2057(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.309(E) dated the 17th August, 2006.
- (vi) S.O.2075(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.6D (Balasore - Laxmannath section) in the State of Orissa.
- (vii) S.O.2058(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1290(E) dated the 11th August, 2006.
- (viii) S.O.2059(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.35 (Barasat - Bangaon section) in the State of West Bengal.
- (ix) S.O.2142(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31C in the State of West Bengal.
- (x) S.O.22(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.35 (Barasat - Bangaon section) in the State of West Bengal.
- (xi) S.O.23(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2007 containing
- Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O.2057(E) dated the 25th August, 2006.
- (xii) S.O.24(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2007 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O.2058(E) dated the 25th August, 2006.
- (xiii) S.O.61(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.22 (Ambala-Zirakpur section) in the State of Punjab.
- (xiv) S.O.38(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 2007 regarding rates of fee to be recovered from the users of Railway Over Bridge near at Kurali on Chandigarh-Ropar Road on National Highway No. 21.
- (xv) S.O.2062(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1A (Jalandhar-Pathankot and Pathankot-Jammu sections) in the State of Punjab.
- (xvi) S.O.2090(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2006 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O.1505(E) (in Hindi version only) dated the 14th September, 2006.
- (xvii) S.O.2136(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2006 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O.1510(E) (in Hindi version only) dated the 14th September, 2006.
- (xviii) S.O.3(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. NE-II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway)

(Faridabad Section) in the state of Haryana.

(xix) S.O.19(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.3 (Agra-Gwalior section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xx) S.O.46(E) and S.O.47(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 11 (Mahua-Jaipur section), District Dausa, in the State of Rajasthan.

(xxi) S.O.188(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for construction for Toll Plaza (sixteen laning) of National Highway No. 8 (Gurgaon-Kotputli) in the State of Rajasthan.

(2) Four statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i to iv) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5845/07]

(3) A copy of the Daman and Diu Motor Vehicles (1st Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. ADTr./104-Vol.II/2006-07/25 dated the 29th December, 2006 in Daman and Diu Gazette under sub-section (3) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1988, together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5846/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5847/07]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5848/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 34 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5849/07]

(3) A copy of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Group 'A' (Gazetted) Ministerial Posts Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.730(E) in Gazette of India dated the

1st December, 2006 issued under proviso to article 309 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5850/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5851/07]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (Rajya Shiksha Kendra, Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (Rajya Shiksha Kendra, Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal, for the year 2004-2005.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5852/07]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Primary Education Development Society of Kerala (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Primary Education Development Society of Kerala (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2005-2006.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5853/07]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Uttar Pradesh Education for All Project Board (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh Education for All Project Board (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5854/07]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Uttar Pradesh Education for All Project Board (District Primary Education Programme-III), Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh Education for All Project Board (District Primary Education Programme-III), Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5855/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Jairam Ramesh, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tea Board, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5856/07]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 2005-2006.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5857/07]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5858/07]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shrimati D. Purandeswari, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Chennai, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Chennai, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5859/07]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5860/07]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion for Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion for Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Promotion for Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5861/07]

12.01½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Twentieth Report

[*English*]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, I beg to present a copy of Twentieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on "Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in All India Institute of Medical Sciences including reservation for SCs/STs in admission therein".

12.01¾ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 2006-2007

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OR RAILWAY (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, I beg to present a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2006-07.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—5864/07]

12.02 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Business transacted by the House during the week ending on 2nd March, 2007

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

As Starred Questions could not be called for oral answers due to interruptions in the House, replies to the 80 Starred Questions along with the replies to 702 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table.

During the period, as many as 12 matters of urgent public importance were raised before the adjournment of the House for the day. Also, 40 matters were raised under Rule 377 during the period.

As regards the legislative business, four Bills were introduced in the House.

The House discussed the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address for three hours and 33 minutes. However, the discussion was not concluded.

The Railway Budget for 2007-08 was presented by the Railway Minister on 26 February, 2007. During this period, the Budget (General) for 2007-08 was also presented to the House.

During this period, one Action Taken Report was presented.

During the last week, we lost 18 hours and 44 minutes due to interruptions and adjournments.

Hon. Members, I seek your cooperation in the smooth conduct of the proceedings.

Thank you very much.

12.03 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Business of the House

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that in the Leaders' Meeting held yesterday (06.03.2007), the following decisions were taken:

- (i) Further discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's Address may be taken up after Question Hour and the same may be concluded today by sitting late and doing away with the lunch-break, and the Prime Minister may reply to the discussion tomorrow, Thursday, 8th March, 2007 at 12 noon. The House may immediately, thereafter, take up the combined discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharti) Ordinance, 2007 and the consideration and passing of the Bill replacing the Ordinance. After the conclusion of the aforesaid item, the House may take up the General Discussion on Railway Budget, 2007-08, Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 2007-08, Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2006-07, and Government Resolution regarding recommendations of Railway Convention Committee contained in their Fifth Report, even by sitting late. The discussion may continue on Friday, 9th March, 2007 and the Minister for Railways may reply to the debate on the same day.

The Private Members' Business fixed for Friday, 9th March, 2007 may not be taken up.

- (ii) From Monday, 12th March, 2007, the House may take up the combined discussion on General Budget, 2007-08; Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2007-08 and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2006-07.

I hope, the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thirty-fourth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.05¹/₂ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Addition of New Districts under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005**

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA) passed with unanimous consent was notified on September 2005. NREGA guarantees local employment in the form of unskilled manual work up to 100 days in a financial year to every rural household if it demands such employment.

Section 1(3) of NREGA States that the 'Act shall be applicable to the whole of territory to which it extends within a period of five years from the date of the enactment of this Act'. Initially, NREGA was notified in 200 districts of the country on February 2, 2006. In these 200 districts, 1.68 crore households have been provided employment, generating 64 crore mandays of employment on 6 lakh works.

With a view to expanding the coverage under NREGA, 130 additional districts will be included under NREGA.

Additional districts have been identified on the following criteria:

- (1) 50 districts from the list of BRGF districts.
- (2) 15 additional districts where incidence of farmers' suicide took Place.
- (3) 5 additional districts that were bifurcated and created with the district with the original name already included in NFFWP/RSVY/BRGF. The newly created districts with new names which were left out of these programme are now included.
- (4) 34 districts have been selected from the Planning Commission Ranking of Backwardness used for identifying NFFWP districts, viz. SC/ST population, inverse of agricultural productivity, and inverse of agricultural wages.

(5) In order to make an equitable distribution, at least two districts in addition have been selected from each special category state as well as from States whose minimum number is not covered in items (i) to (iv) above. This covers 22 districts.

(6) 4 Districts have been taken up as Learning Impact Districts.

The list of additional districts to be covered under NREGA, except for the State of Uttar Pradesh, is enclosed. The list of districts for Uttar Pradesh will be issued later.

Statement

Names of Districts to be added under NREGA

Sl.No. of Districts added	States/Districts
1	2
Andhra Pradesh (6)	
1.	Nellore
2.	East Godavari
3.	Srikakulam
4.	Kurnool
5.	Prakasam
6.	Guntur
Arunachal Pradesh (2)	
7.	Changlang
8.	Lohit
Assam (6)	
9.	Marigaon
10.	Darrang
11.	Nalbari
12.	Barneta
13.	Hailakandi
14.	Cachar

1	2
Biher (15)	
15.	Sheikhpura
16.	Siwan
17.	Khagaria
18.	Madhepura
19.	Saharsa
20.	Sitamarhi
21.	West Champaran
22.	Banka
23.	Bhagalpur
24.	East Champaran
25.	Begusarai
26.	Gopalganj
27.	Buxar
28.	Saran
29.	Arwal
Chhattisgarh (4)	
30.	Korba
31.	Janjgir-Campa
32.	Mahasamund
33.	Raipur
Gujarat (3)	
34.	Valsad
35.	Bharuch
36.	Navsari
Haryana (2)	
37.	Ambala
38.	Mewat

1	2
Himachal Pradesh (2)	
39.	Kangra
40.	Mandi
Jammu and Kashmir (2)	
41.	Anantnag
42.	Jammu
Jharkhand (2)	
43.	Singhbhum East
44.	Deoghar
Karnataka (6)	
45.	Bellary
46.	Hassan
47.	Chikmagalur
48.	Belgaum
49.	Shimoga
50.	Kodagu
Kerala (2)	
51.	Idukki
52.	Kasargod
Madhya Pradesh (13)	
53.	Chhindwara
54.	Harda
55.	Panna
56.	Katni
57.	Dewas
58.	Guna
59.	Rewa
60.	Datia

1	2
61.	Damoh
62.	Raigarh
63.	Anuppur
64.	Ashok Nagar
65.	Burhanpur
Maharashtra (6)	
66.	Thane
67.	Wardha
68.	Buldhana
69.	Osmanabad
70.	Akola
71.	Washim
Manipur (2)	
72.	Chandel
73.	Churachandpur
Meghalaya (3)	
74.	East Khasi Hills
75.	Jaintia Hills
76.	Ri Bhoi
Mizoram (2)	
77.	Champhai
78.	Lunglei
Nagaland (4)	
79.	Kohima
80.	Mokokchung
81.	Tuensang
82.	Wokha

1	2
Orissa (5)	
83.	Bargarh
84.	Angul
85.	Balasore
86.	Bhadrak
87.	Jaipur
Punjab (3)	
88.	Nawanshar
89.	Jalandhar
90.	Amritsar
Rajasthan (6)	
91.	Tonk
92.	Swai Madhopur
93.	Chittorgarh
94.	Barmer
95.	Jalor
96.	Jaisalmer
Sikkim (2)	
97.	East Sikkim
98.	South Sikkim
Tripura (2)	
99.	South Tripura
100.	West Tripura
Tamil Nadu (4)	
101.	Thanjavur
102.	Thiruvavarur
103.	Tirunelveli
104.	Karur

1	2
Uttarakand (2)	
105.	Udam Singh Nagar
106.	Haridwar
West Bengal (7)	
107.	Cooch Behar
108.	Nadia
109.	Barddhaman
110.	Medinapur (East)
111.	North 24 Parganas
112.	Hooghly
113.	Darjiling
Uttar Pradesh	

List of districts in UP will be issued searately.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Shivraj Patil to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you. I have promised.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I was asking you not to read it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mathura has not ben covered *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not the way to do it.

[Translation]

Now nothing can be done. I will refuse.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. After the statement regarding the killing of hon. Member, I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word will be recorded except the hon. Minister's statement.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a serious matter. Please listen. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We have lost a colleague.

...(Interruptions)

12.11 hrs.

(II) Assassination of Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato, MP in a naxal attack on 4th March, 2007

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise, with a deep sense of grief and anguish, to inform the august House of the tragic assassination of Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato, hon. MP, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and two of his bodyguards and a local JMM leader at about 5.30 p.m. on 4th March, 2007 in village Baguria under Ghatshila Police Station of East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand State. Three other persons also received bullet injuries.

Hon. MP had gone there to witness a local-level football match along with four security personnel of

Jharkhand Armed Police and other JMM supporters. Armed assailants holding small arms and posing as villagers were present among the spectators. In a planned move, the naxalites numbering about 40-45 including women members, suddenly overpowered the bodyguards, snatched their weapons and fired at the hon. MP and his bodyguards. The naxalites took away four INSAS rifles and ammunition with them. According to initial reports, the assailants raised pro-Naxalite slogans after the killings.

Immediately after the receipt of the information, police force from Ghatshila P.S. rushed to the place of occurrence. S.P. Purulia (in West Bengal) was contacted for sealing the nearby inter-State border. Combing operations on both sides of the border are in progress. Reinforcements from State headquarters have been sent. DGP, Jharkhand and I.G. South Chotanagpur are camping at Jamshedpur to supervise anti-naxal operations in the area. The State has been put on high alert.

The Government of India condemns this inhuman and tragic incident. Hon. Minister of State for Home (Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal) has visited the State and assured the State Administration that the Centre will provide all possible support and assistance. The Ministry of Home Affairs is maintaining a close watch on the situation.

The Central Government provides financial, technical and manpower-related assistance to the naxal affected States under various schemes of the Home Ministry.

Under the Police Modernisation Scheme, Rs. 182.72 crore have been provided to Jharkhand in last six years. During the current year, a Special Grant of Rs. 15 crore is being given to the State for purchase of telecommunication, weaponry and de-mining equipment. Jharkhand has been provided Rs. 20.92 crore under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme till date.

To address the issue on the socio-economic front, under the Backward District Initiative Scheme, so far Rs. 450 crore have been released to Jharkhand. The State has utilised Rs. 348.18 crore.

In addition, the State has been provided :

- 16 armoured vehicles
- 5 battalions of CRPF continuously for the last three years.

*Not recorded.

**Placed in Library. See No. LT 5862/07

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

- Sanction for three IR battalions has been given by the Centre. The State has raised one battalion till now. Central Government will provide Rs. 20.75 crore per battalion against Rs. 13 crore per battalion being provided earlier.

Under the SRE, till date Rs. 218.52 crore have been disbursed to naxal-affected States. Under this Scheme, reimbursement is given to the States for expenditure on ammunition, mobility for police personnel, rehabilitation of surrendered naxals, *ex gratia* relief to killed civilians and security forces, insurance to security forces etc., The total expenditure under police modernisation is of the level of about Rs. 4,000 crore since 2000-01. The Sashastra Seema Bal has been deployed for providing security on Indo-Nepal border. Further, 33 battalions of CRPF have been provided to the naxal-affected States, which involves an expenditure of about Rs. 1,200 crore. CPMFs have also been directed to fill 40 per cent vacancies from youth of naxal-affected areas.

While the naxal problem in the country is of serious nature, combined efforts of the State and the Central Governments have shown some level of containment. Andhra Pradesh has achieved noteworthy success in controlling the problem through Special Forces, namely, Greyhounds and through other measures.

In the country as a whole, the incidents of naxal violence declined from 1608 in 2005 to 1509 in 2006, signifying a 6.15 per cent decline.

Central Government has also put in place, a strong mechanism for monitoring naxal activities and for evolving strategies to counter and closely address the problem.

However, we certainly need greater concerted and co-operative efforts between the States *inter se*, as well as between the Centre and the States to achieve more acceptable results. We expect that the motivation and dedication of the State police, coupled with financial, technical support which includes equipment and manpower support from the Government of India along with developmental programmes in naxal affected areas will have a significant impact on this problem.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We can have a discussion on this. He has made a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We can have a discussion on this. I am not denying that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Give Notice. We shall have a discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand): We have given notice.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has made an exhaustive statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please co-operate. Please sit down. At the earliest opportunity, he has come and made a statement on a very serious incident where you have lost a valued colleague. This matter is so important. Let us not just have cross-talks here. We can have a structured and proper discussion on this. I shall allow you to do that. Nobody can ignore the seriousness of this matter. The Hon. Minister has come and stated the seriousness.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I would like to ask a question whether the security arrangements were adequate.

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered about the adequacy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, Shri Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, the security measures undertaken by the State Government at the behest of the Central Government ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. If I allow you, I have to allow everybody. I am sorry.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are having disturbed proceedings in the House. Therefore, please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, the hon. Minister should have expressed sorrow over this incident. We have lost our colleague, and he says that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please read the first sentence of my statement. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have expressed it on behalf of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, he should have expressed sorrow. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make such insinuation. Do not do it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: A Bill is to be introduced.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, it has been decided that we should start the discussion on the Motion of Thanks immediately after the Question Hour is over and Papers are laid, but I am allowing Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav and other hon. Members of his Group in view of the

sentiments of our hon. Friends. It is only an exception for him today.

Prof. Yadav, please try to be as brief as possible.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, you have permitted me ...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate.

Please maintain some discipline. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not a word is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I have also given in writing ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will see whatever you have given. Your matter is under consideration.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your matter is under consideration. Only Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav's observations should be recorded.

*(Interruptions)... **

MR. SPEAKER: You have no respect for the Members and the colleagues here. You disturb them when they speak. Is this the way to show respect to your colleagues?

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for permitting me to speak.

Sir, a division bench of hon'ble Supreme Court has pronounced a judgement in a Public Interest Litigation on 1st of the March. In this regard I would like to submit that earlier an identical writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court by another petitioner and the Supreme Court had dismissed it terming it baseless. Again regarding this writ petition, on 15.12.2005 the Supreme Court asked the writ petitioner whether he was related with any political party. The very next day, i.e. on 16.12.2005 the petitioner filed a counter affidavit in this connection in which he stated:

[English]

"Being a person of very ordinary means, he was not interested at all to enter into political life. However, somehow he was adopted by the Congress Party in the last Assembly election, which he contested against Shri Rajnath Singh of Bharatiya Janata Party... Apart from this venture, deponent has no contact or connection with the Congress Party."

[Translation]

Sir, not one, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the observation of the Court. We cannot question it.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, not in one case but in many cases the Supreme Court has observed and even a larger Bench of Supreme Court had observed in Kusumlata Vs. Union of India, a public interest litigation filed in 2006, in this regard - that:

[English]

"Public Interest Litigation, which has now come to occupy an important field in the administration of law should not be "Publicity Interest Litigation" or "Private Interest Litigation" or "Politics Interest Litigation"..."

[Translation]

Sir, a larger Bench consisting of three judges, including Chief Justice of India had observed in Balco Employees Union Vs. Union of India.

[English]

"The Court must not allow any process to be abused by politicians and others to delay legitimate administrative action or to gain a political objective..."

It is further stated that:

"The court must take care to see that it does not overstep the limits of its judicial function and trespass into areas, which are reserved for the Executive and the Legislature by the Constitution."

[Translation]

I am telling you all this to explain as to how all this is being done to damage a political party at the time of elections for political purposes. In another case a Bench of three judges including Chief Justice, Shri Sabharwal, observed—

[English]

"However genuine a case brought before the court by a public interest litigant may be, the court has to decline its examination on the behest of a person who, in fact, is not a public interest litigant, and whose *bona fides* and credentials are in doubt."

[Translation]

All these things are clear and thereafter the Bench, pronouncing this judgement, had observed in its earlier judgement ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot question the judgement on this.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I do not want to comment on judgement or anything else but this judgement is unique in itself wherein without laying charge

any agency, it has been told to investigate whether there can be any charge or not. It is not so that there is a charge and that might be investigated rather herein first the agency will look for charges and thereafter report to the Central Government. Whereas generally in all the cases where the court investigates into any case and calls for the report. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We cannot do anything on this.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I am saying this that we have got a CD prepared by Congress Party and in that C.D.....*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We can not do anything about the judgement.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: The manner in which it has been in the C.D. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Allow me to conduct the House. Please do not make any reflection on the Bench. Mr. Handique, I am here to look after the things. Hon. Members, please sit down. I have allowed him. What are you doing? If anything is done which is not proper, I shall see that it is deleted. Do not challenge the decision here. Prof. Yadav, you cannot make any comment on the judges. Bring the record to my notice. I will not allow this.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I am telling you the facts. I am not making comments rather I am saying that C.D. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, please take your seats. Your seat is there, what are you doing here?

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, it should be removed.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, I have not cast any aspersion on any honourable judge. But I say that the statement of the petitioner casts aspersion on the judges. I want to submit this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

Please go to your seat and take my permission before speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not to decide, and I have to decide it, unfortunately.

*(Interruptions)... **

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word. Not one word is being recorded, Mr. Mistry. Hon. Member, I will take action against you. If anything is done which is not proper, I will see that it is deleted. I am requesting Prof. Sahib, please do not make any reflection on a judge, which is not permitted.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betia): If he crosses his limit, we will not discuss it. Then what will we do ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs. This has become a disease: nothing can be said, nothing can be discussed, and there can be no debate. What is happening? Are you the Speaker? You are deciding from there as if you

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not recorded.

are an additional Speaker. What is going on in this House? If you have no faith in me, get rid of me. I would not allow this to be done.

Prof. Yadav, I am very clearly requesting you not to make any reflection on any judge of any court.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, if any word uttered by me reflects upon the judiciary in any way, you can examine and expunge it. Yet I do not know why my friends are angry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should leave them. What you can do when they are angry even with me.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I will give you all the facts relating to the decision, I am only demanding this much from you that you may kindly get them examined. I want to tell you the fact that Akhilesh got elected to the Parliament twice and record of every single paisa along with affidavit is there in the income tax office. Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav ji has neither purchased nor sold any property in the last six years. All the facts have been given in the records and even the Supreme Court did not find anything fishy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can assure you that if any hon. Member of this House is facing anything and if it comes to me in a proper form, I shall see it. Let it come to me.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, therefore, I want to tell that the people of the country have no faith in the agency which has been asked to investigate into it. Therefore, I want that this case should be examined either by a judge of Supreme Court or a parliamentary committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

You should appoint Mistry ji as Chairman of that Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already spoken.

[English]

If a matter relating to any hon. Member of this House is sent to me, I shall look into it. I assure you that there is no question of any hon. Member being harassed if the law does not permit it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the protector of the honour of the hon'ble Members and this matter is related to a Member of the House who has given the details of all his property before contesting elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Singh ji, I have high regard for you. Please let him or somebody on his behalf write to me giving all particulars. I shall see it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: By involving the CBI out of political reasons just at the time of elections. ...*(Interruptions)* they are trying to bring a bad name to Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 15.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA (Kaisarganj): Sir, I rise to speak for the first time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no such rule as to permit you to speak only because you are on your legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You, sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Please allow him, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Akhilesh, I will allow you. Mr. Naidu, you do not have to come to his support.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not be able to give opportunity to anyone if you do not sit.

[English]

Unless you sit down, nothing will happen. You do not encourage him to stand up when I am standing. When I am standing, you have to sit down.

I have said more than once here and also outside that if any hon. Member brings to my notice anything on which he has any grievance about—I have given the undertaking—I will look into it to the best of my ability and I will not allow any hon. Member of the House to suffer any injury without any cause except...

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Naidu, why are you anxious?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Please allow him, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow him at your dictation.

[Translation]

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (Kannau): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice has not been received yet. All right, you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know. I would have allowed you to speak instead of so many others. Yes, if you want to say anything, do it. I am giving you chance as an exception. But this is being misused.

[Translation]

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for this. I am a Member elected by the people for

the second time to Lok Sabha. I have always provided my property details through affidavit before elections. I have filed my property returns with the income tax office every year after completing engineering course. Whatever property I have ever purchased or sold, I have always given intimation to the Income Tax Department regularly in regard thereto. I come to know that I possess property disproportionate to my income through the daily *The Times of India* of 6 March, 2007 published from Delhi and that the CBI will investigate into it and inform the Government. It is a surprising news to me. Since, this House is the protector of my privilege and it is written on page 322 under caption 'Conduct of a Member' in the book titled 'Practice and Procedure of Parliament' by Kaul and Shakhdar that:

[English]

"Anyone who has a reasonable belief that a Member has acted in a manner which, in his opinion, is inconsistent with the dignity of the House or the standard expected of a Member of Parliament, may inform the Speaker or the Leader of the House about it. However, if in the course of preliminary investigation it is found that the person making the allegation has supplied incorrect facts or tried to bring discredit to the name of Member willfully or through carelessness, he is deemed to be guilty of a breach of privilege of the House."

[Translation]

The Caption "Assets case: CBI begins probe against Mulayam" on page 15 of the *Times of India* of 6 March, 2007 published from Delhi has overtones of indicting me. After reading this news, I would like to tell the hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, who is the protector of all our privileges that there are neither allegations of taking bribe, corruption or scam against me nor I have ever implicated in any case.

Therefore, Sir, I give a notice of breach of privilege against the Home Minister and other persons conducting such baseless allegations and demand that this matter be examined by the privileges committee of Lok Sabha...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, what are you saying? That word should not go on record. 'I will see it. I have not received any notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, there is no scope for any supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respect you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I also respect you, therefore, kindly take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA: You are not giving me an opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not give you opportunity. I have more respect for you than you have for yourself.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.35 hrs.

**NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT
GUARANTEE (EXTENSION TO JAMMU
AND KASHMIR) BILL, 2007***

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House shall take up Item No. 15 — Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the extension of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the extension of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 to the State of Jammu and Kashmir."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.36 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for today will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to Include "Mev" Caste in Central list of Backward Classes

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): There are large number of people belonging to 'Mev' caste in Ramgarh Lakshargarh Tijara, Kishangarh, Khairtal Legislative Assembly constituency of Alwar district in Rajasthan. Similarly Mevs are in majority in several tehsils of Bharatpur district. 'Mev' caste is eligible for reservation in education and jobs as backward caste in Rajasthan. But they do not figure in the Central List. It has been a long standing demand of the Government of Rajasthan from the Centre that 'Mev' caste be included as backward caste in the Central List so that this backward community may get an opportunity to progress. I request hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Social Justice Minister to include 'Mev' caste in the Central List.

(ii) Need to recruit people of Kulhan village, Doda and Dudu Basantgarh, Udhampur in police force

[English]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): In my constituency at Kulhan village Doda and Dudu Basantgarh, Udhampur more than fifty persons were brutally massacred. The officials of Government of India and state Government of J&K visited on the spots and promised that the Government would conduct recruitment of police persons from both areas and also construct roads in these remote areas. Though more than 10 months have passed but nothing has been done. I request the Government to fulfill the promise.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dt. 7.3.2007

*Treated as laid on the Table.

(III) Need to take steps to prevent defacing/melting of currency coins for manufacturing machinery and surgical instruments

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (Machilipatnam): As per the guidelines of the RBI, no one in the country is allowed to deface or melt the 'currency coins.' If anybody does this, it is a punishable offence. But, melting of coins, particularly one rupee coins, has become a big business in Hyderabad. Once coins are melted the same will be sent to Bangalore, Pune, etc., for using the same as raw material in the manufacture of various parts of machinery and also surgical instruments. The reason for choosing only one rupee coins being that it contains aluminum and magnesium along with steel. The cost of aluminum and magnesium in the open market is much higher and moreover is also not pure. So, the manufacturers of machine parts found out this easy route of extracting the raw material for manufacturing parts from one rupee coins. The modus operandi is simple. People, including children, collect one rupee coins from shops by paying, say Rs. 120-150 for one hundred rupee coins. Once coins are collected, they are sent to melting units through big scrap dealers. Once the coins are melted, they take out aluminum and magnesium and then the same are used to manufacture various parts of machinery and surgical instruments. There is also a lot of demand for this mixture in the open market. So, the people found out this way.

Hence, I request the Government of India and the Finance Ministry to immediately take measures to stop misuse of currency coins and punish the culprits.

(iv) Need to monitor the process of preparation of BPL lists in Bihar

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): The incidence of poverty estimated through sample surveys of household consumer expenditure and the poverty ratio for the year 2004-05 was approximately 28% or about 22% if the survey includes five of the non-food items like clothing, footwear, durable goods, educational and institutional medical expenses. These surveys are the basis for preparing list of people who are to be treated as below the poverty line and who are thus entitled to benefits of various excellent centrally sponsored schemes of poverty alleviation especially the Indra Awas Yojana or the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana to name just two such schemes.

Both focus on poverty alleviation and BPL lists are crucial for them. They should be prepared on the basis of door-to-door survey and, after being approved by the Gram Sabha, be published and objections invited. The BDO should look into these to the satisfaction of the objector. If the objector remains dissatisfied, his objections are to be got examined by the District Magistrate and only then the final list is to be made public. But, unfortunately, in Bihar, no door-to-door survey was made nor the Gram Sabha's approval obtained. As a result undeserving people have been included in the BPL list and deserving have been excluded. This is serious as it negates the very purpose of the poverty alleviation schemes. Since Centrally Sponsored Schemes are involved, the Central Government should monitor the process of preparation of BPL lists in Bihar. For this it should appoint observers or adopt any other suitable means.

(v) Need to sanction loan to Ministry of Environment and Forests for payment of salaries to the employees of the "Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forests and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd".

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): I draw your kind attention towards the plight of the employees and their family members working in the lone Central Public Sector Undertaking "The Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Development Corporation Limited" in my constituency. The payment of wages and salaries are not made to the employees by this corporation due to non-availability of funds for disbursement as also delay in getting the loan sanctioned from the Ministry of Finance by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration had sent several reminders to the Finance Ministry but without any result.

I therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Finance to accord their concurrence to the request of Ministry of Environment and Forests for sanction of loan.

(vi) Need to provide additional central assistance for Swajaldhara Programme to Gujarat

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): The Government of Gujarat had requested the Central Government for additional central assistance to Gujarat for Swajaldhara Programme due to wider coverage of villages, The Government of Gujarat accepted the

[Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar]

Programme and also contributed their share of funds after the formation of 'Pani Samities.'

I urge the Government to release additional central assistance at the earliest.

(vii) Need to provide manned railway crossing in Churu district of Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Sir, there is a need to provide manned railway crossing in my Parliamentary constituency Churu, Rajasthan. The roads which connected one village with another for centuries have now been closed due to railway line. These roads are recorded in revenue records for years. There is 450 km. of railway line in my Parliamentary constituency Churu. There are only 24 manned railway crossings and there may be a few unmanned Railway Crossings such a long railway line. Most of such railway crossings are located on the either side of the cities. There are only 2 railway level crossings in the 56 k.m. rural stretch from Sadulpur railway station in my home tehsil Rajgarh, district Churu Rajasthan to Churu district headquarters. One can easily imagine how rural people are crossing the railway line. Today each household has camel cart, tractor, jeep etc. How farmers could be using them. I have raised this issue time and again but no meaningful initiative has been taken till date and no change has been effected in the policy regarding railway level crossings.

Therefore, I request the Government to provide relief to the rural people by providing manned railway crossings on the roads connecting villages where people have to cross railway line.

(viii) Need to provide special package for overall development of Himalayan Region

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (Arunachal West): The Himalayan Region is the most neglected area in the country with regards to the parameters of development.

It is appalling to note that across the Himalayan belt towards China side massive developmental works are taking place especially the roads and other infrastructural facilities. The planning process needs to be focused on the Himalayan belt with regards to its

sustainable development, as the development and environmental protection of the Himalaya is critical for the national development and security.

I would like to request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to kindly announce a special package as soon as possible to transform the entire Himalayan region particularly the state of Arunachal Pradesh, which fails to attract the required attention of the union Government despite 1982 Chinese aggression. The lack of Railways, Air connectivity and Inland waterways, due to extreme topographic and climatic difficulties, must be well compensated by providing adequate road infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh urgently by treating it as a very special state.

In this context, the deep sense of patriotism and nationalism in the minds of Arunachalees and their absolute commitment to the cause and the spirit of national unity and integration of India must be recognized and appreciated.

(ix) Need to expedite the construction work on N.H. 57 from Gulab Bagh Purnia to Darbhanga in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Sir, the work on N.H. 57 from Gulab Bagh Purnea to Darbhanga is progressing very slowly. The contractor who has been awarded the contract is not taking any interest in this work. Whatever work has been carried out is also of very low quality. N.H. 57 is very useful road for the state. It becomes more important due to its proximity to border area. Although work on proposed 892 k.m. NH for example on N.H.-106 from Thana Virpur to Thana Bihpur has not started. It is proposed N.H. of first and second stage.

So, through this House I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Road and Transport and request him to ensure that injustice is not done to Bihar and appropriate steps are taken to complete the entire work of all national highways including N.H.-57 at the earliest.

(x) Need to acquire and run the closed Synthetic Chemicals factory in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, the private synthetic chemicals factory, manufacturing artificial

rubber, located in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh is lying closed for the last seven years. The permanent and temporary employees working in the said factory have not been provided their dues. It is the only rubber manufacturing factory in Asia. But due to the policies of the management this factory is lying closed and the families of the employees working there have been pushed on the verge of starvation.

Through you, I, request the Government to take over and run this closed factory and make arrangements to provide the dues of all the employees.

(xi) Need to increase the remuneration of Anganwadi workers

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavellkara): There are about 14 lakh women engaged in the work at around 7 lakh Anganwadi centres spread across the country. The Anganwadi workers are doing commendable service to the society, particularly to the rural poor. Their area of service include pre-school education, supplementary nutrition, health and referral services, pregnant women and lactating mothers and children under six. But it is rather unfortunate that these poor women are forced to work for a pittance. The honorarium provided to an Anganwadi worker is Rs 1000.00 and a helper Rs. 500/-. The Anganwadis should be transformed into Child care-cum-Creche making it into full time service integrating various other Government schemes into it. The remuneration has to be substantially increased keeping in view of the increasing cost of living. Also, the number of Anganwadi centre should be raised to cover the ration of one centre for thousand people.

I urge upon the Government to take urgent measures in this regard.

(xii) Need to include and upgrade the Industrial Training Institute of Bundelkhand Region under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched for the betterment of ITI's.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh): Multi-skilled courses are being introduced by the Government on the basis of modular system in 500 Industrial Training Institutes with the help of domestic

and World Bank funding for preparing world class technicians. It is indeed a matter of great happiness.

Sir, the condition of Industrial Training Institutes of Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Banda, Jhansi and Lalitpur of backward areas of Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh is very miserable. Hence, with a view to improving the condition of Industrial Training Institutes of said area, prepare students as world-Class technicians and provide employment to them it is necessary that all the districts be included in this scheme on priority basis, and all the facilities provided to ITI's of other States by the Centre, be provided to them. It is necessary to set up ITI's for every 20 thousand population in the said area. Bundelkhand is a very backward area. The people living there are poor and backward so they cannot continue education by paying hefty fees to the private institutes. As a result students lag behind in the absence of facilities and eke out their livelihood by doing labour and petty work. Most of the people work as unskilled labourers due to absence of Industrial Training Institutes. The said scheme should be implemented in all above districts of Bundelkhand on priority basis to improve the standard of living and remove regional imbalances and new Industrial Training Institutes be set up where it is needed the most. In the existing ITI's arrangements be made to provide training in second and third shifts so that more and more students can get training which will be of great help for them in getting employment and the standard of living of the people of Bundelkhand may improve.

[English]

(xiii) Need to expedite the setting up of AIIMS In Patna, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Out of the proposed six 'AIIMS' one is to be established in Patna in Bihar. The proposed 'AIIMS' were included in the budget for the year 2002-2003. Observing the pace of work on Patna 'AIIMS' for the last six years, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the next 10 years may also not see the completion of Patna AIIMS. Bihar is an extremely backward State, of the country. The people of the state have to go to Delhi or other places for treatment. Most of the patients are not able to get treatment due to poverty and lose their lives. Establishment of an AIIMS in Patna would provide relief

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

to the people of Bihar particularly the people who live in far-flung areas of the State who do not have the means to get themselves treated.

Hence, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Health and Family Welfare Minister towards this issue, through the House, and urge him to expedite the completion of work on AIIMS in Patna.

(xiv) Need to protect Pulicat lake in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu by the Archeological Survey of India

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): In my constituency Pulicat lake is one of the famous shallow water lake which was oldest port used by Portuguese people. Now this lake is included in the Tourist spot by state government and Central Government is also supporting. But the evidence of oldest port is being destroyed.

Therefore, I request the government through Archeological Survey of India to identify this place and protect those built and used oldest port without any further delay.

(xv) Need to impose quantitative restrictions on export of iron-ore

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): With the recent upturn in the world steel prices and revival and financial strengthening of the Indian Steel sector, a number of new and expansion projects both in public and private sector are taking shape on the ground. With clear indication of a healthy GDP growth and increase in steel consumption, the additional steel capacity will cater both to expanding domestic consumption as well as sustained exports, provided quality and price is globally competitive. Ensuring such an edge to India steel industry in both exports and against imports, it is essential to leverage our national advantage in the availability of good reserves of quality iron ore for expansion of the steel industry, with its large economic multiplier, rather than continued emphasis on exports of iron ore. Hence, instead of exporting iron ore, we should put emphasis on value addition and export of steel and steel products. This will lead to forward integration and also get the country more foreign exchange.

In view of the huge requirement of iron ore for captive consumption of the existing and new steel capacities coming up in Orissa and elsewhere in the country, I urge upon the Government to impose quantitative restriction on the export of iron ore, especially on the iron ore of more than 60% Fe content. A scheme of gradual reduction of the export of iron-ore could be worked out. Eventually the export of iron ore has to be banned. What is important is that full requirement of domestic industry is to be met at economic prices through suitable restriction on exports. I urge upon the Government that a well-thought out transition plan be devised in consultation with Governments and other stake holders.

(xvi) Need to set up separate Development Board for Konkan region

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): There is persistent demand for separate Development Board for Konkan. Konkan region is as backward as Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. The State Legislature of Maharashtra has passed unanimous resolution on 13 March, 1989 requesting for a separate Development Board for Konkan by making suitable amendment to article 371 (2) of the constitution of India. The formal proposal of the state Government in this regard was submitted to Government of India on 21.4.1989.

Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide their letter dated 18 July, 2005 requested the State Government to obtain the views of both the Houses of the State Legislature for the setting of a separate Development Board for Konkan.

As per the suggestion given by the Home Ministry, Government of India, the state Legislature has again passed unanimous Resolution on 15th December, 2005 requesting for a separate Development Board for Konkan.

The matter of separate Development Board for Konkan is still pending with the Union Government. I, therefore request the Union Government to take immediate necessary steps for setting up of separate Development Board for Konkan.

(xvii) Need to review the increase in excise duty on hand made beedi

SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): The Union Finance Minister in this year's Budget has proposed increase in the levy of excise duty on hand-made Beedi from Rs. 7/-

to Rs. 11/- on bundle of thousand Beedies. This is an increase to the tune of 60%. But a mere 5% excise duty increase has been proposed on cigarette. Beedi industries workers are poor people. In Tamil Nadu we have about 15 lakhs of Beedi workers. Among them about 5 lakhs of people working in the Beedi industry live in Trinelveli District. Even among those Beedi workers about 4 lakhs of people live in my Tenkasi constituency. This excise duty increase will definitely hit them hard.

The Union Government which has been introducing several welfare schemes for people living below poverty line must consider helping the Beedi industry and their workmen by providing livelihood to many poor people. Hence I urge upon the Union Government not to increase the excise duty on hand made Beedi as it will affect the Beedi industry as well as the poor Beedi workers and their families.

(xviii) Need to declare a firm policy for production of ethanol

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (Kolhapur): Our country had sufficient stock of sugar available for sugar export and international price of sugar was also good. However, at that stage sugar export was banned and in consequence the farmers lost a good opportunity of reaping a good price for sugar. As a result sugar stocks also piled up.

Now, the ban has been lifted at a stage when international prices of sugar have crashed. As a result of this policy the Indian farmer's have lost a good opportunity of getting good sugar price. The Government therefore must find a way to compensate the farmer's for this loss.

In this respect it is noteworthy that most of the sugar cane growing countries have firm future policy on ethanol and sugar production. As a matter of fact most of the oil requirement of Brazil is being met through ethanol production and they are now also exporting their ethanol & sugar. While agricultural conditions are similar the India has no firm policy on ethanol and there is no State support.

Through your good office Sir, I urge the Prime Minister, the Agricultural Minister to decide a firm future policy on ethanol production for the benefit of farmer's and oblige.

[English]

(xix) Need to start construction work of Maharajganj-Mashrak railway line

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, Maharajganj in Bihar is the main commercial centre of Siwan district as well as Mashrak of Saran district. The Chhapra railway line, built at the time of the British regime, used to culminate at Mashrak. After independence it was extended upto Gorakhpur. There is one more railway line which runs from Chhapra to Gorakhpur via Ekma and Duraunda and Maharajganj divisional headquarters is situated at a distance of only 6 km from Duraunda midway of this railway line. The railway line from Duraunda to Maharajganj is operational but there is no railway line from Maharajganj to Mashrak which is having an adverse effect on trade. An operational railway line between these two points would connect the main commercial centres of Mashrak in Saran district and Maharajganj in Siwan district. The Maharajganj-Mashrak railway line would not only promote trade but also make travel easier for the rural denizens. It may be kept in mind that foundation of this railway line was laid in the past but it has not been completed and made operational as yet.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to request, through you, that construction work on the Maharajganj-Mashrak railway line which has been sanctioned by the Government, may be started soon.

(xx) Need for setting up Match Units in South Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): There are around 3500 safety match handmade manufacturing units in Sattur, Kovilpatti, Sivakasi, Virudhunagar and Srivilliputtur regions in South Tamil Nadu. Those are providing livelihood to 2 lakh people approximately.

At present handmade sector is not in a position to compete with the mechanized sector. It is felt that technology will be required to overcome the competition.

For that at least 6 common facility service centre are required to be set up at Sattur, Kovilpatti,

[Shri Ravichandran Sippiparal]

Virudhunagar, Srivilliputtur, Kalugumalai and Gudiyatham each at the cost of Rs. 1.30 crores.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Government of India through the Ministry of Small Scale Industries to take necessary action for setting up match cluster through SISI Chennai.

(xxi) Need to confer Bharat Ratna Award on Dr. Raj Kumar, Kannada Film Icon

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura): I request the Government of India to confer Bharat Ratna award on Dr. Raj Kumar, the Kannada film icon. Dr. Raj Kumar was a unique Kannada actor in Indian cinema who acted in more than 206 movies. His characters ranged from comedy to action, from lover to double-triple roles, from mythological to portrayal of modern days social causes. He received Padmabhushan in 1983. The Government of Karnataka awarded the highest state civilian award 'Karnataka Ratna' to him in 1993. The Government of India awarded him 'Dada Saheb Phalke' award in 1995. In 1995 he also won a prestigious 'Kentucky Colonel Award' presented in Bangalore by the then Governor of Kentucky State of USA. His fans conferred on him the title 'Natasarvabhouma' means the emperor of acting. Dr. Raj Kumar won 10 Film Fare Awards for the best actor category which is second highest in the history of Indian films. He won 9 State awards in the best actor category. He also won National Award in best singer category.

If Government of India rewards Dr. Raj Kumar with the highest civilian award of the Nation 'Bharat Ratna' it will honour the Nation itself. On behalf of the 5 crore Kannadigas, I am urging the Government of India to award Dr. Raj Kumar with 'Bharat Ratna'.

12.37 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 17. Shri Mahtab, your Party time is already over by four minutes but I will give you another five minutes.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day while discussing the Motion of Thanks on

President's Address, I was mentioning that India produces 30,000 doctors a year but has not been able to achieve higher rates of child survival than any of our neighbours, with the exception of Pakistan. Infant and child mortality rates are significantly lower in Bangladesh.

MR. SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House. We are discussing a very important subject.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Child immunization is virtually universal in Sri Lanka. We are far behind and there is little mention to improve the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: If hon. Members have anything to discuss amongst themselves, there is the Inner Lobby, there is the Outer Lobby and then there is the Central Hall, they can go anywhere they like.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The India of tomorrow cannot be built on foundations of yesterday. The one resource that needs to be given policy respect is knowledge. This is the one word which Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and the National Knowledge Commission Chairman Sam Pitroda have been stressing upon. The idea is to creating and maturing of India into a knowledge society. This process has begun in the early 1990s. Dr. Singh opened the economy sector by sector, clause by clause.

12.40 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

A decade and a half later, as the captain of a ship, with many sails to open before it cruises at double digit, he has to recognize that if the ship has to power ahead.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, last time you had been given more than the allotted time.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Hon. Speaker has already mentioned it and you are repeating it, Sir. Ten hours of time has been allotted for this discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken double the time that is allotted to you.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, a decade and a half later, as captain of a ship with many sails to open before it cruises at double digits, he has to recognize that if the ship has to power ahead, its oarsmen at the bottom

need to be empowered with muscles of knowledge. Social infrastructure has to be put in place. Do we find any mention of this in this Address?

The issue that is agitating us today is why the States are being denied their legitimate due by the Centre? Why mineral rich States of the country have turned out to be the hungry bowl instead? So much for the vision of national development that sought to subordinate regional welfare to national welfare? Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar are repository of nearly 100 major and minor minerals, but are cursed, as the uncritically promulgated policy instruments including the freight equalization strategy, have left the States starved of investible funds for basic social and economic infrastructure, forcing desperate migration to far-flung firms and fields for a pittance.

The public sector engagements with exploration, mining, exports and processing have hardly generated jobs or incomes for these regions. Orissa has been denied of steel plants for many decades due to deceit of federal politics. Income from mining royalty for these mineral rich States has remained abysmally low. Except atomic and specific strategic minerals in the First Schedule including petroleum and gold, why should the Centre decide royalty provisions when example suggests how irrationally these have been fixed? For at least three decades upto 1980, royalty rates remained very meagre and were hardly revised upwards. With newer rates for key minerals as iron ore, coal, bauxite, manganese and chromium and those listed in the Second Schedule, international rates are far sensibly designed with local interests in focus.

Consider NALCO's Alumina-making bauxite in Orissa. The difference between the market implied value of the Alumina and the royalty revenue is estimated to be about Rs. 1,200 crore last year and is a loss to the State almost every year. These low rates are set bureaucratically and are artificial. Fixing royalty rates by States is not uncommon practice around the world. Countries such as Australia, Canada and Malaysia have allowed their respective States to legislate and determine royalty. Indonesia has even further decentralized its authority.

The bitter experience that we have of the mindless extraction by the public and private sector alike, no or low processing within the concerned State itself, can we not have a dual royalty norm, for minerals used for value addition within the State and those taken outside?

This can ensure the State has better control over mineral resources and help maximize the royalty revenue.

I would urge upon this House to scrutinize uniformity in the Central royalty structure and legislative authority which has perpetuated regional economic under-development and has kept mineral rich States in a desperation, the signs of which are clear, loud and raw?

The hon. President in his Address has mentioned that to make Government more transparent and responsive and to eliminate the cancer of corruption, the Right to Information Act is one means of empowering our citizens. Has the Government forgotten about the urgency of Lok Pal legislation? Why there has been no mention of enacting the Lok Pal legislation? The Lok Ayukta Conference was held in Dehradun in 2005. A commitment has been made in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government. The Minister had given an assurance in this House in December 2005 that as soon as the Group of Ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are repeating the same lengthy speech as you did last time also when I was in the Chair. You should control yourself.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I am raising a point that the Group of Minister headed by. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are repeating the same process of reading out lengthy speech as you did last time when I was in the Chair. If we continue like this, how can we conclude the discussion in time?

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I am continuing my speech as last time you had said that I could continue later.

Sir, a Group of Minister was formed headed by the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukerjee regarding Lok Pal and transparency ... *(Interruptions)* An assurance was given in this House in December 2005 that as soon as the Group of Ministers headed by Shri Mukherjee submits its Report the Lok Pal Bill shall be proceeded with. Months have passed. He has already submitted its report. I would like to know from the Government as to what action has been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have anything written, you can place it on the Table.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I will mention my last point regarding the education aspect. I will confine myself to the education aspect. Regarding the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which was mentioned by the hon. President and also by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech, it has been said that it is being re-phased where the States are being asked to share 50 per cent of the programme, which means every State has to double their share. The total State share will be now more than Rs. 10,000 crore. What is the intention of this Government? Is it to kill this universal elementary education programme? How can you provide education to all unless you provide funds to the cash starved States?

Now we hear about special favour to the minorities and an attempt is being made to identify backward minority groups. What criteria do you have? Does the Constitution allow you to do so? You are not sovereign. The Constitution is sovereign. Please do not forget that.

I will conclude by saying that fruits of development are to be shared equitably but the focus should be on weaker sections of the society on economic criteria. Prof. John Kenneth Galbraith in a letter to President John F. Kennedy had once said, politics is not the art of the possible. It consists in choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable. While supporting the Motion, I am constrained/sorry to say, that the UPA Government is often opting for the disastrous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Mishra, at the most you will be given five to 10 minutes. It is as per the direction of the Speaker.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Vote of Thanks on the President's Address. The biggest achievement of this Government during its two years and nine months regime has been that the GDP has jumped to 9.2 percent and there has been a substantial increase in per capita income also. I would like to congratulate the UPA Government for this achievement.

The Government has done a lot of work for the common man in the sector of agriculture, trade and education for the welfare of minorities and in providing basic facilities. I would like to give all credit for achievements in these fields to the Prime Minister

Dr. Manmohan Singh, the UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi and to the UPA Government. Hence, I support the President's Address.

This Government has made all out efforts in the tenth Five Year Plan towards ensuring agricultural dynamism, restructuring of employment modules, creation of new jobs, environmental conservation, drinking water supply for the poor, development of basic amenities and creation of infrastructure. The UPA Government has adhered to its commitment of Bharat Nirman. To this end, this Government has carried out large-scale works during the last two years and nine months under the Grameen Sadak Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme and the Rural Drinking Water Scheme.

The National Rural Health Mission is an ambitious scheme of this Government. This scheme has been discussed many times here in the House. I remember that at that time many hon. Members complained that the work on the scheme was stalled. The point of the matter is that it is the responsibility of the officials of the State Government to ensure effective implementation of the schemes for which funds have been provided to the State by the Union Government. I do not see any of my colleagues who are members of the party, which is ruling Uttar Pradesh. The Union Government has provided millions of rupees to the State Government for recruiting women under 'Aasha' a scheme being run under the National Rural Health Mission. However, the State Government spends lakhs of rupees in advertising this scheme, which is, a misuse of funds. Such advertisements carry full-page pictures of the Chief Minister and the Health Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the fact that it is a "Scheme funded by the Union Ministry of Health," is stated at the very bottom in extremely fine print. What I mean to say is that the funds provided for a scheme by the Union Government are not used effectively by the State Government. Its main concern is to publish the pictures of its leaders under the guise of advertising the scheme. Consequently funds sanctioned by the Union Government for the schemes are not used in full and I have no hesitation in submitting that the State Governments and their subordinate officers are not doing that much work what should be done by them.

Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission Scheme is an ambitious scheme of the Union Government. We feel that many State Governments received a lot of funds under this scheme and completed more than half

of the work. But unfortunately this scheme was implemented in seven districts of Uttar Pradesh and till date i.e. for one-and-a-half years now the State Government has not submitted any DPR to the Union Government.

Sir, can there be more irresponsible Government than this Government? This is the reality of Uttar Pradesh Government. An honourable Member of Samajwadi Party was debating that the income has increased by nine percent and this is true. He had mentioned the shares of the rich, the middle class and the poor class in this increase of nine percent income. He contended that the income of the rich people has increased and that's why per capita income in the country has increased by 9.2 percent. We agree with him and request the Government to issue a list of those persons who are in politics for the last 9 to 10 years but have acquired immense property, particularly regarding a person who had bicycled his way in politics to Lucknow but is rolling in many billions on account of his three stints as Chief Minister. It should be investigated whether the names of such persons figure in that list. Today it pains me when I hear that there should be no CBI probe in this matter. The Supreme Court says that income must be probed and the case be handed over to CBI. The honourable Members of Parliament belonging to Bhartiya Janata Party are sitting here. Hon. Krishnanand Rai belonging to the constituency adjacent to my constituency was murdered. The entire Bhartiya Janata Party staged a 'dharna' for 22 days in Varanasi on that issue and the all India President of this party was continuously present in dharna. Hon. Atalji and hon. Advaniji lead the procession to his constituency and demand from the Uttar Pradesh Government that the murder case should be investigated by CBI. The Uttar Pradesh Government declines their demand. But when the wife of late Shri Krishnanand Rai approaches the High Court which decrees in her favour that this case should be investigated by CBI, the same Bhartiya Janata Party leadership takes a U-turn and stands up against the decision of the Supreme Court with the argument that there should be no CBI probe. Sir, what is the logic behind this?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Bhartiya Janata Party has not protested. You are in the Government with their support....(*Interruptions*) What are you talking, who has protested? The Bhartiya Janta Party has not protested.(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: The entire Hindustan has seen it, your deputy leader has spoken on television that CBI is not impartial, it should not probe the matter. I want to say that when the same CBI and the Supreme Court decrees against Delhi Government and the Union Government in the matter of delimitation and when there is a decree against the President's Rule in Bihar and when there is a decree regarding Goa, these people clap but when the Supreme Court decrees for CBI probe of the people earning crores of rupees, the same people start feeling uncomfortable. The entire nation is aware of their dual policy and the public is congratulating those judges who have given this historic judgment that the CBI should probe it. The increase of nine percent in per capita income is being talked about. Their leader had come to Lucknow from Etawah to join politics in 1989 and his status was just enough to own a bicycle. But he has become a billionaire in a span of 12 to 14 years and these people say that CBI should not probe into it. The leader of opposition said that he felt honoured for being a representative of such state where maximum development is taking place and he mentioned the name of hon. Chief Minister. I have no objection to it. But when he talks of peace and law and order in Gujarat, I want to say that there is a Member of Parliament belonging to his party who dares not to speak against his Chief Minister out of fear.

13.00 hrs.

He is afraid lest he may meet the same fate as that of Hiren Pandya sometime back. The leader of the opposition does not ask him regarding the position of the Members of Parliament belonging to his party. First let his MPs tell that Gujarat is in a very good position and after that he can go about telling the whole nation with pride that he is a representative from a state where Shri Narendra Modi is the Chief Minister.

13.01 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, I have to submit that each and every scheme of Uttar Pradesh should be investigated. Why the funds allocated to a certain item were diverted to Saifai village in Etawah? Uttar Pradesh is the biggest State and the heartland of India but is Saifai the biggest village of Uttar Pradesh? Funds are allocated for Indira Awas Yojna, Mid-day meal, Education for all campaign, irrigation,

[Dr. Rajesh Mishra]

tube-wells, canals, Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme, APDR Scheme and why all these funds are diverted to Saifal and Etawah? The schemes of the Union Government cannot be implemented and a common man will not get relief till such conditions persist.

Sir, we talk of terrorism. Terrorism has not grown up in a single day. It has gradually developed during the last 15-16 years. When I talk of terrorism, I think that the foundation of terrorism was laid when after independence Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead. Those people are the greatest supporters of the terrorists who shot Mahatma Gandhi dead and advanced arguments in favour of the shooters of Gandhi. The people of India and the State Governments should work together and we cannot get rid of terrorism until and unless we counter the terrorism together. In Uttar Pradesh, the supporters of the party in power for the last three years are more dangerous than the external terrorists. No other extremist or terrorist is more dangerous than these people in Uttar Pradesh. In India terrorism is sponsored by foreign countries but in Uttar Pradesh the elements who get elected from almost every other district are in no way better than the professional terrorists that is the reality in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Mr. Mishra is saying. Shri Mishra, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Sir, he will speak in his favour only. As long as he has power in Uttar Pradesh, he will remain powerful. It is the truth of Uttar Pradesh. I know his compulsion to speak. I would say that the current state of law and order as also terrorism in Uttar Pradesh and the tenor of recent decisions of the Supreme Court make everything clear. So long, as such situation is allowed to prevail, no developmental scheme of the Government could be implemented properly. You can just imagine the situation that the Government could not prepare a DPR for one year in a span of one-and-a-half year. Hard work was put in for preparing a CDP

in my constituency area Varanasi and it was prepared. But, the U.P. Government refused to prepare a DPR. No DPR for any district of UP has been prepared so far ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shallendra ji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Sir, I am not speaking wrong. He should know the parliamentary language. DPR has not been prepared. I will speak if the Central Government provides funds but the State Government does not carry out the works. If I will not speak here then where will I? He is suffering and the other one is suffering too. Both of them have to suffer.

I want to say that the Central Government must see to it that the states receiving Central funds make compliance by utilizing them for the purpose they are meant for. Ensuring such compliance would bring the results thereof to the doors of the common man.

With this, I support the Address of H.E. President and conclude.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to be present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament. It is a matter of great surprise that the President's Address, prepared by the Union Government, does not have any mention regarding the water crisis in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is not the way to raise your objection. I do not allow it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House regarding the National Water Policy and inter-linking of river waters. There is a great need for a National Water Law. From time immemorial, from Sir M. Visweswaraya, Shri K.L. Rao, Shri Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, they all felt the need for inter-linking of rivers and they laid stress on the inter-linking of rivers. I would like to refer to a speech of the hon. President. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except Shri Ananth Kumar's speech.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I would like to refer to a part of the speech of the President's Address on the eve of Independence Day, 2002. He said:

"We also have many challenges in front of us. We have to find a solution to the repeated droughts and floods."

He further said:

"Let us now look at a long-term problem. It is paradoxical to see floods in one part of our country while some other parts face drought. This drought - flood phenomenon is a recurring feature. The need of the hour is to have a water mission which will enable availability of water to the fields, villages, towns and industries throughout the year, even while maintaining environmental purity. One major part of the water mission would be networking of our rivers. Technological and project management capabilities of our country can rise to the occasion and make this river networking a reality with long term planning and proper investment. In addition, the vast sea around us can help by providing potable water through desalination as a cost effective technology."

That means the hon. President had referred to inter-linking of rivers in 2002 itself. As you know very well, this country already has a National Water Policy.

*Not recorded.

In the National Water Policy, it has been very clearly said in point no.5:

"In the planning and operation of systems, water allocation priorities should be broadly as follows:

Drinking Water, Irrigation, Hydro-power, Ecology, Agro-industries and non-agricultural industries, Navigation and other uses."

The drinking water is of paramount importance. In the National River Policy it is also said about water sharing/distribution amongst the States. In Para 21.1, it is said:

"The water sharing/distribution amongst the states should be guided by a national perspective with due regard to water resources availability and needs within the river basin. Necessary guidelines, including for water short states even outside the basin, need to be evolved for facilitating future agreements amongst the basin states."

Para 21.2 says:

"The Inter-State Water Disputes Act of 1956 may be suitably reviewed and amended for timely adjudication of water disputes referred to the Tribunal."

Sir, why I am saying all these things is because one of the major problems in the country is shortage and scarcity of water. We already have a National Water Policy, but to implement the National Water Policy, we require a National Water Law also. If there is no National Water Law and if there is no correct amendments and review of the Inter-State River-Water Disputes Act, then the various riparian States—upper riparian and other riparian States—will not get justice and equitable share of water. Therefore, I am really surprised and started, as all the other hon. Members of this august House, as to why this does not find a mention in the hon. President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament.

Sir, for example, for criminal administration, there is IPC and Cr. PC and for civil administration, there is Civil Procedure Code. But regarding the disputes of water and regarding sharing of the water, we require a National Water Law. That has been one of the demands of various States.

Sir, as I said earlier, during the last 50 years or more, there has been a demand for inter-linking of river

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

water. We know the benefits also. Eight crore acres of land can be irrigated. There can be drinking water facility for rural, urban and industrial water supply and 34,000 megawatt power can be generated. There can be inland navigation. I want to mention here about the Ganga Cauvery link project and Garland Canal proposal by Captain Dinshaw J. Dastur. Then the Ministry of Water Resources came out with a National Perspective Plan (NPP) envisaging inter-basin transfer. Again on August 15, as I already quoted, the hon. President, Dr. Abdul Kalam mentioned about it in his Address on the eve of Independence Day. In October, 2002, the Supreme Court of India also recommended formulating a plan to link the major Indian rivers by the year 2012.

Sir for the benefit of all our hon. Members, under the visionary leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, in December, 2002, the Government of India, then NDA in which my dear colleague, Shri T.R. Baalu, was also a Minister, announced implementation of inter-linking of river water. It was a historic decision by the Government of India. We also formulated a Task Force. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Anantha Kumar.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We also formulated a Task Force under the leadership of my colleague, Shri Suresh Prabhu.

Sir, when I speak about drinking water, irrigation water and water for industrial use, there have been many river-water disputes in this country. From Ravi-Beas to the Sutlej to the Narmada as also to the various rivers including the Cauvery, there are disputes. Last month, on the 5th, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal gave an Award which is totally doing injustice to Karnataka's interest, to the interest of Karnataka's irrigation, to the interest of Karnataka's drinking water requirements, to the interest of Karnataka's farmers and the people of Karnataka.... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, we are demanding and urging that the Centre should intervene.... *(Interruptions)* There is no drinking water facility even for Bangalore City. Bangalore City and the State of Karnataka require not less than 57 tmc ft of water for drinking purpose only. We want a huge amount of water

for our own irrigation purpose.... *(Interruptions)* Unfortunately, the Tribunal's Award has been a great injustice done to the State of Karnataka, to Karnataka's drinking water facility, to its farmers and the people of the State. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Ananth Kumar.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Therefore, we demand and urge that the Central Government should intervene and it should stop the Gazette Notification. ...*(Interruptions)* The Gazette Notification of the final Award should not be published by the Union Government because there is a need for the total justice for the State of Karnataka. This final Award of the Tribunal is carrying forward the historical injustice towards Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The next speaker belongs to the DMK Party. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: DMK Member will speak after him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: In 1892, there was an agreement between the erstwhile Mysore State and the Madras Presidency. In 1924 also, there was an agreement between the Madras Presidency and the erstwhile Mysore State.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your turn is after him. Whatever you have to say, you can speak then.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: At that time, the whole country was under British rule. The Madras Presidency - Tamil Nadu - used its powers. ...*(Interruptions)* They

have done a historical injustice to the State of Mysore, to the State of Karnataka both in 1892 and 1924. This being the case, this Award of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is also continuing with that injustice, that historical injustice in respect of the State of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, we demand this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anant Kumar ji, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am concluding with this. Therefore, we demand and urge that the Union Government, the hon. Prime Minister should intervene and the Gazette Notification should be stopped from being published. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: After Shri Ananth Kumar, the Member belonging to the DMK Party will speak. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Therefore, there should not be any Gazette Notification of the final Award of the Tribunal. He should call a meeting of all the riparian States for a negotiated settlement of this problem. I also urge in this august forum, in this Lok Sabha that there should be a discussion on this issue. We have already given notice of a Discussion under Rule 193 for a detailed discussion. Let them also put forth their views. ...*(Interruptions)* We will discuss it.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Anant Kumar ji, please, conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: There is one small point and I am concluding with that. I do not understand why the State of Tamil Nadu, why the hon. Members of

Tamil Nadu are not ready for a structured debate in Parliament which is the highest forum of democracy. Democracy is for dialogue and debate. They should be ready for a debate. ...*(Interruptions)* Why do they not understand it? We do not understand why they are not for a structured debate. They should be ready for a debate. ...*(Interruptions)* We are ready for a structured debate. Let the House debate it. Let the House come out with a decision with all its wisdom and guidance at its command to resolve the century-old problem. We want justice for Karnataka. We want justice for the farmers of Karnataka. We want justice for Karnataka's drinking water requirement. We, therefore, demand and urge that the Centre should intervene. ... *(Interruptions)*

13.19 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri E.Ponnuswamy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.45 p.m.

13.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

13.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at fifty one minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar may continue his speech. Before that, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi would like to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we sincerely believe and feel that each

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni]

one of us in the House are very respectful to the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and all our distinguished Members. Therefore, my appeal is that the matter has been brought before the hon. Speaker and he himself is examining the whole issue. It will not be proper at this stage to create any acrimonious debate on this issue hurting the feelings of the people of both the States. When both the State Governments have in principle agreed to go for review also, the Government has nothing to offer at this stage. You cannot do anything; nor you can intervene. Therefore, my appeal to all the Members who are taking up this issue is to restrain themselves. When the hon. Speaker has heard them, we will find some positive method and mechanism as to how to bring it in the House later on. That is my only appeal. I cannot do anything beyond making appeal. I hope, Sir, that will be responded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I would request Shri Ananth Kumar to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Whatever has been said about Cauvery Tribunal Award should be expunged. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That cannot be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After him, an hon. Member of your Party will speak and I assure you that I will allow him to speak but only on the President's Address.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: The matter is *sub-judice*. It should not be discussed in the House. In yesterday's meeting, the hon. Speaker has not arrived at any conclusion on allowing a debate on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNI: I again appeal that in the President's Address every paragraph spelt out what the President wanted to convey and all the Members are discussing on that. I cannot ask a Member to go out or go in within the scope. My only appeal is that the matter is already seized of by the hon. Speaker; let us have faith on him and try to demonstrate our activities

in the House in a manner which does not give an impression to the Speaker that we are dishonouring him. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: The matter is *sub-judice*. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Nothing is *sub-judice*. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Anant Kumar, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him speak now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I also request you not to mention about the Cauvery issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The question is this. While speaking on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament when any one of the hon. Members of this august House or the other House speaks and it is well within the practice and tradition that if there is something that is needed to be in the President's Address which is of utmost national importance, that is being pointed out during the debate.

Sir, during the course of my speech ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Member has given any amendment to the President's Address. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. He has not uttered even a single word and you are already making a noise.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, amendment is given for the existing speech. I would like to add a new point. I am saying that there is no mention about the inter-linking of river waters. When there is one National Water Policy, consequently to implement that National Water Policy, we require a national water law. Sir, as envisaged

by various visionaries of this country, from Sir M. Visweswariah to Dr. Ambedkar to Dr. K.L. Rao to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, there has to be a project for interlinking of river waters and transferring the water of different basins because ultimately it is a question as to how to come out with a relief for drought and flood situations.

Sir, every year, you know that the Government of India is spending more than Rs. 10,000 crore on drought relief and flood relief. Therefore, the hon. President has two pet projects. He spoke of connectivity, connectivity of rivers, connectivity of roads, connectivity of various facilities, and connectivity of Information Technology. He also spoke up to spiritual connectivity.

The other thing is PURA, Providing Urban facilities in Rural Areas. What are the urban facilities? They are drinking water and electricity. Of course, one of the basic needs of the villagers, that is, the farming community is irrigation. In this, for the sake of this connectivity and PURA, I have quoted an example. I do not understand why my dear friends on the other side, especially from the State of Tamil Nadu are averse for a debate on this. They are against for a debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, we are in a parliamentary democracy. Parliamentary democracy means debate and dialogue. We are telling that the Cauvery Tribunal Order is an illusory one. It is an unimplementable Order. How can any one implement an unimplementable Order? How can any one implement an illusory Order? There is no allocation of drinking water for Karnataka. This is a very serious humane problem. We require 57 TMC water, 32 TMC water for Bangalore. That is not provided for. The Award has provided only 1.75 TMC water. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, once we take the water for drinking purpose, there will be no water left for the purpose of irrigation. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, it is a question of livelihood of the people of Karnataka.

Sir, I would like to place on record that the law and order situation in Karnataka is very good, and the State Government is complimented for a good law and order position. If at all the agitation is going on, it is going on peacefully and non-violently. I am humbly submitting that everybody—farmers, students and literary figures—is on

the street. They are requesting for a debate. They are requesting for a negotiation. The former Minister for Water Resources, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is here and he should give an answer to us. We are demanding the Union Government that there should not be any Gazette notification of the final Award given by the Cauvery Tribunal. Secondly, the Central Government should intervene. The Central Government should call all the Chief Minister of the basin States. There should be a negotiated settlement, and justice should be given to the State of Karnataka. This is our demand. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri E.G. Sugavanam.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. Member has drawn my attention. I would like to inform the hon. Members of this House that this Government is being conducted according to the law of the land and according to the provisions of the Constitution.

14.00 hrs.

The Government cannot do anything arbitrarily on their own beyond the scope of the law of the land and beyond the scope of the Constitution. However, the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been addressed in many quarters. We have respect for them, but we cannot, on behalf of the Government, make any comment at this stage in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri E.G. Sugavanam.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he can reply. I urge him to reply. He knows everything. He knows the plight of the farmers of Karnataka, people of Karnataka about the drinking water facility. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, on such matters, can a Cabinet Minister comment? Even the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee cannot comment. So, I just tell him, let us not create a situation that we are against somebody or for somebody. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): If he yields, I would make a small submission ...*(Interruptions)* I am not going to discuss anything.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is only requesting the Central Government. Let him speak.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, my friend was talking about the Tribunals and on the verdict. He said that it should not be notified in the gazette. It is not today but from the very beginning, it is the intention of my friend Shri Ananth Kumar and others ...*(Interruptions)* It is the intention of the Kannadigas from 1990 onwards ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, what is this? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He can intervene.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I have got the right to intervene... *(Interruptions)* Mr. Ananth Kumar, you have yielded. I have the right to intervene... *(Interruptions)* I have not finished my submission... *(Interruptions)* Why are you afraid of it?... *(Interruptions)* I am simply quoting just two lines from *The Hindu* dated June 6, 1990... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the intervention of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I want to impress upon you. My friends and the people from other parties, from the very beginning, from 1990 onwards have been opposing about the setting up of the Tribunal. It is because they did not want the Tribunal at all...*(Interruptions)* It is on record.

Sir, on the floor of the Karnataka House, Mr. Veerendra Patil had said it. It is on record. In *The Hindu* of June 6, 1990, it is mentioned: "He pointed out that the State had successfully stalled constitution of the Tribunal for the last 20 years." There are recorded instances of the Kannadigas from 1990 onwards... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Now, Shri E.G. Sugavanam.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what Rule, you want to raise your point of order?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It is under Rule 376 ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, Kerala is also one of the affected parties here. Pondicherry is also a party in this matter ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except my permission, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)... *

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Whatever I have quoted is on record ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatsoever has been spoken without my permission will not go on record.

(Interruptions)... *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Baalu ji, nothing of what you are speaking now is going on record. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)... *

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, it is a very important national issue and it is being diluted between the arguments of only the two affected States. This is a matter in which Kerala, Pondicherry and two other States are involved.

Nobody can say that we should not say anything about this in Parliament. Sir, we are against that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there is no point of order.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We are discussing the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. We are not discussing this matter now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We, the States of Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, are all interested just as the whole nation is interested. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there is no point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

(Interruptions)... *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the speech of Shri Sugavanam should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your Party Member is speaking. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request Mr. Sugavanam to speak. Now, the hon. Member from DMK is speaking. Please listen to him.

Mr. Sugavanam, please try to confine your speech to the President's Address.

[Translation]

**SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, on twenty third of last month His Excellency the President of India addressed the members of both the Houses of Parliament. Now the House is discussing the Motion of Thanks to the President for his address to both the Houses of Parliament. I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of thanks. While thanking you, on behalf of our party DMK and on my own behalf, let me express my support to the Motion.

Our UPA Government at the centre has added vigour to our growing economy. Our growth rate has touched 9.2% and will soon be assuming a double digit figure. Our country ranks ten among the growing economies of the world. All the constituents of the United Progressive Alliance share the pride of endeavour for this growth. We are next to China for being the most populous country. When it comes to the number of skilled labour available in this country our nation ranks first in Human Resources Development. Lakhs of employment opportunities have been made possible.

Price rise is a problem that is staring at our face. Of course steps are being taken by our UPA Government to contain the rising prices. But still I would like to humbly request the Union Government to intensify its efforts to contain both inflation and price rise. We need timely intervention like well timed import of commodities when their production is affected or whenever scarcity lifts up its ugly head. Our Government is taking measures to overcome inflation and tackle price rise. Our agricultural growth needs to be monitored. Steps must be taken to encourage private sector participation in the agricultural sector. Government must evolve right strategy to promote agricultural production. Our agro-economy is often hampered by inadequate irrigational facilities.

Our leader and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi has stressed the need to accord top priority to the inter-linking of rivers especially the southern rivers to overcome water shortage for irrigation. He has impressed upon the Union Government to take up this project and include it in the eleventh five year plan. He has highlighted this during his intervention in National Development Council that met in New Delhi recently. Drought prone areas must get water to meet both the irrigational needs and drinking water needs. Our Chief Minister has made a fervent appeal in this regard. I urge upon the Union Government to consider positively their plea. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is going on smoothly. I would like to impress upon the Union Government and the Union Rural Development Minister to consider and include Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts also under the purview of NREGA as these districts are industrially backward and also drought prone. The Union Government may allot more funds for the Rural Housing Schemes aiming at the poor. We must take steps to ensure that all the children of the country in all the states get education. Our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken effective measures to provide universal education and to ensure the same in rural areas. I wish his model schemes are followed through out the country. All the states may also follow Tamil Nadu which has been successfully implementing nutritious noon meal scheme. In Tamil Nadu, the children are getting eggs twice a week along with the daily noon meals. It is a pointer to the entire country and all the states may follow suit to provide nutritious meals to children from poor families.

*Not recorded.

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri E.G. Sagavanam]

Our Union Communication and Information Technology Minister Shri Dayanidhi Maran has brought almost a revolution by way of reducing the rentals, tariff and call charges through out the country for cell phones. Cellular phone users are on the increase and India is among the top few countries. Mobile phones and Internet connectivity are at the reach of common man. The tariff and the call charges have been reduced remarkably while at the same time when the Communication Ministry's revenue earnings have increased considerably under the dynamic leadership of Shri. Dayanidhi Maran our Union Minister for Communication. The people of India look forward to his continuing with welcome changes for the better.

Textile industry faces problems and stagnation due to shortage of Textile machinery. Crores worth of cloth production has come to a stand still. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to provide liberal loans to enable the textile industry to procure textile machinery. Since trained hands and skilled labour are required all over the country in the textile industry, more training institutes must be established.

I urge upon the Government to evolve schemes to provide scholarships and education to every girl child up to college level. This will help to stem the rot of violence against women.

Maritime Institute has been set up in Chennai at the instance of our Hon. Minister Shri T.R. Baalu. let me thank him and the Union Government.

Country is progressing towards prosperity under the UPA regime and is stepping in to the 60th year of our independence.

Cauvery River Water Tribunal has given the Final Award and it is equivalent to the pronouncement from Supreme Court, the apex court of the country. If our brethren from Karnataka are upset with the award then they must understand that they can go in appeal before the Tribunal before the expiry of 90 days. Cauvery Dispute that remains a vexed issue for the past 30 years more has given rise to many problem coming in the way of good neighbourly relations. The situation is vitiated and normalcy is under threat. In order to ensure free movement of people from one state to another the Union Government must ensure safety and security to the lives and properties of the people. The Tamils living in Karnataka are not really safe. Even MPs like me do not

feel free to come to Bangalore and board flight to Delhi in a relaxed way. I urge upon our Karnataka brethren to ensure adopting peaceful means and desist from vitiating the atmosphere. We are all brothers from the sister states of the south, the neighbourly states adjoining one another. We the MPs of Tamil Nadu are insisting upon not to take up the issue in this House in order to avoid vitiating the atmosphere. This is not a problem confined to two states. It involves almost all the southern states. On behalf of DMK, I urge upon the Union Government of notify the Final Award from the Cauvery Tribunal to put an end to this vexing problem once and for all.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the Motion of Thanks to the President of India for his Address to the Members of Parliament. I support that.

The point is that the hon. President, in his Address, has tried to depict a picture and the same was done in the Budget also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, the picture is that we are moving fast. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a meeting place.

[Translation]

The clouds of Karnataka have gone.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: The picture is that we are moving very fast towards a dramatic development. The growth in GDP, the high rise of *sensex* and everything else has been pointed out. I am not denying that we have made achievements in that sphere, but I would only like to warn this Government that they should not make the same mistake the people now sitting on the opposite side had made. At the time of election, the BJP was telling that India was shining, but the people did not see that shining. They are also now saying the same thing that we are second to this, we are fast moving towards this and that, but we have to see certain

realities also. India even today is having half the illiterate population in the world. That is a reality. The malnutrition of Indian children is something appalling. It was said by Dr. Amartya Sen recently in a speech delivered in Delhi. We should not ignore these realities and many other similar things.

The economic development means equitable distribution of wealth and to see that the people at different levels get the benefit of it. There is no point in showing one Tata going abroad, acquiring a company and putting it in his pocket. There are similar things done by Mittal and Ambani. These are all rare phenomena. The people of India are still facing a big problem of inflation about which there is a mention in the Budget. Our complaint is that the measures taken to fight inflation are half-hearted and ineffective. They should have taken some basic decision about it.

By weakening the public sector, by importing the food grains and strengthening the supply side, I do not think that the Government will succeed in fighting inflation. If they are to succeed in fighting inflation, they have to have a policy by which the agrarian sector of this country, the agrarian economy of this country will come up. That is the underbelly of our economy. That was told by nobody other than the Prime Minister of India. On that, there is no pointed mention of that weakness. With covering up of these weaknesses, I do not think that we will be able to present a very rosy picture before the people of the country.

Secondly, the President's Address probably began mentioning that this year is the year of 150th anniversary of the historic First War of Independence and 100th anniversary of Satyagraha. It is good, but I do not know why the President did not mention that this is the 100th Year of martyrdom of Bhagat Singh. This is also the 75th year of execution of Bhagat Singh. He was executed 75 years ago. On that event, Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru had said 'for generations together, India will get electrified by the memory of Bhagat Singh.' Somehow, our President did not mention even that. That should have been mentioned. He forgot to mention two or three important things. After all, this Government is sitting here and ruling based on a Common Minimum Programme. Hon. President said that we are on the eve of the beginning of the Eleventh Plan. We are also in the third year of the present Government. Half the time of UPA Government is over. What has happened to the Women's

Reservation Bill? There is no mention of it. What happened to the Bill that was promised for the welfare of the unorganized sector? There is no mention of it.

There was another specific mention made in the Common Minimum Programme that six per cent of the GDP would be earmarked for education; three per cent of the GDP would be earmarked for health; etc. I am not saying that it should be done this year, but there should be a sign that they are moving towards that end. In five years, you have allocated more than what you have done before. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): There is 34 per cent more this year.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will you achieve the percentage, which was promised?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I am addressing you only, but I should not be interrupted by the Treasury Bench. I am only saying that we are not told if we will achieve that goal. These are some of the weaknesses in the speech, which I would like to point out.

As regards foreign policy, the brighter side is mentioned, but we should not forget the fact that India was the initiator and India was the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). What happened to it? It has become a formality to speak about NAM. India is no more playing an important and significant role to promote the non-aligned attitude of the political forces in the world that it was playing once. It seems that there is some fear of the United States.

The whole world denounced the execution of Saddam Hussein, but India said that it is an unfortunate incident. This is a very mild attitude. Why was it so? It is because the execution was done with the help and connivance of the United States by ignoring the public opinion all over the world. Such an attitude towards the foreign policy should be rectified.

As regards national unity, some people here feel that the whole Parliament should discuss things the way they like it. I do not know how that will help in strengthening democracy in a country like India? After

[Shri C.K. Chandrapan]

all, India is a country that has got many religions, several cultures, and we speak so many languages. It is almost a sub-continent. Hence, it is very natural that there could be differences on many issues.

Unity in diversity means that a great sense of tolerance should be there. We are aggrieved on certain things like the Cauvery water dispute, and I hope that they will not shout at me. As a State, we are aggrieved. We are afraid that if the Mullaperiyar dam is not repaired and strengthened and a new dam is constructed, then the five districts of Kerala will be wiped out. ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not get agitated like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): Sir, this is not the point to be raised here.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: The Ministers sitting here should remember that they are Ministers of the Union Cabinet. ...*(Interruptions)* These five districts of Kerala will be wiped out in the flash floods. ...*(Interruptions)* What is it? Why are you incited? ...*(Interruptions)* Where are we leading this country? Are they trying to disrupt the unity of India? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, what is there to discuss in this issue? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri C. K. Chandrapan.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, this intolerance is unbecoming of the people living in democracy. You must have some sense of discipline, and some sense of tolerance. I am not talking against you. ...*(Interruptions)*

Please listen to me; I am not speaking anything against Tamil Nadu; it is not against you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. He is not speaking against anyone.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I wish to bring an issue or a point to your notice. There is a Supreme

Court's verdict which stated that raising of water level of Mullaperiyar Dam is safe. Tamil Nadu Government has filed a suit in the Supreme Court against an amendment act brought in subsequently by Kerala Government. The suit is still pending. Are we going to allow a discussion on a matter, pending in the Supreme Court ? What the hon'ble Member is doing is that he is discussing a matter pending in the Supreme Court and that should not be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not discussing that.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: What the young Minister is referring to, that is, the Supreme Court's decision, we also know about it. A Minister is not supposed to speak like this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I am on a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandrapan, please continue.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. What is your point of order?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, is it in order ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what rule?

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This should not be recorded.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Only Shri Chandrapan's speech should be recorded. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: There is no embarrassment unless you get unnecessarily worked up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whosoever speaks without my permission, their statements should not be recorded. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I am a senior Member; you are a senior Member. This is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please listen to Shri Chandrappan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: In the southern part of India, normally, there is no unnecessary tension there. In the southern States, in a way, we are all good brothers. We, in Kerala, feel that Tamil Nadu has contributed immensely to the culture of Kerala. Our Malayalam language is considered to be the daughter of Tamil language. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): In spite of that, you are not giving water ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: We are not against giving water. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Interruptions should not be recorded.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: If the hon. Member has an apprehension that Kerala is not giving water, then it is a serious case, but what is the point? Our water is irrigating most of their plains. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: It is a wrong statement. Please do not mislead the House with such a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): How do you preside? *(Interruptions)*...

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not going to be recorded.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : How can I speak if there is an intervention after every sentence, that too from very important Ministers? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: This is wrong.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue, Shri Chandrappan.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I do not know why they become so intolerant. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, when your turn comes, you can speak what you want to speak.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: The point is that we are very concerned that Tamil Nadu deserves more water. They have a real water problem. ...*(Interruptions)* You allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Otherwise, they should give me a written speech and I will read it. If that comes to that, it means that. If I am allowed to speak, please listen to me. I am not speaking anything that will hurt your feeling.

Tamil Nadu is a rain shadow place. I do not know whether you know this 'rain shadow' business. They do not get rain, so they do not have enough water. Realizing that, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have come to an agreement almost a century ago. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. KRISHNASWAMY: What he is saying is irrelevant, Sir.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Relevance will be decided by the Chair, not you. ...*(Interruptions)* Either the Supreme Court or the Tribunal is relevant. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Mr. Chandrappan, please conclude now.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir you have to decide the relevance. My time has been taken up by them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow him to take away your right.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, there is a very burning issue of a Railway Division at Palakkad. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Chandrappan.

*(Interruptions) ...**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, what is this? Do they want that the House should talk in their language? ... *(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Only Shri Chandrappan's statement will go on record.

Chandrappanji, please conclude now.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : How can I speak in this din, Sir? *(Interruptions)...**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ponnuswamyji, please sit down. Nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Who is dividing, we are only stating certain facts. *(Interruptions)... **

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down. You speak when your turn comes. Please do not disturb the House now. I will not allow you to discuss this now. Please sit down.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I am only saying that the country's national unity is very important.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is wrong in saying that? Please listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

*(Interruptions)... **

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, may I give a suggestion?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no need of your suggestion.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: What I am saying is, there should not be intolerance. That is not a part of democracy.

That is part of something else. There should be an attitude to listen to everybody's views. Otherwise, we could have settled the issue outside. Why are we in Parliament? We are in Parliament because in Parliament everything is supposed to be discussed, things on which we may not agree, things which may be unpalatable. We would discuss in democracy and arrive at some consensus or some decision. Parliament is the biggest forum of democracy and it should not be denied the right to discuss contentious issues because Parliament should not escape from contentious issues.

Now, the point is that on every issue if someone takes the view that we are right and the others are all wrong and that we will not discuss, is that called democracy? ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you indulging in backseat riding? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Raghunath Jha ji, your turn will also come.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am afraid of you, therefore, I will allow you to speak soon.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, your turn is coming. Do not disturb him.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: What I am saying is that for the interest of national unity, there should be a "give and take attitude". ... (Interruptions) We are giving you. I wonder sometimes how people become intolerant! The mere mention of Salem has put him on his legs. We are not against Salem Division. ... (Interruptions) The hon. Railway Minister has made a suggestion to discuss and finalise this issue. Two Chief Ministers should sit and decide, which was rejected by Tamil Nadu. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panakura): Should the hon. Member behave like that? The Parliamentary Affairs Minister should restrain him. What is all this? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): What is the point in having a Central Government here?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Without my permission, nothing should be recorded.

(Interruptions)... *

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: What I am saying is that this is a very unfortunate situation. In this House all the issues of national consensus should be discussed, whether it is liked by some or the other. That is a different matter. It is the right of this House to discuss and it is expected of democracy. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I know what he is saying. Please sit down.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : What I am trying to say is, there is no need to get so much excited. Let us not be blindfolded. I am not saying that there is no difference. There are differences on certain issues. How to resolve it? It cannot be resolved by shouting howling. It cannot be. It can be discussed in democracy. We should have patience; patience to hear others' views

*Not recorded.

and come to a decision. That is how, in a democracy, we do. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Please address the Chair! Do not look at me. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I am addressing the Chair, but I have every right to look at you! ... (Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He has the most beautiful face! ... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Let us have some satisfaction—we are seeing a handsome Minister! Our right of looking at and enjoying the beautiful face should not be denied! ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I am not being allowed to conclude. I must say something before concluding. ... (Interruptions)

In a democracy, what is required is patience, tolerance to hear other's views, give and take attitude and come to decisions which may not hurt the unity of the country. I am telling my friends here that showing their numbers, running into the well of the House and creating pandemonium in the House does not show that there is strength in their argument; but it actually shows their weakness and that they are in a weak wicket.

So, I will say that the issue of Palghat Division, the issue of Mullaperiyar dam, the issue of Cauvery, etc. cannot be discussed somewhere in the Chamber, but they have to be discussed in the House and come to some decisions. That is the democratic right.

So, I think, wisdom and sense would prevail on my friends; they are all elder brothers; they have contributed greatly to the unity of the country in the past; let that glorious tradition of national unity of Bharatiar, Thiruvalluvar and others prevail on this young generation. If they show their muscles in the Parliament, that is not good for democracy. I hope that wisdom will prevail ultimately on our good friends.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, how can he use the word 'muscle'?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not an unparliamentary word. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betia): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by hon. Member Shri Madhusudan Mistry in the House. H.E. the President started the Address by mentioning the completion of 60 years of the country as a Republic and 150 years of the Satyagraha movement. The whole country and the world know that Mahatma Gandhiji on his return from Africa, successfully experimented with his Satyagraha movement on the soil of Champaran in Bihar. I have to say it with much regret that the land where Mahatmaji had stayed for many years with his wife for Champaran Satyagraha and had awakened the farmers, labourers, students and teachers and that very land from where the freedom struggle for the country had started—be it Bithiharwa Gandhi Ashram of western Champaran or Badarwa Lakhansen of Dhaka in eastern Champaran—they have not been included in the tourist map of the Government of India. I believe that discussing Satyagraha minus the Champaran Satyagraha is wrong. I, therefore, want that Champaran Satyagraha should be mentioned therein.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am happy that our economy is booming and growth rate has been stated to be 9 per cent. But, how will the benefit of this 9 per cent growth reach the common man, remains the matter of concern. Malady grew deeper, putting all solutions to no avail.

The growth rate is 9 per cent today. Eminent economists are sitting here. I am happy that the Prime Minister of the country is a renowned economist. Hon. Finance Minister, alongwith the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, is also an eminent scholar of economics. But, which kind of economics is this, which is not being able to strengthen the lives of the common people. Which shortcoming it has that on the one hand you make tall claim of 9 per cent growth rate but on the other hand the poor people in the country do not get meals even today. The food items are available at higher rates. They have a shortage of food stuff. They cannot eat pulses and even coarse grains. After all, what are those circumstances? I think that the economists should ponder over this problem. When we

visit our village, our area then the people ask us that we boast of eminent economists in our Cabinet which runs the country but which kind of economics is that which is just not able to touch more than 40 per cent of the population. These people are not getting any facility. Therefore, I would like that the Government should accord priority to it and think over it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, H. E. the President has indicated towards the rising prices. A report by the hon. Member of this House and Deputy Leader of our party, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav ji, who is the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs, has been presented in the House. I would like to read out a portion of the report of said Committee—the Committee has recommended that trading of agricultural produces especially coarse grains, pulses including sugar should not be permitted in commodity market including forward future contract and National Commodity Derivatives Exchange. The Committee has also reiterated that permission for trading of non-agricultural products in the commodity market should continue as earlier. After the submission of this report hon'ble Minister of Finance during the course of his speech announced ban on forward trading of rice and wheat but he did not made any announcement to ban coarse grains and pulses which are consumed by the poor. It is being published in the newspapers for the last two-three days that after the imposition of the ban the trading of sixty thousand metric tonnes of pulses was shown traded in the back dates. Who are these corrupt people against whom enquiry is being conducted: On whose order all this happened? I have high regard to the hon'ble Prime Minister and I want to tell him that influential people are involved in it because ordinary people would not dare to carry out such transaction in back dates. Therefore, an inquiry should be conducted into it. After announcement to this effect in the budget speech of hon'ble Finance Minister the prices of commodities started coming down. We want that prices of all commodities should be brought down.

Sir, it is said that State Governments should have a role in checking the price rise. It is correct that State Governments should have a role in it but I would like to ask the Government whether the network of IB does not exist in the states? Whether IB have no information regarding the locations where commodities have been hoarded? Does IB not submit a report to the Government? The State Governments which do not follow the

instructions be asked that their supply of foodgrains and other commodities would be withheld? Action must be taken against them. If they do not cooperate. Why the Government co-operate with them? If it is done, the soaring prices will come-down to earth.

India is an agricultural country and for our economic progress it is very essential to focus on agriculture. I am glad that Minister of Finance has touched agriculture in his speech but eighty percent of the farmers are small and medium farmers. The hon'ble Finance Minister should focus more on increasing the facilities for farmers. It is said that fifty lakh farmers would be provided bank loans during this year. But attention should also be paid towards the small farmers. After all what are the reasons that the country earlier which was not only self-reliant in production of foodgrains but also had surplus reserves of it is once again facing the problem of the shortage of food grains. You did not encouraged our farmers. They have not been provided remunerative price of their produce. Government did not provide them fertilizers, seeds and security. That is why farmers are today turning their back to agriculture. Large Scale Cultivation of mangoes, lichi, banana and makhana is carried out in our area. As per the report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture 60 percent of fruit and vegetables get perished due to non-availability of cold storage facility to store them. You can set up cold storages and markets. We have had Agriculture Market Committees. But the present day Government has done away with the agriculture market committee. The infrastructure required for this purpose is not there. Therefore, there is a need to pay special attention to all these things. I request you to provide cheaper loan to the farmers. You have slashed the rate of interest on loans this year but there is a need to bring down further the rate of interest. The Government has included six items in 'Bharat Nirman Yojna'. Power is one of the important item in it. The target for the state to which we belong to is that all the villages will be electrified by the year 2009 under Bharat Nirman Yojna. But only 40-50 per cent villages have been electrified so far i.e. upto the year 2007 and remaining 50-60 per cent villages are yet to be electrified. How will you do it in only two years, I do not know. If transmission lines are drawn and electricity connections are provided at all where will power come from? You resort to frequent power cuts and do not supply electricity to the farmers for agriculture. To ensure power supply to the farmers what about power generation? What happened to the proposals to increase

generation capacity by 500 MW of Barauni Power Plant, Kanti-Muzaffarpur power plant, and Kahalgawn power plant and the proposals for setting up of power plant at Barh and Navinagar. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Raghunath Jhaji, you have already taken twelve minutes.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA. Sir, I have just started. I will not take much time.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, if you allow, he will speak a little bit more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not me. The God should be kind.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, for a strong economy good irrigaton system is a must. We the Members of Parliament from Bihar have raised the issue time and again in this House that there is a need to pay special attention towards Bihar.

Floods cause extensive damage to our state. Flood is caused by the rivers originating from Nepal. It ruins our infrastructure, land and agriculture and houses of the poor are also destroyed. The irrigation system should be streamlined to control all these things. I think that we should go ahead with the proposal of river linking because some parts of our country experience flood and some parts face drought like situation. In our state 10 lakh hectares of land is submerged. In North Bihar from Farakka to Buxar thousand acres of land is submerged and dozens of people lose their, lives every year but no measures are taken to avoid this loss. The Union Government does not compensate the loss caused due to flood. These are the international rivers and not the rivers of Bihar which cause extensive devastation. Therefore I request the Government to pay special attention to Bihar under Bharat Nirman Yojna.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the construction of roads have started in our state under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna. The Government of India is providing funds for that scheme but the State Government is not spending those funds properly. I request the Government to issue instruction to the State Government to spend the said amount only on the construction of roads be it a National Highway or a state road maintained by PWD. About one lakh kilometers of roads have been

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

constructed in our state and an expenditure of Rs. 17 thousand crore has been incurred thereon. The construction of rural roads in our State of Bihar is satisfactory.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, different types of works are being undertaken under Prime Minister Health Mission and National Rural Health Mission with a view to meet the objectives of the Health Mission in our country. Bihar is a backward state and it is lagging behind in health care services in proportion to population to the state. Every year Bihar grapples with natural disasters. After formation of Jharkhand economic condition of Bihar has further deteriorated. So I request to pay special attention to Bihar.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had brought to the notice of the house that the incidents in Nepal had led to a rise in terrorist activities in our country as well. People are openly roaming about with arms in their hands, smuggling is on the rise and fake currency notes are being smuggled into India from Nepal. Besides, atrocities are being committed against the people of Nepal who live in the Terai region. Thousands of people have been killed. Their rights are being trampled upon. Normally there is one member of Parliament for a population of 5-6 thousand but the one lakh strong population of the Terai region have no representation. They are being recruited neither into the army nor into the police force. We have had close ties with Nepal for the past many centuries. Marital alliances between the people of the two countries is a common phenomenon. Yet there is no move to control the troublesome elements across the border. The hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs had given assurance that a border road would be constructed in Bihar. When Bihar had been affected by floods the police had said that in the absence of a border road it was difficult for the force to move and to carry out checking. It had also been said that 43rd Battalion was being posted there but this has not been done either. I reiterate that this is an urgent requirement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I would like to state before the House that out of the funds released by the Union Government to the Bihar Government under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana or other schemes, Only 40 per cent has been utilized so far and I am making this claim with full confidence.

15.00 hrs.

If the remaining funds are not released within one and a half months the Government would not get the second instalment of funds. Hence, I would like to urge the Bihar Government, through the House, to utilize the funds it has received from the Union Government.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

*SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakpura):
Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, It is a great day for me. I am seeking your kind permission to speak in Kannada, which is my mother tongue and also the language of my state. For the first time in the Parliament of India I am very happy to speak in my mother tongue, in this temple of democracy, Parliament.

Sir, the Motion of thanks to the Hon. President's address has greater importance than any other business in the Parliament. It is a great opportunity to have discussion on many issues. I feel proud that our Hon. President of India himself is a great scientist his contribution to the field of science and technology, space research and missile is really commendable. He also is known as Missile man. It is not only my opinion I am also sharing the opinions of my people of Karnataka.

At the outset in his address the Hon. President has drawn our attention towards the celebration of the 60 year of Independence 150 anniversary of the first war of Indian Independence and the centenary of the Satyagraha Movement.

The very intention of mentioning these three celebrations is to inake people of India think about the relevance of importance of 'Independence' and its meaning. We should also think why our great leaders sacrificed their valuable lives for that great cause.

Sir, in colonial days Indians were being treated as slaves. Atrocities were being committed. Untouchability was practiced. All our desires and needs were suppressed by the Britishers. The farmers, the downtrodden and students were illtreated every where in the country. In such a pathetic condition people across the country rose in revolt against the Britishers. Our

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.*

people started the Satyagraha movement under the leadership of Bapuji, Freedom movement spread all over the country. They fought to free India from the clutches of the British rulers. We should appreciate their bravery because they achieved their great purpose. They did not use weapons, nor did they get involved in any ugly or violent incidents. Our people achieved Independence through non-violence and the Satyagraha. It is the need of the hour to rethink the necessity and importance of non-violence in the present condition. Lakhs of people from all over the country sacrificed their precious lives, offering themselves to the gallows of Britishers.

Tipu Sultan, the tiger of Mysore, sacrificed his life and he had to put his children's life at stake in the hands of the Britishers. He created history by teaching a lesson to the Britishers.

Rani Chennamma of Kittur, symbol of pride of Kannadigas who fought against Britishers to ensure Independence. Tomorrow, March the eighth is the International Women's Day. It is our sincere duty to recall the contributions of brave woman Rani Chennamma the pride of Karnataka, and Sangolli Rayanna, who the great loyal follower of Rani Chennamma was also sacrificed his valuable life for freedom movement.

Today, we have the right to freedom of expression, which was not guaranteed in the British India. We may be quarrelling, among ourselves, we may be taking part in agitations it is because of the freedom by our constitution. People of all sections of the society can protest against injustice we have every right to go to the court for seeking justice. The constitution confers right to expression and right to voting as well as other basic privileges. It is because of that we are living in Independent India not in British India. That's why we should feel proud that we are celebrating the 60th year of our Independence, it is the contribution of our first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru Ji, Smt. Indira Gandhi Ji, Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji, Shri P.V. Narsimharao Ji Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, Shri H.D. Devegowda Ji, and present Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh Ji, our country holds its hand high in the like of developed countries like United States of America and China. It is not a small achievement therefore being citizens of Independent India. It is our duty to recollect them in the 60th year of Independence.

Sir, I am of the opinion that it is the right time to think about the importance of the spirit of Satyagraha and non-violence. It is very unfortunate that one fifth of our country is witnessing bitter experience of Naxalism. Recently, we have lost our own colleague Mr. Sunil Mahto, who brutally assassinated by Naxals. It is the Government to bring our youth into the mainstream to the society, to ensure food security and also the life security of our people. The Government should chalk out measures to remove regional imbalances. If it is delayed I am afraid that it would cause damage to the Unity and Integrity of our nation.

That's why it is my humble request to all my colleagues to understand the actual meaning of Independence, for which precious lives of our people have been sacrificed. Lets try to maintain its 'Sanctity'. It is only possible when we develop harmonious relationship among ourselves. It helps us to have discussion and debate on any national issue on a common platform. It is the only way to find solution to the many burning problems. It is a matter of great concern that if we are not getting the opportunity to express our problems and feelings in the Parliament, where also can we have discussions about our problems.

Sir, we should keep this in our minds. It is the reality. We may perish but nation will remain, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Puduchery will remain in the next century also. So it is our utmost duty to ensure that we hand over our great India to our future generation ensuring safety and security. If we failure to do this our future generation will not forgive us.

We should live with the spirit of Independence and with the spirit to uphold constitution. Otherwise what is the meaning of the first paragraph of Hon. President's address that is relevance of Independence and the relevance of Satyagraha and 150th anniversary of first war of Indian Independence.

Sir, today my state Karnataka is contributing a major share to Indian economy. It is contributing gold, silk, iron ore etc. As far as Bangalore is concerned it is not only the capital of Karnataka, it is known as the capital of, silicon valley. It is mini India and is contributing 50,000 crore to the Indian economy. We are proud of it. People from all over the world are living in Karnataka. They are leading happy and peaceful life.

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

Sir, we are entering into the 11th five year plan this year. The concept of five year plan was the contribution of the vision of Nehru ji. At the time of Independence, in order to provide food security to 35,000 crore people of our population Nehru Ji implemented this five year plan. Today we are ensuring food security to 110 crore people of our country. We achieved green revolution and white revolution and we should feel proud of these achievements. It was possible with the help of five year plans. I am very proud that our UPA Government is soon to commence 11th five year plan this year. Our Government has made all efforts to take India's name high in the international arena.

Sir, our Hon. President mentioned about the inflation in our country. We should appreciate that. We are not coward it happens. When a banyan tree falls earth is bound to shake.

If we want to have economic growth, friction will be there, the result of friction is price rise. I am not defending price rise for that. We had "paid heavy price by losing the elections in Punjab and in Uttarakhand. We learnt good lesson from this and how to address this price rise. My Government responded with sensitivity that we are going to check price. I am very happy. I am very candid. I really appreciate my Hon. Prime Minister, UPA chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi and also Ministers for accepting these realities.

Sir, I am going to refer to only one point of the 11th five year plan that is rejuvenating agriculture. Agriculture is the back bone of India, 70% of the total population for dependent on agriculture. It is fine that Government of India recognizes the need for regaining agricultural dynamism. How it is possible without water hand sharing without ensuring water for irrigation.

Sir, I cannot create river in Chambal valley. Cauvery will flow in cauvery basin we may fight and we may not fight. But Cauvery will flow. Karnataka will remain Kerala will remain. In this House under rule 193, we have debated several times about the suicide of the farmers. Why did we have those discussions? To arrest suicide deaths of farmers the Government should ensure their livelihood. The Government should provide water for agriculture. The Government should negotiate with the states about the sharing of river waters.

I am an Indian. I am a Kannadiga. I am a nationalist, I am a realistic person. Today in Kabini delta of Karnataka out of 5 lakh acres 4 lakh acres are not taken into account. The tribunal considered only one lakh acres, of agricultural land for irrigation.

I am appealing to all my brothers to ensure livelihood for the 4 lakh acres dependent farmers. Sir, we should share their agony and we should contribute to their growth.

Sir, through Bharat Nirman programmes like Rural Electrification, Rural Health care, Irrigation Scheme Rural, Drinking water supply Rural" telephony every thing is happening in rural India.

We are winning elections by saying that we are the champions of the cause of farmers. But what is the reality! Sir, unless we ensure drinking water, to our people which is the basic human need we can not expect any development. Sir believe me I am not speaking about luxury sir, today we have included Bangalore in Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Revival Mission programme. The Government is spending crores of rupees for Bangalore. We are giving back that amount earned by our flourishing Information Technology. Shri Dayanidhi Ji is also our brother, he belongs to Karnataka also. But when we come to Cauvery issue he is not listening to us.

Sir, people of Bangalore are facing difficulties due to acute shortage of drinking water. Our Hon. President visited Bangalore 4-5 times. He visited many educational institutions. The vision 2020 is the dream of our Hon. President. It is not my dream. I love to dream Sir, Rastrapathi Ji is our pride, he has given us dream. He asked me to dream for my India. I am dreaming and I am requesting this House to ensure my dream. How I am going to achieve my dream when there is contradiction in the actions of the Government. Considering the projected population of Bangalore in 2021 we require 30 TMC of water. Why do we go to court? Why do we go to tribunal? Because we are unable to find a solution among ourselves. We love to resolve issues here. But it never happens. I am not blaming any one here. Tribunal has considered only one third of population of Bangalore for providing drinking water and allotted only 0.8 TMC of water to Bangalore. It is not my report. Hon. Minister for water resources has given a written reply in the Rajya Sabha regarding the Karnataka's under ground water level. Sir we are over exploiting. Out of 175 taluks, in 65 taluks one find

scarcity. There is no water much before East Monsoons we are over exploiting ground water. On the other side we are speaking about global warming. I attended G-8 plus 5 countries conference in Washington D.C. recently. Sir, how will the Government take steps to check the global warming. It should be addressed to.

Will you tell me how to convince our people? Bangalore has a Brand value in the world today. We are losing it, Sir, you are all my brothers in India of course Karnataka is a part of India. If you do not ensure justice for Karnataka, the our Independence is in danger. We are going to loose our glory. It affects our federal structure.

We are also politicians. Our people have taken our 'Shavayatra'. Our names were written and were hung to the next of the dogs. We cannot educate our innocent farmers, I am only praying this House to ensure justice to us by negotiating with all the 4 states. I don't want to allow my friends to break our UPA coalition. BJP can not dream the division in UPA.

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Nobody is dreaming. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: That is all right. It happens sometimes Whether intended or not, it happens sometimes.

Therefore I request you to ensure food and life security to our farmers. The Government should feel that Karnataka is also a part of our country. I urge upon the Union Government to intervene and solve the water dispute among the four southern states and do justice to Karnataka. The Government should give opportunity to us to express our feelings and views. The Government should negotiate with all the states and take us into confidence to find a solution. With this, I request for the kind permission of the chair to table some of my papers. I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the ongoing discussion in the House relates to the vote of Thanks presented by the hon'ble Member of the ruling party, Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

The Leader of opposition and our hon'ble Leader Shri Advaniji had mentioned in his speech that the Address does not reflect the personal views of the President. It is mainly, an account of the policies of the incumbent Government, that is to say, the UPA Government. It is a policy statement. But I have to say regretfully that I do not agree with the policies of the Government as outlined in the Address. I shall not give any long lecture in this regard. I have gone through the Address twice or thrice and had also given it a careful hearing. After listening to it and thereafter having read it, two or three points have come to my mind which I would like to place before the House.

15.19 hrs.

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH *in the Chair*]

Madam, we are going to celebrate the sixtieth year of our independence and the 150th year of the first war of Independence. It is a great thing. Apart from this, the year 2007-08 happens to be the first year of the Xlth Five Year Plan. The Government has tried to put forward a few issues through the Address by the President. I would like to place two issues relating to the Eleventh plan before you.

Madam, much has been said in support of the Address. It has also been said that our GDP is going to rise to 9 percent. I would like to quote from yesterday's Economic Times. I think it was RJD which had questioned the value of 9 percent GDP when the prices of essential commodities are rocketing sky high. This is not an accusation level led by the Opposition. It is the concern raised by allies of the ruling party. The newspapers have reported today that the Supremo of the Ruling Party Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has stated in a party meeting that the Party lost the elections due to rise inflation. We have to discuss the meaningfulness of a growth in GDP when the common man is made a fool of by the Government which claims to be working exclusively to preserve the interests of the common man.

I would like to mention two issues relating to the Eleventh Plan. One of the issues relates to employment and the other relates to R and R policy or the rehabilitation policy. In all nine issues have been addressed but I will not discuss all of them. I would like to discuss two subjects—one is employment and the

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other is rehabilitation. Today also the issue of employment was discussed in the House during Question Hour but the ruling party had no answers. The Minister Shri Suresh Pachouri had to accept that there is a ban on fresh appointments as on date. He found it problematic to reply as to how many people were appointed, the number of those who were terminated and the number of posts which were abolished. This has become a debatable subject. He has laid the Economic Survey for this year on the Table. It is the Economic Survey for 2006-2007 published by his Government. The document says that employment in the organized sector has declined. It shows what the employment strategy is going to look like in future. It proves that this is a directionless government as far as the issue of employment is concerned. This Government has completed three years of rule and there is no sign of the Rehabilitation policy. They make grand claims about bringing the Rehabilitation Policy during each session. Their leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi says outside the House that her party would not desert human values. The Prime Minister and the entire Cabinet proclaims that they would bring the Rehabilitation Policy but no action is taken. I would like to know the status of the Rehabilitation Policy and what—happened to the proposal to amend the rules relating to land acquisition? I would like to ask that when the President's Address mentioned the Rehabilitation policy, than why there is no sign of it? I would like to mention here that when the hon'ble President was speaking my colleagues, particularly, those belonging to the Leftist Parties were very clamorous about my leader Yogi Adityanath from Gorakhpur who is not present right now and Mistryji never misses to show off his deep concern about Gujarat. We got people's mandate in Gujarat many a times. I would also like to raise another question which relates to the Rehabilitation Policy. What happened in Nandigram? Why were unarmed people killed there? Why was a notice issued in the name of Haldia Development Authority? They have had to lose face in Gujarat over many issues. Do not talk about Gujarat. We have got a mandate from there several times.. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam Chairman, What happened in Singur? *...(Interruptions)* come to Kalahandi. I will show you the ground reality in Kalahandi *...(Interruptions)* Talk About Nandigram, talk about Singur *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mistryji, please let him speak.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I want to ask about Singur, Mistryji, get me an answer from your Government. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members please maintain discipline in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not mention the name of such a person who is not present in the House.

[English]

Mr. Thummar and Mr. Mistry, please sit down. Do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: What the leader of your alliance and Mr. Kuldeep Bishnoi, Member of Lok Sabha from Haryana who belongs to your party, say about land acquisition in Haryana and what has happened there? There should be a debate on that. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I am addressing you. Hon'ble President has made a mention of land acquisition and rehabilitation policy. The Government full of contradictions Should reply. We demand a reply from hon'ble Prime Minister. The Government's policy should be meant for the development of country, land might be

acquired for craft groups and nobody has objection to these but today there is no transparent policy in the country. What is the Union Government's initiative? You have been building castles in the air for three years and you have done nothing else. Please do something.

Today, SEZ is being debated throughout the country. There is disagreement regarding SEZ among the people. But you are giving land in Singur and Nandigram yourself. This is a dual policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. P. Karunakaran, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Today SEZ is being debated throughout the country. Hon'ble Prime Minister should give his views regarding the upheaval throughout the country.

There has been a lot of discussion about Bharat Nirman here, therefore, I would not speak much about this. I would like to bring two or three primary observations to the notice of the House through you. National Rural Guarantee Scheme has been hailed as the most ambitious scheme of the Government. Even today one hundred and thirty districts have been included in that scheme. This is my humble submission that these laws, policy and programmes are incomplete. I would like to know from the friends of Congress as to whether the old poverty alleviation programmes are continuing in those districts where National Rural Guarantee Scheme has been implemented or being implemented. No, the old programmes are not continuing. This is a demand based programme. The old programme has been dropped under the cover of new programme. Can you assure that all the poor people of that district are getting employment? No, they are not getting employment. Only one person of a family gets employment. We demand that this scheme should be implemented for whole year and not for 100 days only. It should be implemented throughout the country and it should cover all the people. Only then you can prove your loyalty towards the people. Do not cheat the poor. You have mentioned about education for all campaign. It was expanded and enhanced. My friend Mr. Mehtab raised question about that. Are the States ready to bear the fifty percent burden which you

are contemplating to thrust on the States? Will the states with a poor financial condition be able to do it? We demand that the Union Government should bear 70 percent of the financial burden of the scheme.

Madam, Hon'ble Communication and Information Technology Minister is sitting here in the House. Just now it has been stated in a speech that this a year of growth. I want to say something about Orissa. BSNL has lesser connectivity than private participants in Orissa. BSNL has been there for many years. Why the Private players have made so much progress in Orissa and why the Government sector is lagging? Whether it would reach rural areas or be limited to the speech of hon'ble President? The Government should reply in this regard.

Concluding, I would like to say one thing more. I hail from Orissa. I am from a poor state. The destiny has not made us poor rather I am poor today due to the conspiracy of the people in power and the Congress party which had been in power in Delhi for a long time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Aaron Rashid, please sit down. When you speak, you give the details in your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: I want to present a statistics before you. Thirty-two national institutes are to be set up during Eleventh Plan. Does our Orissa not have the right to get a single institute? Mr. Fatmi had himself announced in Patna that three IITs will be set up during the Eleventh Plan. There will be one each in Patna, Bhubneshwar and Rajasthan. Why that has not been implemented? The Union Government will have to reply.

In the Eleventh Plan, it has been planned that for education 183 rupees per capita will be spent in Delhi, 41 rupees per capita in West Bengal, 33 rupees per capita in Karnataka, 33 rupees per capita in Punjab but in Orissa only four rupees and sixty paise per capita will be spent for education. Why are you discriminating with Orissa? Mr. Chidambaram had stated in his budget speech as per recommendation of the Huda Committee-200-300 rupees will be levied as cess on whatever would be exported, be it manganese, or iron or chromite. What

[Shri Dharmendra Pradhan]

the producing state Orissa will get? We demand that such states should be given ninety percent of that cess. Royalty has not been increased for a long time. I would not like to repeat what Mr. Mehtab has already mentioned. There is an example. Orissa is being deprived of 1200 crore rupees due to the conspiracy of the Union Government. This is injustice to Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

You have made a rule in power sector that power will be generated in Orissa. We have got the coal. We have to bear the environmental consequences. But the States using our power will have to pay the duty. I demand that the duty on power should be shared with power generating states also.

Water-distribution between Karnataka and Tamilnadu was being discussed. I would like to mention that the Union Government is directionless today. When Punjab Government said something, the Union Minister for Water Resources say that Punjab Government should not have said so. Andhra Pradesh Government is unilaterally ignoring the interests of Banshdhara, Nagabari, Katra Guda of Orissa. Why the Union Government is silent in this regard? Hon'ble Prime Minister should reply.

Why All India Institute of Medical Sciences has not been set up even after three years? Why the special packages in KVK were stopped? Why we are not being given funds on the lines of Bihar? National horticulture mission should be implemented in the entire State. Today Orissa also is affected due to Naxalite violence. Sambhalpur, Deogarh, Jaipur etc. should be enlisted. The Union Government is ignoring that.

Finally, I only want to say that ours is a federal system country. But the conspiracy being hatched by the Government is leading to a rise in the temper of the people there. Orissa has full faith in the federal system of India but it can not remain silent for a long time. The Government, the Congress Government in Delhi is neglecting the interests of Orissa. Orissa feels disappointed at the H.E. President's Address. The Prime Minister should provide a solution in his reply—whether it is a matter of IIT, AIIMS, royalty to Orissa or rights of Orissa in mineral policy. Demanding this only and once again expressing disagreement on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Before I call Prof. Ramadass to speak, those hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches on the Motion of Thanks can do so. It will be treated as part of the proceedings. Prof. Ramadass to speak now.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected chairperson, on behalf of the Pattali Makkal Katchi and its founder President Doctor Ayyah I support the Motion moved by hon. Member Shri Madhusudan Mistry thanking His Excellency the President of India for his Address to the Joint Session of the Parliament on 23rd February, 2006. Our Party and our President are immensely pleased with the Address of our President and hence record our appreciation and hence convey our deep sense of gratitude to the hon. President.

Madam, after listening to the Address as well as reading the Address, I am of the opinion that the Address *per se* is excellent, illustrative, illuminative, exhaustive and evaluative. It gives the current status of the economy today. It shows how the Indian economy is performing, how the country is marching towards a great leap forward. He has outlined what we have achieved and what we need to achieve.

After listening to his Address I was reminded of Robert Frost who said:

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
And miles to go before I sleep"

The President's Address sums up the sentiments expressed by Robert Frost.

Therefore, we are grateful to the hon. President. We are expressing our thanks to the hon. President for the simple reason that his Address was marked by a number of salient and distinguished features which I have not seen in the earlier Addresses.

The first important feature that I see is that the Address of the President gives an evaluation of the Government headed by the world renowned economist, Dr. Manmohan Singh, ably guided by Madam Sonia Gandhi. These achievements of the Government are

ample testimony to the fact how a coalition Government can perform in these days of democracy. The UPA Government was cemented, formed by the illustrious efforts of Dr. Kalaignar, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Doctor Ayyah, the founder President of Pattali Makkal Katchi and Madam Sonia Gandhi. They came together and brought a successful Government in this era of coalitions. Therefore, we are grateful to the President for his Address. The achievements and accomplishments highlighted by the President are very objective in character. He has neither eulogized the Government nor denigrated the Government for the areas of concern. He has taken, identified all the achievements and at the same time, he gives what remains to be done. This is amply illustrated in the last para of his speech at page no. 19 where he says:

"Honourable Members, our country is on the threshold of a new era of development. The sense of confidence of our working people, our professionals and entrepreneurs and their dynamism give us reasons to be hopeful. However, my Government recognizes that for development to be meaningful it must be inclusive. To this end, it is necessary to revitalise our rural economy and address issues of widening rural-urban disparities."

Can there be a better assessment of country's achievements today than what the President has indicated in the last para of his Address?

The second salient characteristic of his Address is that he has given the background to the Members of Parliament as to the issues on which they have to debate either on the Budget or on the Railway Budget or on anything else. He has catalogued all the concerns and issues that are confronting the country today, whether it is inflation, infrastructure, Eleventh Five Year Plan, poverty, unemployment, rural-urban divide, Common Minimum Programme, agricultural deceleration, issue of subsidies or fiscal reforms. Therefore, all the important issues, which this Government has to face this year either in terms of General Budget or other policy parameters, have been identified, well catalogued and given to the Members of Parliament in his Presidential Address.

The third important characteristic of his Address is that it is highly comprehensive in character. It is not partial. It is not that he is focusing only on social issues, but he has taken a holistic view of the country. He has

underlined the importance of a growing economy like ours. Therefore, he deals on the economic issues. He talks about social justice to the weaker sections. Therefore, he has underlined the social issues of the country. He is talking about the polity of the country; he is talking about the disturbance in the country; and he is also talking about international relation. Therefore, there is hardly any area which has not been touched by the President. Therefore, it gives a comprehensive character to the Address of the President.

The fourth important thing is this. As usual, somebody said that President is dreaming. He is dreaming for a vision and mission and that vision and mission is reflected in his own Address. He says that 'I have a vision to build a strong, modern, inclusive, secular and dynamic India.' This is what has been reflected in his Address, but his best vision has already been explained by him in his own book—I do not know whether I can show this book —*INDIA 2020 A Vision for the New Millennium* in page no. 22:

'India has stood too long in the line of developing nations. *Let us, collectively, set the second national vision of Developed India.* I am confident that it is very much possible and can materialize in 15-20 years' time.

What does the developed nation status means in terms of the common man? It means the major transformation of our national economy to make it one of the largest economies in the world it is the technological strength of the nation, which is the key to reach this developed status."

All that he envisaged in his book a few years ago is again reflected in his Presidential Address. Therefore, it is visionary in character.

Fifthly, it is an Address for the nation. A nation can develop at nine per cent growth or 10 per cent growth. How will the benefits of growth percolate down to the people? The important thing is growth with social justice. Therefore, we have to take care of the people along with us while thinking of growth of the economy. There is no guarantee that all the increased income would reach the common man; the poor man; the SC/ST and other people when the economy grows. If you analyze his Address paragraph by paragraph, then all the schemes that he mentions ultimately boils down to the simple fact that he is talking about the importance of

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

common man. He talks about SC/ST, OBCs, women, minorities, etc. There is hardly any paragraph which has no implication with regard to the concept of social justice. Therefore, I would view the President's Address as people's address because it is for the people, and for social justice.

Perhaps, this is the first President's Address in the Indian history, which mentions about the Other Backward Classes (OBC) in more than four places in the Address. Therefore, 50 per cent of the people of this country—who happen to be from the backward classes—must be grateful to the hon. President of India for recognizing this category, which has been left uncared so far in the last 60 years of Independence. In our view, this is a distinguishing hallmark of the president's Address. Further, he gives value orientation. Of course, it is not in the printed speech, but he mentioned something before he began his Address, which is very very vital for all the Parliamentarians in this House. He said that righteousness is important for everybody. If a person has righteousness, then there is harmony at home; there is order in the nation; and, ultimately, peace in the world. Perhaps, nobody can sum-up the solution to the problems of the country and the world today except Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in these words of righteousness.

Madam, somebody said that the President's Address is a bunch of hollow promises. I totally disagree with this view. I would only say that the President's Address is full of solemn commitments, and commitments translated into action. Look at the way in which this Government has come into existence. Three years ago when we joined together to form the UPA Government, the alliance partners and the Congress Party headed by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi chartered a path of progress for ourselves in the form of the Common Minimum Programme (CMP). The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) was given unto ourselves, and we have indicated areas of action in which we are going to act. If we look at the last three years, about 75 per cent of all that we have committed in the NCMP has been implemented today. Therefore, we have not made a bunch of hollow promises, but we have made what we could do, and we do what we have said. In the words of Dr. Kalaingar : *"Cheivadai cholvum cholvadni chlivom"*. This is reflected in the functioning of the UPA Government. How do you say that it is a bunch of hollow promises? Let them—anyone who goes through this Address dispassionately—compare this with the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister.

Madam, I am the only speaker in my Party, and I should be given reasonable opportunity to speak in the House.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for your Party was seven minutes, but you have already taken more than 10 minutes. You can carry on for a couple of minutes more.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Madam, I know that you are sympathetic to me. You are a kind-hearted lady.

People say that it is a bunch of hollow promises. Please see word by word the Address of the President, and the Budget. The Budget concretizes all that the hon. President has said. All the programmes that were mentioned in the President's Address have been given practical shape in the Budget by the Finance Minister. Bharat Nirman is reflected here; Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is reflected here; mid-day meal programme is reflected in it; and the allocations have been made. Therefore, it is a solemn commitment translated into reality.

I would like to give some statistics. The hon. Finance Minister has prepared a beautiful note on the Budget announcements made, and the action taken. If you take the last year's Budget, that is, 2006-2007, he has made 73 important announcements. Till now, 42 announcements have been actually implemented; action was taken in case of 42 announcements; partial action is being taken in 22 cases; action is being implemented in five cases; and progress is being monitored in four cases. All the announcements are under different stages of implementation. Therefore, Madam, it is not correct to say that it is a bunch of promises.

We should be thankful to the President because he has given a correct version of what inflation is and what the rising prices are. Somebody in this House tried to relate farmers' suicides and the rising prices. I do not understand the economic rationale and where this economic theory has come from—whether it has come from Western countries or the Eastern countries, I do not know. Maybe, farmers' suicides can be a consequence of rising prices, but it cannot be the cause of rising prices. The cause of rising prices is due to disequilibrium between demand and supply forces. Today, there is inflation because supply of some commodities is not enough to meet the increasing demand. Why is the demand increasing? It is because of the growth

momentum that we have given. Crores and crores of rupees are being spent on various projects in the country and, therefore, they become the purchasing power in the hands of the people. Too much of money chasing for a few goods results in rising prices. Of course, the Government cannot abdicate its responsibility. It has to control inflation, but we cannot blame the President for having talked about the demand and supply forces, which is a right explanation.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass, your Party's time is over. You try to conclude your speech within two minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: He also underlines another important factor that is a concern of every economist in this country today. He said:

"Economic growth is itself not an end, but it is only a means to create employment opportunities, income and purchasing power."

That is the right version of economic growth. We cannot say that we are growing at nine per cent if the growth does not result in job creation. Today everybody is craving for jobs, everybody is aiming for income, and aiming for purchasing power. If this is not generated by the growth process in agriculture, industry or services sector, then the growth becomes meaningless. Now, the President, being a very objective and impartial person, has stated the fact that growth has to be accompanied by generation of income and generation of opportunities.

He has also mentioned about the healing touch which is required in this country today in the midst of various tensions that we are finding, and that is reflected in his Address at page 14 where he says:

"While maintaining utmost vigil against terrorist and extremist forces, my Government attaches the highest importance to ensuring that all agencies respect basic human rights even in the most trying circumstances."

Therefore, he is calling for a healing touch in the country so that there can be brotherhood, there can be oneness of minds and everything should be there.

My last point, Madam, is that it was in his own highest wisdom that he did not touch the key issue of water because it is a bone of contention in this country.

The Parliament is a national Parliament and it has to take into account the national issues. He is the President of India and he will address only the national issues. Therefore, we cannot blame him for not mentioning the water crisis or not mentioning about this or that water problem.

Our friends here said that they wanted to have a discussion under Rule 193. You cannot have a discussion under Rule 193. Therefore, it was in his own wisdom that he did not do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We are only blaming the Government.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: While the Government is doing such a commendable work, it should take care of the growing interests of the Backward Class people. About that, I would suggest that the Government should constitute a Parliamentary Committee on Other Backward Classes. That must be constituted and the National Backward Classes Commission should be given a statutory status. It should be given more grants so that it would be able to monitor the programmes and accelerate the pace of development of Backward Classes.

Backward Classes, SCs, STs, women and minorities constitute about 95 per cent of the population. If their welfare is to be enhanced, the Government should pay unequal treatment to unequals so that we are able to ensure economic growth as well as social justice. In my view, the President's Address moves in this direction.

[Translation]

*SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): There is nothing new in H.E. President's Address to the Parliament on last 23rd February. By the way, the Government has prepared this Address according to its own requirements and has tried to blow its own trumpet, but it has not shown even a little bit of honesty in accepting its failures in finding solution to the burning issues. Though the Address speaks of the commitment and resolve of the Government to the problems and issues mentioned in it again and again but it has not been mentioned clearly as to what concrete measures are being taken for their solution. Though inflation and a rise in the prices have been accepted in para—4 of the Address but an unsuccessful effort has been made to attribute it to the rising income as a result of rapid growth in the

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Harikewal Prasad]

development and investment. It says that the Government has taken many fiscal and economic measures during the last 8 weeks to contain the inflation but it lacked the courage to accept that the rate of inflation has increased instead of decreasing during this period. It further says that several steps have been taken to improve the supply of essential commodities. It should have been mentioned clearly in the Address as to what the steps have been taken by the Government in this direction and the results thereof. The Government should have accepted that crores of poor people in the country are not deprived of two square meals a day today because of rising prices. They cannot even dream of eating vegetables. The mention of identification of 9 big challenges in para-6 of the Address also include change in the employment structure and creation of new jobs. Though confidence has been shown to face these challenges but its modalities have not been mentioned. It is also not mentioned here as to how many jobs will be provided to the youth every year to eradicate unemployment. It should be added to this para that the Government will make a legislation or ensure some system so that the unemployment allowance will be paid to the educated unemployed person at national level as is being done in Uttar Pradesh until they get job.

Similarly, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal Programme have been discussed in para-12 but no mention has been made about any concrete measure to check misuse of the funds allocated for education. Also there is no discussion in the Address regarding implementation of uniform education system in the whole country.

I demand that the announcement of opening a Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya in each development block of the country be added to it. Besides, mention regarding setting up of Kendriya Vidyalayas in my parliamentary constituency Salempur should also be made in the Address. In addition to it, a cheque of Rs. 20,000/- should be given to the girls and women having passed intermediate and belonging to the BPL families under Kanya Vidya Dhana like in Uttar Pradesh so that women make progress in the field of education. It has been stated in para-13 of the Address that highest priority is being accorded to eradication of malnutrition for which Anganwadis are being expanded at a faster pace. But, it has not been mentioned anywhere as to the time by when around 13 lakh Anganwadi workers and their assistants in the country, who are working on meagre

honorarium, will be declared as salaried employees and the time by when a decision will be taken on a report submitted to the Government on 31 December, 2006 by the Committee constituted for consideration of their demands. Similarly, it has been stated in para-15 that the condition of sugarcane farmers has improved as a result of timely and proper decisions and the outstanding payments of sugarcane has reached at its lowest level so far but it has not been clarified as to what is the contribution of the Government in this regard. Similarly, no mention has been made regarding the measures being taken for revival of the Government run sugar mills which have been lying closed for years together and where property worth crores is lying idle. In addition, it has also not been mentioned that a uniform cost based remunerative prices will be declared for the whole country in place of minimum support price for sugarcane. Also, there is no mention in the Address of providing a special economic package by the Union Government for expansion and modernization of the old and dilapidated sugar mills in the largest sugarcane producing state Uttar Pradesh. A misleading figure has been presented in para-18 of the President's Address that the growth rate of agriculture was 6% for the year 2005-06 while the fact is that it has been hovering between 1 to 2 percent for the last many years as a result of Union Government's negligence. Similarly, though a mention has been made of improving the marketing means and providing farmers a better deal but no mention has been made of banning the entry of the MNCs and big industrial houses in the retail market.

Sir, para-29 of the Address states that the Government will promote new investments in the field of electricity generation but no mention has been made that the Government will remove the obstacles created in supply of gas to the gas based electricity generation plant to be set up at Dadri in Uttar Pradesh so that the neighbouring states, including Uttar Pradesh, can become self sufficient in the field of electricity supply. Similarly, para-35 says that a centralized system has been evolved for the assistance of the weavers but there is no mention of providing them cheap yarn.

In the end, I demand through this House that the points indicated by me and which have not been mentioned in the President's Address, be added to it.

*SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. H.E. the President mentioned the problems of the country and also mentioned the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard. In fact, if we work honestly on them we may undoubtedly solve several problems.

Today the farmers of the country are in distress because they are unable to get the cost of their produce and as a result they do not like to continue with cultivation as their occupation. Consequently agricultural production is decreasing. Though the prices of food grains have risen and the prices of vegetables have also tripled but farmers are not getting the benefits of this increased prices as the entire profit is being pocketed by the middleman and traders. The Government must take strict action in this regard. Though H. E. has expressed concern over price rise but meaningful steps are not being taken by the bureaucracy, which is to be condemned. The provision to provide loans to the farmers at the rate of 7 percent is a welcome step but it should also be implemented. Today if a farmer does not repay a loan of Rs. 2000/- his land is attached in our country where as loan to the tune of rupees 45 thousand crore of various banks is outstanding against big companies of the country but it is not being recovered. A branch of Bank of Baroda located in my constituency is acting arbitrarily against the farmers. The amount of loan has been paid back and agreement has also been signed but despite it the Bank has taken the matter to the court. Why banks take action only against the farmers and not against big industrialists? It lowers the credibility of the Government.

The power distribution companies are committing atrocities on farmers in my State Gujarat. They are handing over bills to the tune of thousands of rupees to them, how such bills are assessed? It appears that such companies are exploiting the farmers for their own benefit and at several places the said power distribution companies threaten the farmers to send them behind the bar. Bureaucrats are not implementing properly the rules and regulations of the Government. They only serve certain industrialists and use those rules and regulations for their benefit. The Government must identify such bureaucrats and relieve them from service in the public interest. Similarly private power distribution companies in Delhi do pilferage of power through their contractors and they tamper with the meters and allege that consumers are indulging in tampering and the officials of the Ministry of Power have done nothing to check it. Recently one of the hon'ble courts in its ruling has kept the break down

of meter out from the definition of theft. Why the officials of the Ministry of Power are not taking action against those companies when these companies equate the tampering of meter with theft. It creates suspicion that several corrupt officers of Ministry of Power are encouraging such exploitative and arbitrary actions so that private companies continue to act arbitrarily and in exploitative manner.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras are being run in various districts of the country with a view to provide information regarding new techniques and measures to the farmers. But the funds being spent on these kendras are going in vain because no information regarding any new technology or research is being provided here. The performance of each Krishi Vigyan Kendra be reviewed and strict action should be taken against the idle officers. In Amreli Krishi Vigyan Kendra has become a white elephant.

The Finance Commission, when set up, consists of industrialists and businessman and bureaucrats support them. When the Government deliberates upon the financial condition of the country it consults the industrialists and businessman but no discussions are held with farmers or the Members of Parliament by the Finance Commission. As a result, the rural areas and the farmers of the country are grossly neglected by the Finance Commission, which is not a good thing.

Today many people go to the courts and the rulings given by the courts have a disgraceful effect on the Centre and the State Governments. The main reason for this is the irresponsibility among officers and bureaucrats. How much corruption has crept in their ranks can be seen in the newspapers. They do not comply with the Act passed by this House from time to time and implement them in such a manner that farmers, the poor and the labourers do not get benefited from it but all the benefit goes to the industrialists whereas laws are formulated for improving the plight of the poor, the labourers and farmers. The need of the hour is to identify such bureaucrats. My suggestion is that the performance of IAS and IPS officers should be reviewed each year. A committee should be set up for this purpose and the officers who would score less than 50 percent marks should be relieved from service forthwith. There is increasing tendency among them to get posting in lucrative areas resulting in the removal of talented, skilled and expert persons of the same field from their jobs. As a result the benefits are decreasing in these fields. There is no need of IAS, IPS officers in fields like ports, banking, education, welfare, industry and trade and manufacturing sector, but these

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri V.K. Thummar]

people are being posted in such sectors. Whereas the main functions of IAS and IPS officers is to maintain law and order in districts.

I would like to inform this House that the cases of corruption brought before such officers are put under the carpet by them. A committee of Parliament should be set up in this regard which would look into cases of corruption raised in this House because no acknowledgement is given to letters written by hon'ble Members to Ministers in this regard nor they are informed about the final reply as per the rules of Parliament. I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister to take strict action against corruption.

*SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, while supporting the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I would like to say that Western UP in North India is an agricultural economy and 70 percent of its population is dependent on agriculture. The Government is spending crores of rupees on agricultural research and fertilizer subsidy but even then the farmers in the country find farming to be non-profitable. Most of the small farmers have sold-off their lands to work as labourers. It means that despite the government spending crores of rupees on research, the agricultural scientists have failed to evolve techniques, which would enable the farmers to get remunerative prices for their produce in proportion to their production cost. The Government should seriously ponder over this issue.

Western UP contributes 70 percent of the State's total revenue. Despite this, there is no mention of any special package for the region in this Address. Farmers in this region get two or three hours of power supply in rural areas and six to eight hours of supply in urban areas. Due to this shortage of power supply, the farmers are forced to use diesel costing Rs. 34 per litre for irrigation purpose. Similarly, the condition of small-scale industries is also not satisfactory.

This region has fertile land ideal for remunerative farming. For irrigation of these lands through canals and tube wells twenty hours of uninterrupted power supply is needed. There is also need to provide good quality seeds, and fertilizers at cheaper rates to the farmers. More Tube wells should be provided in areas which cannot be

fed by canals, and for this purpose an additional financial package would be required.

This area is dominated by the people of minority communities and scheduled castes. This is an educationally backward area too. Even though the Government has opened 2000 upper primary schools under the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme but the President's Address makes no mention of the need to establish Balika Vidyalayas in this region. That is to say, Kendriya and Navodaya Vidyalayas need to be opened in this region. At present, the primary and junior Vidyalayas in this region are in a pitiable state. The number of teachers as compared to the number of students is very low. We have spent money on buildings but teachers, who are the actual means of imparting education, have not been appointed. As a result, there are only one or two teachers for 300 to 400 children in far-flung areas. How are children to be educated in such a scenario?

As regards health-care, apart from Lucknow, this region has just one medical college situated at a distance of 450 kms, in Meerut. It is also not in a good condition either. Poor and middle class people are forced to sell-off their houses and land to get treatment in a private nursing home. Rural areas do not have good doctors or health centres. There are no medical colleges in nearby areas either. Government proposes to open medical colleges on lines of AIIMS in each of the State. Uttar Pradesh is a vast State. It needs at least four such medical colleges in different areas but the government is not paying any attention towards it.

A special package for cities under the Renewal Scheme has been mentioned but no mention has been made of small towns and cities. Such package for the small towns would help to arrest the trend of migration from rural to urban areas.

The scope of implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been extended by the government from 200 districts to 330 districts. I would like to know about the districts which are included under the said scheme? This area has a large population of minorities and Scheduled Castes. It is comparatively poorer region. Hence, the NREG Scheme needs to be implemented in all districts of this region.

It has not been mentioned in Address as to what concrete scheme has been formulated by the

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Government to check the cancer of corruption in the country. The corruption has become so rampant that officials in each of the districts are in rat race to make fifty lakh to one crore rupees every month. The main reason for this is that the Government has no separate department for monitoring the activities of its officials. Such a department is needed to find out how people are making black money and when and how it is being put to use. It is because of black money that a middle class person is unable to buy a house. The prices of houses have gone up to 30, 50, 100 lakh rupees. Black money has pushed the prices of houses, which have been built of bricks, cement, iron-bars, wood etc costing merely four to five lakhs. But the Government is paying no heed to this.

The Government gives grants amounting to 25 to 30 thousand crore rupees to the people living below poverty line in the form of subsidized kerosene, wheat, rice etc. But most of these grants go waste and land in the pockets of the corrupt. Why doesn't the government give these grants directly to the poor as sustenance allowance? The money is given in the name of the poor but in fact indirect grants help officials to make black money. The Government has no scheme to give the grants meant for the poor to them through banks. If this money is given to the poor as sustenance allowance, it would remain in circulation otherwise it would be hoarded as black money.

To contain inflation the Government should first of all de-link food items from forward trading. Grants for the poor should be disbursed directly through banks and Government outlets should be set up to sell essential commodities at fixed prices. Only then we would be able to control inflation. This would be the right way to stabilize the prices of those items, which are being sold in the market at inflated rates. Legal restrictions alone are not enough to exercise price control. This just helps in augmenting the illegal earnings of officials.

Hence, I would like to draw the attention of the government, through the House, towards these issues, which have not been mentioned in the President's Address. This should be considered seriously. Western UP is a leading sugarcane and sugar-producing region of the country. This region which contributes the maximum revenue should be allocated additional funds so that some facilities may also be provided to the people of this region.

[English]

*SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Sir, I rise to support the motion of Thanks on the President Address, Sir, Rashtrapatiiji has mentioned that we will grow by close to 9% in the current year and that this augurs well for the launch of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. However, to have a check on inflation, mainly due to demand for product of day-to-day consumption, there should be a rise in supply and it is indicated that it will take some to materialize. I urge upon the Government not to make any further delay in rising the supply of these products and by all means the Government should avert any further rise in the prices. Price rise is a factor, which is the most affecting factor of life of common man.

The Approach Paper of the Eleventh Five Year Plan has identified nine major challenges facing the economy and regaining agricultural dynamism is one among them. The Government should stop the suicides of farmers in some parts of the country as reported in the Media as a daily score board. This should be the first and far most duty of the Government to regain agricultural dynamism.

Regarding the States, which are lagging behind in implementation of rural road, rural electrification, rural telephony, rural housing and rural drinking water supply, the Central Government should enforce them to speed up these projects for the welfare of people.

The Government should ensure that benefits of the Bharat Nirman programme, National Rural Health Mission, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, spread across the country and reached every nook and corner of the country.

It is stated that landmark legislations to ensure women's safety and protecting them from domestic violence have been enacted. The Government should ensure that the act is implemented in its proper perspective so as that neither women folk of the country suffer by domestic violence nor men folk become a fake victim of the Act.

It is pertinent to mention that day-by-day the costs of higher education in the country are increasing and

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal]

hence the people, particularly low income and middle class people, despite of rich in talent, are not able to afford higher education. The Government should set up a National Fund or Authority meant especially to fund the higher education needs of low income and middle class people of the country. The said Fund or Authority should give scholarships to the deserving students and loans at a very minimum rate of interests.

The approved National Agriculture Innovation Project (NAIP) should come into effect immediately and the Government should strive its full efforts for improving productivity of plantation crops like Coconut, Tea and Coffee, which are facing hardships since last decade.

The Export Group looking into the problem of agricultural indebtedness shall have to expedite its recommendations for implementation to save the farmers. It is must that a Second Green Revolution should be unleashed. However, the farmers, being a base for such revolutions, should be protected first by all means. The new rehabilitation policy should be incorporated by expeditious amendments to the Land Acquisition Act.

Regarding Environment, the treat of climate change and global warming has been duly addressed by the Rashtrapatiji. In this regard, in the Fourth Assessment Report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), prepared by 500 lead authors and scientists, mentioned India will emerge as one of the major carbon dioxide contributions to global green house emissions if the remedial steps are not taken fast. It has been predicted and recorded in the Report about submersion of the world's first habituated island in Sundarbans and many more islands heading for a similar fate if the seal level rises at the present rate. However, there was no mentioning about this fact in the address of the Rashtrapatiji. Sundarbans is the largest delta of the planet consisting large mangrove forests, world famous Royal Bengal Tigers, National Park housing a wide range of wild animals, attracting thousands of tourists from all over the world. Therefore, the Government should take a serious view and consider to take faster remedial steps in this regard.

Regarding wild life it is stated that the Government took several corrective steps for sanctuaries on the basis of the recommendations of the Tiger Task Force. Also about constitution of Tiger Conservation Authority and a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau. However, it seems that

there is no respite to the wild animals from the crimes against them. The Sundarbans is one of the most important wild life sanctuary, having a National Park also, consisting Royal Bengal Tigers. However, the present status of the Sundarbans is nowhere near to any National Parks or protected sanctuaries existing in the developed/developing countries. There is no mention about the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the Sundarbans wildlife.

In the social justice sector, though the Government claims that considerable progress has been made in filling the backlog of unfilled reserved posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and is committed to filling up the rest. However, in reality it is not so. Thousands of vacancies meant for SC/STs are yet to be filled up. There was no any mentioning of the action plan being taken/targets fixed by the Government, in the President Address.

It is also stated that the Government is conscious of the need to augment energy supplies from both conventional and renewable sources. It is further stated that the tremendous hydropower potential in the country would be harnessed.

However, the Government has not at all shown any interest in setting up of the world's first ever tidal project namely "Durgaduani Mini Tidal Project" to explore the power of the rich tidal waves of Sundarbans river there. Sundarbans is a group of islands and most of islands are dark, even during day times, due to dense mangrove forests there. Reaching the conventional power supply there is becoming difficult. However, the Government should utilize the natural and renewable energy sources to mitigate the power problems of Sundarbans. In this regard, the Durgaduani Mini Tidal Project will be highly beneficial to Sundarbans and the Government should take its all efforts to fulfill this project.

Like-wise, in the Tourism sector, the Rashtrapatiji did not mention about the immense tourism potential of Eco-tourism. For eco-tourism, the Sundarbans fits the bill very much and deserves to be declared and developed as a Eco-Tourism Spot to attract more foreign tourists and to bring in foreign exchange to the country.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa): Madam Chairman, I want to say two or three things regarding His Excellency President's Address. First of all I would

like to thank him for the depth of his thought. He has mentioned nine challenges in which he has mentioned about regaining agricultural dynamism and providing essential public services to the poor. Apart from this, there were many other important points like environment, etc. I would like to say a few things about regaining agricultural dynamism. It has been said that agricultural dynamism should be regained but my question is how we would do it. It is a fact that it has been sixty years since our independence and during these years we have done a lot of fanning and formulated many schemes. Billions of rupees are being given to the villages, regions and states but if you go to a village, even today you will find that the children of the poor are without clothes, their petty needs are the same, they are not getting old age pension, they are not getting houses under Indira Awas Yojna and they are not getting red cards. Even today these poor people do not get the benefit of 'Antyodaya Yojna' or 'Annapurna' or any other scheme meant for them. Today what is the minimum requirement of farmers? They should get, at least fertilizer and good quality seeds at right time and these things should not be black-marketed. Some time ago there had been a hailstorm in Bihar and before that there were no grains in wheat-plants only because the seeds were not of a good quality. We do not have water and if we talk of water in other way then there is either flood or drought at some time in Bihar. We have no canals. We have the planning but we do not have canals so that the flood-water might be preserved. A farmer does not get loan in time. We express our concerns for the farmers in general budget and President's Address but in fact getting loans is still a big problem for the farmers in a village even today. If we want ourselves to be attached with the villages in real sense, I would have to talk of 70 per cent people of our country, because our country is an agricultural country and we have not been able to give them their due rights. His Excellency has mentioned about providing essential public services to the poor. Even today under Indira Awas Yojna, five to ten thousand rupees are taken and despite that the deserving persons do not get the benefit under Indira Awas Yojna. Even today, a person having minimum requirement is not listed in BPL list rather the BPL list contains the names of those people who do not deserve to be there.

Today, the poor have three demands—food, cloth and house. The dealer sells the wheat and rice of Rs. 3 per kg., received under Antyodaya or Annapurna Scheme at the rate of Rs. 6 per kg in the open market

but there is none to investigate these things. Today, old age pension is given once in six months or a year. Though the Union Government or the State Government has increased the old-age pension amount by Rs. 200, those people do not get the old-age pension even today. We have seen that a person, who is supposed to get one thousand rupees, receives only one hundred rupees and nine hundred rupees are kept by the person disbursing the amount. I mean to say that we have not been able to fulfil our main requirements even today. Rajiv Gandhiji had said that only 15 paise out of one rupee reach the village. Keeping in view the prevalent corruption today, we can easily think that how much the poor people in the villages might be getting the benefit of the schemes. It is a fact that we do not need additional schemes and if only the existing schemes might reach the poor in real sense, the poor would not be starving at least. However great progress we might have made, whatever our size might have developed and we may have gone to space, still there exists such a big gap in the society that the poor are becoming poorer and the rich are becoming richer day-by-day. We have not been able to bridge this gap yet.

I would like to say that be it Mid-Day meal or be it Health Mission or be it Rural Road Development or be it Labour Development scheme... We were very happy when Labour Development scheme was implemented in 17 districts of Bihar in which our district was also included. But there has been much bungling and corruption in the implementation of Labour Development Scheme and when the villagers oppose that, they are told to go and ask the Prime Minister. Likewise, the children are falling ill at many places after eating the meals distributed under Mid-Day Meal Scheme. There is rice without vegetable at one place and there is only vegetable and no rice at another place. The teachers go to bring the rice and vegetables.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The State government should look into this.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: I am trying to tell that our co-ordination is not proper and this is the tragedy. The Union Government thrusts the responsibility on the State Government and the State Government thrusts the responsibility on the Union Government. Our co-ordination is not such that the benefit of these things might reach the deserving people. This is my demand that why we are not planning in such a way that we

[Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan]

may have proper co-ordination and the benefit of our schemes may reach the desired people. Even today, we think that we have done our work by doing our duty only. I would like to say that the intentions of everybody, including His Excellency and Prime Minister, are good but any single person can not carry the benefit of these things to those people until and unless there is proper co-ordination not only between the State Government and the Union Government but also between the B.D.O. and the Mukhiya of the village who are distributing the food-grains to the villagers. Otherwise, these things remain only in the speeches. Today, you go to any village and you will find that the poor is still poor and the rich are getting richer.

I would like to tell you two or three things. It has been sixty years since our independence. I come from Koshi region and our first President Dr. Rajendra Prasad had said in that very Koshi region that if one eye of the Government was on the whole country, the other eye would be on the tragedy of Koshi. I want to inform the House that a dam was constructed there sixty years ago. The length of the dam was to be 24 kilometres which was reduced to 8 kilometres. At that time, Dr. Rajendra Prasadji and Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehruji had said that their one eye would be on the people of Koshi region who are living within the dam area. But, still people have been neither rehabilitated nor freed from bonded labour system. Rather they are paying tax for the land which is devoured by the river every year. Then, what independence and which schemes are we talking about? I would like to say that today 15 lakh people are living within the dam area. But even today, they have to pay ten rupees every time they cross the river. I would like hon. Prime Minister and the UPA Government to pay attention to this, Baluwah bridge has been repeatedly talked about there. The State Government said that this matter was to be considered by the Union Government, as it needed billions of rupees. But, no road for transportation has been constructed yet. Even today, the population of 15 lakh people is living in a poor state.

I would like to say that I attentively heard hon'ble. President's Address and it appeared very good to me. But I would like to point out two-three things. A problem is assuming serious proportions for the future generation. The Nithari incident has not been mentioned anywhere in it. Yesterday I watched a news item that our Government schools have become hot-bed of sex. The teachers are luring even a girl of only thirteen years of age for sex. That is why I, through you, would like to

request that an agency of the Government of India be set up to monitor the status of each missing and kidnapping case. Today it has become necessary to bring amendments to the existing laws related to missing and kidnapping. First of all H.E. President spoke about the Samjhauta Express but Nithari incident is a very shameful incident and such incidents are taking place at several places as a result of which our future generation or say our children are not safe. Such incidents are taking place today at several places. I, through you, would like to request to set up a Government agency to look into as to how many children are missing in each state and how many cases of missing and kidnapping have been registered there and monitor all such cases. This problem should be deliberated upon with all seriousness.

Madam Chairman, hon'ble President pointed out that we have to bridge the increasing inequality between cities and villages. It was the crux of his Address and I admire him for this. But I would also like to emphasise unless there is a coordination between states and the Government of India upto block level, we would not be able to take the benefits of big projects and development upto the last poor of the villages. With this, I conclude.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur):
Madam, the Address of the hon. President to both the Houses of Parliament can be best described as a ritualistic, casual, tentative and a superficial effort to deal with the problems that the country is facing today.

I am saying ritualistic because it appears that the President wanted to mention about almost all the issues that he thought he should mention; otherwise, people might say that he has not mentioned them. Of course, my distinguished friend, Prof. Ramadass came out with an argument that he did not mention about some of the things because he thought that the Parliament is more supreme to deal with such issues. If you extend that argument further, in that case, the President's Address should mean nothing because almost all the issues can be dealt with by the Parliament. But this particular Address should have dealt with some of the pressing problems, some of the burning issues that the country is facing today.

This Address was made at a time when India is really reckoned as a power on the global stage. That is

one part of the story. On the other, on the domestic front, we face such serious problems and challenges that common man is finding it extremely difficult to lead his normal life, in a decent manner. To deal with that, the President should have spelt out and the Government should have come out with a comprehensive strategy as to how they are going to deal with these issues.

Let me give you an example of a few problems. The biggest problem is agriculture. Agriculture is really now in distress. Farmers feel that they have committed some sin in the previous life that in this life they are born as farmers. Whatever investment that they make in farming, they cannot even recover a part of it. That is why, they start a journey towards a debt-ridden life that they have to end by committing suicides.

Rural economy is virtually under collapse. There are 140 districts of India which are naxalite-infected. In fact, sadly we lost one of our distinguished colleagues to the bullets of the naxalites only a few days ago, and that is why, we had to pay homage to the departed soul yesterday. Naxalism is rising because of these two things— agriculture is in distress and rural economy is collapsing.

Unemployment in India is also rising like never before. In fact, there is a study made by the NSSO. It is 56th round; I am not very sure about the round exactly, but it said that in the last 15-16 years, we have not been having substantial growth in employment despite growth in population. In fact, incidentally I will come to this point that this Address does not mention about population at all. It is not by default probably, but it is by design that it was not mentioned.

The point is that agriculture, rural economy, unemployment and naxalism are all inter-woven problems; if we need to deal with one, we have to deal with all together. If you need to deal with them together, we need a comprehensive strategy. For a long time, the Government maintained that naxalism is a law and order problem. To add insult to injury, it also said that it is the State Government's responsibility, and therefore, the State Governments have to deal with this problem. Fortunately, at least now, the Central Government is saying that we have some responsibility to deal with this, if not much. But this problem of naxalism, agriculture, unemployment and rural economy need to be dealt with properly.

There was a Commission which was appointed called the Farmers' Commission. A distinguished Food Scientist, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan headed it. It submitted a report. Of course, there is no mention about that in the President's Address, nor even in the Budget that was presented to the Parliament subsequent to that. But there has not been any mention about the Commission, what action is to be taken, how it is to be taken, etc. Therefore, that shows that this Government lacks direction, imagination and will power to deal with these four pressing problems of the country.

Employment Guarantee Act, which was passed by this House, has failed to address the employment problem in rural areas and that was expected because it was a half-baked measure which lacked the preparations that had to be preceded on launching a massive programme like this. Therefore, unfortunately, though we did it with such a fanfare, we have not been able to meet the objective of the programme.

Suicide by farmers is continuing. In fact, Rs. 16,000 crore package, which the President has mentioned in his Address, has failed to address the problem. There is a very good website called Vidharbha Jan Andolan Samiti, which keeps giving figures of suicides committed everyday after the package has been announced. The number of suicides has increased after the package has been announced. This shows the lack of imagination and the lack of understanding of the real problem. Therefore, my first point is that we really need to deal with this issue. We cannot brush aside naxalites as the anti-nationals because they are someone born within the country who are really fighting for a cause and, therefore, we need a strategy to deal with this agricultural rural economy, unemployment and naxalism in a holistic manner.

Second point is inflation. Inflation has eaten into the purchasing power of almost all sections of the society except the top ten or five per cent of the people who are not touched by such a menace. The purchasing power of common man, the poor people, has diminished by as high as 30 per cent in many areas, particularly the food grains prices being on the rise, the poor people whose total family budget consists of more than 50 per cent of food, are the ones affected very adversely. The food and nutritional security, an issue that the Common Minimum Programme talks about, has been one of the most biggest casualty due to this. Therefore, this issue of inflation has to be dealt with on an urgent basis but

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

I find no mention about the steps the Government is going to take in this regard. It only mentions that the supplies side constraint. It also mentions that it takes time for the supplies to catch up with the demand. It is a very surprising thing. In India demand is rising. The Planning Commission is always projecting that the growth rate is going to be 8 per cent or 9 per cent. How can you say that you are surprised by the growth in demand and therefore, it is going to take time for the supply to catch up because it was already anticipated? The Tenth Five Year Plan was approved by the NDC five years ago. Therefore, to say that we are surprised by this is a shocking thing. Therefore, supplies had constraint, is a reason but cannot be an excuse for the Government not to control and address inflation.

In fact, there is a deep rooted problem, which gets reflected also in the current account deficit of the country, which shows that the country is now importing more to meet the domestic demand which is rising. A very interesting article written by *The Economist*, one of the most reputed magazines of the world from London, which said that the Indian economy is now overheating and it could really land into a very difficult situation very soon. So, I think inflation really needs to be taken as a top priority.

Infrastructure of the country is in shambles. The President talks about it but the Economic Survey says that we need 320 billion dollars of investment in infrastructure during the next five years. I really do not know how we are going to find the money. More importantly, more than the physical infrastructure that we create, we really need to address the quality of infrastructure that we are going to offer to the people. Let us take the example of water. Drinking such water quality has not been specified yet. So, to say that we are giving drinking water to the people, the issue is whether that is potable, safe and whether it will really be bereft of some of the diseases that people may catch because of drinking such water. What is important is, in addition to providing infrastructure the quality of infrastructure is also to be taken care of and that is true for electricity and transport also. We really need to do this because the President has mentioned that we are going to provide the world class infrastructure. The SEZ also talks about the world class infrastructure. I think, this is the time that we should define what is meant by the world class and the benchmark for that world class infrastructure must be brought out. I will give one example.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Madam, please give me at least 20 per cent of the time that you gave to the lady who has spoken before me because of the number of Members that our Party represents. You always want me to conclude when I have not started yet.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have given eight minutes.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: As regards education, 91.35 per cent of the schools are without drinking water. So, what is the purpose of constructing a school when 91.35 per cent schools do not have the drinking water? This is something which is shocking. Therefore, the quality and what type of bench mark we decide is very important.

One issue on infrastructure is relating to the Sagarmala project which the previous Government had talked about to link all the ports of the country and to bring about a hinter land development. Sadly, that project finds no mention now. I would request the Government to work on that.

Tribals and Scheduled Castes are the ones who are actually suffering and they only find a mention in the President's Address. They should be happy that at least their name is mentioned. We do not have to do beyond that. This is the Government's strategy. I feel we should try to re-look into that very seriously.

Science and Technology is suffering and the development that we are seeing today in India and the knowledge economy that we talk about can happen only when we make investment into science and technology. That need not be made only in research and development but also in the people. Today we are seeing that many young students do not find science as a very attractive career opportunity. The President of India is a scientist but you do not find enough people inspired by that and trying to be scientists themselves. I think we really need to look at it as a human resource issue more than the issue related to only research and development.

I talked about population and 1.8 per cent growth in the country is eating into some of the developmental advantages that we have. Probably it is not mentioned in the President's Address, not by default but by design,

because several functionaries of the Government are talking about reaping the demographic dividends as a result of rise in population. I think this will mean that our growth in population by definition would bring about dividends. What we really need to develop is the quality of population. We have to educate them, train them and bring them to a level of what job we offer them. Therefore, to do that we really need a programme but if we increase the number of people that is no guarantee that this will happen automatically. Therefore, we have to control our population. In fact, 1.1 billion now and 1.6 billion or 1.8 billion by 2005 is a serious challenge before all of us.

Madam, our foreign policy so far has always been a bone on which there was a unanimity all over the country. Unfortunately, lately our foreign policy is becoming controversial. We have to work on some of the major traditional friends which India had for a long time, particularly, in Africa. Now we are seeing Chinese President going to Africa and offering them financial help. Due to this, we are losing our traditional friends. So, I think our foreign policy should focus on this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Prabhuji, please sum up now. Your time is only seven minutes but you have taken 12 minutes already.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Madam, I think one day you will have to please educate me why one-person party gets so much time. I am the only person from my Party speaking. We are a 12-member party. Even after five minutes, you started telling me to sum up.

Madam, we get 21 billion dollars of remittances from our poor people who work in the Gulf and other places. There is no other country in the world which gets so much remittances back home. We are trying to woo the foreign investors and telling them to bring FDI into the country and that figure now with redefinition has touched ten billion. But they bring in more than twice that amount. Therefore, we have to actually ensure that our poor workers who work in such countries get more facilities.

Madam, energy sector is the bigger challenge for the country. We are importing more than two-thirds of our requirement from abroad. The crude oil price is going up and we are finding it extremely difficult to maintain our foreign exchange current account balance as well as to address some of the domestic demands. I think,

Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar was the Minister of Petroleum and he talked about energy security. I do not find even a mention about the energy security in this President's Address. I think we really need to look at it.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Madam, that is a democratic House and I always respect the Chair. But I do not understand that you started telling me after five minutes that I should conclude.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: How can I give other Members' time to you? So, you try to sum up within one minute only.

In India, if we have to actually plan now for our development, we have to make sure that our Human Development Index improves. Today India stands at 132nd position among 170 countries in the Human Development Index which is compiled by the United Nations Development Programme every year. So, if the President's Address had talked about this single issue and said that now our target is to make India climb the ladder of Human Development Index and to make sure that India would be somewhere in the vicinity of top 50 countries in the next five years' time, I would have felt that the President's Address had addressed some of the concerns that we have.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you as you provided me an opportunity to participate in the debate on the H.E President's Address. Hon'ble Members from both the opposition and ruling parties express their views. It is true that we have celebrated the 60th anniversary of our independence and we are progressing towards 11th Five Year Plan. It is our vision and dream to make India a developed nation and we would materialize it. On the other hand, bomb explosion in the Samjhauta Express and the murder of hon'ble Sunil Mahto puts a question mark on internal security. Therefore, today the need of the hour is to make foolproof internal security arrangement only then our country and democracy would be strengthened and people would get protection. Earlier also we had discussed it in this House and our Constitution also provides for the same. The Constitution enjoins that arrangement should be made to provide

[Shri Shalendra Kumar]

education, health facilities and employment to all. But today we must make an assessment as to how much we have been educated. We must make an assessment whether thousands of crore rupees being spent on education are being utilized in the true sense of the term or not, whether all are getting education or not, whether all people are being provided employment or not? There is a need to implement all the provisions made and schemes announced in the budget. There are shortcomings due to which schemes are not being implemented properly.

Madam, Chairman, the UPA Government talks of Bharat Nirman. Several Schemes related to roads, rural electrification, telephone, rural housing and rural drinking water are being implemented. You may see that all the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development under the Golden quadrilateral project and the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna have reached village level but even today there are several remote areas especially some parts of villages are not connected with the main road, there is a need to connect them. All our rural areas should be connected with the mainstream because a village can develop only when there are proper means of transport there. You must have seen that even today there are several villages located in rural areas where there is no electricity, the villagers have not seen even an electric bulb in their villages. Electrification is being carried out under the Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme but various parts of villages are still left out and there is a need to electrify them. It is an open secret that we have made rapid progress in the field of telecommunication but so far as the rural housing is concerned whether it is Indira Awas or other scheme there is scope for improvement. In this era of rising prices no farmer, BPL card holder can build his house by a mere Rs. 25 thousand because the cost of constructing one room comes around rupees 50 thousand. The verandah and other facilities are also required in that. All the facilities should be provided only then the concept of rural development will be fulfilled. Though several schemes of drinking water are being run today, people are still grappling with the problem of drinking water in villages.

Madam, if survey is conducted especially I would like to draw the attention towards my own area in Uttar Pradesh, where the water level is continuously going down. We should make such an arrangement that water level comes up and all people get safe drinking water. About 3.2 lakh villages of 18 states have been taken

under the National Rural Health Mission. A woman named Asha has been appointed under this. Apart from this woman, several other women have also been appointed at village level as Shiksha-Mitra, Panchayat-Mitra or as woman worker or Mukhya Sevika under I.C.D.S. But the objective, whether it is in the field of education or health for which these programmes have been launched and their appointments made, have not been achieved. We have not been able to provide education and health care through them. Therefore, the need of the hour is to monitor and ensure that the funds being given by the Government for the villages are used only for that very purpose.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention towards the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission mentioned in the Address. In the first stage, it would be implemented in the 63 cities under the above scheme. But today various towns are so large in size that they look like cities. There is a need to pay attention towards the slums where various people belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes reside. Facilities like roads, drinking water, electricity, sanitation are not available there. This is the condition of our cities. Today the need of the hour is to select big cities throughout the country under this scheme and implement it all over India.

Madam, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was introduced in 200 districts in the country and now 50 more districts have been included in it. Job cards ought to be issued under this scheme. But the BPL people which are the targeted beneficiary under the scheme, are not being issued job cards. You might say that this matter relates to the State or the district concerned and let them look into it. But we have to ensure that the Central funds that have been granted for the scheme are utilized properly. Central team of each department should go to rural areas for on the spot checking whether the funds are being properly used or not. If it is found that funds are being misutilised then their proper utilization should be ensured.

Madam, Now I would like to draw your attention towards the Women and Child Development Scheme. No office or other space has been provided for running Child Development Projects. These projects are being run either in some body's house or in courtyard. It is my request that proper space should be allotted for implementation of such schemes so that children may be taught in a proper manner and their development is ensured. Therefore, proper space facilities for office/other

purposes should be provided to them for their proper functioning.

Madam, farmers are committing suicide. This Government has announced a package of Rs. 16 thousand crore for 31 districts. It is true that our Prime Minister announces such packages from time to time. 75 percent of our population consists of farmers. Even after 56 years of independence the farmers of our country are not getting remunerative prices for their produce as a result of which they are forced to commit suicide. Farmers take loans from banks which they are unable to pay back because they are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. They suffer heavy losses and this results in their committing suicide. Potato crops in some regions in Uttar Pradesh have been destroyed due to hailstorms, storms and unseasonal rains. Therefore, Uttar Pradesh needs additional assistance for agriculture sector so that some facilities and assistance could be provided to the farmers and they may not resort to suicide.

Sir, now I would like to say about scholarships for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The present amount of scholarship is utterly inadequate. The scholarship announced in the Address is also meagre. The amount of scholarship given to poor students is not enough to meet their requirements due to higher rate of inflation. The amount is so small that it is not possible for the parents to afford food, books, uniform and transportation expenses of the child from that amount. The mid day meal scheme introduced by the Government has failed due to poor implementation. Hence, the amount of scholarships for children belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should be increased. Now, I would like to draw your attention towards the minorities. A separate Ministry for Minority Affairs has been created. Justice Rajan Sachar Committee's Report has also been tabled in the House. Muslims had been given benefit of 15 to 20 percent reservation before and after independence but today why has it come down to 1 to 2 percent only? Muslims and economically weaker sections living in rural and urban areas are required to be made economically sound.

Sir, the Rail budget has been presented but Uttar Pradesh has been totally ignored in the budget. It should take just half an hour's time to commute from Ghaziabad to Delhi but actually this journey takes one to one and half hours. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: All trains pass through Uttar Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Do not disturb, let him speak. You can express your views in your own speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Trains do come but they all come via Bihar. Mr. Jha, so long as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are not developed, the country cannot make development. You also keep on saying this.

Madam, the issue of Civil Aviation has been touched upon in the Address. In this context, I would like to demand through you, that a private airport should be constructed in Allahabad on the existing runway. It is an area of tourist interest. Kumbha Mela is held here in which India and foreign tourists visit this place in a large number. Hence, it is necessary to build a private airport here for private airlines. Besides, we must give thought to the creation of tourism-related employment by promoting tourism. There are many places which can be declared as protected and thereby more employment opportunities can be generated.

Finally, I would like to say that the Right to Information Act passed by the House is not being enforced in the true sense even today. It needs to be made more stringent. The day Right to Information is made more stringent, from that day transparency and honesty in governance would become a reality and the country would make progress. With this, I conclude.

[English]

*SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI (Tiruchendur): Sir, our Honourable President has drawn our attention towards the specialty of this year. We are celebrating our 60th anniversary of Independence along with 150th year of first war of Independence. Not only these two celebrations this is also the Centenary of Satyagraha.

In our President's Address he has referred to setting up of Marine University in Chennai, for which on behalf of Tamil Nadu people my heartiest thanks to our President.

Judicial reforms are made so that Justice delivery will be efficient and transparent in our judicial system.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati V. Radhika Selvi]

Grameen Nyayalay Bill for setting up people friendly local courts with flexibility of procedure so that petty cases can be disposed off speedily is on the out break.

Our Railway has grown rapidly and their revenue is also good. We have been saying that Kashmir to Kanyakumari is one. For this Railway should have dubling from Kanyakumari to Chennai & also Tuticorin to Chennai. Tuticorin is fast developing with its Sethuramuthram project. Tiruchendur to Tirunelveli gauge conversion work is nearing completion. Tiruchendur is a very famous pilgrimage centre. I request on behalf of Tamilnadu people to give us are separate trains by the name of Chendur Express from Tiruchendu to Chennai.

In our President's Address he has mentioned that tourism has enormous potential and there is as impressive growth. Since Tiruchendur is a pilgrimage cum tourist started from Tiruchendur to Chennai.

Sir, Mukkundal is famous for beedi workers most of the beedi workers live in and around Mukkundal. A hospital was constructed about 2 years back with all facilities, but without proper man power people are treated only as out patients this need immediate attention and proper medical and para medical staff should be appointed so that the poor beedi workers and their families health could be monitored properly most of the beedi workers are womens only. In our President's Address he has told that eradication of malnutrition and also child protections are having top most priority.

The beedi workers are from very poor family. Their children need scholarships for their education. Most of the students when they approach for scholarship they are denied. This state has to be changed and all the deserving students who need scholarship should get scholarship for this education.

Our leader, Tamil Nadu C.M. Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi is giving T.V. to all the families who are below poverty line. So that they can improve their general knowledge. Like this the Central Govt. can give computer to students who are in 9th standard. So that the younger generation of India will have people with very good knowledge.

Our Information Technology is developing rapidly and how it can compete with any other country globally. Our President has proclaimed that the year 2007 will be the

year of broadband. The people of India are very proud of this. With these words on behalf of D.M.K. I conclude my speech.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Madam Chairperson, being a Parliamentarian, it is a great privilege for me that I am participating in the solemn occasion of Motion of Thanks. At the outset, I must congratulate our esteemed President as he took pains to address both the Houses of Parliament and the nation as well.

The Presidential Address is always offered as a broader spectrum of national policy. It has been observed that the present Government in spite of adversities, in spite of loads of odds, has not been diluting its promises and commitments made in the National Common Minimum Programme.

The President's Address commences with these words that this is a very special year for our country. We are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of our Independence. This year we are also observing the 150th Anniversary of First War of Indian Independence and the Centenary of Satyagraha. These are occasions for us to renew our commitment to building a strong, modern, inclusive, secular and dynamic India.

Madam, I would like to add a few lines because you know that this year also marks the 250th Anniversary of Plassey Battle. Virtually in the wake of Plassey Battle, the political domination of British imperialism had been set in motion. By the defeat of Nawab Siraj Ud Daulah, who happened to be the Emperor of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, the British colonial power had started to spread its tentacles throughout the Indian soil. The great revolutionary poet in Bengal, Nazrul Islam has lamented in uttering such words which I would like to refer in my mother-tongue, Bengali.

Kandari tav gammukhe oee palsheer prantar
Bangaleer Khune lal holo jetha.

Klaiver khanjor

Oee gangai dubiya chhe hai bharoter divakar
udive she maderai khune ragiya punarbar

Now, I give the English translation. It says:

"Oh, Brave Helmsman

Yonder is the vast extension of the field of Plassey.
There in a sanguinary battle.

The heinous hungry sword of Lord Clive was
incarnadined with the noble gush of Bengalee blood.

Ay me! The sun of India's freedom sank low into the distant Ganges?

It will be washed red by the blood-offering of our mighty martyr to come up again.

It will be a second coming luminous and profound."

Madam, I would like to invite the attention of this Government to highlight the Plassey battle and the history of Murshidabad because the history of Murshidabad is also linked with the *Sepoy Mutiny* in the year 1857. The *Sepoy Mutiny* commenced in Berhampore, the cantonment of Britishers, which is in the Murshidabad District.

Madam, the sense of the poet, Najrul Islam was reflected in the First War of Independence in 1857. The second thing is that in so far as Satyagraha is concerned, the All India Congress Committee had organized a world-wide Conference where the global civil society had been set up representing from all the continents. In so far as Satyagraha is concerned, Calcutta played a very vital role because at that time when the entire nation was celebrating the Independence in Delhi, Mahatma Gandhi was holding fast in Beliaghata, Calcutta. He referred to the poet Rabindranath Tagore that if nobody responds to your call, then go ahead alone. He alone took the protest and he alone took the plunge to fight the communal riot which occurred at that time in the name of the great Calcutta riot. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of this Government to set up an institution in commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi in Beliaghata, Calcutta.

Madam, our economy has been growing excellently. There is no doubt about that. However, some skeptic from the Opposition are there. They are casting aspersion and they are casting all kinds of doubts upon the performance of our economy. I think, they are suffering from amnesia. During the tenure of the NDA Government, it was recognized that that Government was a Government of poverty in plenty. Crores of rupees worth food grains were rotting at that time when starvation death was also continuing. Now, they have forgotten everything.

Madam, if you see the performance of the Indian economy, then we must be pleased to note that it is in promissory note because the Indian share in the global GDP has increased to 5.9 per cent. It is astonishing to note that India has become the fourth largest economy according to purchasing power parity after USA, China

and Japan.

Madam, even experts opined that if this trend of growth continues and if this current economy paying such dividend for a longer period, then the Indian economy will be positioned in the world faster than expected. We have become the fifth Telecommunication network in the world. We have become the fourth mobile subscribers in the world. Yes, there is some gloomy side also. We must appreciate it because agriculture is such a sector where we are all concerned with because till now 250 million people are living below the poverty line. Not only that, according to the international standard, earning of one dollar per day, it is estimated that 35 million people are still living below the poverty line. In less than two dollars per day, the percentage of the population has gone up to 80.

However, it has already been observed that our economy has been growing at more than nine per cent per annum. Indian rupee has also remained very strong against the US dollar. Actually, the FDI inflow also has been increasing. The Foreign Institutional Investors have shown keen interest in our capital market.

Madam, it is very salutary to note that market capitalization of the public sector undertakings has been increased since 2003 by a margin of 257 per cent. Now, traded market capitalisation of public sector undertakings has touched the figure of Rs. 3,89,000 crore even when the disinvestment has been put in the back burner.

Madam, it is a great rejoicing moment for us that our scientists have made a significant accomplishment. They have brought back the orbiting satellite, and we have been able to carve out niche for us in the world of Space Technology. In the recently concluded World Economic Forum in Davos, our delegate has been appreciated for performing the SREI Mission; and they have termed it as the best brand image of India.

Madam, I know that there is a time constraint, however, I would like to refer a few points. I must appreciate the present Government for taking initiatives to review the situation arising out of the land acquisition under the Special Economic Zone. The question as to whether the land acquisition is desirable in such a circumstance, needs to be reviewed because already a sense of uncertainty, a sense of apprehension has been generated among the farming community. In the recent

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

past we have observed in West Bengal that the forceful eviction of farmers in Singur and Nandigram has been agitating the farming community. Therefore, the farmers should be taken into confidence before taking any industrial initiative because traditionally family food security is the cardinal concept of the whole food security issue. Land is always treated as a family silver of the farming community. Therefore, any kind of misgivings always augurs bad for those community. I know, if the economy has to be grown, then we have to shift from lower economic productivity to higher economic productivity.

Madam, everything said and done, we are deeply mourned that we have lost our most distinguished colleague, Shri Sunil Mahato, who has fallen prey to the bullets of the naxalites. India is a secular country, there is no doubt about it. We have a Prime Minister who belongs to the Sikh community; we have the President who belongs to the Muslim community; and we have our Chairperson, Madam Sonia Gandhi who belongs to the Christian community. But at the ground level, still our society is fragmented. If the society is fragmented, then we cannot achieve our desired goal. Most of the troubles of the present day can be attributed to the failure of the individual man to know himself. Gandhiji has exhorted us to turn the searchlights inwards. So, unless every Indian feels as an Indian, every Indian acts as an Indian, there can be no real integration, harmony and concord.

Therefore, it is our solemn duty being the Members of Parliament that we put all our initiatives to the direction of the welfare of our country unitedly. If we do not unitedly put our shoulders to the wheel and cease from frittering away our energies in mutual quarrels, mutual conflicts, neither can the internal problems be solved nor we can face the challenge that we are facing now.

We have to have our courage and confidence. Therefore, we should develop mutual trust, mutual confidence amongst all elements of our population. This is an age of violence and anxiety. National integration and social solidarity have never been so easy. We are nurturing new hope on the realization that the "social physicians" in the name of rural development, Sarva Shiksha Abihyan, Mid-day Meal, ICDS programmes which will remove the social anomalies by initiating social immunization process. There, we all have to join.

Madam, our country is a great country.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have taken 15 minutes. Please conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Once upon a time, Mahatma Gandhi said:

"I am proud of India. India is the greatest country in the world, not because I was born in India but because I have discovered the greatest goodness in it."

Even Max Muller uttered this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: This is my last sentence.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: All right, after this sentence, you kindly conclude.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: He said: "If we were to look over the whole world to find out a country most richly endowed with all its wealth, power and beauty that nature can bestow—in some part a very paradise on earth—I should point out to India."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is a very long sentence.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: "If I were asked under what sky the human mind has fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered over the greatest problems of life and has found solutions in some of them which will deserve attention of those who have studied Plato and Kant—I shall point out to India." Sare Jahan Se achha hindostan hamara:

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Hon. Chairperson, I am happy that I have this privilege to take part on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament.

I have got the reason to support this President's Address because the UPA's failures in implementing the Common Minimum Programme have been truly exposed by the Address of the President of India made in the Central Hall on that day. That is why I have got reason to support this President's Address.

Madam, our countrymen need *mti, kapda, makan* and *shanti*. These four elements are very important for a peaceful life of an individual and also for the country. But what we have seen in the President's Address. The hon. President has exposed the total failure and

inefficiency of the UPA Government in maintaining *roti, kapda, makan* and *shanti*, which they have promised to the people of this country. I will not go in detail up to what percentage the inflation and GDP has risen. It is known to the people of this country, and it is voiced by the people of this country. This voice is there in this country today.

Madam, how can we compare the fate of the farmers of this country with the fate of the animals that we are taming today? It has been openly exposed by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech. Therefore, the suicide by farmers is continuing day by day. It is on the TV and in the newspapers. Our hon. Members and the Ministers in the UPA are on record as to what is happening to the farmers and what is the situation of the common man of this country because of price rise

Price rise is the reason which has been given by the hon. UPA Chairperson for the failure in Punjab and the defeat in Uttarakhand. If anything happens in UP tomorrow, it will be because of the weather and rain conditions of this country, and this reason should not be given again by the hon. Chairperson of the UPA for the sake of the country and for the sake of the farmers of this country.

Madam, I will now come to the security aspect. I had really expected what our hon. President of India should have highlighted and what our UPA Government was supposed to have highlighted in the President's Address for the *shanti*, peace of the country. In the internal security aspect, killing of 70 people in Assam has been there. The Hindi-speaking people have been assassinated in Assam. It has not been reflected in the President's Address. This is a great concern for the people of this country, especially for the people of the North-Eastern region where 70 Hindi-speaking people have been assassinated by the ULFA in Assam. It has not been reflected in the President's Address. It is a matter of great concern.

The UPA Government wants to hide the truth about its misrule in the North-Eastern region especially for Assam, which has been hidden in the Address. Therefore, it is a matter of great concern. We are really and equally concerned about what has happened to the Samjhauta Express. But what happened in Assam could have been equally focused in the President's Address.

The killing of 70 Hindi-speaking people in Assam is not concerning only the Biharis. But this is the game-plan of the ISI through the ULFA and the failure of the Government of Assam has been exposed. It has not been highlighted and even a single sentence was there in the President's Address. Therefore, it is a matter of great concern.

I will now come to the law and order situation in the North-Eastern region. In the President's Address we had expected what the UPA Government was planning to solve the situation in the North-Eastern region. We have got longstanding problems of Nagas, Manipuris and ULFA in Assam. We, the people of the North-Eastern region and the country had expected that in the President's Address it will highlight the Naga peace talks, what is going on for the decades-old between NSCN (IM) and the Government of India. But in the President's Address not even a single line has been highlighted.

[Translation]

How do you propose to establish peace in the country without addressing the issues directly?

[English]

Now, the discussion is going on. The countrymen really appreciate the talks between the NSCN (IM) and the Government of India. What is the future plan, the roadmap of the UPA Government for solving the Naga issues, the decades-old Naga problems could have been highlighted and reflected in the President's Address. It has not been mentioned.

The long-standing problems of the Manipuris, the long-standing problems of ULFA in Assam are there. We, the people of the North-Eastern region, are pressurizing that the Government of India should initiate the talks with ULFA. What roadmap the Government of India, the UPA Government is planning to tackle to bring peace in the North-eastern region has not been highlighted in the President's Address. It is a matter of great concern.

What is the Government's desire in Assam? There have been explosions of bombs in the market of Guwahati. To control, this is in the hands of the Government in power. This is a matter of great concern. It could have been highlighted in the President's Address. The total failure of the UPA Government for solving the

[Shri Tapir Gao]

trouble-prone States of the North-eastern region has been exposed in the President's Address. That is why, in the very outset I have said that I have got a reason to support this President's Address because in this Address everything has been exposed.

Madam, during the National Games in Assam, the ULFA was threatening not to allow the conduct of the National Games in Guwahati. Within a fortnight, they withdrew their threats. What has happened on that issue? There is a total nexus between the Government of Assam and the ULFA and the ISI. There is an official proof. The police official who has been responsible for the escape of an ISI agent who had been arrested in Guwahati has again been in charge of that Department. This is a matter of great concern for the country, for the North-Eastern region and for the citizens of this country.

Now, I come to the foreign policy. In the President's Address, very few lines have been mentioned about our foreign policy in respect to our neighbouring countries. While the China is claiming the entire territory of Arunachal Pradesh, you are having a 10-pronged strategy and cordial relations with China. What kind of a 10-pronged strategy are you having with China? They could have clearly mentioned the roadmap and what kind of relations they are extending to the China under their foreign policy.

Today, it is known to the people of this country that headquarters of all the underground outfits are in Bangladesh or Myanmar. What kind of policy is the UPA Government following towards Bangladesh about solving the problem of training camps? Are they going to destroy the training camps of underground groups of the North-Eastern regions that are established in Bangladesh and are they going to have combined operations to overcome such a situation in Bangladesh? A lot of training camps are also there in Myanmar. What kind of foreign policy is the UPA Government extending to Myanmar to solve the problem of underground activists' training in Myanmar? This is very important. This is where you can bring peace to the people of the North-Eastern region and peace to this country.

Another important thing is Bharat Nirman. Now, the hon. Finance Minister has mentioned in his speech that GDP growth rate is raised to 9.25 per cent. We have to scale the percentage on the blackboard! The people and the farmer of this country have to scale it on the blackboard. We have not seen anything on the ground.

Therefore, Bharat Nirman has been exposed in his speech as Bharat Barbad. That is why, I have no reason to support this speech.

Now come to the field of Civil Aviation and Railways. We from the North-Eastern region and other countrymen are shouting for extension of railway lines to the North-Eastern region. Extension of railway lines to the North-Eastern region is a national security concern. It should not be seen in terms of profit and loss; it should not be seen in terms of financial viability. Connecting railways to the interior parts of the North-Eastern region is a national security concern and a matter of national integration. Similarly, extending civil aviation to the North-Eastern region is a part of national integration and should not be compared in terms of profit and loss or economic terms. So, it is also a concern for the people of the North-Eastern region. Not even a single line has been expressed about it in the President's Address.

We are following the Look East Policy. Proudly, the hon. President has been asked to read out the Look East Policy. In what sense have we to look to the East? We have to look to the East, to the South-East Asian countries. It should not be through Pakistan or Arab countries; it should be through either from Kolkata or from Guwahati. So, within the Look East Policy, we are supposed to extend our railway lines to the South-East Asian countries. We are supposed to extend our air services to the South-East Asian countries from Guwahati. No step has been highlighted there, only the hard letter has been mentioned here "Look East Policy". This is the total failure of the UPA Government. What they have highlighted in their agenda, the Common Minimum Programme, we are trying to find out, where the Look East Policy. The Look East Policy should not be confined to Delhi. It should look towards the North-Eastern region and the South-East Asian countries. Therefore, this is a great concern and the concern has been not expressed in these deliberations.

We are lucky that our hon. Minister for Panchayati Raj is here. We are happy that he has convened seven round-table conferences for the implementation of the panchayati raj. The Panchayati Raj has been given importance in the President's Address, but there are many other States in the North East region, especially, Arunachal Pradesh where there is no devolution of power; no devolution of finance; no devolution of authority to the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj. Where is

the accountability of your Panchayati Raj implementation? ...*(Interruptions)* Madam, it is the clear instruction of the Government of India for proper implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes all over the country that the elected representatives of the Panchayats should be involved in all these activities. But there is no devolution of powers, etc. for the elected representatives.

The hon. President tried to highlight many issues and gave headings in his speech, but all of it exposes the total failure of the UPA Government. A couple of hours ago we were able to see the total failure of the CMP on the issue of water management. Therefore, a river linking policy should be the main agenda of the UPA Government. This is the suggestion from my side, so that there will be peace in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, with these words, I oppose the Motion because what the hon. President has expressed is misleading the people of this country.

*SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM (Nominated): Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to H.E. the President of India for his address to both Houses of Parliament on 23 February 2007. Through his address the President has not only provided to the country an appreciation and understanding of the policy and practices that the present Government under the able leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, but also indicated the instruments that enable the consolidation of democracy, strengthening the principles enshrined in the Constitution and the creation of a powerful, modern, inclusive, secular and a dynamic nation.

I would in particular like to mention that, through the thrusts outlined in his address H.E. the President of India has highlighted the objectives and goals focussing the 11th Five Year Plan and the programmes that will sustain 9% growth of the economy as well as providing more employment opportunities, greater and more equitable distribution of income and enable the poorest of the poor to access the benefits of social and economic freedoms and liberate themselves' from the shackles of poverty, ignorance and disease.

The Government under Dr. Manmohan Singh and the able leadership of the UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi has for the first time defined the vision and

dream of Gandhi ji 'to wipe the tear' off every eye. Stating as a commitment *inclusive growth* that will reach the prosperity of the nation down to the poorest of the poor—the *sam admi* thereby building a new architecture for the generation of gross national prosperity which includes the Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the National Rural Health Mission, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the Mid-day meal scheme, the ICDS and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. These programs together with Bharat Nirman—focusing the development of rural India with the construction of rural; roads, electrification, telephony, housing, drinking water and better communication through Railways will undoubtedly enable the nation to make rapid progress and bridge the divides presently prevailing between rural and urban India.

Significantly, H.E. the President has highlighted in his address the major challenges facing the nation in terms of economic growth. These include (1) generating dynamism in the agricultural sector, (2) creating new employment patterns and job opportunities, (3) providing basic civic amenities to the poor (4) developing skills, (5) better quality products and services (6) environment security and improving the quality of services to the people. To achieve these objectives the Government has rightly identified the need to improve the quality and transaction of education and enable all sections of society access quality education by providing scholarships to ST/SC/OBCs and Minorities. Hon'ble Sir, I would particularly like to draw the attention of Government to issues related to minorities. Despite sixty years of progressive Governments the minorities have regressed be it economically or administrative.

Presently, despite the creation of the Ministry of Minority Affairs over a year back, it lacks a Standing Committee as well as a Consultative Committee. The Sachar Committee comprehensively points to the 'restrains' prevailing we are yet to have effective action in setting up enabling provisions that will address the prevailing constraints. Generations after generations of Minorities remain constrained the prevailing instruments do not enable them to succeed.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister the other day as a good banker stated that banks finance those who are able to provide adequate security for loans—this was in the context of soft loans to minorities. If this continues a certain section of the people can not avail of enabling finance for engineering their growth. There needs to prevail a sensitivity to the concerns of the marginalized

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Francis Fanthome]

section of society. A sense of togetherness to include sections that have not been enabled to be prioritized in development opportunities, needs to prevail.

I would also like to mention that as we celebrate the 100th year of the Satyagrah Movement, 150th year of 1st war of Independence in the 60th year of our Independence, the bulk of our freedom fighters through about 80 years or more are not adequately cared for their sacrifice not valued their families uncared. We need to examine the status of these people and enable them to live with dignity and honour.

These and several other policy initiatives mentioned in the address identify for the nation a renewed sense of confidence in the nation's progress in meeting the aspirations and dreams that the people have for themselves and God willing these will bear fruition in the coming years.

I conclude supporting the Motion and commend the Government for its commitment to all sections of the people.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Thank you, Madam. The President's Address is a policy document of the Government, and it does not reflect the views of his own. I am greatly disappointed by this policy statement.

The hon. President in his Address has mentioned about 9.2 per cent growth in this year, but it does not help the common man. All the wealth that we are creating should percolate to the poorest of the poor, and then only social justice will prevail. Therefore, the Government of India should prepare plans in this direction. On the one side growth is increasing year by year, but on the other side poverty is also increasing. The rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer. We have to remove this disparity among these sections.

The issue of inflation is also alarming at this moment. The average inflation in the world is 2.5 per cent. Every time, we are comparing with China on the floor of the House and outside also. But we are not comparing with China on the issue of inflation rate. Our inflation is 6.7 per cent in the third week of February, which has never happened in the past. I am not blaming, but the Government has to take stern action and measures to control inflation. It is becoming difficult for the common

man to live in this country as the prices of essential commodities keep on increasing. We are importing 55 lakh metric tonnes of wheat for the first time in this country. Previously, we had buffer stocks of wheat and rice in our country. We are importing 55 lakh metric tonnes of wheat, still the prices of essential commodities are not coming down.

As regards agriculture, we have to implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission. We have to create a corpus fund. If there is a crop failure, then we have to reimburse the farmers from this corpus fund. The Swaminathan Commission has strongly recommended that the crop loan should be reduced to four per cent, and then only the farmers will be benefited. But the Government of India has not implemented those recommendations. ...*(Interruptions)*

17.00 hrs.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Do you want the loan amount to be reduced or do you want the interest on loan amount to be reduced?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The interest on crop loans should be reduced to four per cent. The third recommendation is that where the farmers are in a debt trap, we have to waive the loans given to the farmers. Even after a package was announced by the Prime Minister, farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra are committing suicides. After a package of Rs. 500 crore was announced by the Prime Minister, why is it happening? What are the main reasons or what is the root cause of it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: It is happening because of the earlier NDA Government's policies.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: In the last three years, 3,968 farmers have committed suicides. This is an alarming and shameful issue not only for any one political party, but for everybody.

The UPA Government, in the last three years, has failed to implement its manifesto, and it was reflected in the elections held in the last two years, be it in Kerala, Bihar, Punjab or Uttaranchal. The Congress and its supporting parties have lost those elections. You have to think about it once again.

Yesterday, Sonia Gandhi ji, the Chairperson of the UPA, has admitted in her speech in the Central Hall that due to price rise the Party was defeated in the two States. What is the Government doing? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: She never said like that.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: What is the Government doing? It has appeared in the newspapers and this is the reality. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down and do not waste time.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I am very happy that the Government, and the UPA Chairperson have realized this. They have to take necessary steps to control inflation, otherwise it will turn out to be a difficult problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Aaron ji, do not interrupt him. Cross-talking will not go on record.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Article 19 (1) of the Constitution talks about freedom of expression. Freedom of expression includes freedom of speech and freedom of the Press. That is an important thing to protect democracy and to keep democracy intact. In Andhra Pradesh, the State Government issued one G.O No. 938 in the name of media watch. We have to check that and fight against criminal cases lodged against the media. What has happened in the North-Eastern States? The accreditation given to NE TV was cancelled, and they had to approach the Supreme Court. We have to learn lessons from the emergency period. At the time of emergency, fundamental rights were taken away, and restrictions were imposed on the Press. Now, we have to learn lessons from that emergency period. Still, in some parts of the country, undeclared emergency is being imposed against the media, the Press. We have to take care of those things. Without Press, there is no existence, which is the watchdog of this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please speak on the President's Address. Mr. Aaron, please sit down. Cross-talking will not go on record.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: In this scenario, when there are attacks on the media in Andhra Pradesh and Assam, we have to restrict those Governments. The

hon. Prime Minister, and the Chairperson of UPA, Sonia Gandhi ji, should pull up those Governments and tell them to stop the attacks on the media, including the electronic media.

So many promises were given to Andhra Pradesh, and all the Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh have approached the Prime Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI (Tenali): When he is supposed to speak on the President's Address, why should he mention these things?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: He is speaking on the President's Address.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Regarding the misuse of article 356, you know what has happened in Andhra Pradesh. So far, after our Independence, article 356 was imposed around 100 times. Wherever non-Congress Governments were in power, article 356 was imposed. Look at what has happened in Bihar, Jharkhand and Goa? They tried to impose article 356 in Uttar Pradesh also, but it was withdrawn later. I am blaming the Union Government for this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please stick to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: They are thinking of dismissing the non-Congress Governments, which is not at all correct.

Even regarding NREGS implementation, 200 districts were selected last year, and now this Scheme is being extended to 330 districts. In the last year's Budget, Rs. 11,300 crore was earmarked for implementing the Scheme in 200 districts.

An amount of only Rs. 12,000 crore has been earmarked for 330 Districts in this year's Budget. What is mentioned in the election manifesto and the Common Minimum Programme should be implemented throughout the country. However, finally it is extended to only 330 Districts. Is it possible to implement this scheme in the whole country in the remaining years? Is it not violation of the poll promise?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Yerrannaaiduji, this is not General Discussion on the Budget. You are speaking on Motion of Thanks to President's Address.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The budget earmarked for 330 Districts is not at all sufficient to provide 100 days of employment. It is sufficient only for 36 days of employment in a year.

Interlinking of rivers is the need of the hour. We have severe unemployment problem in the country and many hon. Members have expressed their concern in this regard. We have the problem of availability of water for irrigation and drinking purposes. Interlinking of rivers is a single solution for all these problems. By interlinking of rivers we can provide water for irrigation, we can provide drinking water and we can provide employment to lakhs of people. So, this is the need of the hour. Hon. Supreme Court also has mentioned about interlinking of the rivers. In an earlier Presidential Address the hon. President mentioned about interlinking of rivers. In this Presidential Address, hon. President has not mentioned it.

Bringing forth Women's Reservation Bill is the backbone of the UPA Government's Common Minimum Programme. In the first year of this Government it was mentioned in the Presidential Address. However, there is no mention of it in this year's Presidential Address. The people of the country want to know whether the Government is going to bring the Women's Reservation Bill or it is going to back out.

In conclusion, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to reply to all my suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDER NAIK DHARAVATH (Warangal): Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on President's Address on behalf of Telangana Rashtra Samiti Party. I have received a book titled 'Civil Society' in this context and perhaps other hon'ble Members might also have received this book. This book is regarding Common Minimum Programme. When Common Minimum Programme was prepared in 2004, it was projected as an elephant and after three years it has shrunk to the size of a goat. I am surprised to see it. I do not know what would be its size in the coming two years? I would like to speak regarding two paragraphs of hon'ble President's Address because you wouldn't give me much time and in fact there is little time. The paragraph no. 39 of hon'ble President's Address on 7 June, 2004 stated about

constitution of a separate state named Telangana and much efforts were made for that. Till 2004 the Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh was subdued due to the influence of Chandrababu Naiduji and Telugudeesham Party. At that time the Congress party contested the election in collaboration with Telangana Rashtra Samiti, a party demanding separate statehood for Telangana and promised to create Telangana State and this issue formed part of Common Minimum Programme also. But it is unfortunate that the hon'ble President's 4th Address, on which we are debating today, attaches no value to the Common Minimum Programme, a document of the Government. When it has no importance, how can a common man trust it? In this context I will submit few things before you. We had full faith in the UPA Government, our fair and honest Prime Minister and the modern Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi. But as in 1956 when Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was in a dilemma regarding merger of Telangana with Andhra, the Congressmen of Andhra Lobby put pressure on Pt. Nehru and tried to merge the Andhra region of Madras Presidency and Telangana with Andhra Pradesh and Pt. Nehru had said "Innocent Telangana is being merged with naughty Andhra". If this merger works, it is fine otherwise this can be demerged at any time. At that time Faizal Ali Commission's report had categorically mentioned that it was essential to create a separate state of Telangana in order to utilize the resources of Telangana and develop Telangana. Despite this recommendation Andhra and Telangana were merged by putting pressure on Pt. Jawahar Lal Neruji. A Subcommittee under the Chairmanship of our External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee was constituted but there is no mention of that committee too. As of all the constituent to parties of UPA major constituent parties helped by giving in writing for creation of Telangana State, the BJP and the constituent parties of NDA have also given their consent for creation of a separate state of Telangana. In this context I would like to submit that the UPA Government has repeatedly told that they have not been able to create Telangana due to opposition from the left Parties. It is being told that the Telangana issue has been dropped due to this factor. But I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Left Parties for their categorical statement that the Congress Party has not given its opinion as yet and defames the other parties. Recently CPM politburean member Shri Sitaram Yechuri has clearly stated that if Congress wanted,

Telangana would be created but the Congress had said nothing regarding Telangana as yet. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You should speak on Motion of Thanks and not on Telangana-Congress.

SHRI RAVINDER NAIK DHARAVATH: I mean to say that the UPA Government has breached its promise and left Telangana in the lurch today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Speak on Presidential Address only. Speak on Motion of Thanks. Here there is no mention of Telangana-Congress. Speak on motion of thanks.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Do not speak on Telangana-Congress. Speak on Presidential address. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVINDER NAIK DHARAVATH: Madam, I am speaking on nothing else than Presidential Address. There is no meaning of Presidential Address. I am talking of the UPA agenda. Three years have passed but there has been no talk regarding Telangana. In this context I would like to thank the Leftists, who have categorically opined that Telangana State should be created because the people of Telangana wanted it.

In this context I would like to refer to para 27 which states regarding the Adivasis. Till date the funds sanctioned here for the Adivasis, hardly reach out to them. Today the Adivasis are steeped in abysmal poverty. They do not get even potable water. In this regard I would like to submit to the hon'ble President that there are provisions regarding the development of these areas directly under the Governor as per Schedules V and VI of the Constitution but no directive has been issued from here till date and the Governors of the States have done nothing in this regard. They should be called upon to do so under the fifth schedule in regions where Adivasis are being exploited.

I would like to bring one more thing to your notice that in Adivasi areas the poorest among the Adivasis are selling and killing their children. I have raised this issue many-a-time in the House and given a memorandum to the Prime Minister and the State Government also but no action has been taken in this regard.

Madam Chairman, projects and industries are being set up without due permissions in Adivasi areas and nothing is being done to stop these. Besides the poor are being deprived of water by withholding waters of Krishna and Godavari river to the Telangana region.

Madam Chairman, thank you for giving me time to speak.

(English)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Madam, thank you.

First of all, on behalf of my Party, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for constituting the Sachhar Committee. The Sachhar Committee had given its report; but I find it really surprising that the Government in the President's Address says that they are still considering the formulation of a programme. I feel that when a report has come on 30th November, some action should have been taken by now. The Government should have shown some clarity on what they intend to do on the recommendation that has been made in the Sachhar Committee.

In the Sachhar Committee, there are nine chapters, especially on education. A Sub-Committee was formed by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, headed by the Minister of State, Shri Fatmi. He happened to call all the Muslim MPs. We had given our opinion on exactly what we wanted for the upliftment of the Muslims, as far as education is concerned.

I am told that the report has also been given to the HRD Ministry. It is very unfortunate that the recommendations of the Fatmi Committee has not been mentioned here—not a single word has been mentioned, whereas it is a known fact that the Sachhar Committee has clearly stated that 25 per cent of Muslim children in the age group of 6-15 have neither attended school nor there is a huge drop-out rate. I would request the hon. Prime Minister, when he gives reply, to throw some light on what will be the fate of the Fatmi Sub-Committee and the Sachhar Committee.

The President's Address talks about 15 point programme. The 15 point programme itself talks about rehabilitation of victims of communal riots. We know what happened in 2002 in Gujarat. The Prime Minister had

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

made a statement and the UPA Government had also made a statement that compensation will be given to the victims, the deceased who died in Gujarat riots, on the lines of the Sikhs who were butchered in 1984 riots. This announcement was made sometimes in November-December last year. We find there is no mention about it here.

I would like to know what is the policy of the Government as far as paying compensation towards people who had been butchered in Gujarat is concerned. What is the Government's policy? Why do they not pay compensation when they had promised to pay, on the lines of the 1984 Sikh riots?

Madam, the 15 point programme itself talks about rehabilitation of victims. There are more than 5,000 families who are still living in relief camps in Gujarat. What is the Government going to do? We have no hope in the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

[*Translation*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let him speak now, you can speak when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please carry on, Shri Owaisi. Please do not disturb him. Let him complete his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: I never intended to hurt the sentiments of the hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)* I know that sometimes truth is very bitter. It is very hard to swallow. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member want to talk, they can go outside and talk there.

[*English*]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: With your permission, Madam, I would like to enlighten the hon. Member through you or I can increase his ignorance also. Please read 26th February *The Hindustan Times*. After hearing your vocabulary, I am sure I can say that you are a very learned person. Please read 26th February *The Hindustan Times*. If you want, Madam, I can give it to you. *The Hindustan Times, The Indian Express*, everybody has reported. These are not the words of any Muslim Leader.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Do not read it. You may confine yourself only to the Presidential Address.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: I am not complaining against you. My complaint is against the Union Government because I have a hope and I know that it can deliver the goods and given a chance it can repeat 2002 also. We are asking the Government and not them.

The President has talked about the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Approach paper shows that there are nine major challenges to the economy. I find it really surprising that not even a single word is mentioned about the upliftment of Muslims. When the Prime Minister was very kind enough to form the Sachar Committee to look into the political, social and economic backwardness of Muslims, I wanted something to be given in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. If nothing is given, what will happen? A 13 per cent minority which has the literacy rate of 59 per cent will become a liability. If you want the country to grow economically also, it makes sense that Muslims should be given a rightful share.

Coming to Taslima Nasreen affair, I would like to criticize the Government over here. It has departed from the policy of Shri Rajiv Gandhi by giving a permanent visa to Taslima Nasreen. How this could have been done? The Government has departed from its own well-grounded policy of its own Leader. On what grounds the Government has given her the permanent visa? She is a political asylum seeker. A person who seeks political asylum in a country has no right to issue statements thereby dividing the country on right to issue statements

thereby dividing the country on religion and communal lines. We had His Excellency Dalai Lama but Dalai Lama has never given a statement wherein he has divided the society. What right does Taslima Nasreen has to make such a statement? On humanitarian grounds she is giving statements thereby dividing the community and the nation. I would demand from the Government to revoke the permanent visa given to Taslima Nasreen. Let her go back to Bangladesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please stick to the Presidential Address.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: On West Asia crisis, why has it taken this Government to react on the Mecca Accord? After 15 days you issue a statement supporting the Mecca Accord. Why does not the Government call Khaled Mashallah, the Chief of Hamas? Why do you not call Mr. Ismail Haniyeh, the Prime Minister of Palestine? Let him be called. I would request the Government that there must be an Indo Arab Forum, Indo-GCC Forum on the lines of Indo-China Forum. This Government getting closer to Israel is not good. India commands a high respect among the Arabs. They hold India in high esteem. Our getting closer to Israel is not good as far as Foreign Policy is concerned. We have always been closer to the Arabs. We have always been closer to the cause of Palestine. This particular Government is continuing the same policy which was started by the NDA Government. I am concluding Madam.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You are a very intelligent and good Member. Kindly stick to the Presidential Address and speak only on the Motion of Thanks.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Madam, I do not want to argue with you. On page 18, point 55 talks about the Foreign Policy. It talks about the crisis in West Asia.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can touch all the points but need not explain them.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : I am just elaborating on that. I do not have the habit to jump all the way here and there. I am speaking within the confines of the Presidential Address debate.

Lastly, as far as the National Minority Development Finance Corporation and all these things are concerned, we hope that the Government takes a proactive role in the upliftment of Muslim minorities. You have to take a proactive role. This so called boogie of minority

appeasement has been thrown to shatters. When the Sachar Committee debate takes place, I will say who is responsible for the Muslim backwardness. Even Parties who had been in power for 33 years what is the state of Muslims in their States? I hope when the Prime Minister stands up to reply he will answer to the pertinent questions that I have raised over here.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Madam, I am thanking the hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks for the Address delivered by hon. President in both Houses of Parliament.

After assumption of our UPA Government in 2004, we recorded an average annual growth of national income over eight per cent. This is the year we are going to launch the 11th Five Year Plan. The UPA Government has set a target of attaining an annual growth rate of 9 per cent during the 11th Plan. In the Approach paper of the 11th Five Year Plan, our Government has identified 9 major challenges facing the economy. Out of nine, "Agriculture" is given importance and identified as first and foremost issue. In our country 60-70 percentage of the population is dependant on agriculture for their livelihood. India is next to China in area and production of vegetables. Within 2 years, production of vegetables increased by 5.7 per cent. Nearly 39 per cent of world's mango and 23 per cent of world's banana is produced in India. The production of horticultural crops increased to 8 per cent during 2004-05. India ranks first in the world" in milk production which rose from 17 MT in 1950-51 to 100 MT by 2006-07. Fish production in India has increased from 0.75 MT in 1950-51 to 6.5 MT in 2005-06.

Within 30 months, UPA Government implemented various schemes for the upliftment of poor and downtrodden people. Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Right to Information Act are the great achievements of our Government. Through Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, Government has taken number of steps to develop the urban areas. Through Bharat Nirman, Government has allocated huge funds for development of rural roads, rural electrification, rural telephony, rural housing and rural drinking water supply. The "Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission" a new scheme to develop the cities in this country was launched by our hon. Prime Minister of India. Through this programme, Government has planned to develop

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

city wide urban infrastructure services such as water supply, sanitation, drainage, basic services and also social housing to the urban poor. Already 63 cities were identified to implement this scheme. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act passed by UPA Government, has emerged as a major programme both for providing a social safety net to the poor as well as for building rural infrastructure. The scheme is operational in 200 districts and 1.4 crore households have been benefited under this scheme. More than five lakh workers have benefited under this NREGA programme in different parts of our country. Our Government planned to extend NREGA in more cities within five years. The UPA Government has taken major steps for improving the Panchayati Raj institutions. For the first time, a separate Ministry was constituted for Panchayati Raj and planned to remove backwardness in 250 districts.

Under the able leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singhji, highest importance is given to Education. More money was allocated to strengthen Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal Programme. Under the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme, 2,000 new residential schools were sanctioned within the last three years for helping the poor girls predominantly belonging to SC, ST, OBC and Minority Communities. An independent Ministry of Women and Child Development has been created to solve the issue relating to women and child welfare. The UPA Government has given great importance to increasing access to education for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and socially and economically weaker sections of the society.

The UPA Government has allocated Rs. 13,000 crore package for the revival of co-operative credit structure and allocated huge money for giving loan to agriculturists.

In India out of 110 crore population, 70% of the people are agriculturists. In some parts of the country a large number of farmers have committed suicide. To help the distressed farmers, a special package was announced for 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. Nearly Rs 16,000 crore was allocated for helping the poor farmers. Through the effective mechanism of our Government, agricultural growth has improved to 6 per cent during 2005-2006. Even though, our government has allocated huge funds for agricultural credit, in some areas, the nationalized bank authorities are not properly disbursing the loans and are not issuing the Kisan Credit Cards to the needy. For example, in one area in my constituency, namely

Thasayanaicken patty Vellakoil canara the bank authorities are denying issuance of Kisan Credit Cards to the qualified farmers.

Our UPA Government has given importance to the upliftment of minorities. A high level committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice Rajendra Sachar was appointed and the Report has already been submitted and Report is about the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community in the country. Our hon. Prime Minister has charted out a 15-point programme for the minorities. The National Highway Development Programme has been expanded with an estimate of Rs. 227,000 crore. The Golden Quadrilateral Programme is nearing completion. The UPA government has approved 4-laning of around 4,000 km. of national highways and 6-laning of 6,500 kms. of national highways.

For the first time, UPA Government, within 30 months, has enacted a number of laws for the welfare of the citizens of this country, particularly for the women folk. The Hindu Succession Act was suitably amended to give equal share for all the girls from the ancestral property. For the accountability of the judges, Judges Enquiry Bill has also been introduced and it is under the active consideration of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. For the upliftment of poor and downtrodden people of this country Indian Constitution was suitably amended to give reservation in promotions and reservation of seats in Higher Educational Institutions like IIM and IITs for SC/ST and OBC students.

At this juncture, I want to mention about my Constituency. I would just like to mention two points about my constituency.

My Palani Parliamentary Constituency is mainly rural area. Most of the people are farmers, labourers, artisans, farm labourers. In one of the Assembly segments in my Palani constituency, Vedasenthur is having nearly 100 textile mills. My Dindigul district is having 136 textile mills. Thousands of people are working in these textile mills. Government of India has to support new entrepreneurs to start more units. Hence I request that our government has to allocate necessary funds to declare Dindigul District as a Textile Zone.

Madam, I may now be permitted to lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

"Moreover, the farmers in Dindigul area are producing all varieties of vegetables and those are transported to various parts of the country. But agriculturists are not getting adequate price for their produce. To help the farmers, government has to sanction cold storage facilities in taluk headquarters in Oddanchatram, Palani and Natham. In my Constituency, particularly in Mulanur, the farmers are producing huge quantity of drum sticks. Hence, it is necessary to establish a research institute for drum stick in Mulanur.

In this juncture I humbly request the UPA Government to take necessary steps for interlinking the rivers from Kanyakumari to Kashmir. Atleast Government has to concentrate on the linkage of the rivers in south India to solve the interstate water dispute. After 17 years Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal had delivered its final award on 5.2.2007. In that award there is a mention about Amaravathy river basin. Amaravathy river is perennial river irrigating 50 thousand acres of land from Amaravathy dam to Karur. More than 100 drinking water schemes are functioning in the Amaravathy river bed. Through Amaravathy river irrigation farmers cultivated sugarcane in 3000 acres of land but it is not considered. Further more it is directed to release 3 TMC water from Pambar Sub Basin in Amaravathy River Basin to Kerala. It will affect total irrigation under Amaravathy river. The farmers living from Udumalpet to Karur will suffer very badly and it is an injustice to the farmers of that region. Hence, I request UPA Government to notify the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal Award after rectifying this mistake or otherwise it will affect the farmers, publ& and all others of Dharaparam *taluk*, Udumalpet *taluk* and Karur district of Tamil Nadu.

With these words I am supporting the Motion.*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Madam Chairperson, while expressing my respect to the hon'ble President, I welcome his Address. The President's Address is a statement of the policies of the Government. All of us are disappointed with the Government. Not only the opposition but the people of the country are also disappointed. The people are disappointed because the Government has let Punjab, Uttaranchal, Kerala, and Bihar slip away. In the last three years, they have been

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

slowly losing the popular mandate which had propelled them into power. I would like to quote,

"Karengē kisi ki wah kya rahnumaie
lutakar jo khud karvan aa gave"

Madam Chairperson, the states where the Congress is still in power can be counted on figures and when elections come up it shall lose these states as well. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Smt. Karunaji, please speak about the hon. President's Address.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam Chairperson, that is what I am speaking about. You have permitted everyone to speak. I was listening to the speeches and I have also read the written speeches. I am speaking on the hon. President's Address. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb her. Let her speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: I know what I have to say. I am also a Member of Parliament just like you. Let a woman speak. I have been elected to the Parliament for the first time. Please let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Karunaji, please address to the Chair.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, I am addressing to the Chair only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please do not take up the time allotted to Karunaji. Let her speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam chairperson, they are losing the public mandate. In the coming times, Delhi's mandate would also show them where they stand.

Madam, Gujarat is often discussed here. Madhusudanji is present here. Our senior MP Shri Basu

[Shrimati Karuna Shukla]

Deb Acharya is not present at the moment. I would like to say that they should not shed tears on Gujarat. People who cry for Gujarat should think about the people of Singur in West Bengal. Who will take care of Singur? People have given their mandate on Gujarat. Narendra Modi has formed Government in Gujarat and he has the full support of BJP. Why do they bring up Gujarat again and again? Gujarat is no longer an issue and BJP is going to rule over Gujarat in future too. Nothing will be gained by drumming up this issue time and again.
...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Karunaji, please keep to your point. Time is too short. Three minutes out of the five allotted to you have already passed.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Madam, I am keeping to the point. Madhusudanji, I would like to recite two lines for you, 'Apne chehre dekhte nahi log, aaina saaf karne ki baat karte hain'. First they should understand where they are at fault and then ask for the people's mandate.

Madam, I would like to speak on two issues. The President's Address has made no mention of reservation for women. When the Bangladeshi writer, Tasleema Nasreen, wrote against the Mullahs and Maulvis she was banished from her country. Protests are also being staged against her for being given asylum in our country because she is a woman and writes against the Mullahs and the Maulvis. They protest against her for being given asylum in India. There is no mention of reservation for women in the President's Address. I know that you also favour this. There is wide spread disappointment amongst women in this spread. Our Parliament stands at No. 108 in the world where only 44 women are able to become MPs. What is our position in this regard? We talk of democracy, of equality for women but there is no mention of this subject in the President's Address.

Madam, para No. 42 of the President's Address deals with the modernization of security and police forces. As many as, 55 districts in the country are infested by Naxalism. We lost a young MP a few days back. He died suddenly. Who knows when our end might come? No mention of Naxalism has been made in the President's Address. How is the cancerous growth of Naxalism to be contained? What kind of National Policy is going to be

formulated in this regard? Nothing has been said about this. All villages shall be electrified by 2009. It sounds very nice. This also looks very good on paper. March 2007 has started but not a single electric pole has been put up in many villages. All the MPs would agree that electricity is hardly likely to reach villages which do not have even one electric pole.

Madam, price rise is crushing the people. I am not very educated. I was a housewife before I became a legislator and then an MP. The economic growth rate which is reflected in paper, and in English newspapers and magazines is invisible to the common man. The common man is still reeling under poverty. He is unable in getting food to live. He is unable to see a way out. The problem of unemployment is on the rise. The youth of the country are confused. They have no faith in the constitution, the law or the Government of the country. Where should they go? For whom should they live? What should they do? Nothing has been said about unemployed youths in the President's Address.

I would like to touch upon 2-3 more matters before concluding. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the true spirit of India resided in its villages. It is the farmers who reside in villages and we have done nothing for the farmers. Farmers are committing suicide but no way out has been proposed to stop them from taking such a step. Means of irrigation have not been augmented. If irrigation facilities are not augmented and electricity is not provided then the farmers can never prosper. If farmers do not prosper then the people of this great country cannot prosper.

I bow before the hon. President respectfully since he is a sage and people try to emulate him in matters other than political. But I do not support the statement of policies outlined in the President's Address.

[English]

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Respected Chairperson, this Government is going to complete three years in Office. The mandate given to this Government by the people is quite clear. The mandate was to follow a different path. Everybody expected that this Government should follow a new path. It is because of this understanding, the partners in the UPA Government and people like us, who support this Government, joined

together and formed this Government, with a Common Minimum Programme. But unfortunately, I think, the Government has not learnt anything from the results of the last Lok Sabha elections. Nor did it learn anything from the failure of the UPA or the Congress Party in the elections conducted in Punjab and Utrakhand.

The prices of all the essential commodities are sky high. The Government is not doing anything to control the prices of these commodities. It seems that the Finance Minister treats this issue as quite silly. The explanation is that when there is nine per cent growth rate, inflation is inevitable. But we know countries where the growth rate is more but the inflation is less. Take, for example, China. There the growth rate is ten per cent, but the inflation is below two per cent. How is it possible? So, that means inflation and price rise can be controlled even if the growth rate is high. For that the Government has to intervene very effectively in the market.

Public Distribution System is the most effective instrument for the Government to distribute essential commodities to the poor. What happened to the PDS? Is the Government doing anything to streamline the PDS? This poverty line calculation is humbug. They calculate it arbitrarily. Now, lakhs of people are out of the PDS net. Two weeks ago a poor lady who lives in my constituency came to me virtually crying. She said that she was not issued ration card because she is above the poverty line. The authorities say that she lives above the poverty line. I contacted the local tehsildar. He said that if he has to include her name, then he has to delete some other person from the list. What is happening in this country? The Government is quite arbitrarily defining the poverty line. So many deserving people are now out of the net of the PDS.

The hon. Minister of Finance says that we are going to computerize. Is that the answer? You computerize it or not computerize it, what the people want is that essential commodities should be given through the Fair Price Shops. ...*(Interruptions)* What happened to the procurement of wheat? The Government allowed all the multinational companies to come into the market and procure wheat. Even before the FCI could procure wheat, all the good quality wheat was procured by the multinational companies. Even though the production was quite high, the FCI could not procure wheat which they are supposed to procure. So what happened? The Government decided to import wheat from the same

multinational companies who procured wheat from our market, giving a higher price than that was given to the farmers in our country. The answer is that you should strengthen the Food Corporation of India, you should strengthen the PDS and you should include more people in the net of the PDS. Through an effective intervention from the Government, the price rise can be controlled and inflation can be controlled. So an effective step should be taken in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

Then I would like to come to the pathetic situation of the Dalits and the Minorities in our country. During the month of January and also in the month of February, there were systematic attacks against the Minorities in this country right from Bangalore to Gorakhpur and all over the country. At least 12 major incidents happened which includes Kerala where communal passions were beefed up and minority communities were systematically attacked. What did the Government do? Even now, people who suffered during the Gujarat riot are not given compensation. What is the Central Government doing for this? Shri Madhusudan Mistry who moved the Motion knows it very well. Thousands of people who suffered in the Gujarat riots belonging to the minority communities are still waiting for the compensation. If the Gujarat Government is not giving the compensation, then the Central Government should directly give the compensation. Also, attacks against the Dalits have increased. Some major incidents happened in Maharashtra and in some other States also. Did the Government intervene? So one major criterion to know whether a society is civilized or not, is to see the situation of the minorities and the most vulnerable sections of the society as to how they live. So in India the attacks against all these sections, Dalits who are the vulnerable sections of our society, minorities, are systematically continuing and in some places it is increasing. So that should be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, please give me two more minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is one more Member to speak from your Party.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Madam, I will complete within two minutes.

Gone are the days when we could proudly say that our foreign policy is based on a strong anti-imperialist

[Adv. Suresh Kurup]

base. Now we are proud that we are inducted as a junior partner by the USA. In all their foreign policy mechanizations, India is following their footsteps. We should immediately correct this and I would like to say that this is against the mandate of the people of this country.

Madam, my last point is about Quattrocchi. Fortunately, Quattrocchi is now in detention in Argentina. The Interpol detained him. He has been given bail, but he is still in Argentina. There is a widespread apprehension in the country as to what this Government will do regarding him.

It is this Government which quite surreptitiously allowed to defreeze his accounts in the London Bank. Without this country knowing anything about it, a Prosecutor goes there and submits an application before the London Court saying that his account can be defrozen. He takes away all the money and goes scot-free. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I know. I can understand it. Every point is a valid point. But time constraint is there. We are giving five minutes. He has already taken seven minutes. Please do not speak in-between.

...*(Interruptions)*

ADV. SURESH KURUP: This Government should know that it affects the credibility of this Government. So, my last appeal to this Government is that this Government should follow a different path than the one which was followed by the NDA Government. This Government is not supposed to follow the path followed by the NDA Government. That is not the mandate of the people. If they understand that mandate, it is well and good.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Madam, at the very outset, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I am speaking on behalf of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam of Tamil Nadu headed by Thiru Vaiko, the incomparable leader of the world Tamils.

We welcome and support the Motion of Thanks to hon. President of India for the kind and valuable speech he has made on 23rd February, 2007. Due to increase in the prices of household essential commodities, poor

people are very much affected. The consoling statement made in the hon. President's Address saying that all necessary steps will be taken to check the price rise and inflation gives us a sense of comfort in our minds.

It gives me great pleasure and encouragement as a Member of Lok Sabha from a reserved seat, Pollachi, Coimbatore District, that the present Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh ji is giving great importance to social justice and he said that the Government has made considerable progress in filling the backlog of unfilled reserved posts for Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and is committed to filling up the rest.

It is disappointing that no concrete mention has been made in the hon. President's Address about the linking of Inter-State rivers which will improve the farming sector in the country and the drought-ridden areas will become fertile lands.

As has been said in the President's Address, we are going to celebrate with pride and joy the 60th Anniversary of our Independence and also we are observing the 150th Anniversary of the First War of Indian Independence this year.

At this juncture of celebrating our Independence and thereby our Democracy which is the largest in the world, which is very well based on elections, I would say that the Election Commission of India has a great role to play.

To mention about the local body elections in Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Chennai Corporation, I would submit that *goondas* and anti-social elements were used to capture the booth and vote indiscriminately by anonymous persons. A high police official found his vote polled even by Eleven of the Clock in the morning!

Three hon. Judges were appointed by the High Court and two of the Judges found miserable number of false voting and many of the booths surprisingly have polled more than hundred per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Madam, he speaks about the Chennai Corporation elections which has no relevance to this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. Please sit down. He is just winding it up. Please do not interrupt. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Please sit down. You write only Dr. Krishnan's speech.

(Interruptions)...

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. Please sit down. I think he has finished. Do not disturb the House.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: The hon. Judges have criticized both the State Government of Tamil Nadu as well as the Election Commission authorities of Tamil Nadu. We should take proper precaution to avoid this sort of foul play in future to maintain the high quality of our Democracy.

I would like to thank the hon. President of India for making such a valuable speech on 23rd February, 2007.

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Madam Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the motion of thanks on the President's Address. All of us know that H.E. President is not a political figure, therefore the views expressed by him in his Address are not his own views. We know H.E. President since long. He could not express his views and reverence for India. We know that he is grooming the children to prepare the young generation of India. He interacts with them directly. I would like to know why H.E. President needed to ask questions to children directly? H.E. President is the Supreme Leader of the nation. Today the country needs such an education system by pursuance of which we can make our country a proud nation. There should be such an education system in country which will make our country a proud nation. The citizens of the country can exhibit their potential on the basis of that education system. But it cannot be so today because a complete change is required in the present education system from primary to higher education which is not being seen anywhere. Under 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' we want every child to get education. We want enough schools, rooms and teachers in village schools. But the prevailing condition of the country is not good. I want to invite our colleagues, who are not present here right now, to Gujarat and see how we have prepared an atmosphere of social change there after change of Government in 1995 and we have set an example of good governance in the country by developing infrastructure. There should be schools, with

enough rooms and teachers in each village school so that students may be enrolled therein. By appointing Vidya staff we have appointed the required number of teachers in village schools. Drinking water has been made available in each village. Beside, we are also taking steps to make arrangements of toilets in each school. What I mean to say is that if the Government is willing to work with accountability, any work can be accomplished. We can realize our dream of providing good education to our countrymen and making them good citizens. India can be made the best country of the world only through education. But what is happening in the field of education today. The tendency of distorting the books which depict our proud past and which contains the history of our country should be stopped forthwith.

Madam Chairman, the second point is that all of us are concerned about the prevailing law and order situation in the country. The situation throughout our country has turned explosive due to Maoism, naxalism and terrorism. In Gujarat GUJCO was enacted four years ago to fight terrorism but the Union Government is not clearing it. *...(Interruptions)*. I have been speaking only for two minutes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You did not notice but I have clock before me.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: The sentence of death penalty to Mahammad Afjal is also not being ratified. Thus no work related to law and order is being disposed of. Many things has been said about farmers in President Address. Only Rs. 500 crore have been earmarked for drip irrigation where as issue of river linking has not been mentioned at all. Tall claims have been made about the work done for farmers but agricultural GDP, which was 26.5 percent earlier has come down to 18.5 percent. We could not do whatever we wanted to do for the farmers and agriculture sector.

18.00 hrs.

As per the figures of Human Development Index of the United Nations our country stands at 126th notch in the total 177 countries. We lag far behind in human development but we are the seventh most corrupt nation in the world. I mean to say that the situation in country is very bad be it health education, agriculture or employment sector. There is large scale unemployment in our country. Though we have formulated a law against

[Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria]

child labour, but even today more than 15 crore child labourers are there in the country. Today there is problem of drinking water in villages. Even today there are 8.8 crore Kuchcha houses without roof out of the total 17.75 crore houses in the country. Even today 9.75 young couples have only one room house to live in. Such is the economic condition of our country. 40 percent population of the country live in 52 thousand slum clusters. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as the hon. Speaker announced in the morning, we have to finish the debate on this issue today and the reply will be tomorrow. So, I extend the time of the House till the debate on this issue is over. I think, the House agrees to this.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajnagar): What about 'Zero Hour' Madam?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: This debate will continue till all the hon. Members have spoken and after that we will decide whether we will be taking up 'Zero Hour' or not.

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Today we are talking about the economic growth of the country. Big companies, and FDI are coming in the country but who are reaping the benefits of this growth? Are the poor, dalits, adivasis, minorities and farmers reaping the benefits of all this? Has the condition of women and children improved.

MADAM CHAIRMAN; Kathiria ji, many other Members of your party are to speak. They will not get time to speak.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Madam, I shall conclude after making one line. Some poet has written if you will extend support to anyone only to continue black-marketing tax evasion, and bribery and stand by the ruling party to share power, the people will not forgive you. The people of this country are fed up with all this. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to quote what hon. Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh ji has said ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, don't recite poem.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Madam, hon. Prime Minister has once said that economic growth in developing nation hampers the rural development. Therefore, we must heed to this new emerging concern and keep rural development on the same footing.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajnagar): Madam Chairperson, thank you, for giving me an opportunity to take part in the Motion of thanks to the Hon. President's address. At the outset I congratulate our Hon. President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for upholding the dignity and sanctity of his post and also the nation.

Madam, our Hon. President in his address expressed the views of the Government in 58 points including features of the 11th five year plan, Inclusive growth, National Rural Health Mission, inflation, Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Revival Mission, increase in investment rate by 34% of the GDP, Mid-day meals, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, funds allocated for Women and child development, higher education for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, food security for BPL and APL people, National Credit Availability, National Agriculture, suicide of farmers, Prime Minister's 15 point programme, protection of wild life, achievements in Railways and Airways etc.

18.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

I would like to submit that since 1952, when for the first time our Parliament was constituted in the country, sufficient funds have not been provided for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There is nothing special done by this Government for this group. When I was a student I stayed in a hostel. The same hostel in the same continues even today in the same condition. It has not been provided with good facilities even today. I am very sorry to say this. I have not seen any new hostel or colleges started during this Government's tenure till now. The Government says that they have achieved great success in every field, but practically nothing is visible at the grassroot level.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

As far as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is concerned it is really a good scheme for providing education and mid day meal to poor children but it covers children only upto 7th class. It should be extended to children upto 12th class without discrimination on the basis of caste, class or creed.

As far as Public Distribution System is concerned there are two types of people one is BPL and other is APL, who benefit from it. In issuing identity cards to people belonging to the BPL, a lot of disparity can be seen. There are a number of people who have not been able to get BPL cards in the villages of my constituency. We have received many complaints from the public in this regard. They are pointing fingers at us. They are urging upon us to help them get BPL cards. Common people are approaching district officials and Tehsildars to get their BPL cards. Even then they are not being provided with the BPL cards. It is the shameful for us. The government says that there is huge amount of buffer stock but then why is the Government not adopting proper mechanisms to distribute food grains to the people? The Government has implemented 'Garibi Hatao' Scheme in our country but despite that the number of poor is, increasing instead of decreasing, rich are becoming richer. This is a matter of great concern and the Government should bring an end to this kind of disparities.

I am very sorry to say that in his address the Hon. President has not mentioned any where about interlinking of rivers. I am of the opinion that until and unless we take steps to interlink rivers our country will not be a developed country. Even the apex court has directed to take necessary steps for interlinking of the rivers. It is the only way to find a solution to the water dispute problems in the country. For last one month people of the Cauvery basin of Karnataka have been agitating against the final award of the Cauvery Tribunal. The Swamijis of the Mutts, students doctors, lawyer, small children are taking part in the agitation.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, he is deviating from the President's Address and talking about the Cauvery Tribunal Award ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. He is going to conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record except the speech of Shri M. Shivanna.

(Interruptions)... *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: I, therefore urge upon the centre to intervene and negotiate with all the four southern states which are involved in the dispute and allow us to express our feelings, because it is a burning issue in the country. If the centre does not take immediate steps there would be blood bath in the streets of the Karnataka and the situation may take an ugly turn causing damage to the unity and integrity of our country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You speak only about the President's Address.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him speak.. He is going to conclude his speech now.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, please give me an opportunity to raise the issue. That is my humble request.

Sir, now the Hon. Members of Tamil Nadu are opposing this discussion. You tell me Sir, if we do not raise this issue here in this august House whereelse can we raise this issue. Where do we get justice? I have been elected as a Member of Parliament from Karnataka. It is my sincere duty to protect the interest of my people. Sir if you do not give me an opportunity to discuss the Cauvery issue here, it will be an injustice to the people of Karnataka. Sir, please give us an opportunity to speak here as the situation in the state is very bad. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Aaron, Rashid, you are speaking without my permission. Nothing is going on record. When the hon. Member from your side speak on your behalf, he can give a reply to him at that time.

Now, Shri Shivanna, please conclude your speech, now.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: The Naxalites have assassinated one of our colleague Mr. Sunil Mahto. I,

*Not recorded.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

myself come from such a district where Veerappan the Ivory smuggler, killed so many people. He is no more today. But we politicians are still under threat. The State Government of Karnataka has taken back the security which was provided to me. That is why I request the centre through you to ensure security of all the Hon. Members of Parliament by providing proper security to them.

With this I conclude my speech Sir.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry):

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

In his Address, the hon. President had dwelt at length almost all important subjects like the strategies for the 11th Five Year Plan beginning on 1st April, 2007; Revival of agricultural dynamism, National Rural Health Mission; Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission; Improving the quality of Higher Education with special focus on the SCs and STs; PM's 15-Point Programme for Minority Development; Energy Security; Infrastructure Development; the rebound of the Railways; Internal Security; Judicial Reforms; Foreign Policy, and last but not least, the Inclusive Growth Policy.

The fiscal management of the country has also turned to favourable direction with both the revenue and fiscal deficits well under control.

Sir, I am delighted that the country has been able to achieve nine per cent economic growth for the second consecutive year. I am also, happy that the country has achieved 8.6 per cent growth rate for continuous three years

Sir, another major issue of concern has been the efficiency/inefficiency of our delivery mechanism, which has been plagued by high levels of corruption and lethargy at all levels. Unless we address this issue in all its seriousness, all our good intentions will lead us nowhere. This nations needs to debate this major issue of improving the delivery mechanism by improving the responsiveness of the whole system. There has been a complaint in the last two decades that the value systems in our society have been eroding across the board. We have to take a pause and ponder over the issue, lest

people lose their interest in democracy and decide to resign to fate. All of us—the Legislators, the Executive, the Media and the Judiciary—have a responsibility to arrest, at least, further erosion of this institution. We are into a very dangerous trend, where sometimes unknowingly or knowingly, the immunities extended to certain institutions for proper functioning of democracy and to act as watchdogs of public interest are sought to be utilized by these very respectable institutions to further their personal business interests.

Recently, when it came to my notice that *Margadarsi Financiers*, a unit which is incidentally run by a person who is also the owner and editor of a leading Telugu Daily, has been carrying the activity of raising deposits from the public in gross violation of law, I lodged a complaint with both the Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 6th November, 2006. Surprisingly, even after the owner himself having admitted to the fact that he had raised Rs. 2,600 crore as deposits from the public, and that he suffered a loss of Rs. 1,800 crore as on 31st March, 2006, no action has been taken by the Government even after 120 days ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what rule?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am not against the hon. Member's speech. But the matter, which he is referring is *sub judice*. It is pending in the Supreme Court, the High Court and in the District Court. So, it is not correct on the part of the hon. Member to mention it in the House. Even about the Cauvery Tribunal, we are discussing. That is the judgment of the Tribunal ...*(Interruptions)* That is why, it is my humble request that this matter, which is *sub judice*, should not be allowed to be discussed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: You have misled the BJP people and you have mislead everyone... *(Interruptions)* I am telling the truth and you are objecting to it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaidu, please listen to me. Whatever would be found objectionable in his speech, I would expunge it from the records.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, they are attacking the Media and the Press...(Interruptions) This matter is pending in the Supreme Court; it is pending in the High Court; and it is pending in the District Court also... (Interruptions) Sir, I want your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have already said that whatsoever is objectionable, I will expunge it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I want your ruling on it because this matter is *subjudice*. The Member should restrain himself from raising it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will see that.

Mr. Aruna Kumar, if the matter is pending in the Court, please do not try to mention it.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying this because if anybody is publishing a newspaper or running a T.V. channel or involved in any illegal activity can anybody not ask him? When I asked this it was said that a person from Congress is asking about it, some conspiracy is being hatched. I think that any Indian national, can raise question about any illegal activity taking place in India. A person has collected 2600 crore rupees from public illegally.

[English]

who is not entitled to do that. It was confirmed by the Reserve Bank that he is doing an illegal activity. When the State Government intervened and asked for an inquiry to be conducted as to what is happening there, he said: "No, I am not accepting this inquiry."

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I want to raise a point of order under rule 353.

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the minister."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please wait a minute. It is under what rule?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is under rule 353.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: How do you call this defamatory? How Mr. Advani has raised this?

[Translation]

You have forgotten. At that time you were not in the House. Advaniji had mentioned. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I will read out the rule.

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply:

Provided that the Speaker may at any time prohibit any member from making any such allegation if he is of opinion that such allegation is derogatory to the dignity of the House or that no public interest is served by making such allegation."

Here, the question is that he has not given any adequate notice to the hon. Speaker or to your goodself. The person is not here to defend himself. Therefore, only on hearsay or on some Press reports, he is making serious allegation against Shri Ramoji Rao and against the Eenadu, which we thoroughly oppose.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: It is not based on hearsay. No, you can hear me and if you feel that it is derogatory, you can ask him to remove it from the record.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He cannot do that. Therefore, I request you to restrain the Member from making such allegation which has no basis.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will add one thing. I am not obstructing the hon. Member from making allegations even against anybody. But there is a case of Margadarsi, which is pending in the Supreme Court, High Court and even in the District Court. That is why, I am asking you to restrict the Member. That is in the judiciary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with you.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: He can make allegations against anybody. I will not obstruct. But the matter regarding Margadarsi is pending in the courts. That is why, he should not speak on that but the court will take action. Suppose, if it is an illegal transaction, the court will punish him. If there is an illegal transaction, the RBI will punish. Why are we unnecessarily placing the court matter before this House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see the record. If the matter is objectionable, I will expunge it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Aruna Kumar, you are also requested that you should not make any allegation against a person who is not present in the House or raise a matter which is under the consideration of the court.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: No, Sir. Neither I make any derogatory remarks nor am I talking anything otherwise because Advani ji had said in the reply. So, I am the person who has complained.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This matter is under *sub judice*.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: I had brought this to the notice. I happen to be a Member of this House. I felt that it is my responsibility to tell the Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party and also the other Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But you cannot make allegation against a person who is not present in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: You look into the record. Advani ji says Andhra Pradesh Government is attacking Ramoji Rao. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Naidu, I have said it so many times.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will quote Advani ji's speech. "After so many years, instead of learning lesson from the Emergency, here is a Government which takes away the accreditation card of TV channel. Similarly, I find that a very highly respectable journalist of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Ramoji Rao, is under attack because he is exposing the corruption of the Government."

This is the statement given by Mr. Advani. Where has he mentioned about Margadarsi? He knows that it is pending in the court. So, he has never mentioned about Margadarsi.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: All right. If you want to talk about Ramoji and not about Margadarsi, then Ramoji Rao is the sole proprietor of Margadarsi. ...(Interruptions) Why do you show so much interest in hiding the truth? Come out, Mr. Yerrannaaidu. Why are you so much interested in hiding the truth?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will see the record later on. Mr. Yerrannaaidu, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: I am interested in this because something illegal is happening here, and I want to bring it to the notice of the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

[Translation]

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: Rupees three thousand crore will be taken away and nobody can speak in the House. What are you saying.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: That is why we are opposing. ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: I am not talking to Shri Yerrannaidu. I am addressing to you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aruna Kumar, you are requested to address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: We know because Shri Ramaji Rao has given an affidavit in the court saying that 'I am against the Congress and I have worked for Telugu Desam and brought the Telugu Desam to power'. I can understand why Shri Yerrannaidu is so much agitated because he is the Leader of his Party. ... (Interruptions) But why am I mentioning it here is because I would like to bring it to the notice of hon. Members of various parties as to what is the truth and you hear me and check it and if it is not truth, I will be condemned. I know that. In your eyes I will become a person who has said untruth. But I do not want to become that. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aruna Kumar, the matter is *subjudice* also. You are requested that you should avoid yourself in making the allegations against a person who is not present in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: I am charging that after my complaint, 120 days have passed. No action has been taken against an individual who has collected Rs. 3,000 crore violating the existing laws. ... (Interruptions) Sir, you are divided in such a way that it is difficult. ... (Interruptions) Please note the difference between Government and the ruling Party. ... (Interruptions) Please note that Government is Government and Member of Lok Sabha is a Member of Lok Sabha. I may be having a grievance against the Government. Do not think that I cannot have a grievance against the Government. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER : Mr. Aruna Kumar, I have already requested you that you should address the Chair. Please listen to me. This matter is related to the Motion of Thanks.

[Translation]

Whatever you are mentioning does it relate to President Address.

[English]

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: I am submitting about the values in the system.

[Translation]

If you say that there is no need to speak about values in the system then I shall sit down.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever you have to speak on President Address, please speak ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: They are big people so I saluted him. We are small people so we do not get opportunity to speak.

[English]

Shri Yerrannaidu also said in his speech that there is an attack on media in Andhra Pradesh ... (Interruptions) Nothing has come out. I am also mentioning it.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not speaking on President Address.

[English]

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: I am also telling that it is not an attack on media. It is an attack on illegal activities by a proprietor of the media. These people are fighting for the freedom of the proprietor and not freedom of the Press. Freedom of Press is entirely different. When we attack the Press it is trespass; when we attack a journalist it is trespass. When we ask an illegal activity to be stopped, they say it is an attack on freedom of Press. People are taking shelter under the freedom of Press. ... (Interruptions) The Supreme Court has said that 'Mr. Ramoji Rao, you are wearing two caps; one is of an industrialist and the other is of a journalist'. Do not take shelter under this cap.

This is what the Supreme Court has said. But still, Shri Yerrannaidu has successfully brought all the Members of the Opposition Benches to believe that Shri Ramoji Rao is being attacked. It is not true. I want to bring it to the notice of the august House. I do not think anybody will support an illegal activity just because it is done by a Press baron. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are not speaking on President Address.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri A.R. Shaheen to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: Sir, all the time I have been disturbed, I could not complete my speech. I am protesting.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not my intention to interrupt anybody. Every hon. Member is respected for his points.

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: Not you, Sir. That is the reason why I am protesting and taking my seat. I want to register it.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the rules, President delivers Presidential Address before every budget session and the intellectuals in the country wait for it and they want to know about the policies of the Government which are on its priority and which have been implemented by the Government. President has mentioned a number of problems in his Address and due to paucity of time I would like to raise only two or three points in brief which include the Report by Sachchar committee, worsening situation in Kashmir, the crisis of the educated unemployed youth and the poor condition of farmers in Kashmir etc.

Before I express my views on these points I would like to mention a heartrending incident that happened in the Samajhauta Express recently and which has been mentioned in the Presidential Address. This sad incident shattered the souls of the people of this civilized country and those cruel, stone hearted people who brought an insult to the nation by burning persons alive by resorting to terrorism and proving themselves an enemies of humanity. The people of the country felt it deeply and

kept on saying as to how to sympathise with their dependents? The incident of terrorism should be condemned whether it happens in India, in Pakistan or in America or somewhere else. It is devastating for humanity but I would like to say in this august House that terrorism and tyranny has never been an impediment in the way of human civilization and nor can it do so but the people who face the pains temporarily due to such incidents become a part of the history. We express our sympathy towards those people whose near and dear have died in the Samjhauta Express and condemn this incident.

After this I would like to mention briefly about the Sachchar Committee. One of my respected colleagues has made a reference to it but I would like to draw your attention towards this point that perhaps it is for the first time that this Government have taken a praiseworthy step and I cannot withhold myself for that. Those people who would hear me out of this House may be sad as to why I expressed my thanks in such a lofty language. I would like to urge them that we should accept it wholeheartedly and appreciate it if a small step is taken for the betterment of the poor minorities. But I am constrained to say that if this Sachchar Committee report is a sword which wants to break the chains in which the poor minorities are chained and wants to give them a right to survive with honour along with humanity and civilization, then it is a bi-edged sword, also. The minorities lived with difficulties in a helpless position for fifty years. Unfortunately when there was a partition in India and after that the circumstances in which the Muslims minorities here went through, has taken fifty years and they have remained faithful to the country with peace and patience but now they are fed up with this situation, but now because of the positive considerations of this alliance Government, those circumstances have been brought before this august House through which Muslim minority is passing on. Now if this report is not implemented now, now if Ashraf Ali Fatmi Sahib maintains silence over his own report and if now he starts shaking, then unfortunately it will happen that this will hurt the honour of this silent minority and may God not wish so, such a milieu will be created which we will not be able to thwart because I now when something wrong happened in Kashmir and we did not take corrective steps on time, some atrocities were inflicted and we did not pay attention to such atrocities and failed to take corrective measures and thus did not solve the problems being confronted by us,

then only this scenario of distraction started. No doubt, this devastation took place in POK but our country also suffered a lot. Whatever has been mentioned in the Presidential Address about Justice Sachchar Committee, that is actually praiseworthy and according to it this minority will be inducted in the process of growth on equal footing. However, I would like to see its implementation.

Thereafter comes mention of Kashmir which unfortunately we have to make. These conditions are worse than the worst. In brief I would like to say that the conditions prevailing in Kashmir need to be considered seriously. So, these graves speak. In Presidential Address there is an expression that we will continue to give healing touch. In this House I would like to tell you that "the people of Kashmir feel frightened with this healing touch." The wounds inflicted on the people in the name of healing touch make the humanity weep. When this drive of healing touch started in Kashmir, it was said that the wounds of these unfortunate people would be healed but thereafter the treatment meted to the people in the name of healing touch brought their devastation. It was a touch of annihilation for the unemployed youth there. Therefore it so happened that even the students going to other parts of the country to pursue higher education were arrested. Therefore, I would urge the Government to look into all these things and also see that people of Kashmir are still firmly set on their conviction and philosophy. They are ready to make any sacrifice to uphold the principles of the liberal democratic order of the country. For this they should not be ignored. Pointedly I want to bring the issue of uneducated people in Kashmir to the notice of the Government.

Sir, I want that in the Presidential Address this should have been particularly mentioned that Government will show its large heartedness and make such a policy for providing jobs to the educated young people there who are living in an environment of suffocation falling prey to various illness and are just hapless. In one sentence I want to cover the issue of farmers. I urge the Government to take into the conditions of horticulture industry. Today, they are paying twenty five percent tax on pesticides. The earlier Government had once given subsidy on it. They had given a huge subsidy to eradicate the diseases of apple trees. I request the Government to consider this matter.

I thank Government for restoring peace there. The treasury benches are empty but Shri Mani Shanker Aiyer is sitting here. He has patience, he understands the points and also takes interest therein. I hope he must have listened to my points attentively. I also hope that my points will be heeded to. I thank him.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on His Excellency President's Address but at the same time I would like to express my disagreement to whatever the Government has said through hon. President because it has been stated in His Excellency President's address:

[English]

"These are occasions for us to renew our commitment to building a strong, modern, inclusive, secular and dynamic India."

[Translation]

I was listening to his talk of strong, modern and inclusive India. When China has staked its claim for Arunachal Pradesh, His Excellency President should have declared in his Address that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India. I am very sorry to find no mention of this. Apart from this all of us talk about Arunachal Pradesh and north-eastern states off and on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just a few days ago Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had visited Arunachal Pradesh. Union Minister had also accompanied her. Many declarations were made there but there is no mention of those declarations in the hon. President's address. Hon. Minister declared in Arunachal Pradesh that the Government would build Border Trade Route. The Government had declared the policy. Shri Ayyar is sitting here, who is the Union Minister for North-East states but he has no reflections on that.

Trade route from Manigaon, Mechuka, Taksing, Bumla, Kinjarmani, Blating and Kharagtam to China was to be built which has no mention in the Presidential Address. After having listened to the Presidential Address, I am upset. I agree with the hon. Member that the declarations made by the Government for minorities are very good but there should be no vote-bank politics on minoritism. I do agree to this fact but at the same time I would like to submit that except for the two big communities—the Hindus and the Muslims of this country, the Government has done nothing for other small communities like Christians, Buddhists who are minorities in the real sense. The observations of Sachchar Committee are right. If the recommendations of Sachchar Committee are accepted, it is fine. There is Sikh Community also. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you belong to Sikh

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

community yourself. I find that the Buddhists and the Christians are economically the most backward communities. There has been neither any provision nor any declaration for them in the Presidential Address. There is no mention in this regard in either the Presidential Address or the budget speech of hon. Finance Minister. This has led to misconceptions in our region. We have given memorandum again and again for inducting the Bhoti language of the Bhuddhists of Himalayan belt in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution and raised this issue many a time. Despite that it has not found a mention in the Presidential address. Last time when the hon. Minister had given a statement regarding inclusion of Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule, we thought that Bhoti language would also be included but it did not happen so. The Government has made the Himalayan belt lag much behind and perhaps has forgotten it in its agenda. Therefore it is not being mentioned. I demand that appropriate steps should be taken for the development of Himalayan belt.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this year is the 2550th 'Mahaparinirvan' year of Lord Buddha. Lord Buddha was born in this country. He attained 'Nirvan' and 'Mahaparinirvan' also here. A declaration was made to celebrate these three events together. Hon. Prime Minister is the Chairman of the committee. I am also a member of that committee. Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji are also the members of that committee. How can the Government forget such a great occasion and there is no mention of it in the President's Address. It is not a good thing. The whole world regards this country as the birth place of Lord Buddha and in this very country the people have forgotten Lord Buddha, there is no mention of Lord Buddha. How did the Government forget such a great occasion? I want to explain to the Government how much it has hurt the Buddhists. It is wrong to have happened. This country is a secular country. It is beyond my comprehension that you talk of secularism with such vehemence but care little for the smaller communities. Sir, you must be aware that substantial amounts of funds were given for the celebration of completion of 300 years of 'Khalsa Panth' but only 30 crore rupees have been given for us. You talk of minorities but your policy is contrary to that and it has hurt not me alone but all the people of the Buddhist community also.

When the Taliban regime destroyed the Statue of Lord Buddha in Bamiyan, the Governments of Thailand

and Japan had stated that they would rebuild the statues but the Government of India did not take any initiative in this regard. The Government should have done something in this regard also.

I would like to ask the Government as to when the foreigners are ready for it, why our country is lagging behind?

I will conclude after saying two things in a short time. First of all, the two most backward districts of our state have not been included in the declaration made today by the Rural Development Minister under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. I demand that Karungway and East Kameng districts may quickly be included in NREGP. I will conclude by asking for an economic package.

Keeping the economic scenario in view, I had asked for an economic package earlier also. Recently the University Bill has been passed and Arunachal University has been renamed as Rajiv Gandhi Central University. I have no objection to Rajiv Gandhi's name but I have objection to dropping of 'Arunachal' from the name of the university. In this context I would like to submit that there are few colleges in our state—Bandela College, Yeranathan College, Dhonipolo Kanti College and a university. There are few colleges in Teju and Devamali. The Union Government should declare a special economic package for these colleges as early as possible in order to alleviate the feeling of hurt caused by your attitude for the last so many years.

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks to hon. President for his Address to both the Houses of Parliament. I rise to lend my support to the Motion.

At the very outset, I would like to express my gratitude to Congress President hon. Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji for sending me to the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. I also thank the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy for selecting me as a candidate to contest the byelection from the Bobbili Parliamentary Constituency. I would like to add that my

husband Shri Botcha Satyanarayana was a Member of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. It is my proud privilege to be among the learned Members of this august House. It is my maiden speech and, therefore, I crave your indulgence.

It is appropriate for the Congress Party that we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of our Independence; 150th Anniversary of the First War of Independence, and the Centenary of Satyagraha. It was the Congressmen who played an active role in the Independence and Satyagraha movements. We must all rededicate ourselves to build a powerful India politically, economically and socially.

It is very unfortunate that terrorists attacked the Samjhauta Express. We all condemn this senseless killing of innocent people. Though Pakistan says that there are no terrorist bases in that country, insurgency from across the border continues to be high.

As the UPA Government nears the end of its third year, new hopes and aspirations have opened up before the country as well as some challenges too. I think we have to look into these emergent matters. It is not an ordinary achievement to sustain an eight per cent growth per annum over the last three years. We have been told that the growth is expected to be nine per cent in the current financial year. This is really an impressive growth.

Millions of people are entering the segment of middle class. If we see the statistics of industrial growth and economic growth they are very impressive. The foreign exchange reserves are rising. Our exports are also rising phenomenally. Investments from abroad are pouring into India. Investors are eager to invest in India because they have full faith in the political stability and in the growth of Indian economy. For all this, the UPA Government and its Chairperson hon. Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji and the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues deserve congratulations.

There is widespread poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment, poor infrastructure and inadequate health services. Unless we tackle these issues effectively, all our economic growth and the zeal of our Sensex will not move forward. Regarding inflation, it is something that is causing concern to the poorest sections of the society. The prices of food grains, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and the daily needs are rising and fluctuating.

Already inflation rate is sliding down because of the sincere steps taken by our Government. However, we need to have a relook at our agricultural development. With increasing population, we have to produce more foodgrains. We have to bring more areas under irrigation. That is exactly our hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy is doing. If we do not do it, it would be difficult to control the prices. Global warming is also responsible for the fall in agricultural production all over the world.

As the Hon. President suggested, we need another Green Revolution. The UPA Government is worthy of praise because it has devised schemes to face these challenges and has provided for adequate funding. For example, "Bharat Nirman" aims at strengthening rural infrastructure and—transform India. As we all know, 70 per cent of our population is still living in the villages. Unless we pay attention on rural infrastructure, India will never become a developed country.

Then, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme covers the weakest and helpless sections of our society. If I am right, nearly 14 million households have been covered by the scheme already.

Grameen Rojgar Yojana can transform the lives of the weaker sections of our society if it is implemented properly. The National Rural Health Mission aims at improving health, nutritional inputs and immunization facilities in the rural areas with special focus on women and girl child.

Here, I would also like to mention about the girls who are dropping out from schools. There is a need to check this situation. There is an urgent need for opening of more vocational schools, exclusively for girls to make them self-reliant. In turn, they can afford better education for their children. It is a matter of concern that even 60 years after Independence, we have only achieved about 60 per cent of literacy. Therefore, we need to take steps to eradicate illiteracy completely and should spend six per cent of the GDP on it.

May I share an opinion on our efforts to promote education? As our hon. President often says, our educational system needs to be revitalized on moral grounds. Ethics and Moral Philosophy should be introduced at all levels of education. "Character-building" can be possible to certain extent by this, as visualized

[Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha]

by the Father of our Nation, 'logic' also needs to be introduced in our school education system to inculcate critical thinking. This, I feel, is the absolute need of the day.

Taking care of our environment is the emergent need of the hour. The "Green India" Programme need to reach every citizen, and also we need to promote ecological education and research in our system of education.

Regarding the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, I would like to say a few words. This Act should be made flexible and strengthened. We need to cover more and more people under this Act. The scope of this Act needs to be widened. Agricultural workers are unable to earn minimum wages under this Scheme because they are not skilled workers in gravel and earthwork. As a result, they are earning less wages as compared to their regular agricultural work. This is resulting in migration from villages to other greener pastures. To stop such kind of migration of villagers, they should be given opportunity, to learn work skills by conducting various orientation programmes.

Regarding the Mid-day Meal Scheme, I want to say that India is one of the mal-nourished countries in the world. We are unable to give proper nutritional inputs; our children are not growing well, both physically and mentally. The Hon. Finance Minister has made a provision of Rs. 3500 crore initially for this purpose. I think it is a step in the right direction. I am sure the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is an important programme to solve the problems associated with urban areas.

The role of the State Governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions is very important and they must be involved in implementing these programmes effectively. Then, I hope, we could tackle poverty and other challenges to a larger extent, and build a better India.

With these few words I support the Motion. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, may we appreciate her, that it is such an outstanding maiden speech?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a very good speech.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I am particularly proud of the fact that she had been the President of a zilla parishad before she came to the House.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the Address in paragraph 18 says, "last year the growth in agriculture amounted to six per cent." It was not effectively mentioned that it has gone down to 2.3 per cent this year. I am not going into the details here, but the steps which are necessarily and urgently to be taken, they are to be taken.

One is insurance for all the crops especially spices and other plantation crops. Secondly, about plantation, I would like to mention one thing. Farmers can be helped, not by a lot of programmes, but by one specific programme, whereby the prices of the produces can be enhanced. They are facing a serious problem of the prices going down deeply. I can just quote an example of one crop which is largely grown in Kerala. It is called vanilla. This can fetch a lot of foreign exchange. It is grown in Kerala by a lot of farmers who are encouraged. But now, the prices which were about Rs. 3,000 per kg. has gone down to Rs.150 per kg. What has been done to encourage the farmers? This is an example which I would like to quote. Similar fact is applicable to many of the crops which are grown by farmers in India.

Organic farming is one aspect which has been stressed in the Swaminathan Committee Report. Our President has also stressed very much in the Vision 2020; he stated about organic farming there also. A lot of subsidies have been announced for chemical fertilizers. Why should we not think of giving a similar quantum of subsidy to organic fertilizers also like bio-fertilizers? If we do this, we can really aim at the growth of this in a better manner.

Regarding price rise, many Members have stated; I would only like to add that the steps which are proposed to be taken, have to be implemented, and much more steps have to be taken to see that prices come down and inflation is controlled.

Paragraph 30 of the President's Address notes, "my Government has succeeded in ensuring a turn around in Railways." It is a very good statement. But a turn around has been done in another field also. A new

Railway Division has been formed. It is just like a mother becoming smaller than the baby! A Division called Palghat Division has been divided in a very crude manner - 65 per cent of the area has been taken away and given to the new one; that is why, I said, a child becomes bigger than the mother!

This is totally unacceptable; this has to be changed. So, I would urge upon the Government—when the Government says that there is success in the Indian Railways—to address the inadequacies and the injustice that have been meted out to them. I would humbly urge that this has to be taken very serious note of.

Lastly I would like to go to other points. The President's Address talks about safety and security of personnel.

19.00 hrs.

That is a very-very important aspect. We have addressed many matters with regard to terrorism and the way in which the people of India are facing this menace. The coastal regions of India are not very safe. It is also a fact that in my State there is a real fear that the Mullaperiyar Dam may break at any time. It was constructed more than 100 years back. The construction was in such a crude way that the experts are now saying that it may break at any point of time. ...*(Interruptions)* I think I am the speaker. I am on my legs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are speaking without my permission. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The Supreme Court has also said that the matter must be talked. Both the States involved must be called for a talk. Is one State ready for the talks further? The Supreme Court has said that if you are not going to talk, not going to negotiate. ...*(Interruptions)* I may be given protection, Sir. I have great respect for my friend. I have great respect for the people from Tamil Nadu. As my friend, Shri Chandrappan and others have stated, we have real appreciation for Tamil Nadu. We are giving water from Mullaperiyar dam. They do not have any dispute over that. We are not saying that we will not give further water. We are only saying that my district, including two districts from my

constituency may be washed away at any moment. I may not be here. Many of us may not be here in the next Session. That is the issue. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not an assumption. This is the real grievance which we have. As my learned friend has just raised an objection, if the Supreme Court has said that the matter may be settled on negotiation, everybody should conform to that Supreme Court decision also. I would say only this much on this point as I do not want to call for any controversy on that.

I would submit that the President's Address has also stated in paragraph 7 about the supply of water. Water is a primary need. Recently there has been an award regarding sharing of water. Kerala is entitled to 20 per cent of water from Cauvery river. This is as per the award. I am not going against the award. Our State is filing an appeal because we, according to that award, are entitled to get about 100 TMC of water whereas we have been given only 30 TMC. This is our real grievance. I would submit that it may not be thought that this matter should not be discussed. It has already been ventilated. I think this is a matter which can be discussed. We do not want to take anybody's share. It is only the share which is due to all the States; be it Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala or Puducherry, we all should share water in a very reasonable manner and that should be on the basis of necessary democratic negotiations. So, a discussion should not be shut down.

Lastly, I would also say that energy security is something which I think is not given due importance in this President's Address. I think, it has been just left out. This is a matter which has to be addressed. Our coasts, especially the West and the East coasts, are very rich in oil. Our area near Cochin has been found to be very rich in natural gas and petroleum. I would only add that the ONGC has decided to dig the first well in the Cochin High area but the process is going at snail's speed. I would humbly request the Government to see that the energy sector which is of great importance has to be given due importance and this Cochin High must be taken as a very important priority so that we can solve the problem of India to a great extent. It concerns not only my State but the whole nation.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Sir, two things were mentioned in the President's Address that we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of independence

*Not recorded.

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

and 150th anniversary of the freedom struggle. It means that we struggled for 90 years to make our country free. We achieved independence 60 years ago. Where does this country stand after 60 years? All the hon. Members, irrespective of their party affiliations, have said something or the other which implies that the development has not reached the common man. I want to draw your attention towards an example which will show how much the country has progressed. It is considered that Punjab is a prosperous State. I would like to cite you an example from my constituency there. I got an opportunity to visit a village where the people were constructing a bridge by collecting their own money. I asked them which benefit they will get from that bridge? They said that their children go to the other village for study. The children sit on the tyre tube for going there. During rains, the schools are closed and children do not go for study for 2-3 months. This is the situation of the country today that we have not been able to provide schools for our children even after 60 years. We have not been able to provide education to our children. If they reach school after so much struggle, then we can understand the misery of the country.

Secondly, when we were still under foreign rule and the country had not become independent, a train used to run from Hoshiarpur to Lahore. But, only one DMU train runs today between Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar. These two examples show that we have not progressed as much as we have regressed. A lot of work need to be done yet.

Regarding education, I want to say that the Navodaya Vidyalaya Project under the Government Policy was very good but the amount of funds for lunch provided to the children under it is fixed which is not increased when prices increase. Thus, the Children are not provided as good food from that fund as they ought get. This point has also not been mentioned anywhere in all this process. I would like to speak regarding Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Discussions were held during the rule of our Government that everyone should get education and this Abhiyan was started. But, it was kept in mind that there should be schools, children and teachers while implementing this Abhiyan. But, sadly, the drop out rate, even in better States where very good education was being provided already, has increased so much that there are neither teachers nor children in the schools. The poor children cannot study in the model schools or better

schools in the absence of teachers. They always want to go to those schools where teachers can come to their village. But, even Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan could not fulfil this requirement. It means that we have not been able to implement that policy, where will the children go, if there will be no education? There is no employment for the educated. Through you, I would like to say one more thing that nowhere in this Address has been mentioned as to where our present generation is headed to what is that thing? That is addiction. Today's youth is destroying his youth through addiction. Besides, their tendency towards crime is also increasing. Not even a single thing regarding the measures that will be taken to check the growing addition and tendency towards crime has been included in the Address and the Government's policy. I would like to make a submission, that at least, a respectable allowance should be provided to the children if we cannot provide them employment because after completing their education they ask for money from their parents for mobile or for filling petrol in scooter and then mother's reply that they are asking for money from her even after the parents have educated them upto MA, B.Ed, or M.Tech.

The child feels frustration on hearing this and many a time takes drastic steps and ends his life. In order to remove it, it is necessary that the Government gives assurance that it will provide a respectable allowance to the children if it cannot provide them employment.

The trend of going abroad is much in vogue now-a-days. The youth adopt legal or illegal ways to go abroad. They are caught there and languish in jails. No initiative is taken by the Government to bring back the youth from the jails abroad. I hail from the Doaba region of Punjab. A lot of people from there have gone abroad. There exists no forum from which the relatives of the Indian citizens can raise their voice in case atrocity is committed against them abroad. I would like the Government to set up a cell for the people living abroad through which they can readdress their problems. The Indians living abroad are facing many problems. The Indian Embassy does not listen to them if they lose their passport there. Many complaints are being received in this regard from there but there is no provision to help them.

Attack on the Samjhauta Express train was mentioned here. Before that, Mumbai blasts took place. Terrorists are attacking again and again and they are attacking by making announcements but our security is so weak that it is not able to catch them. The US was

attacked once but not for a second time. A bomb blast in train took place in England once but it was not repeated thereafter. What is lacking in India that terrorists pierce through our security on regular basis and achieve their target. Steps must be taken, atleast, to make the citizens of the country safe.

No mention has been made of terrorist affected families, whether of Kashmir or Punjab, in the whole of the Address. Though, there is peace in Punjab now but the terrorist affected families of Punjab have not received their dues so far. They are homeless now and so are the Kashmiri families. Even this has not been mentioned in the President's Address. These people feel anguish. They thought that at least their plight will be mentioned in the President's Address and the Government would implement some relief programme.

I had met the Minister of Panchayati Raj. The country has completed 60 years of its independence. People say that one should go to villages if one want to see the country or God. But, the condition of the villages in the country is so bad today that there is neither clean drinking water nor any doctors. Even if a Sarpanch has to spend one thousand rupees, he has to look to the Government. If any work requires Rs. 50,000 then the government says that it is too much and it cannot provide that much. Panchayats should stand on their feet and have permanent source of income like Municipalities. Cities are being developed and the people migrate to them. When Panchayats will also have their source of income, then they can stand on their feet and the country can progress and the sources of employment will also increase because when Panchayat will have its own source then it can provide job to some of the persons. You can see how many Panchyats are there in the country and how many people will get employment. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer ji is sitting here. I respect him. I think that he will pay attention to it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: With due permission, I would like to submit in just one sentence that now there is a change of Government in Punjab and I hope that the hon. Member will tell the new Government that on the path of progress we have to follow, will have my full support.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: This thing I have spoken to our Chief Minister already. We are preparing a plan for that. It is my desire that you will provide your

assistance in that. Much has been talked about the farmers here, therefore, I do not want to speak anymore. I would say one thing only that nothing can happen until the farmer gets assurance regarding income. A farmer depends either on God or on Government. Both are unhappy with him. Neither the God is pleased nor the Government. My contention is that if the farmers have assurance of a certain income then they will have hope that, at least, they will have some income from each crop.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir a lot has been spoken on rising prices here. Without dwelling at length on it, I would only say that the people have given you the result of the price rise. Two Governments have gone on the issue of price rise and the third is in process of going. You should, therefore, wake up even now. People are asking what to eat roti with when pulses have soared to Rs. 60 per kg. With this price of pulses, the kitchen of the common man has become much more costlier.

I would urge the Government to make a commitment for implementation of the policies made for the common man of the country. With these words, I thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Sir, first of all, I would like to express my thanks to His Excellency the President of India for his Address. But we have certain reservations in his speech. It is very disheartening particularly for the people of the North-East to see whatever the UPA Government has spelt out as their mindset. It is because we expected many things from this UPA Government through the President's Address. We expected some optimism, some vision and bright future.

The Look East Policy has been spelt out in page No. 17. Through this Look East Policy, the UFA Government, under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, wanted to motivate the young generation of the North-East in a very positive way and we had a lot of expectations from the Look East Policy. We thought that the so-called mainstream or the mainland of the country will look towards the North-East, to develop its communications network and also try to understand the sentiments and grievances and in the process, a new perspective will emerge in the form of economic and

[Shri Sarbananda Sonowal]

other growth. This was our positive thought and aspiration. But nothing has come out like this in the speech.

When our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Assam on 16th January last year, he had categorically promised that a Special Economic Zone will be set up at Tinsukia and Dibrugarh, an IT park will also be set up at Tinsukia and there is also a mention for opening up of stillwel Road. These are the promises which he made but nothing has been done and no fresh indications of these things are there in this speech.

On the other hand, as you know, Assam and North-East are totally affected by illegal migrants from across the border, that is, from Bangladesh and the Government realizing the gravity of the situation signed an Accord in 1985 known as famous Rajiv Gandhi Accord with the All Assom Students Union. It was promised in that Accord. On 15th August from Lal Quila that the people of Assam and the North-East need not have to worry and they will be protected by implementing the principal of the Accord clause. The illegal migrants will be detected and deported and the identity of the local *bona fide* Indians will be protected. This was the principal promise made in 1985 and now it is 2007. Nearly 22 years have passed but nothing has been achieved in this regard. Even the border is open. Under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, the UPA Government, on 5th May, 2005 had a meeting on the Accord at the Prime Minister's Office with the All Assom Students Union and the Assam Government.

In that particular talk, it was promised that for the protection of the identity of *bona fide* Indian citizens, a National Register of Citizens will be prepared by September, 2007. But uptill now no progress has been made. It was promised that border will be sealed by the end of December, 2006. We are already in 2007 now. That promise has also been broken. So, I have a special appeal to the UPA Government that if Assam and North-East part of India is considered to be an integral part of the country, then this issue should be specially addressed and taken up for the cause of the national interest.

As you know, in Assam and other parts of the North-East, foreign intelligence agencies, like the ISI and fundamentalist groups are very-much active. This has been reported to both the Houses of Parliament by the Home Minister. Then, why the Government and Parliament not taking up this issue seriously? This is a sorry state of affairs for all of us. I sincerely appeal, through you, that this particular issue has to be taken

up in the interest of national security and sovereignty. We talk of law and order situation, internal security situation, etc. But if we do not put our efforts in the right perspective and if we do not develop an aggressive attitude to protect our international boundaries, nothing can come out of it. How can you assure of giving a positive future to the future generation?

It is also known to you that last year Assam was badly affected by drought-like situation. More than 20 lakh farmers were badly affected. The Government of India and the Ministry of Agriculture promised to the people of Assam that special compensation will be given. But nothing has been done in this regard.

As you know, Assam is badly affected by flood and erosion problem coming out of river Brahmaputra and its 138 tributaries in both Barrack and Brahmaputra Valleys. This flood and erosion problem is breaking the basic foundation of the economy of Assam in the last five decades. This is a genuine issue.

The hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, had been to Rohmaria, Dibrugarh and he promised the affected people that special initiatives will be taken and the Government of India will try to consider it as a national problem. But this has not been indicated here. So, this issue has to be considered for the cause of the people of Assam and the North-East.

To ensure peace and security of life and property of the citizens is an important issue. A grave situation is developing in the State of Assam in this regard. How will the Government ensure peace and security? How will they try to restore peace and tranquillity in the State? How will they ensure security to the life and property of the commoners? This issue is totally missing in this famous speech. That is why I humbly submit that the Government should immediately take up some initiatives to start peace dialogue with all the extremist outfits so that peace can be restored and security can be guaranteed for the people of the State and the region.

[*Translation*]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise today to speak on the President's Address. The Address lacks many things especially with regard to the condition of the country.

No mention has been made of the things which should have been said and which should have been implemented. Just now, our friends were mentioning Assam. Shrimati Manoranjana was attacked in Assam. She was threatened as to how did she dare to show the map and film of Assam for which she would be killed. If someone shows the true picture, he is threatened of attack. As far as Muslims in the country are concerned, their condition is very bad even lower than dalits, as is evident from the Sachar Commission's report. I want to say that the Muslim people also live in this country and they had also worked hard and made sacrifices at the time of independence of the country. About 27,000 Ulemas became martyrs at that time and freed the country.

I want that the Muslims should also get full rights, peace, their right should be preserved, their poverty should be removed, their children should be given complete education and all efforts should be made to make them citizens of the country in the real sense. But, it is sad that double standards are applied for us today. Neither Sachar Commission's report nor this Address recommend reservation for Muslims. Unless the Muslims are provided reservation, their pitiable condition cannot be improved, they cannot rise above it and their self esteem cannot be restored. Therefore, we have started nor the Muslim Reservation Movement. Our demand is that the Muslims should be provided reservation according to the proportion of their population so that their poverty can be removed they can get education and their financial condition can be improved so that they can also live life as a respectable citizens of this country. Therefore, we want that constructive works should be carried out in the country.

We Muslims have made sacrifices. Even today, we are ready to make sacrifices for raising the head of the country and for the progress of the country. But, faith should be shown in us and opportunities should be provided for doing work, only then will we be able to execute our duties. But, it is sad that Muslims are called as terrorists and their Madarsas as heavens for terrorists. Terrorism is a crime, an absolute crime in Islam. Muslims do not like terrorism and do not tolerate it. We are strictly against terrorism. We people believe in law and order and peace. Therefore, this kind of treatment to Muslims is not proper.

Muslims were massacred in Gujarat and Moradabad. Everyone knows the places where atrocities were

committed against them. Riots have taken place in the country many a time but we have tolerated them. Still, we were with the country under every situation and will remain with it. But, keeping double standards for the Muslims, declaring Aligarh Muslim University as Non-Muslim University or not allowing Muslim Idaras to flourish will deteriorate the condition in the country and the country would be ruined. Therefore, Muslims also need to be taken into confidence and trusted.

No compensation has been paid to the Muslim families till date for the Gujarat riots. Similarly, compensation has not been paid to the Muslim families for the Moradabad riots. I want that the Muslims should also be provided compensation, just like it is provided to other castes of the country, otherwise, they feel that they are being discriminated against. There is no time to throw light in details for whatever has been said in the Address by our President.

But, at least, I would say that the required allocation for the education and progress of the Muslims has not been provided in the Address as per the policy of the UPA Government. Only Rs. 381.60 crore have been allocated for them under the Government's policy while Rs. 17,870 crore have been allocated for the SC and ST. I do not say that they should not be given funds, rather more funds should be given to them. But, as Sachar Committee's report says that, today, the condition of the Muslims is lower in comparison to others, therefore, Muslims should be provided more assistance, they should get more funds. More funds should be given for the education and welfare of the Muslim children. I would end my speech by saying one thing, "Hum Aah Bhi Bharte Hain Toh Ho Jate Hain Badnaam, Who Karti Bhi Karte Hain Toh Charcha Nahin Hoti".

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Madhusudan Mistry proposing a vote of thanks to the hon. President. I am very much thankful to you that I have been given this opportunity to speak on this Motion.

The hon. President has given us the details of how the Government policy is to be adopted during the current financial year. It has already been discussed and the hon. Members made the points. There are several important Schemes which have been taken up

[Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi]

like the Bharat Nirman Scheme, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, the National Rural Health Mission, the strengthened and expanded Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the universalisation of the Mid-Day Meals and the ICDS Programmes, and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. These are all the Schemes and Programmes which have been taken up especially for the welfare and development of the rural areas.

I now come to the Bharat Nirman Scheme. Under this Scheme, thousands of villages have been provided with water facility. Under the National Rural Health Mission, it has been proposed to recruit one lakh women assistants for the rural area to work in the Primary Health Centres in the rural areas. So many Schemes have been proposed. Many of the targets have been achieved last year. The other Scheme is regarding creation of additional irrigation potential of 24 lakh hectares. Then, another 9 lakh hectares under the AIBP will be created. This is a very good achievement to have more irrigation facilities in the rural areas. Then, there is the Housing Scheme. The separate window under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund will augment funds for the programme by Rs. 4,000 crore a year. So, these are the Schemes which have been taken up for the development of the rural areas. We have to appreciate all these Schemes.

The hon. President has expressed the idea that the Government has decided to give highest importance to education. As a nation of young people, India will be able to gain from a demographic dividend only if we invest in the capabilities and the intellectual and emotional development of our children. So, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, particularly in the rural areas, they have been given many facilities. The Budget has already been allocated last time. This time also, this Scheme has been strengthened by providing the Mid-Day Meals Scheme. I think about 12 crore students will benefit out of this Mid-Day Meals Scheme. It is a very good Scheme to eradicate illiteracy in the rural areas, to promote and impart education facility in the rural areas. These are very good schemes proposed by the hon. President of India to be implemented by the Union Government.

Regarding the Sachar Committee, I would like to say on this occasion one thing.

If one section of the society is educationally and economically backward and some more facilities are being provided by the Government to make sure that their

socio-economic conditions improve so that that section becomes at par with other sections of the society, I would like to say that there is nothing wrong with it. Justice Sachar Committee has clearly highlighted the socio-economic conditions of the minorities, particularly Muslim minorities in our country. In my State Karnataka, when Shri Devraj Urs was the Chief Minister, a Commission was set up under the chairmanship of Shri Havanur to study the socio-economic status of Muslim minorities in the State of Karnataka. A survey was conducted by the Havanur Commission and they gave a report. Based on that report, reservation and many other facilities had been given to Muslims in Karnataka. At that time, under a special policy of employment for minorities, many people from the minority community were appointed in Government. This is an example.

Sir, the Sachar Committee has also pointed out the educational and economic backwardness of Muslims in our country. So, the reference made by the hon. President regarding the Sachar Committee Report has to be appreciated by one and all and more allocation of fund should be made for the welfare of Muslims in our country. The Sachar Committee has identified more than 100 districts in India where majority of educationally and economically backward Muslims are living. In those districts, more than 100 Higher Secondary and Secondary Schools have to be established. Along with the establishment of such schools, hostel facilities should also be provided there so that the literacy percentage of Muslim minorities improves. With this, we can reduce the drop-out rate or even completely eliminate drop-out of students in rural areas.

Sir, another important suggestion made by the Sachar Committee is that a National Wakf Corporation should be set up and for that, a corpus fund of Rs. 500 crore has been proposed. I would like to suggest that instead of allocating Rs. 500 crore for the proposed National Wakf Corporation, if Rs. 1,000 crore budget is provided, we can improve the socio-economic conditions of Muslims in this country. Whatever expectations are there among the minorities because of the Sachar Committee, if those recommendations are not implemented and if steps are not initiated to set up institutions as suggested by the Sachar Committee, there will be demoralization among the Muslims.

Another suggestion was given by the Sachar Committee to create a mechanism to address the

discrimination amongst minorities. In this regard, I would like to submit that the budget allocation made for the welfare of Muslim minorities under the Ministry of Minority Affairs is not adequate. Now, only Rs. 300 crore has been provided. On this occasion, I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister to enhance the budget allocation at least up to Rs. 1,000 crore instead of the present allocation of Rs. 300 crore to meet the educational requirements of Muslim minorities in our country.

With these few words, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have a list of names of 20 Members who want to participate in this debate.

[Translation]

Hence, instead of giving long speeches just place your suggestions before the House.

Shri Manjunath Kunnur— Not present

[English]

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI (Outer Manipur): Sir, I stand to express my sincere thanks to the President for his Address to both the Houses.

Sir, I represent a group of people who have been marginalized and have been suffering for the last so many years. The President's Address has covered a wide range of programmes for the overall development of the country. But the President's Address has failed to spell out his Government's commitment for bringing about a lasting peace in the North-Eastern Region, particularly in the Naga Areas. Peace is a pre-requisite for any kind of meaningful development.

The Naga political movement is the oldest political and pressing problem in the country. Peace talks have been going on for the last ten years. Our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had made an important statement with deep insight that India recognizes the uniqueness of the Naga history and situation.

The first Prime Minister of our country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had also written in his letter of 13th May 1956 to the then Chief Minister of Assam and I quote:

"One of their grievances is that under our Constitution we split them up in different political areas. Whether it is possible or desirable to bring them together again is for us to consider. Also what measure of autonomy we should give them so that they can lead their own lives without any sensation of interferences."

The main injustice done to the Naga people by modern India is the division of their land without their knowledge and consent. To win back the confidence of the Naga people, leaders of our country, irrespective of Parties, need to come out with a strong political will to right the wrong done.

Sir, no mention has been made in the President's Address about the reorganization of States which is very much required in the North-Eastern States. In our country, many people with common history, common culture, common languages, and common traditions have been placed in a single State so that they are given a chance to progress together and that their aspirations are made to be fulfilled. But in the case of Nagas, the State boundaries have violated their rights to live together. The Naga movement has affected and marginalized millions of Naga people in the North East.

I want to emphatically state that the Naga movement is not at all a terrorist movement; it is people's movement against injustice done to them since pre-Independence and which is perpetuated till today. The political talk that has been going on between the Government of India and the NSCN(IM), if it can come out with an amicable solution, would surely be able to give a new lease of life to the Naga people.

Moreover, I would like to mention about the concern which is worrying all of us. In the President's speech our President has recognized the threat of climate change and global warming, but it is silent on the preservation of the biodiversity hot spots of the country namely the Western Ghats, the Eastern Ghats, the North-East Region and the Himalayan region. These regions are ecologically highly sensitive areas and they serve as the lungs for purification of air for all of us. Strategies need to be evolved in a time-bound manner for the preservation of the rich biodiversity of the country.

Comprehensive sustainable development programmes for the tribal people living in these forests needs to be worked out side by side with aggressive sensitization

[Shri Mani Charenamei]

programme. Special incentives need to be created for the people who are living in these ecologically sensitive areas. The most important thing for the planners to keep in mind is that artificially created forest no matter how vast and big it may be cannot equal the natural forest in terms of its ecological values. Therefore, it is highly imperative to preserve the natural forest at all costs no matter how costly it may be.

It is good that the Government has renewed its commitment to fill up the backlog of unfilled reserved posts for SC and ST communities. However, these steps cannot alone wipe out the injustice and humiliation faced by the SC and ST communities. There are many SC and ST employees in the Central Government and the State Government offices that have been subjected to different kinds of discriminations particularly in the matters of promotion and appointments. Providing free of cost education to the backward people particularly STs, and SCs is a must. But, nothing has been particularly and specifically mentioned. Dedicated educational institutions in tribal areas up to the block level particularly JNV schools need to be opened for the tribal people so that they can cope up with the modern world.

Until and unless the Government is firmly committed followed by prompt action, the people of this country particularly the marginalized people would not be able to share the achievement of the country with pride and dignity.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by hon. Madhusudan Mistryji. We are deeply grateful to His Excellency, the President of India, for his kind Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both the Houses of Parliament on 23rd February, 2007.

Sir, 23rd February, 2007 being the last phase of election to Manipur Assembly this year, I was unable to attend the Joint Session, but I am very much happy to be here today to participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks.

Elections in two States of Punjab and Uttarakhand were widely mentioned during the speech given by our hon. Members on the other side, and maybe they take it as a debacle for our Party. Here I would like to mention that my State Manipur has done very well for our Party, and we have come up with almost an absolute majority.

I do not know why the other Members have deliberately avoided this. I am sorry for this.

Anyway, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this success story of my Party in the State is the testimony of good governance of the United Progressive Alliance Government at the Centre headed by the hon. Prime Minister under the benign supervision of the hon. Chairperson of UPA.

All the programmes, namely, our Flagship programmes, Universalisation of Mid-day Meal Scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Bharat Nirman, Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme, National Rural Health Mission, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Right to Information Act, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, etc. are well mentioned in the Address of His Excellency, the President of India.

This Address, to my mind, stands out as a piece of academic exercise complete in itself. I am particularly happy to inform this august House that I was a member of the Assembly of my State when His Excellency was elected for the Office of the President. Now, his present tenure is coming to a close. As a member of the scientific community I feel extremely proud to have an opportunity to express my sincere and humble thanks to a respected senior colleague who is also a scientist par excellence.

Coming to North-East, which is a hot spot of the country, the programme of the UPA covers many new initiatives for this Region over and above the admiring growth rate of the nation which is standing now at almost nine per cent. I may very respectfully and humbly point out that this Region of the State and also the State of Jammu and Kashmir are placed as Special Category States. Much has to be done for this Region to remove this stigma of Special Category. I am hopeful that the Government of India will pay more attention towards solving the various problems faced by the people of this Region.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have to mention a few of these problems. The first one is the repeal of the Special Armed Forces Act, 1958. Under this particular demand, one lady, Kumari Iron Chanu Sharmila has been on fast for the last six years. She has been brought to the Capital. Recently she has been brought back to Manipur. She has been demanding the repeal of this Act, and the Government of India has been doing an active consideration of the Report of the Justice Jeevan

Reddy Committee which has actually recommended for the repeal of this Act and we look forward to solving this particular problem of all the States that come under disturbed area category.

Another one, which has been just now mentioned by my hon. friend, Shri Mani Charenamei, is about the ongoing peace talk of India and NSCN (IM). An early completion of this peace talk will be good for every one of us. It has been pending for a long time. We feel that for every problem, there has to be a solution. I am very optimistic about that.

One more important thing is that an early solution to the problem of insurgency, political or otherwise, has become a must at the moment because my State is now running into much difficulty on account of this. His Excellency, the President of India, in his Address has given a right direction towards this.

I am very grateful to His Excellency for his wonderful Address.

With these few words, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, let me thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address. His Excellency, the President has expressed his concern over several issues in his Address. Even though women's reservation finds place in the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the UPA Government, we do not find the Bill being passed even after a long time. There is no mention about it in the President's Address. It is a matter of concern. When NDA Government was there, every time they used to include it in the agenda item for every Session of Parliament but Women's Bill was not passed. Six years have passed like that. The UPA Government has also completed three years in office. Tomorrow is 8th of March and it is celebrated as International Women's Day. So, at least, now we must ensure that the Bill finds place in the agenda. Sachar Committee which went into the question of studying and improving the lot of Muslims has submitted its report. Many recommendations to improve the lot of Muslim minorities are there. But we do not find any mention of it in the President's Address. There is a silence. Sachar Committee on Muslim minorities has insisted upon giving priority, to Muslim minorities in education and in job

opportunities and establishing exclusive schools for Muslims in areas where they live in great number. I wish, honourable Minister spells out their action plan in this regard.

Important issue before us today is price rise situation. Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the UPA Chairperson convened in August last a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the Congress ruled States. They discussed about price rise expressing serious concern about it. But nothing concrete has come of it as yet. I am pained to point out that the Union Government has not taken any concrete steps to contain spiralling up prices. Only in this Budget, a mention has been made of online trade of rice and wheat as part of commodity trade listing. It has been stated that speculative trade on commodities will be done away with. There are many goods and commodities that find place in the online trade mode. This gives rise to fluctuations in prices mostly due to speculations in the stock market. Instead of going in for a committee and its report about the impact of online trading of commodities, you may straight away remove essential commodities and foodgrains and even gold from the ambit of online trade.

Prices of petrol and diesel are not heartening to note. The recent announcement by the Government about the reduction of diesel and petrol by Rs. 2 and Rs. 1 is just a token gesture. It is like removing merely a straw from the back of a camel which has been made to carry a heavy load. This is like cheating on the poor camel that is heavily laden. It is not proper to reduce in two instalments the price of petrol and diesel that too by a meagre one or two rupees. Whenever oil prices go up in the international market, we have been jacking up petrol and diesel prices. But whenever there is a slump and oil prices fall in the global market, the petrol and diesel prices have not been reduced accordingly. On thirtieth of June in 2006, the price of oil per barrel in the international market was just 53 dollars. Now, it has come down to 50 dollars. So, I urge the Government to stick to the international prices range. Even at a time when oil prices fall in the international market, there is no matching reduction by our oil companies. Hence, I urge upon the Government to change this oil trade practices and policies. Such an attitude must go. Thirty nine new districts have been identified for being provided with a special package scheme. We find this in President's Address. But certain deserving districts are missing and Idukki in Kerala is one among them. The cardamom plantation workers are the worst affected lot for the past 5 years. They have even been driven to their wits end to commit suicide. Price fluctuations and

*English of translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

[Shri P. Mohan]

absence of remunerative prices affect them. In Alappuzha, coconut and paddy cultivators are affected very much. On 30th of November last, when I brought this to the notice of honourable Sharad Pawar, the Food and Agriculture Minister, he had replied that both the districts of Idukki and Alappuzha would be included in the list of districts to which rehabilitation package would be offered. He had also stated that interest on farm loans would be waived and terms of the loan would be recast. But the creditors have been disgraced by publishing their names in newspaper as part of reply to a letter from Reserve Bank to Spices Board. Unfortunately, I do not find Idukki and Alappuzha districts in the list mentioned by our President in his Address. I urge the Union Government to rush to the rescue of the plantation workers in both Idukki and Alappuzha and include those districts also to be provided with a special package scheme. Cardamom Board was there earlier. Now, in the absence of it Cardamom growers do not get remunerative prices or even minimum support price. I would like to impress upon the Government to set up again the Cardamom Board.

Schemes under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act call for our attention. This year 120 districts are being added to it. What pains me is the fact that some districts from Punjab are also included in the ambit of NREGA. Punjab is the first State in the country that saw green revolution with a resounding hundred per cent success. This is a pointer to the fact that even in Punjab agricultural labourers are not doing well and we can well imagine the plight of agricultural workers all over the country. Cardamom grown in Idukki district are world famous. Hence, there is a need to promote cardamom from South especially Idukki district by way of reconstituting Cardamom Board separating it from Spices Board.

19.56 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

President's Address appreciates in laudatory terms the economic growth of the country. But the creation of jobs and job opportunities remain a mirage. Even during the Question Hour this morning honourable Minister for Personnel was giving reply to a question whether the Government would withdraw the ban on recruitment in Government jobs, and the reply given by the Minister was not at all satisfactory. He tried to give an impression

that there is no such ban but at the same time he was saying that at least one thousand vacancies have been streamlined. It is not fair to feel happy about pruning some thousand jobs in a country where there are about 20 crores of youth remain unemployed.

Most of the job opportunities are all contract jobs. Even if they are hired in hundreds and thousands, they are hired as contract workers. They do not get the assurance for minimum wages and they are deprived of medical facilities, bonus and gratuity. Even in software industry, in the IT sector, permanent jobs are not offered, attractive pay packages are there for jobs for a certain period. They all resort to higher and fire.

Industrial growth in this country should provide for permanent job opportunities. The public sector undertakings must go for regularizing the workers who have been hired on contract basis. I urge upon the Union Government to ensure that minimum wages are fixed for the agricultural labour all over the country. It is also important to protect the interests of the small and medium-scale industries. We have public sector undertakings and we also have MNCs that have established big industrial units. But at the same time, the fact remain that lakhs of our people get job opportunities only from small and medium enterprises. It is unfortunate that same amount of excise duty is levied on the products of both the big industries and small and medium-scale industrial units. This is not going to help small and medium-scale enterprises. I would like to point out that thousands of small-scale industrial units and medium industries have faced closure last year. To arrest this trend, it has been announced that small industrial units will be exempted from paying excise duty as long as their turn over is well within 1.5 crores of rupees after raising it from Rs. 1 crore. Considering the inflationary trends and the rise in price trend, I must point out that this announcement is not a real benefit. This is not a very big concession. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to ensure that there is no uniform excise duty rate structure and prescriptions for quality standards.

Before I could conclude I urge upon the Union Government to give exemption to small and medium-scale industrial units that manufacture pumpsets, tin cans and surgical bandages. They must have exemption from the strict regime of quality standard certification. Expressing my support to the Motion of Thanks, let me conclude.

20.00 hrs.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Sir, I am really thankful to the President of India for giving the speech but at the same time I am very much disappointed as far as the policy that he has declared in the speech is concerned, especially in the very third and fourth paragraphs, he has referred to inflation and price control measures.

I am very sorry to say that the consumer price index and industrial price index have risen to the record hike in this country. I am saying record hike. The rate of pulses has gone to more than Rs. 70 to Rs. 80.

One person was referring when I had been to the house of a middle-class family. He was referring that previously, he used to bring the commodities, that is, groceries. We used to carry the money in the pocket and bring the groceries in the bags. Now, it has become *vice-versa*. They are carrying the money in the bags and bringing the groceries in the pocket. That is the situation. It is such a worst situation.

Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar may be laughing but I am telling you one incident. I had been to one of the Ashray colony areas. It is an area where the economically poor section of the people are living. There, the children are sleeping at seven O' clock after eating two or three slices of bread. I asked why the school-going children are sleeping so early and the owner of the house said: "Since I have no capacity at least for the last six to seven months to feed them the second meal, that is, the night meal. That is why I am making them to sleep early." This is the situation.

They are telling us that the growth rate has gone to eight and nine per cent. During the Eleventh Plan period, it will be nine per cent or so. You are comparing everything with China. In China, the growth rate is more than 15 to 16 per cent but the inflation rate is two per cent. For other things you compare with China. But as far as inflation and growth rate are concerned, you do not want to compare with China.

They have made the hon. President to say that my Government will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure that poor are not adversely affected by this inflation. I am telling this Government that people have already shown you the way, the doors in Uttarakhand

and Punjab because of this. Even the hon. President of the Congress Party has also very openly accepted this. At least, now it is high time you control the inflation and the price rise. Otherwise, the people will show you the door in the entire country.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): In Manipur, we got elected.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): They are satisfied with Manipur. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: They are also talking about, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You will be happy with bread, there is no doubt in it.

[English]

People will show you the door. Do not worry. They have already shown the door in Uttarakhand and Punjab. If you do not want to control it, people will show you the way further. Do not worry about it.

Sir, they are speaking very much about the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Previously it was covering some 100 districts. Now some 100 or 120 districts more have been added. For 100 districts, an amount of Rs. 1,100 crore was given. For adding more than 120 districts now it is only Rs. 1,200 crore for 100 days' work. They are boosting so much about it. If at all they want, whatever allocation was earmarked in last year's Budget, that is around Rs. 1,100 crore for 100 districts, adding 120 districts more and giving Rs. 100 crore is ironic. Instead of Rs. 1,100 crore, they are giving Rs. 1,200 crore. This is the irony of the things.

I am speaking about agriculture. The hon. President has said that the agricultural credit ratio would be doubled within two years. Without making agriculture as economically viable how can they do it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief and conclude.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Agriculture, as a profession, should be made viable. On the one side people are suffering from price hike and on the other side the farmer is not getting remunerative price. Unless the

[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

remunerative price is given to the farmers, it would be difficult. I do not want to elaborate the things. But I can tell that without making this economically viable and giving remunerative price, any amount of debt you give, he will remain only a debtor and nothing more will happen.

At the same time, nothing has been mentioned about the crop insurance scheme. Only in the Budget speech, the hon. Minister of Finance has said that it would be continued in 'as is where is' scheme. It is so unfortunate that in 2001-2002 the then NDA Government made the crop insurance scheme more popular. But what happened? They are not further improving the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has said that crop insurance scheme should be further strengthened and it should be made more farmer-friendly. Despite this, nothing is mentioned about it in the President's Address. When the Government of Karnataka can give loans to farmers at four per cent rate of interest, then why can the Government of India not give it? The Government of India should extend the crop loan at the rate of four per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, there are important issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other Members also have to speak.

[Translation]

You will not get more than five minutes to speak since many other hon. Members also have to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: I am coming to the last two-three points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make one point.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: The President has mentioned about terrorism and national security and mainly about North-East and Kashmir. But the terrorist tentacles have been extended even to the southern part of the country. In Bangalore the Indian Institute of Science has been attacked. One terrorist was arrested in Mysore and another was arrested in Hampi which is

a heritage and tourist centre. His visa was only for six months and that too a tourist visa. But, unfortunately, he stayed for more than two to two-and-a-half years in this country. But the Government does not understand this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

Joshi ji, please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Lastly, I demand for the National Water Policy. Now the Cauvery problem has come out. I would like to tell that in my constituency that is Hubli-Dharwar drinking water problem is a very severe one and it is in a very critical condition. In such a condition we want to divert it from Mahadai river basin to the Malapura river basin for which we have approached the Government of India for the last so many years. But it has not been given clearance. After that, the Government of Karnataka, with its own resources, has started the work. But as far as the forest area is concerned, the Ministry of Environment has not given the clearance. I demand that since it is a drinking water problem, the Ministry of Environment, Government of India should give its clearance for Kalasa-Banduri Nala connectivity project.

I lay on the table of the House the remaining part of my speech. Still there are two- three points. You allow me for two-three more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: From the beginning you should have laid it and taken permission.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Previously it was allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

*SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Usually the motion of thanks on presidents speech is moved and supported for the policy statement it puts before the nation by the Government and if this policy of the Government sounds pro-people certainly it deserve the support of the House. But ironically the President should be thanked for giving

..... This part of speech was laid on the Table.

his speech but not the contents of the speech, as there is nothing that qualifies for supporting the Motion.

At the very outset I would like to touch upon Para 3 & 4 of the speech. Which reads as follow:

"My Government has set a target of attaining an annual growth rate of 8% during the Eleventh Plan. Given current trends and the general policy direction, this is a feasible proposition. However, economic growth is not an end in itself. It is a means by which we hope to generate more employment, distribute incomes more equitably, across social groups and regions, and liberate the poorest of the poor from the scourge of poverty, ignorance and disease".

The Government admits about the increasing price rise and upward tendency of inflation and its resolve to contain it. It also claims to achieve 9% growth in the Eleventh Five-year plan. But there is no substantiation about how the Government reconciles the scourging inflation being invariable part of growth with 9% avowed economic growth. Even Finance Minister has utterly failed to reflect this aspect in his Budget.

Agriculture: I am too disappointed for a very casual approach of the Government towards agriculture and thereby it reflects its concern about the Indian farmer. The UPA Government came to power on the hyped ploy Indian farmer and wiping his tears. But Government has done nothing excepting shedding crocodile tears about the-plight of farmers.

Honourable members are already aware of the steep increase in credit availability for agriculture. The target of doubling credit flow to agriculture and allied activities has been met. A Rs.13,000 crore package for the revival of the cooperative credit structure has also been worked out and is under implementation. To give a thrust to agricultural research and transfer new technologies to the field, a National Agriculture Innovation Project (NAIP) has been approved. Efforts are also on for improving productivity of plantation crops like Coconut, Tea and Coffee and several new schemes have been formulated.

There is a mere mention about the increase in the credit availability to the farmers. It is a clear indication of the fact that the government still has not learnt any lesson from vidarbha factor in Maharashtra. The projects and the larger allocation in the farm sector may some

steps in the right direction but it has not mentioned any thing on the most important aspect of the ongoing crisis like pushing up the income of farmers what does the more credit do? It increases the debt burden of the farmer without increasing income! There should be monitoring of the farmers income. The crisis of Indian agriculture revolves around suicides by more than 1.5 lakh farmers. Last year the Prime Minister visited Vidarbha region where it is said every 8 hours there is a farmers suicide, announced a special package of Rs. 3000 crores, but as per a recent report in Vidarbha cases of farmers suicide are unabated and to our utter disgust the rate of every 8 hours a suicide has gone up to a farmers suicide every 4 hours. The Government has failed to look at this problem radically and instead feeling self assured and taking pride only in announcing packages and allocations of funds. There is no assurance in the presidents speech about the two main demands of the farming community reducing interest rate on crop loans to 4% and a uniform 1% premium in crop Insurance for the entire country. By this we can only foresees a situations where suicides by farmers may increase and drastic reduction in agricultural production adding to the wider ramifications of farm sectors problems. If this is the concern of the Government towards farmers and farm sector I am constrained to say Government has no right to boast that it is placing the agriculture on it high agenda.

Another point I like to touch upon is the Government's declared approach towards the Right to Information of the people. The President's speech about dwells much upon this aspect but its resolve to deliver the goods in quite dismal. This fact is consolidated how the Government has taken the people of entire country on side and how the whole country is kept in dark the fact of Quattrochi's arrest for more than 3 weeks. I must say with disgust that the panicky and irrational manner in which this Government reacted.

When news of the detention of its leader's ex-best friend Ottavio Quattrochi filtered in from Argentina First there was that desperate attempt the news getting into the press then the Minister of State for External-Affairs Mr. Anand Sharma personally came forward to say that there was no reason for Quattrochi to be arrested. "The warrant of arrest issued along with the red corner notice in 1997 expired with his arrest in Malesiya in 2002. After the Malesiya episode the CBI has not issued a fresh warrant".

[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

Now many simple questions arise like why should the Minister feel the need to defend an Italian businessman of dubious repute? Why should the Government of India go at its way to conceal his detention? Why should Congress party spokesmen get so defensive about questions concerning Quattrochi? What frightens so much every one, every time this gentleman resurfaces? What is that links him to Congress party president Sonia Gandhi?

Is this the kind of Right to Information referred to by the President's speech? If so only God must save our people.

Internal Security of the Country: Para 42 of the speech makes reference to an important matter i.e. about the security of the nation. It reads,

"My government is paying special attention to the modernization of the police forces, security forces, security forces and intelligence agencies. A focused and holistic attempt to deal with the challenges of internal security in the North Eastern Region, in Jammu & Kashmir and in regions affected by naxalite activity is yielding dividends. My government recognizes the challenge posed by terrorism and extremism and has been resolute in dealing with it. While our security and intelligence agencies have successfully foiled many attempts by terrorist groups to strike terror, there have been tragic, dastardly and cowardly acts of terrorism, as in Mumbai and Assam and, most recently, in the attack on Samjhauta Express. My Government is dealing firmly with the challenge posed".

Much is said about the Government's resolve to deal with the terrorism and extremism and its recognition of this challenge. President's speech makes reference about terrorism in Kashmir Eastern Region Mumbai etc., but has failed to mention about the terrorists spending terror tentacles in southern parts of the country especially Karnataka which was hitherto safe from the worry and fear of terrorism.

The arrest of two terrorists in Mysore Karnataka in October last proves that the ISI is using 'Al-Badra' one of the oldest jihadi outfits to spread Mahem in south India. The dastardly attack on the Indian Institute of Science in December 2005 which took life of a Mathematician from Indian Institute of Technology Delhi has drawn attention to the fact after north and western

India, south India too is now becoming a hub of terrorist activities with this now there is no part of India which does not face the prospects of surprise bomb and suicide attacks on civilians and other soft targets in furtherance of a philosophy of cold blooded murder allegedly in the name of religion and most certainly backed by Pakistan. There is no mention in the President's speech regarding important aspect of internal security specially with regard to Karnataka and other southern states. Spread of Terrorism in Karnataka being hub of IT is not being viewed by the Government seriously. There is also no mention about a terrorist apprehended in Hampi being internationally claimed tourist centre and recognized as world heritage centre is gradually moving into the centre of terrorism. Govt. must be aware of a fact that terrorist arrested in Hampi was on a tourist visa and was allowed to stay even of the expiry of the visa period of 6 months long period."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Alok Mehta to speak now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. His Excellency has laid-out the fine intentions, schemes and policies of the UPA Government in the joint session of the House, through his Address. I would like to thank him for this personally and on behalf of my party.

Sir, I would like to highlight few points which have been mentioned by His Excellency President. The hon. President has clearly outlined the people-friendly policies of the UPA Government which are in consonance with the value system of the Government. His Excellency has emphasised on social justice. For long there has been a wide gap between the policies and the deeds of the ruling class. People who actually run the system have lacked coordination due to which it has been difficult to translate into action the policies formulated for the oppressed, dalits, backward classes and minorities. His Excellency has stressed upon social justice. I would like to say that equal stress should be put upon implementing these policies so that the targeted section of people are able to derive benefit from them. Implementation and monitoring of these policies is imperative.

Sir, farm credit has been raised. I believe that this will help in stopping suicides by farmers in the South Western States and many other states in the country.

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

The reason is that such incidents mostly take place in areas where farmers have been taking loan from village moneylenders at higher interest rates for sowing drops and damage of their crops force them to commit suicide. I believe this will stop. Under the new loan structure the Government has granted a 13 thousand crore rupees package to the poor agriculturists, small and marginal farmers. I would like to thank the hon. President for this. This would help these people in earning livelihood. I would also like to say that arrangements should be made to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produces and that the poor people should get some relief from the price rise. Such arrangements need to be made.

Sir, the outstanding performance of Indian Railways has helped a lot in controlling the price-rise in country. His Excellency President has mentioned this fact in his Address and it has been stated that this year this profit may increase from Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 20,000 crore rupees. At the same time relief has been provided to common people and the passengers. No increase in the rail freight is one of the factors to contain price-rise. Keeping freight rates stable has helped in containing the price-rise.

We would like to thank hon. President for mentioning it. In the current financial year economy growth rate has been projected nine-percent. I would like to say that there is an urgent need of decentralization of development. Hon. President's Address express the intention of the Government to take the development to villages and the most backward community of the society.

Sir, a system should be developed to control the rate of inflation. The whole system needs to be developed with focus on the fact that there may not be price-rise. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You are repeating the points again and again.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, I will conclude within two minutes. An amendment regarding land acquisition and rehabilitation has been proposed. I welcome this proposal. Fertile land was being acquired for developmental works. The small and marginal farmers were ruined as they were not rehabilitated. Barren land was to be acquired for industries but large chunk of fertile land was being acquired at throw away prices in many States including Bihar to allot the same to the

industrialists. Therefore, the relevant laws should be amended. The intention of the State Governments also should be clear so that the common people might not get affected. It has been heard that in Punjab an industrialist has acquired 50 thousand acres of land. I would like to say that if it continues in this way there will be shortage of fertile land and it will affect agricultural production. Therefore these things need to be taken care of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Shri K. Francis George.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir I will conclude after making two points. So many discrepancies at grassroot level have been noticed in Red Card, Indra Awaas and BPL Scheme. I want to give an example in this regard that the name of Rural Development Minister of Bihar Government is included in the BPL list. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Shri K. Francis George.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: This sort of discrepancies have come to notice. Therefore, proper arrangement should be made to monitor these schemes so that poor people may get the benefit of these schemes and underserving people may not take advantage of these schemes....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Shri George twice. Your speech will not go on record.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Attention should be paid towards development of minority communities. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Thank you, Sir. I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the address of His Excellency the President of India to both the Houses of Parliament.

The hon. President while addressing the Members of both Houses of Parliament had spoken about a new

[Shri K. Francis George]

architecture of inclusive growth in our country. The main instruments of this inclusive growth have been the flagship programmes that have been announced by the Government. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme about which there has been a mention in the morning in the House. More districts have been added into this particular scheme, which has been hailed by all sections of the country that this will go a long way in eradicating poverty in our country. I am grateful to the Government that a major portion of my constituency has been added into this scheme.

One of the main schemes of the flagship programme is the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. I am sorry to note that the Central Government is slowly going back from this scheme. Earlier, the Central Government was financing 75 per cent of this particular project, and the States were supposed to bear 25 per cent of the cost of this project. Now, the Centre is planning to reduce its involvement to 50 per cent.

This is a major initiative that has been taken by the Government which needless to say will equip our future generations. This is to provide facilities in the schools, so the Centre should not shirk its responsibility. In fact, it should add, and the commitment should be more; it should not go back on it.

There are many other initiatives which I am happy to say will further give an impetus to our growth. We cannot ignore agriculture, which is one of the major areas in our country. In fact, the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan plus this current year's Budget have given major emphasis to agricultural development. Almost all the Members who spoke earlier had mentioned about this; there is a lot to be done. The suicides by farmers are still continuing. We need to provide low interest loans to farmers, and we need to provide other facilities like irrigation, better crop insurance, etc.

One unfortunate thing is that we have implemented the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, but many of the crops, especially in the case of Kerala, almost all the plantation crops and spices, are still not included in the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. I would request the Government to consider this favourably.

There is also need for a price stabilization mechanism. The earlier NDA Government introduced the Price Stabilization Fund, but it did not work. What I

would request is that in the case of cash crops and spices, we need to have a procurement and trading company which can procure the agricultural produce from the farmers at a reasonable price and sell this produce within the country. The existing Spices Marketing Company concentrates merely on exports and is not selling the produce inside the country. In the metropolitan towns, the spices and cash crops fetch a very good price.

The National Agricultural Commission headed by Dr. Swaminathan has come out with its report. The major recommendations should be implemented. This report and this Committee's findings should not meet the fate of the earlier Committee's reports. I hope the Government will take serious consideration of this and implement the major recommendations of the National Agricultural Commission in the agricultural sector.

The President has spoken about the welfare of the minorities in the country. The Sachar Committee Report has come out, and I hope that by implementing the major recommendations of the Sachar Committee, the problems being faced by the Muslims, the largest minority community, will be taken care of. There is a section called *Dalit* Muslims and *Dalit* Christians. The *Dalit* Christians and *Dalit* Muslims have been denied the benefit of reservation in this country just because of the fact that a particular person opted for a particular religion. They should not be denied this right, which is being enjoyed by other *Dalit* backward sections in the society.

Those who got converted into Sikhism and Buddhism are all having this benefit of reservation, but those people who got converted or opted for Christianity have been denied this right. The Government is yet to come out with a firm statement even though the Supreme Court has asked for a report from the Central Government regarding the position of the Government about this particular aspect.

Sir, I would not take much time of the House. The security scenario in the country, I would not say is worsening, but we can say that it is improving. Our own colleague, Shri Sunil Mahato lost his life in a very tragic situation. In the North-East and Kashmir, the security situation, I would not say is deteriorating, but more needs to be done to improve the security scenario in the country.

Sir, a mention has been made in this morning during Question Hour about our Defence personnel who have

been caught as Prisoners of War in Indo-Pak Wars are still languishing in Pakistani jails. Three days back, a report came that an Indian Air Force man who was shot down in Pakistan during war and it was reported in Pakistani Press that he was caught alive.

Almost 30 years have passed and now a colleague of his has come out with a statement saying that very reliable information has come that he is still in a Pakistani jail. Hon. Foreign Minister has also said that there are such cases of about more than 70 people. Recently a retired Colonel in the Army has come out with a book with all details of personnel who are still supposed to be in the Pakistani jails. The Government should very seriously consider taking up this issue with the Government of Pakistan and come to a settlement to exchange these prisoners.

During the time of Indo-China War, some of the members who were supposed to have belonged to a particular political belief, the Communist movement, were compulsorily retired from the service of the Army. It is very unfortunate that a person's services should be terminated or he be compulsorily retired from the Army because of his past political beliefs. In fact many of them are in a very bad situation economically. Many are in a very pathetic condition.

The Government should think about pardoning them and giving their benefits back to them.

The overall performance of the Government for the last three years has been mentioned in the President's Address. We hope that the Government will perform better.

I would like to mention one more thing before I conclude. If we want to progress as one nation, the concerns and problems faced by the various regions of the country should be addressed by the Central Government in a just manner. In the case of Kerala, I would request my Tamil Nadu brothers not to get agitated, when I mention the cases of Cauvery Tribunal award, the case of Mullaiperiyar dam, and also the case of Railway Division of Palghat, where we have no quarrels with our Tamil Nadu brothers. We have been living with very good relations and we have been helping each other. Kerala State has nothing against Tamil Nadu. I hope that these issues would be settled to the satisfaction of all concerned and the Central Government

would take initiative to settle these issues in an amicable, in a democratic and in a good brotherly manner.

[Translation]

*SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhanduka): Sir, I would like to express my views on President's Address in course of the ongoing debate on President's Address.

Hon. President has mentioned many schemes of the Government and the Government has expressed its views through His Excellency but I am of the view that today in this country the people are in trouble, be it a farmer or a labourer or a young man, or a businessman or a small child, everybody is facing one or the other hardship. Eleventh five year plan has begun and the Government has indicated the good beginning of it and it is very good if the things go on that way but today we see that the youth are unemployed, they are pining for jobs, they do not have employment even after completion of education. Even today during the Question Hour hon. Minister has stated in his reply that there are vacancies in lakhs but no recruitment is being done for those vacant posts. Today things remain undeclared and the people are misled. The youth of today are going off their track.

Therefore, I demand that they should be paid appropriate unemployment allowance so that they may lead a dignified life. Hon. President has mentioned the farmers as well but he has stated nothing about the farmers who have committed suicide or who are likely to commit suicide. The UFA Government has been in power for two and a half years but proper steps have not been taken for the farmers yet. The farmers are not getting the remunerative prices for their produces. The pesticides have become costly. Substandard fertilizer is being sold in the market, therefore the farmer has no option but to rely on God. At last, when a farmer is hopeless, he commits suicide. Therefore, I demand that all the crops of the farmers be insured. The price should be fixed for every crop and electricity, water and fertilizer should be provided to the farmers in time.

Sir, I would like to inform you about Gujarat. Today the Gujarat Government provides water to the farmers to their fields. Adequate quantity of water has been carried to every village through Narmada Canal. You will be pleased to know that water has been carried to Kutch,

**The speech was laid on the Table.*

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

the last point of Gujarat. Had this scheme been completed uninterrupted fifteen or twenty years ago, today Gujarat also would have been as prosperous as Punjab. But during the last ten years the BJP government has taken right steps and now Gujarat is on the top due to firm determination of Shri Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Not only this but a large number of people from abroad also have come to set up industries in Gujarat and MoU of about 63 thousand crore rupees have been signed due to which Gujarat is going to play a major role in the development of this country.

I have heard my colleagues' demand for electricity. Even today there is no electricity in the villages of this country. The people use earthen lamps as a means of light in their homes. The students have no light to read. Our mothers and sisters have to go to far flung villages for grinding of flour. But Gujarat has started a campaign and provided electricity in every village through single phase supply and villages are illuminating like the cities. Today the youth of the villages of Gujarat do not migrate to the cities. They earn their livelihood in their villages. The sisters are operating small cottage industries. Today the farmers of Gujarat are prosperous. Recently honourable President had visited Gujarat and appreciated Gujarat and said that other States also should follow Gujarat.

In his Address Hon. President has said about laying emphasis on education. Everyone should get education i.e. Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan has been referred to but today even after sixty years of independence there are no schools in the villages. If there is a school, there are no teachers and if somewhere there are teachers then there are no tables, chairs and blackboards. How will our country progress? The UPA Government talks about 'Bharat Nirman' but a child of today is the future of India. If the child of today remains uneducated, lean and thin, what future of the country we can expect.

Therefore, it is my humble request that every village should have a school, there should be a Higher Secondary School for every three villages and there should be every facility. Only then the problem of dropping out in the schools will be solved.

The condition of women in our country is pitiable and earning of a livelihood is difficult for them. Women cannot feed their children properly and they cannot look after their children. As a result the flower fades before

it blooms. Therefore, I am compelled to ask as to what will be the youth of a country where children are hungry? Therefore the pregnant women should be provided nutritious diet and proper medicines and a child will be healthy only when he gets milk and nutritious food. The cases of atrocities on women are increasing, Somewhere they are burnt alive for dowry and at other places they are sexually exploited due to starvation. They do not have clothes to wear and lead a disgraceful life. At some places the women are stripped naked and paraded in the villages.

I am of the view that most of these women belong to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. Hon. President has said about taking many steps for Scheduled Caste and Tribes but even after sixty years of independence there is no improvement in the condition of the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Even today they cannot take water from the public water source and they cannot enter into a temple. They are not called in a dignified manner. Their bridegroom cannot ride a horse in his marriage. They have to work as bonded labourers. They are not paid wages after taking work from them. If he opposes all these things, he is oppressed. Their habitats are torched. They are massacred. We have discussed many such incidents in Lok Sabha, yet these painful incidents are recurring. It is shameful for all of us.

Sir, during the debate on last finance demand I had submitted that the traders of Gujarat are virtuous and honest and they pay maximum income tax, sales tax and excise duty etc. But in comparison to Gujarat there are many States in the country where these taxes are not paid, yet during the last two months the traders of Gujarat are being harassed through raids by officials of income tax department and excise department. We do not want to encourage tax evasion but if a raid is conducted with mala fide intentions, that must be stopped and the honest tax-payers should be given due regard.

Sir, you know that the coastal area of Gujarat is the longest one. Gujarat Government has taken proper steps for security there but further assistance is required from the Government of India to make it even more secure. Gujarat is on the hit list of the terrorists. They have tried to spread terrorism there also like other States but very few incidents took place due to alertness of the Gujarat Government I, therefore, request once again that the demands made by the Gujarat Government to the Government should be accepted. Latest weapons

should be provided to the police so that Gujarat is not turned into a hideout of the terrorists like other states.

Sir, the Gujarat Government has taken the initiative to start the night courts which has made it easier for the poor, workers and middle class people to get justice, otherwise, they had to go to the court wasting their working day. I, therefore, request the Government to provide more financial assistance to encourage the Gujarat Government. Gujarat has suffered losses worth crores of rupees again and again on account of cyclone, flood or earthquake. Assurances are given and economic packages are announced by the concerned Ministers and the Prime Minister. Big promises are made but the Government keeps going back on them till now. I, therefore, demand through you, that the funds to be given for assistance of Gujarat should be given promptly so that Gujarat remains a leader.

Sir, 'India Shining' slogan was coined under the leadership of hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee during the NDA Government regime. A new dream was cherished for India which the UPA Government is going to realize today. NDA Government's term was the childhood of India which is now becoming its youth in the UPA Government's term. One may call it either 'Bharat Nirman' or 'India Shining'. In the end, the country will prosper, if the villages prosper and we all will prosper if the country prospers. I would therefore, conclude by saying the following 4 lines.

Karna Hai Bharat Nirman,
To Kisanon ka karo Samman,
Mat karo Dalitton ka Apman,
Naujawanon ko uchit Do Maan,
Garibon Ko Dilao Anna-Dan,
Mahilayon ka Rakho Samman,
Balakon Ko karao Dudh-Paan,
Aatankwad ka Mitao Namon-Nishan,
Tabhi Hoga Bharat Mata ka Bahu-Maan,
Sacha Banega Bharat Ka Nav-Nirman.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the President's Address with your permission. I want to include some points in it. I want that those things need to be included in the Address which it is lacking in present form. The Samjhauta Express tragedy is very pitiable and bad. We condemn, it. I would like to say that if Jammu Kashmir exists within the country today, then all the credit for

this goes only to the security forces against which some discouraging statements are being made by the so-called leaders and the Hurriyat. The security personnel sacrificed their lives without worrying about their families and their children were orphaned and wives became widows. I salute them today from this House that they kept our state integrated. I also want to say that recently our Government took a serious note of talks of de militarization or discouragement of security forces and it said that no compromise will be made in this regard. I congratulate the Government for this otherwise some persons were crossing the limits. Regarding the way President Parvez Musharraf of Pakistan is talking about a joint commission and about self self-rule, it shows that he wants his men to enter Kashmir in anyway. Men from both the countries should live there and thereby change the demography there. But, we know what will result from it. The day this will happen, they will carefully remove our person and will raise slogans about him everyday. Therefore, this must be considered. It is a very serious matter. Besides, I support the proposal of giving land to the forest dwellers and the tribals in the forest. Similarly, a policy should be made for the displaced persons of our state and the persons coming to Jammu-Kashmir from Pakistan or PoK and the Kashmiri Pandits so that they could also live here with dignity. This is my submission. My submission is that the Government has to remove our one problem. My request is that, in the next Address, people from that area should get their due rights. My humble submission is that the children in the country are, overburdened in the name of education. Thus, the child has become a machine, not from today, but for the last few years. How many types of education boards are there? State Board, CBSE or NCERT. There is no single competition in our country. After attending school, the child has to take tuition classes for various subjects. This is making the children weaker today and their health is deteriorating. I would like to say that a country with weak children can never become a strong country. It is, therefore, my submission that this issue must be considered and there is need to bring about a few changes in the system. There must be uniform education in the country. I would also like to give you an example. A father spoke something to his daughter and she asked if he was going to arrange one more tuition class for her. Do not we feel any pity? Have we grown up without studying? Disaster management and Environment are being taught in the ninth class and the Hindi is being sidelined. I would like to say that special attention should be paid to the children.

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

20.32 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Ration and water are costly now. I request that attention should be paid to the farmers and care should be taken that he gets remunerative prices for his produce like his wheat, paddy pulses or other things. Attention should be paid to the people who are downtrodden, poor, BPL, backward, economically backward irrespective of the fact that they are Muslim, Hindu, etc. People irrespective of whether they are Muslim or Hindu will get benefit on the basis of the strength of backwoods among them. Many times it feels that someone is sitting in the Parliament in the role of a Hindu, someone as a Muslim, Sikh, SC or ST. Is any parliamentarian ever thought about improving the economy of the country—to improve the economy of each individual in the country irrespective of his caste? I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and I support this Address.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): President's Address is a statement of the Government's works, views and future plans. I welcome it. But, deep disappointment towards the Government works and policies is visible clearly in the public life in the country today. The Government has failed completely in checking price rise, corruption and strengthening internal security system. Nithari incident has shaken the whole humanity.

If we speak about agriculture, then farming has become a loss making activity in the country today. The Government has opened doors for loans for the farmers to compensate the losses. The rules and procedure for the recovery of loans and the methods of the loan providing Government agencies have put behind even the notorious style of the moneylenders. Any farmer, fully dependent on agriculture, does not want his next generation to take up the farming. Due to anti-farmer policies in agriculture based country, the farmers are faced with their survival in India today.

Our country is in predominantly an agriculture and rural economy based country. Though, mention has been made of providing big loans to the farmers but they are a dejected lot and are forced to commit suicide due to increase in the agriculture cost and erratic rainfall in last few years. This problem cannot be solved just by giving agricultural loans. Confidence cannot be instilled in them

without taking steps towards waiving off their loan and increasing the amount of subsidy further. There is need to provide them tractors, sowing machines, thrasher machines, fertilizers, seeds, etc. at lower rates and increased amount of subsidy. There is need to provide water in the farms, only then the farmers will become self-reliant and will have confidence in themselves. Water is available in many states but there is need to set up a network of canals there. We cannot make farmers progress without this.

Construction work of four lane Express Highways is going on at a great speed in the country. It has been mentioned in the President's Address. But, many of the farmers, from whom land was acquired, have only 2-3 acres of land. Such farmers are looking for other land. They have become labourers. Nothing about their rehabilitation has been said in the Address. They should be provided with same kind of fertile land so that they can live comfortably.

Though Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission will develop the big cities but most of our population lives in small towns and cities where there is a need for effective implementation of the big schemes for expansion of the basic amenities.

Today, in the land of Mahatma Gandhi, it looks like that his dream is being lost. Nothing about protection of cottage industries has been said in the President's address. Small and cottage industries based on rural economy should be promoted, especially for the products grown in villages like potato, tomato, gram, etc. Potato chips should be made there only. Tomato sauce should be made in villages. Our farmer produces potato and sells it for 3-4 rupees while the foreign companies make chips from the same potato and sell the chips packets for Rs. 12 in the country. The farmer will become rich economically and villages too will develop if he will be made self reliant in the village itself and provided training and machine.

There is need to increase the job opportunities by expanding the basic amenities in the villages to stop the increasing migration from villages to cities. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been mentioned but it provides employment for 100 days only. I disagree with it. It is not being considered as to what a person will go for the rest of the 265 days? Permanent employment should be provided to them instead of 100 days. They can not progress without providing them permanent employment.

While proper provision of education, health and employment in villages will lead to promotion of rural handicrafts on the one hand, people will not migrate to cities if they will get employment in village itself on the other. Population pressure will be lesser in cities. Technical education and employment oriented education should be promoted in villages.

If we talk about primary education, then there is either one teacher or none at all in 15.67% schools out of 6,51,604 primary schools in the country. If there is a teacher, then his educational qualification is not in accordance with the norms. What would be the future of the children of the country in this situation? It has been mentioned to establish new institutes under the efforts for higher education but there is imbalance. Not even a single Central University has been set up in Madhya Pradesh despite it being such a large state.

[Translation]

The Government should, without discrimination, set up the proposed Central University in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh and take initiative for setting up Indian Science Institute, Indian Information Technology Institute and Indian Institute also there.

The scheme of linking rivers started during the NDA regime is not being implemented speedily. It needs to be implemented speedily. It will fill the rivers with water and drought prone areas will also become green and the farmers will be able to take advantage of irrigation facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the war of independence in our country started in 1857. The Hindu rulers of our country fought together till 1945 and the Muslim rulers also stood shoulder to shoulder with them in the freedom struggle. But today I am very sorry to say that the nationalism is on the decline and provincialism is on the increase in our country.

From the discussions since morning we have seen that many states are disputing over distribution of water. Water is a natural resource and all the people of the country have right over natural resources. The problem of water distribution is causing bitterness among several states and we will have to accept this challenge and look for solutions. Life and development cannot thrive without water. The silk industry of our country is facing

serious challenges. The weavers and manufacturers of Varanasi and Bangalore are facing tough competition from the silk imported from China. Steps should be taken for providing subsidy and tax exemptions to silk manufacturers. The demographic imbalance is taking place in the country due to infiltration from foreign countries and consequently the incidents of encroachment and criminal offences are increasing and unemployment is also increasing because these infiltrators work on lesser wages. These infiltrators are encroaching upon the rights of our labourers. A large number of infiltrators are working as rickshaw pullers and taxi-drivers in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Mumbai, etc. Such people should be identified and their identity should be verified from the 'Sarpanch' or police station of the village they come from.

Sir, you will also agree with us that today we are celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the independence of our country. The freedom fighters, who participated in freedom struggle, are honoured by the Government but there are many such freedom fighters in our country who have neither taken pension nor have they availed any railway passes or any piece of land. The Government should take initiative to identify such freedom fighters and honour them. Those people are a living testimony to our freedom struggle and they may be amongst us today, may not be in our midst tomorrow but they will leave behind their memories with us and this country will ever remain grateful to them for their deeds.

Sir, 'Bharat Nirman' will be incomplete until and unless the last man in the lowest strata of the society is provided with food, clothes, house, medicine and clean drinking water. The country can not prosper until the purchasing power of the common man increases.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): With your permission I stand here in support of the Motion of thanks on the President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief. If you have a written speech, you can lay it on the Table and you can speak also so that the time is saved.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I would prefer to speak and try to conclude as early as possible.

[Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma]

Sir, the President's Address is a reflection of the policy and programmes of the Government. The major highlight of the President's speech was the growth but I would say that it has miserably failed to address the major issues of concern like price rise and unemployment. The growth generated by the technological innovations without the guarantee of security of livelihood of every citizen does not amount to any significant credit to the percentage of growth, whatever it may be.

There are two or three positive aspects of the President's speech to which I would like to draw your kind attention. One is about the global warming. Global warming is an important international issue now which India also will be facing in future. Several international scientists have warned that there will be more impact of it on Indian economy if we do not take up this issue seriously at the present.

The global warming is bound to hit Indian economy and environment badly as per the climate change predictions made by the UN panel and India could lose as much as 9 per cent of its GDP, largely from events like submergence of low-lying coastal areas.

A report by the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research Mumbai has put the quantum of loss at a staggering 9 per cent, but several studies predict direct consequences like flooding as well as fall in agricultural productivity. Rice yield could fall by as much as 40 per cent as sowing seasons, and consequently growth period of 'the crops change.

As global warming takes centre-stage at international discussions, northeast India is faced with the prospect of its snow-fed rivers, including the Brahmaputra, going into spate due to faster melting of the Himalayan glaciers.

Chinese scientists have warned that rising temperature in the Tibet plateau might result in faster melting of Himalayan glaciers and cause a larger inflow of water into the Brahmaputra. Sir, our country is very slow in responding to the climate change requirement. I hope the Government will take up this issue very seriously in the near future.

Another important aspect is about the National Mission for Vocational Education which is being very rightly projected by the Government. It is a welcome approach because many of the foreign investors have

shifted their investment from India to China and other countries as we are lacking skilled manpower. We might be having 30 to 40 crores of unemployed youth but unless and until we have the skilled manpower, no investor will come and we will not have a proportion of employment opportunities through the foreign investment. I hope the Government will give the highest priority to this issue.

Another positive aspect was about the national identity cards. We are in full support of it. It should be based on a maintenance of National Register of Citizens and every citizen of the country should be issued an identity card. This will prevent the inflow of terrorists and will address the security concerns. It will help us. It is of paramount importance for a country like India as it is difficult to manage more than 100 crore population. I associate myself with the Leader of the Opposition and other colleagues on the matter of putting very lower emphasis on security concern of the country. Sir, as you are fully aware, through the North-East region, Kashmir and other border States the ISI is very active in these areas. The North-East region and Bangladesh are being used by ISI to destabilize India. There is greater security concern but the UPA Government has miserably failed in dealing with the situation. The militant outfits have not been persuaded for a political dialogue. But there was no mention in the President's Address of this.

Neither some positive approach has been taken so that there is a political solution and peace can be restored.

Another issue which I want to raise is regarding killings of not only Hindi speaking people but also Assamese and other linguistic groups in Assam. Killings of innocent people in Assam, in North East areas and in other parts of the country are going on. The Government machinery and security agencies have failed to predict and control the situation. This is a continual affair. There is also an attempt to attack media and the freedom of speech. There is suppression of certain agencies. The North-East Television was banned in Assam. The E-TV was banned in Andhra Pradesh. Likewise, they are creating emergency like situation to curb the freedom of speech and press.

Another important aspect mentioned in the President's Address is the Look East Policy. So far we were very much happy that the Look East Policy will have a greater impact. But this Look East Policy became only an academic exercise. We have to go in a big way

to develop infrastructure in the border areas and in the eastern states. The Chinese Authorities are coming in a big way to have infrastructure development. They are making investment in the neighbouring small countries of the South-East Asia. They are trying to capture the market and economy thereby threatening the security of our country but just academically we have mentioned the Nalanda Project. By this way, nothing will happen. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to have a very pragmatic approach with a definite plan and programme to have border trade with the neighbouring countries. There should be an open economy and North-East States should be the central point to have economic activity with the South-East Asian countries.

Bangladesh should be persuaded to open the water channel. Railway network should be extended up to the border of Bangladesh so that the movement becomes practically feasible. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since you represent the State of Assam, I have allowed a bit of more time to you.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, whatever the Chinese Government is doing, we are not even doing ten per cent of that. The Chinese Government has claimed the territory of Arunachal Pradesh. They have started certain activities along the borders. They are also trying to divert the water of the Brahmaputra for their power projects. What we are doing is only giving palatable words in Parliament but nothing tangible is being done to practically arrest such attempts of economic aggression which, in turn, may result in the aggression on our security. This is a very serious matter and I would like to draw the attention of the Government in this regard.

Sir, you are fully aware that infiltration along the borders of Bangladesh has been going on for the last almost 50 years. The Assam accord was signed in 1985, but till today the accord has not been implemented in its letter and spirit which has resulted in large scale infiltration. The names of these illegal migrants are finding names in the voters list and they are becoming a part of the political system outnumbering the ethnic minority. This is a serious concern. This might result in changing the entire demography of India and also would result in tilting the balance in the north-eastern region which may destabilize the country at large and after Jammu and Kashmir, the State of Assam could pose a greater danger

to national security. So, the Government should respond positively in this regard. The nationality should first be identified and then only identity cards should be issued. All the foreigners should be detected and deported from our country.

Sir, finally, I would like to conclude by requesting the Government to resume peace talks with the ULFA, the DSD, the NDFB, the NSCN and other militant outfits who are operating in the north-eastern region. This is the only way by which we can make the north-eastern region prosperous and India as a whole a prosperous country.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by hon. Member Shri Madhusudan Mistry and seconded by hon. Member, Shri Sandeep Dixit.

We all take pride in the phenomenal growth of 9 per cent achieved within a short span of two and a half years of the UPA Government. However, we cannot remain contented with these figures. His Excellency, the hon. President has talked at length about "inclusive growth".

Fruits of development and growth should percolate down to the lowest level, to the *sam admi* to whom the UPA Government is committed in letter and spirit.

We are all concerned about the inflationary trends seen in the recent past. Inflation affects worst the poor, the downtrodden, the rural artisans and the peasantry. The State Governments need to be exhorted to act harshly on the hoarders and the profiteers. Our policies have to be framed in such a way so that the poor and the middle class are able to get proper nutrition, proper health care, good quality education and housing.

While focusing on 'inclusive growth' great importance has been attached to social justice and educational empowerment by creating capabilities. People who are socially and educationally backward are thankful to the Government for being provided with reservation in Central institutions like the IIMs, the IITs and All India Institute of Medical Sciences. But I would like to express my concern about the mentality of the upper class and that of the administrators of these premier institutions who are bent upon delaying the process of implementation. In the name of increasing infrastructure and faculty they

[Dr. Karan Singh Yadav]

have demanded astronomic budgetary support. It is therefore, suggested and requested that a monitoring mechanism should be evolved so that people belonging to the OBC, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes could get this much delayed social justice.

I would like to bring to your notice the budgetary provisions made for scholarships of OBCs. These provisions need to be enhanced for OBCs, SCs and other deprived classes of minorities.

The Prime Minister's new 15-Point Programme has gained special relevance with the revelations of the Sacchar Commission. In my own parliamentary constituency of Alwar, minority communities like Muslims and Sikhs continue to remain much backward. I would give examples of Meo community which has a large number of out of school children, high drop-out rates and low educational allocation. The Meo community of Mewat of Alwar and Bharatpur districts of Rajasthan need focused intervention by creating a network of residential schools and colleges and by giving scholarship to all students of this community.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that this extremely socially and educationally backward Meo community does not figure in the central list of OBCs. I would request the Government to immediately include it in the Central list.

Sir, hon. President has given special emphasis on wild life. I come from Alwar District which contains Sariska Game Sanctuary. Unfortunately, due to poaching, tigers have vanished from Sariska. I would urge the Government to see that new pairs of tigers are inhabited in Sariska.

Lastly, His Excellency the President has highlighted the need of concentrating much more in the agricultural sector. Without remunerative prices, the farmers of the country cannot sustain. In fact, in Rajasthan and especially in my own district, mustard crop has come to the market. The Rajasthan Government has not yet started procurement on minimum support price. I would urge the Central Government to see that Rajasthan Government and NAFED immediately start procurement at support price.

With these words, I support the Motion of Thanks.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I being a woman, would request you to

give me enough time to speak. First of all I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Union Government presents its policies and programmes through President's address before Lok Sabha, the Supreme 'Panchayat' of the country. I am very sorry to say that the Address is full of rhetorics and self praise on the part of UPA Government. The President's Address is full of half truths I sorry to that the whole country is being misguided by presenting these half truths through His Excellency's Address. The first paragraph of President's Address states that this year is the 150th anniversary of the first war of Independence. This Government does not at all recognize the first freedom struggle as a war of Independence. This Government recognises it as 'Gadar' or a 'Sepoy Mutinee' in the books of history. When we ask for Correcting this distortion of history, we are accused of saffronization. I would like to draw your kind attention to the statements of the Union Government regarding secularism and all inclusive nation in President's Address. Though this Government professes to practise secularism but facts do not substantiate their claims, rather they point to the contrary. In fact they are striking a severe blow to secularism. The example of Sacchar Committee is enough to prove it. This Government is driving the country towards another partition through Saechar Committee. It is unfortunate and a matter of shame for the whole country when our Prime Minister says that the Muslims will have the first and foremost right to the resources of this country. It is clear from this statement as to which direction this country is heading.

21.00 hrs.

The Government has made this statement through President's address. The terrorist attack on Samjhauta Express has been mentioned in President's Address. I would like to draw kind attention of the House, through you, towards the agreement reached in 2004 between the then hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and the President of Pakistan. It was clearly mentioned in the agreement that Pakistan will not permit any territory under its control to be used in support of terrorism against India. All the further dialogues should be conducted with this basic condition but this Government has never emphasized on this agreements. The problem of terrorism has got more aggravated than before. Today the condition of internal security has become a matter of concern for all. Whereas some stringent laws were to

be formulated to fight terrorism, no indication to this effect has been given in the Address. Even POTA was scrapped by this Government. The reason put forward in this regard was that POTA was anti-Muslim whereas it was not anti-Muslim but anti-criminal. Had there been POTA, perhaps we could somehow control terrorism and that is why the NDA Government had enacted POTA. But it is very sad that this Government scrapped an Act like POTA just after coming into power which could have exercised some kind of control on terrorism.

Sir, nothing has been said about Afzals hanging in the Address. It is a kind of attack on our democracy and anybody can resort to terrorism by hatching a conspiracy against the highest institution of the country. We are unable to do anything and keeping the issue of hanging Afzal pending. All this is because of the vote bank politics. This is being done because elections are to be held in near future and they fear that they might not get the votes. Now the count down of the UPA Government has started so whatever they are doing they are concerned only about votes. They want to get votes through appeasement. Therefore, I would like to say that this Address should have sensibility and could have referred to the issue of soaring prices which is a burning topic in the country. And now a Government has come to power which talks about the common man.

Sir, I can recall that the Congress has always followed a policy of misleading the people and thereby getting their votes. In the year 1971, when general elections were being held, I was very young and was studying in school. At that time, I can recall that they gave the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao Desh ko Bachao'. At that time they used to talk about the poor and when the poor started to raise their voices they removed the poor, and murdered the democracy and imposed emergency in the country. After doing all this when the elections of 1991 were held they said that they would control the rising prices within three months after coming into power. But the prices went up manifold with the coming of this Government. In the general elections held in the year 2004 their slogan was 'Congress ka hath, aam Admi ke sath' with the help of this slogan when they came into power they forgot 'Aam Admi'. There is no mention of common man and soaring prices in the Address. The rising prices which is a burning issue and to which many of the hon'ble Members referred and said that prices are sky rocketing, the common men are suffering the most but the sensibility of the Government

is not with them. They want common men only for votes. But it vanishes when the question of rising prices come to the fore. The Government is only to heap hardships on the common men, their budget has been destabished.

It is sad, indeed, that this Government came to power on the name of common men but today their life has become painful. They have been forgotten in the Address. The Congress Government has a poor track record. On the one hand farmers are committing suicides, and on the other this Government has nothing to say for those farmers. That is why I am calling this Address only a half truth and misleading one. When they talk about the Bharat Nirman and mention in the Address that they will do Bharat Nirman. What is Bharat Nirman—all the programmes formulated by the NDA Government have been clubbed together and renamed it as Bharat Nirman.

Today the country is heading towards prosperity and it is the outcome of all those policies formulated by the earlier NDA Government. Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the Prime Minister had said that he would take India to number one position as great country by 2020. To realize his this dream all the works were carried out under one channel, whether it was quadrilateral project or four lane plan or the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak under which the infrastructure facilities were strengthened in this country. At that time we could not imagine that mobile phones would become so popular ushering in revolution in the field of information technology. All these things are contributions of the NDA Government. After all what this Government has done by taking the credit of NDA Government's achievements they think that they would convert the four lanes into six lanes. I belong to Udaipur region of Rajasthan. I had given a proposal of four laning the road from Byavar to Udaipur via Bhim Nath. They hesitate to include that proposal of four laning in their own proposal because they do everything keeping their vote bank in sight. BJP is in power in Rajasthan and Congress is at the Centre how can they do it. They cannot even do this small work but they talk of Bharat Nirman. All these are hollow talks.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are repeatedly saying that we have no time. But I would like to draw the attention of this House that the Government has also mentioned atomic energy in President's Address. It was the determination, courage and dedication of Atal Bihari Vajpayeejee towards this nation due to which atomic tests were conducted by India. The present President of

[Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari]

Congress Party had criticized it at that time and today they are concluding atomic agreement with America and that agreement is a shameful story of surrender. Out of the 250 atomic plants of America and other atomic countries only 11 are under the supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency whereas the Government of India has agreed to put its 14 atomic plants under the supervision of the said agency. The Government states that this agreement has been concluded for the energy security of the country. But our uranium reserves are so rich that they are sufficient for the next 30 years. The Government is making no effort for their exploitation. Each article of this agreement was discussed threadbare in the American Congress. They have changed its several provisions. But this Government is not ready to take into confidence this House and the country on the issue of this nuclear agreement. This agreement is a compromise with the sovereignty and pride of the country. There is no need to say anything about this, the entire country knows about it. We all feel ashamed of it.

Sir, anganwadi workers have not found also a mention in the address. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the miserable plight of the anganwadi workers. The honorarium given to them is quite insufficient. It is very difficult for them to eke out a living. Out of this payment. The NDA Government had doubled their honorarium. The prices have increased very much over the last four years. But the Government is silent about increasing the honorarium of anganwadi workers and providing medical facilities to them.

Apart from this, this Government through this Address has also said to accord importance to the education. As soon as they had assumed power the government had announced its plan for setting up IITs in all the States where these do not already exist. But regrettably enough no step has so far been taken in this direction. A token amount of Rs. 90 lakh had been provided in the budget for the year 2006-07 but it was not utilized at all. A provision of merely Rs. 90 lakh has been made for the purpose in the current year's budget as well. How does the Government propose to establish institutes of technology in 25 States with such a meager amount? This is an example of how the Government reneges on its promises.

Similarly, it has talked about opening a School of Architecture and Planning in Western, Eastern, Southern and Central India. A provision of Rs. One crore was

made in the budget for this purpose in the year 2006-07 but this amount was also not used. Now they have again made a token provision of Rs. One crore. This simply reflects as to how much serious the Government is towards the issue of education.

Sir, in the Address, this Government has tried to take credit for four laning and six laning of National Highways. This scheme was started by the NDA Government. The NDA Government won accolades for India from the World Community by completing its targets in the stipulated time frame, Ensuring high quality of roads constructed there under and also ensuring adequate funds. Six-laning of National Highway No. 8 which links Delhi with Mumbai is being talked about. I have told this Government many times that only a 200 km section of the road from Byawar to Udaipur *via* Bhimnath is double laned. The rest of the road has already been four laned. But the said section of the road has not yet been sanctioned for four laning by the Government.

Sir, a mention about National Identity Card has been made in the Address. PAN Card has been made compulsory for income tax purpose. Obtaining Director Identity number has been made compulsory under company rules this year. The proposed Limited Participation Act has a provision for issuance of participation Identity Number. The Finance Minister has talked about a separate Identity Card for those engaged in the share market.

The Election Commission is issuing electoral Identity Cards. How many Identity cards would one have to carry? Under the guise of e-governance the Department of Company Affairs has made certification by a company Secretary or Chartered Accountant compulsory on all forms which require an address to be given. The establishment cost of small companies has gone up as a result thereof. In this what is meant by e-governance? In fact, this Government is adding to the problems of the common people.

Sir, tomorrow is International Women's Day. On the eve of this day we are discussing the President's Address but there is no mention of reservation for women in the Address. Half of the population of the country consists of women. Even so, there is an astonishing degree of insensitivity towards women. The hon'ble President has outlined the policies of the Congress in the Address. On one hand, Congress says that it would bring Women's

Reservation Bill and on the other three years have passed and not even a draft of the Bill has been presented in the House. I think this is very unfortunate. There is an agreement amongst all the allied parties of the UPA Government in this regard. None of them raises the issue of women's reservation despite being part of the ruling alliance. This is an unfortunate situation. Therefore, I would like to say that they should be held accountable to the people for the promises they make in their manifestos and on the basis of which they win votes. They should fulfil their assurances and not try to befool the people and the country through such Addresses. I, through you, would like to send this message across all Cabinet Ministers present here in the House. I would also like to request the House, to sound a note of dissent on the President's Address and thus to foil the attempts of the Government to mislead the nation through the falsities and half truths put forth before the nation through the President's Address. Thank you for giving me time to speak.

*It was during the Congress regime that a large number of our countrymen were forced to flee Kashmir and become refugees in their own country. Now Hindi speaking people in Assam are being targeted by terrorists. Even the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has acknowledged that the Naxalite problem is becoming uncontrollable day by day. The number of districts getting affected by violence is on the rise. Pakistani terrorists are carrying out acts of terror all over the country. Is this the picture of a strong and dynamic India? Bangladesh has become a safe heaven for anti-India elements. It forms part of the terrorist ring active in North East India but the Government is turning a blind eye towards it.

When the Congress-Communist alliance, UPA had taken over the reins of the Government from the NDA it had inherited an enthusiastic outlook, fast growing economy and large investments in the infrastructure sector. The development and progress that are being lauded today are a result of the competitive and transparent policies introduced by the erstwhile NDA Government. The NDA Government had tried to bring some happiness into the life of common people by keeping a tight control on inflation, ensuring abundant supply of essential commodities and paying special attention towards employment generation.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. K.S. Manoj, Please be brief.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I will be brief, as brief as possible. Thank you very much for giving this opportunity to take part in the Motion moved by Shri Madhusudan Mistry on the Address by His Excellency, the hon. President of India to both the Houses of Parliament.

Sir, in his Speech, His Excellency, has reminded us that we are celebrating the 60th year of Independence, the 150th anniversary of the first War of Indian Independence and the Centenary of Satyagraha. I would like to remind the Government the commitment to protect our sovereignty, our national interest and not to succumb our freedom and sovereignty to US Government or any other capital force.

We should also uphold the socialist nature of our country which is envisaged in our Constitution. When we are proud of 9 per cent GDP growth, the divide between the rich and the poor is widening. The GDP growth in Agriculture, where more than 60 per cent of our population depends on livelihood, is only 2.6 per cent or less than three per cent which should be of concern of everyone. Instead of jobless growth, we should aim at more inclusive and job-providing growth.

Today, everybody is worried about the sky-rocketing rise in prices of essential commodities. Inflation most adversely affects the poor people whose purchasing capacity is very low. In addition to bringing down the prices of petrol and diesel on par with international prices, measures to improve agricultural productivity to meet the demand and also intentional market intervention should be made by strengthening the Public Distribution System. There should be universalisation of PDS and supply of more commodities through fair price shops which the Government of Kerala has successfully conceded.

Recently, the National Family Health Survey has brought out the condition of our children in the country. Nearly 50 per cent of the children in our country is malnourished. Even though we have the Integrated Child Development Scheme—we are on the way to universalisation of ICDS—the condition of the children is not improving. So, I would urge upon the Government

..... This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

to open more ICDS Centres, *Anganwadi* Centres so as to cover more child population in the country. Those who are working in the *Anganwadis* like helpers and workers are not adequately paid. In order to get better services from these workers, we should provide adequate salary or honorarium to them.

In his speech, His Excellency has mentioned about the condition of the minorities and the measures taken by the Government to improve the condition of the minorities. When we speak about the minority community, usually only the Muslim community is included. Minority communities in our country include not only Muslim community but also Christians, Sikhs and other minority communities. So, any measure to improve the condition of the minority community should include not only Muslims but also the other communities. The Christian community, the Dalit Christians, Dalit Muslims should also be included. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, there are certain struggles in our country like the Punnapra-Vyalar and the Telangana struggles which are declared as part of the Independence struggle. But those who are sufferers of the Punnapra-Vyalar and other struggles are not getting the Central Government assistance or welfare measures from the Centre. So, the sufferers of the Punnapra-Vyalar struggle should get the assistance from the Central Government.

Also, there is an increase in the incidence of attacks on the minority community especially the Christian community in the country. It occurred in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and many other States and the attack on the Christian community is on the rise. So, the Government should take proper measures to control the situation and ensure a feeling of security of the minority communities in the country.

Further, the maritime security of the country is in danger. Recently, our hon. Home Minister himself came forward with a statement saying that our coastal areas are not secure.

Recently, in my district Allapuzha, an unidentified ship came to the shore and people from that ship procured diesel oil with the help of fishermen from the shore and they have also taken some money from the ATM, but neither the district authorities nor the police were aware of this fact. So, the maritime security of our coastal areas should be strengthened in order to prevent such activities.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Sarguja): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Motion of Thanks moved on President's Address is only on papers and is not visible in the working of the Government. Where is the inclusive development in it? After independence, differences on the basis of religion has increased among the people of the country and effort is being made to divide people in the name of religion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all have considered in the House here the pitiable condition of the farmers. The condition of the farmers has become so bad in our predominantly agriculture country that they are committing suicides. What is its reason? The government has said very lofty things in H.E. President's Address. Just look how much difference is there in the prices of the farm produce and the products manufactured in the factories or mills. Whatever things a farmer purchases, he pays a higher price for them while the prices of whatever he produces decreases. The farmer does not get remunerative prices of his produces. When the farmers purchases seeds, they has to pay the price many times more but when he goes to sell his produces, he gets manifold lower prices. How can a farmer return loan taken from anywhere in such a situation? It will not be in the interest of the country if the Government will keeps such policy towards farmers. It will not be good if the deplorable condition of the farmers is not improved. The condition of the country will also not improve because of this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government that similar situation exists in the field of education. On the one hand there is rural India with one teacher in one school taking five classes while on the other hand there are public schools and government schools. A different country is taking shape in rural India and another country is taking shape in the cities. Thus, there is a difference in economic planning. The country has prospered. Large countries have come into existence. On the one hand there is extreme poverty while there is extreme riches on the other hand. Such a situation has evolved in the country. Whatever has been said in the Presidents Address is far away from reality. The Government should set the things right and try to create harmony in the diversity and maintain beauty of the country and not divide people for votes. The top leaders of the Congress party are trying to protect the person who had attacked the Parliament and they are trying to get clemency to him. What could be more shameful then this?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, effort has been made to mislead the country through H.E. President's Address. I, therefore, oppose the Motion of Thanks moved on the President's Address. I want to alert the Government to improve the system or else it should be ready to face its consequences. Power has been cut in our State Chhattisgarh from the Central Pool and inconvenience has been caused to the people. Therefore, the Government should mend its ways. It should not be the consideration that BJP is in power in the State. It does not matter which party is ruling a State it is not good to cut power supply.

The Government should restore power supply which has been cut from the share of Chhattisgarh from the Central Pool and it should not be prejudiced to any state otherwise this party and the government led by it should be ready to face the consequences.

(English)

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Sir, thank you very much for giving an opportunity to speak on the Address by His Excellency, the President of India, to the Parliament.

Sir, this is mentioned by His Excellency that we are celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of India's Independence and that we are observing 150th Anniversary of our First War of Independence and the Centenary of Satyagraha. It is true, but we have to face a lot of challenges and problems which are before us.

Now, I would like to speak on the Eleventh Five Year Plan which has been finalised by the Government. Today, the hon. Minister of Rural Development has added 134 districts under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, but my district Haverly, which is one of the most backward districts, is not included in this. I would request the hon. Minister to include the Haverly district also in this. They have also identified about 250 districts for removal of backwardness under the Mahatma Gandhi Vision "Gram Swaraj", but again my district has not been included in this. I would request the Government to include my district also in this.

Sir, they have given more importance and focused on higher and technical education. In this country, they are going to establish IITs in various parts of the country. But our North Karnataka area, particularly the Hubly-

Dharwad Area is not considered under this. Therefore, I would request the Government to consider this area also.

As far as the farmers are concerned, they are producing many crops, but they are not getting the Minimum Support Price for their produce, particularly for chilly. We are producing chilly more in our area, but the Minimum Support Price is not given for our produce. Therefore, I humbly request the Government to establish a Chilly Board to address the issue.

As far as Golden Quadrilateral Project is concerned, they say that they are going to form six-lane roads, but they have not even completed the four-lane roads in my area. The stretch from 282 kms. to 404 kms., which was cught to have been completed by September 2003 has not yet been completed till date.

Sir, with your permission I want to speak in Kannada also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Switching over to Kannada from English is not permitted.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: My request to the Government is to form a National Water Policy ...*(Interruptions)* The Central Government should intervene and solve this problem by negotiating with both the States with regard to Cauvery water issue.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, why are you allowing him to raise this issue again? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given notice to speak in English only. The Kannada portion will not go to the records.

*(Interruptions)... **

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know you are here till the last moment. I appreciate your stand. But let him finish. The hon. Members from Tamil Nadu are watching this. They are here till the last moment. That is their decision. Both the lady MPs are watching the situation vigorously whether Cauvery dispute is referred to.

... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Sir, this is the most important issue in this country. The entire world is looking towards India as to what are we doing here, how are we using the water from the rivers of this country. We know, there is no solution for Farrakka Dam between our country and the other country. There is no solution for the Narmada Dam. Under such circumstances, we are forced to form a National Water Policy in this country.

The Central Government should intervene and solve the problem between the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the discussion is over. The hon. Prime Minister will reply to this debate tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow the 8th March, 2007 at 11 a.m.

21.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 8, 2007/Phalgun 17, 1928 (Saka).

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